

# Stronger Together

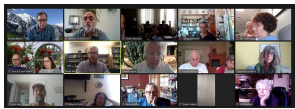
## THIS WEEK IN OUR COMMUNITY

Jewish Federation  
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Jewish Community Foundation  
of Southern Arizona

We are all adjusting to our continued coronavirus-impacted reality. Increasingly, it feels as if as soon as we understand the implications of this landscape, the sands shift beneath us. Rather than assuming a "new normal" is here to stay, perhaps it's better to expect constant, rapidly changing circumstances - and to see each step as our "next normal" for the time being.

Despite evolving circumstances, our Southern Arizona Jewish community remains strong. Our institutions are committed to supporting and sustaining Jewish life now and in the future.



A major element of achieving a level of "next normalcy" and maintaining our cohesiveness, is continuing to **convene**.

But what does it mean to convene in a time of social distancing, which by its nature insists that we isolate?

We have demonstrated that the power of togetherness is not exclusively facilitated through physical interaction, and that by bringing the sound of our voices and assembling our faces online, we can be together.

In this global pandemic reality, online events have become the norm for many, including some who weren't able to participate in events before due to technology and accessibility barriers that pre-dated the virus.

Southern Arizona's Jewish agencies and synagogues have stepped up, quickly shifting their offerings online to allow community members to participate safely from anywhere. Make no mistake - this shift has not only been nimble and responsive, it has also been a tremendous demonstration of Jewish values.



Our community has come together in solidarity to protect the most vulnerable among us from life-threatening illness by making the sacrifice of staying home. This is a demonstration of *chesed* (loving kindness), of *kehillah* (community), of *kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh* (we are each responsible for one another), *pikuach nefesh* (the preservation of human life supersedes all other priorities), the list goes on... Together our collective sacrifices have undoubtedly saved countless lives within our very community.

While we do not know what the future holds, we know that the sacrifices we each make, combined with the power of our online convening, and the strength our community has demonstrated during these difficult times are remarkable manifestations of the values we hold most dear and evidence of the great strength from which we will proceed to be **Stronger Together**, leveraging our collective to overcome each challenge before us.

Wishing you all good health and great confidence that together we will continue to find success,

**Graham Hoffman**  
President & CEO

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[www.jewishtucson.org](http://www.jewishtucson.org) | [www.jfsa.org](http://www.jfsa.org) | [www.jcftucson.org](http://www.jcftucson.org)



### SURPRISE!

#### A Zoom Goodbye for Stu Mellan's Retirement

After 25 years of service to the Jewish Federation as the President and CEO, Stu Mellan was celebrated via Zoom by over 100 colleagues and friends. Although a larger, in-person gathering is anticipated to honor Stu in the future, we felt that it only appropriate to celebrate his retirement together online in the interim.



Emceed by Fran and Jeff Katz, participants to the online party were asked to wear silly hats, change their Zoom backgrounds to festive scenes, and arrive five minutes early so that they could surprise the guest of honor when he arrived to his "important leadership meeting." Around a dozen 90-second speeches were made honoring this steadfast and good-humored community leader.

**Thank you for all of your hard work, Stu! Now, time for a well deserved pause!**



Do you want to share fond memories or hopes for the future with Stu?  
[CLICK HERE](#) to do so in a private Facebook group.



#### Yom Limmud at the Tucson J

This past Sunday, the Tucson J convened community members for a day of Shavuot learning consisting of more than a dozen sessions led by lay leaders, professionals, and rabbis all via Zoom. Topics included divrei Torah, a conversation about patience during pandemic, and sitting around a "virtual campfire."

Learn more about the Tucson J's Virtual Community and access other offerings, including virtual personal training and podcast recommendations by clicking below:

[Tucson J Virtual Community](#)



#### Jewish Together: A Project of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA)

JFNA is offering online programming to help our community stay connected and informed during this challenging time. They hosted a star-studded global celebration for Israel's 72nd birthday on Facebook. Upcoming events include "The Great Jewish Food Festival" and "A Year in Review: Anti-Zionism & Anti-Semitism on College Campuses."

Review the full listing of events by clicking the button below:

[Jewish Together Virtual Meetups](#)

**YOUNG JEWISH TUCSON**  
**VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR**

**CELEBRATE ISRAEL'S BIRTHDAY**

Join us for a virtual happy hour discussion celebrating Israel's birthday, with exciting conversations around culture, history, and cuisine.

**THURSDAY, MAY 14**  
**6:30 PM**

**REGISTER AT:**  
[JFSA.TICKETSPICE.COM/VJR-ISRAEL](https://www.jfsofusa.org/tickets/jfsofusa.org/vjr-israel)

**Library**

**VIRTUAL PASSOVER LEGO CHALLENGE**

**Build a Seder plate**  
**Build candles for the Seder table scene**  
**Build a Seder table with a Seder plate and a family**  
**Build a Hillel sandwich**  
**Build a frog**  
**Build a wild animal**  
**Build a big Elijah's cup**  
**Build an Open the Door for Elijah scene**  
**Build the word Passover/Pesach in English or Hebrew**  
**Build a matzah oven similar to a pizza oven**  
**Build Pharaoh with one of the plagues**  
**Build Baby Moses in a basket**  
**Build Moses splitting the sea**



 

**PHILANTHROPIC LEADERSHIP IN TIMES OF CRISIS:**  
Preparing Ourselves & the Non-Profit Community for What's to Come

**2:00 PM - 3:00 PM**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 23**  
**6:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**Speakers:**  
**Guests:**  
**Hosts:**

**Monday, April 20**  
**6:00 PM**  
**RSVP at:**  
[JFSA.TICKETSPICE.COM/VJR-ISRAEL](https://www.jfsofusa.org/tickets/jfsofusa.org/vjr-israel)

**Join Congregation Or Chadash for Virtual Shabbat**  
**Streamed live on Facebook**  
**6:30 p.m. Friday**  
**10:00 a.m. Saturday**  
**No Facebook account required!**

**REMEMBERING TOGETHER**

**YOM HAZIKARON:**  
Memorial ceremony via Zoom for Israeli fallen soldiers and victims of terror.

**MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2020**  
**6:30 PM**

**CLICK TO REGISTER NOW:** <https://bit.ly/3X5A0H4>  
Zoom link sent via email upon registration

**YOUNG JEWISH TUCSON**  
**DIGITAL HAPPY HOUR**

**YOM PASSOVER DISCUSSION: CHAROSSET RECIPES**

**Thursday, April 2nd**  
**7:00pm**

Please grab a drink and join Young Jewish Tucson members for a happy hour. We will have a fun Passover discussion about Charoset Recipes.

**REGISTER AT:**  
[JFSA.TICKETSPICE.COM/VJR-DIGITAL](https://www.jfsofusa.org/tickets/jfsofusa.org/vjr-digital)

**2020 YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION**

**Memory and Meaning: A Virtual Remembrance**

**Sunday, April 19,**  
**2:00-9:00pm and**  
**Monday April 20,**  
**9:00am-2:00pm**

**REGISTER AT:**  
[JFSA.TICKETSPICE.COM/VJR-ISRAEL](https://www.jfsofusa.org/tickets/jfsofusa.org/vjr-israel)

**VIRTUAL MATZAH TOFFEE MAKING**

**MONDAY, APRIL 13, 4:00 PM ON ZOOM**

**FROM THE COMFORT OF OUR OWN KITCHENS WE WILL MAKE MATZAH TOFFEE! WHILE THE TOFFEE CHILLS, WE'LL BE SINGING AND JAMMING OUT TO PASSOVER THEMED PARODIES OF CLASSIC SONGS WE ALL LOVE.**

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