



# Jewish Federation OF GREATER SANTA BARBARA

**We inspire. We connect. We answer.**

WE ARE YOUR JEWISH FEDERATION.

*focus on*  
Spring 2015

NISSAN-TAMMUZ 5775

## Jewish Festival: A Mosaic of Cuisine, Artists and Activities

### INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCES WILL FLAVOR CELEBRATION OF JEWISH & ISRAELI CULTURE

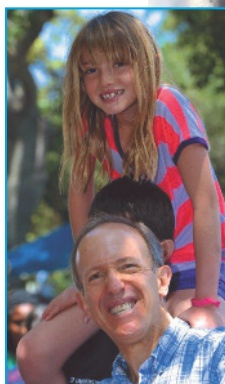
On Sunday, May 3, from 11 am to 4 pm, beautiful Oak Park will come alive with the sights, sounds and tastes of Jewish and Israeli culture! The Festival will be filled with activities for everyone and will be interwoven with the history, contributions, wisdom and humor of the Jewish people.

We have unveiled a new logo, designed with the help of local community member and indefatigable volunteer **Gil Cardona**.

Talented artists and favorite local and visiting vendors will grace the park with their creative offerings. This year's headliner is Jewish blues musician **Saul Kaye**. After releasing five CDs of varying styles, Kaye was pulled towards an idea that wouldn't leave him alone. This was the natural marriage of Jewish history, characters, and liturgy with the Blues. Saul not only explores the characters from the Torah, but he embodies them, and you really feel he is actually singing from the voice of Joseph when he says "I'm Just a Dreamer," or King Saul (Shaul) when he cries "Send me someone who can play my blues away!"

Also featured: **Klezmer Juice**, the band seen in the feature film, *Wedding Crashers*. While many of us associate Klezmer music with European immigration to the United States, Jews at the turn of the century were settling in all parts of the Americas, and they and their descendants have a rich history in Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, and many other Latin American countries. Klezmer Juice bandleader and clarinet player **Gustavo Bulgach** was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he learned Klezmer music from his family at a young age. Inspired by the religious and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



EYAL NAHMIA



### LOCAL SURVIVOR HONORED IN SACRAMENTO



Mike Wolff

Local Holocaust Survivor **Mike Wolff** is being honored on the State Assembly floor by Assemblymember Das Williams on April 13, for *Yom Hashoah*, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Born in Breslau, Germany in 1936, Wolff was taken to Glasgow, Scotland in the Kindertransport program that spirited thousands of German, Austrian, Polish, and Czech Jewish children to safety, usually to live with strangers, in Great Britain. Wolff was taken in by a Jewish family in Glasgow in mid-1939. He and his parents were reunited in Bolivia near the end of 1940 and in 1952 immigrated to the United States.

Wolff's recognition at the State Assembly comes as part of California Holocaust Memorial Week. You can learn more about his story and others at Jewish Federation's *Portraits of Survival* exhibit and at [www.jewishsantabarbara.org](http://www.jewishsantabarbara.org).

### A LOVE OF VOLUNTEERING: A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

If being in your eighties means slowing down, **Gil Cardona** clearly did not get that memo. At 82, the Santa Barbara native and former educator's energy and activity levels could put to shame someone half his age. Here at Jewish Federation, we have been the beneficiary of Gil's skills and enthusiasm for years as he has volunteered in capacities that encapsulate the spectrum of programs and services we offer.

Gil says he comes by his commitment to volunteer work and sense of community spirit naturally, citing the lifelong example set by his mother, Ruth. Not only was Ruth a dedicated volunteer, even while raising nine children, but she also became the first Hispanic woman on what is now the KTMS radio station.

She would talk about children's issues—informing mothers about what was going on in the schools, kids' diets and a host of other topics. Then shortly before Gil entered the Navy at 17, his mother told him "I have done the best that I can. Now it's your turn to carry the torch."

It's a responsibility Gil has taken seriously: from his time in the TeacherCorps program to his years as a teacher and school administrator and with Jewish Federation's former *Mis Tres Caras* mentoring program, connecting at-risk youth with local Holocaust survivors.

And he is still going strong, explaining, "Everywhere you go,



Gil Cardona PHOTO BY MIKE WITT

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## Message from the Executive Director



While more subtle and not accompanied by the dramatic and welcome weather changes elsewhere in the country, spring in the Central Coast still brings with it a feeling of renewal, freshness and anticipation. Indeed, the story of

Passover is one of a new beginning, a kind of rebirth for the Jewish people. Here at Jewish Federation, we are looking forward to a season of excitement both inside and outside the walls of 524 Chapala Street.

New classes and workshops continue to engage and enliven the Bronfman Family JCC, including **Jewish Family Service's Sunrise Creativity** series that you can read about in this issue.

And, of course, we are very excited about our annual community-wide **Santa Barbara Jewish Festival**, Sunday, May 3 at Oak Park. As always, we will be treated to incredible entertainment and unforgettable food as well as the positive and important feeling of coming together as a community. This year's Festival will feature great new content about the Jewish people, culture and our identity as Jews. It also will feature a prize-drawing for a trip-for-two to Israel—an opportunity not to be missed!

If that weren't enough, we are thrilled to keep the ruach (spirit) going strong by hosting an **Israeli Artisan Fair** just a few

days after the Festival (on May 7 at the Federation's Bronfman Family JCC), featuring textiles, jewelry, vintage Judaica, sketches and more with the artisans themselves visiting from Israel.

Our **Women's Division (WD)** has introduced a new giving society, the **Pearl Society**, to recognize donors who make a minimum annual gift of \$365, launched at the Women's Philanthropy Luncheon.

In addition, the WD is supporting a special project to fight breast cancer in partnership with the Joint Distribution Committee.

We eagerly look forward to welcoming **Gil Tamary**, Washington Bureau Chief for Israel's Channel 10 News, as keynote speaker for our newly-named **Alan J. Wyner Annual Men's Event** on May 17.

As you can see, spring is truly blooming at Jewish Federation—not just in terms of events and activities, but also with respect to our mission to serve and strengthen our community locally, and to help those Jews and Jewish communities who are in need in Israel and around the world.

I invite you to join us for these and any of the other wonderful and ongoing programs, services or activities we provide, as we celebrate this new season!

B'Shalom,

Michael S. Rassler

## A 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday Event

# Israeli Artisan Fair



*Join us for wine  
and art~  
a perfect pairing!*

**Thursday,  
May 7  
4 - 8 pm**

At the  
Bronfman Family JCC

Featuring textiles,  
jewelry, sketches, vintage  
Judaica and more, from 15  
artisans visiting from Israel.

**FREE** and open to  
the community.



SANTA BARBARA

## Jewish Festival

Sunday, May 3 • 11 am - 4 pm • Oak Park

**New Jewish Festival T-shirts  
Available Now!**

Order them online for \$18 each at  
[www.jewishsbartabarbara.org](http://www.jewishsbartabarbara.org)  
or call 957-1115

**Win a trip for two to Israel!**

For just \$36 per ticket, or three for \$100, you will be entered into our prize-drawing for a trip for two to Israel, including airfare, two nights at the David Intercontinental in Tel Aviv, two nights at the David Citadel in Jerusalem and more! Get your tickets now at [www.jewishsbartabarbara.org](http://www.jewishsbartabarbara.org) or by calling 957-1115. We will draw the lucky winner the day of the Festival, but you do not need to be present to win.

### FESTIVAL (CONT. FROM FRONT)

secular life of the Argentine community, Bulgach has traveled the globe, finding that Klezmer music is the "soundtrack of the Diaspora." He has performed with Yusef Lateef, Adam Rudolph, Chris Botti and with the legendary Bennie Maupin.

No Jewish event could be anywhere near complete without great food! Among the many delectable dishes will be mile-high corned beef by **Sababa Catering** and falafel by **UCSB Chabad's Jerusalem Café**. Add to all that, a youth program and a children's area, Israeli dancing, art activities and new vendors, including Israeli Artisans.

As Festival Coordinator and Jewish Federation Volunteer and Programs Manager **Mike Witt**, says, "The Santa Barbara Jewish Festival promises to be outstanding, truly special, with something for everyone whether they are new to the Festival or have come for years. Our volunteer committee has secured an incredible lineup of entertainers and activities. The community is sure to have an unforgettable time! Join us."

If you would like share your skills and enthusiasm at the Festival, **join us as a volunteer!** Help out with any shift between 9 am and 5 pm by emailing [volunteer@sbjf.org](mailto:volunteer@sbjf.org) for more information and to sign up for any Festival facet that interests you. Let us know what you can do to be part of the fun!



# Jewish Family Service



## SUNRISE CREATIVITY

As we age, we might find our ability to communicate and express ourselves begin to slip away. And, in fact, this may be barely perceptible to others. **Marcy Oswald,**

a Marriage and Family Therapy/Art Therapy trainee with Jewish Family Service, has developed a workshop, *Sunrise Creativity: Artistry for the Later Years*, to help seniors—and caregivers—use art to bolster communication and social skills.

Participants use a variety of materials and tools, once a week over the course of six weeks, to engage themselves and each other via art. The workshop helps seniors express thoughts and feelings, stay engaged in the world, and expand movement with projects requiring



mobility, and it supports mental clarity and growth.

Marcy says "Creative art therapy is uniquely suited to the task of preserving and maximizing one's eroding

sense of nonverbal modalities. The art experience encourages participants and caregivers to draw on their sensory, self-expression and socialization skills. The workshop's structure assists participants in calling on earlier life periods when one's sense of well-being was more intact." In short, she says, "It's not just an art workshop, but a conversation inspiring creativity!"

Info: **Marcy Oswald**, Marriage and Family Therapy and Art Therapy Trainee at [moswald@sbjf.org](mailto:moswald@sbjf.org) or at 957-1116, ext. 202

**Visit! Participate! Learn more about JFS and our programs!**

Contact JFS Director **Barbara Kuhn**, 957-1116 x115 or [bkuhn@sbjf.org](mailto:bkuhn@sbjf.org)

# focus on WOMEN'S DIVISION

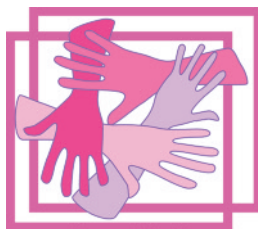
## LOCAL WOMEN, GLOBAL RESULTS

Our Women's Division (WD) at the Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara works year-round to provide support to those in need locally, whether they be housebound seniors, young families or anyone in between. But the Women's Division also looks beyond the Central Coast, and is reaching out literally halfway around the world to provide life-saving mammograms and access to healthcare for women without means.



JDC supports Race for a Cure in Sarajevo

WD is working to support the **American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's (JDC) Women's Health Empowerment Program (WHEP)** in partnership with Susan G. Komen. The WHEP is a global initiative that promotes breast cancer awareness and life-saving early detection, provides support services for patients and survivors, and puts women's health issues at the forefront of national public health agendas.



Women's Health Empowerment Program (WHEP)

WHEP supports women who are living with this disease—focusing on the underserved—in societies with limited health care resources and a lingering stigmatization that makes it difficult to discuss treatment options. The program is now active in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary and Russia, and also works in Israel with Israeli and Palestinian cancer survivors through JDC's COPE Forum.

This special WD campaign has a goal of \$10,000 to provide more than 300 mammograms and materials for these impoverished women, 95% of whom have never received a mammogram in their lives. Jewish Women's Network Chairwoman **Diane Zipperstein** says this program truly saves lives. "Early detection is so important in fighting breast cancer. Every woman, no matter where she lives in the world or her circumstances, deserves the same opportunity to protect her health that we have."

Each donation of \$36 provides one woman with a mammogram. To learn more or to donate, please contact **Jilli Spear**, 957-1115 ext. 107 or [jspear@sbjf.org](mailto:jspear@sbjf.org).

## CARDONA INTERVIEW (CONT. FROM FRONT)

you can see the phenomenal need for volunteers. If people could just see the rewards of volunteering, they'd get involved."

Gil had been drawn to Judaism ever since reading Exodus when he left the Navy, and had decided to convert, but discovered just seven years ago that his father actually was Jewish, and he suspects his mother might have been as well.

We are truly grateful for Gil's unwavering commitment to community-building and his lifetime of service to others.

## YAD: Young Adult Division



### Save the Date!

#### YAD's 3rd Annual Feed The Funk

Saturday, June 6  
7 - 11 pm

The Art Foundry  
120 Santa Barbara St.  
In The Funk Zone

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

# focus on Federation

is a publication of the Jewish Federation  
of Greater Santa Barbara

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Jewish Federation  
of Greater Santa Barbara

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[www.jewishsantabarbara.org](http://www.jewishsantabarbara.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.

524 CHAPALA STREET SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101



Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER SANTA BARBARA

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## Get Involved.

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

### APRIL

**3** Passover 1st Seder (close 1 pm)

**4** Second Seder (closed)

**10-11** Pesach – Last 2 days (closed)

**12** Art @ the JCC Printmakers  
Opening

**12** Step Up for Israel at CBB

**14** JWN Coffee Hour

**15** Yom Hashoah

**17** JFS/NASW CEU workshop

**19** Teach-In on Israel

**21** Yom Hazikaron

**23** JWN Happy Hour

**24** Yom Ha'Atzmaut

### MAY

**3** Jewish Festival

**7** Lag B'Omer

**7** Israeli Artisan Fair/1<sup>st</sup> Thursday

**10** Mother's Day

**12** JWN Coffee Hour

**17** Alan J. Wyner Men's Event

**19** Lunafest

**24-25** Shavuot, (closed)

**25** Memorial Day, (closed)

### JUNE

**6** YAD Feed the Funk

**9** JWN Coffee Hour

**18** JWN Happy Hour

**19** JFS/NASW CEU workshop

**20-21** Solstice

**25** Hot Dogs & Hilarity Night

**28** Art @ the JCC Abstract Art  
Collective Opening

For more details, visit

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

## save the date

### Inaugural Alan J. Wyner Men's Event

Sunday, May 17 • 10 am - 12 noon

La Cumbre Country Club

4015 Via Laguna

Santa Barbara, CA 93110

#### Guest Speaker: Gil Tamary

Washington Bureau Chief  
for Israel's Channel 10 News

Couvert: \$40

Minimum annual pledge: \$365

Kindly RSVP by May 11

#### To RSVP and for event info:

**Marilyn Simon-Gersuk,**

957-1115 x106 or [marilyn@sbjf.org](mailto:marilyn@sbjf.org)

or visit [jewishsantabarbara.org](http://jewishsantabarbara.org)

## Art at the JCC

### Printmakers Opening Reception

Sunday, April 12 • 2 - 4 pm

Free and open to the public



Sara Woodburn "East Fork Flux" 7 x 5.25 Woodcut

Exhibit runs  
April 12 – June 2

## Happy Passover ~ April 3 - 11

Every year we recite the four questions, but this year we're asking an extra  
question: will you help us make a difference in the lives of Jewish children,  
here at home and around the world?



By giving to Federation you feed hungry children. You connect children to Judaism — through after-school programs, Jewish summer camp and Birthright. You provide counseling to troubled teens. You help children with special needs. And more. So this Passover, our fifth question is, "Will you help make a difference in the lives of Jewish children?" Please answer "yes" and give as generously as you can.

Visit [jewishsantabarbara.org](http://jewishsantabarbara.org) and donate today.