

Federation Focus

Spring 2019

Vol.9 Issue 3

Federation Focus is published three times a year by the Jewish Federation of Central California.
"All Jews are responsible for one another." (Talmud:Shavuot 39a)

The Jewish Federation of Central California Presents

Celebrating Israel at 71



May 5, 2019

12:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Free Admission

Explore Israel with activities for the whole family!



- * Israeli Lunch
- * Archeology in Jerusalem
- * Street Art in Tel Aviv
- * Dancing in the Kibbutz
- * Henna in the Negev
- * and More ...

Temple Beth Israel

6622 North Maroa Avenue, Fresno



Spring Events



For more information on events listed in the calendar, please contact your local congregation

Temple Beth Israel (TBI) 559-432-3600
Congregation Beth Jacob (CBJ) 559-222-0064
Chabad of Fresno 559-432-2770
Congregation B'nai David (CBD) 559-732-3139
Congregation Beit Shalom (CBS) 559-308-1333

Every Tuesday & Thursday 9—11 a.m.
TBI exercise class sponsored by Jewish Family Services as part of its “Tools for Life” program

May 2
 Yom Hashoah Remembrance Day
 CBJ - 7 p.m.

May 5
Israel at 71
TBI 12:15- 3:00 p.m. Details page 1

May 9
 JFS Discussion group
 TBI—11:15 a.m.
 Batsheva Williamson “Positive Affirmations”

May 10
 Yom Haatzmaut

May 12
 Brotherhood Mother’s Day Brunch
 TBI/10 a.m.—1 p.m.

May 18
 Jewish Film Series Presents at TBI
 “The Women’s Balcony ”
 6:00 p.m.TBIstro /7:00 p.m.: Film
 Details on www.fresnojewishfilm.org
 RSVP Elizabeth Kassel 439-9638 / kassel9368gmail.com

May 20
 68th B’nai B’rith Student Athlete Dinner
 Pardini's 2257 West Shaw 6:30 p.m.
 Donation: \$35, Table of 8 \$280
 Contact Richard Sorsky 233-6633/richard@lindenpub.com

May 23
 JFCC Annual Board meeting
 CBJ - 7 p.m.

May 28
 Fourth Tuesday
 TBI - 11:30 a.m.
 Luncheon honoring Linda Nahin
 Music by the Retired Teachers Chorus
 RSVP Judy Haber (431-2102) or jahaber@comcast.net

June 9-10
 Shavuot

June 21
 Fathers Day

June 25
 Fourth Tuesday-
 Vi Cherin Memorial Luncheon- hosted by JFCC
 TBI –11:30 a.m.
 RSVP Judy Haber (431-2102) or jahber@comcast.net

July 18
 JFCC Board Meeting
 7 p.m.-CBJ

July 23
 Fourth Tuesday
 TBI, Social Hall

August 11
 Tisha B’Av

August 27
 Fourth Tuesday
 TBI, Social Hall

If you have any events you would like posted on our calendar please contact Phyllis Farrow at fedfresno@sbcglobal.net. These events should be open to the entire Jewish community.





President's Message

by Murray Farber

I don't remember when I joined the board of the Jewish Federation of Central California. I do recall a long-ago budget meeting at which funds were allocated and a final vote taken. Then **Lee Horwitz** passionately asked that a surplus be provided for Israel. I also remember in my first year how Stuart Weil was outraged that Cine Culture films at Fresno State University focused on Palestinian views at the expense of Jewish concerns.

And there was debate over whether to accept money raised by CUFI (Christians United for Israel) after it held a program in Fresno. After hearing board member **Dr. Linda Halderman** (later a state representative) describe the shelling of a southern Israeli town, I was prompted to speak up for the first time and suggest a compromise. Yes, accept the CUFI funds and send the money to build a shelter for the school children.

And then there was the time **Vic Rosenthal** urged me to accompany him to a Mennonite church where the speaker was a Holocaust denier, married to an imprisoned notorious anti-Semite. Vic said we would just monitor but after hearing a string of lies about Hitler, denial of executions and other Nazi outrages, how could we remain silent? We weren't thrown out but were told we were too aggressive in our challenges. We were even invited to remain for refreshments.

And then there was an incident at Porterville Community College by an unthinking teacher who made so-called humorous (?) anti-Semitic remarks during a math (!!) class. After unsuccessful trips to meet with college administrators, and even though the ADL in San Francisco doubted we would get any satisfaction, we won. The college apologized and the teacher agreed to sensitivity training.

These are some memories that encouraged me to go on to serve as president of the local Federation. After six years my term is ending, although I will remain on the Board.

The Jewish community and I have to thank Executive Director **Phyllis Farrow** for serving as the navigator for steer-

ing the Federation through programming and onegs. Under her leadership, the Federation has nearly maintained its fund-raising goal even as the local Jewish population declined through deaths and retirements to other communities. Meanwhile, **Linda Nahin**, in behalf of Jewish Family Service(JFS), has provided compassion to needy and hurting residents and made distributing challah for Shabbat a specialty.

And there's **Ephraim Hadjis**, not only president of Congregation Beth Jacob, but who as Federation treasurer scrutinized financial statements plus assets very, very carefully, a role now filled by **Stan Ziegler**. And **Leah Press** who prompted a showing of art linked to Isaac Bashevis Singer and hosted speaker events; **Carol Reba** for speaking up for the interests of JFS which now sponsors classes for fitness and personal issues; **Vardit Lichtenstein** who spearheaded the annual gala celebrations of Israel Independence Day and its T-shirts, along with **Esti Barak**, with kosher food from **Chanie Zirkind**.

And I can't forget all the onegs made possible by **Saretha Gurss**; the cooperation of **Rabbi Rick Winer** and the availability of Temple Beth Israel for a variety of special events; the all-purpose concerns of **Judy Haber**, **Deb Reba** and **Elizabeth Kassel**; the thoughtful views of **Richard Sorsky**, **Andrea Gjerde** and **Esti**; pledge volunteers including **Amy Schmidt** for tabulating and **Hannah Krebs**, caller extraordinaire and team worker when we brought together the Israeli consul general and Congressman Jim Costa.

Currently, the Federation is actively promoting relations with Fresno State University and its president Joseph Castro by underwriting Jewish Studies scholarships and speakers plus serving on the university's Jewish Advisory Board, with **Jerry Mann** taking responsibility for organization.

And kudos to **Francine Farber** for the editing and design of Federation Focus. I hope you have found it valuable for community news, events reminders and its columns. Finally, thanks to all of you who have attended our events, encouraged us and donated to support our major areas in behalf of Israel, JFS, youth and education.

A board member – a comedian? – suggested that I serve as “president for life.” Thank you, but my service was made possible by our volunteers.

Thanks

JFCC ALLOCATIONS 2019

Israel/Overseas

Jewish Federation North America	\$15,000
Honest Reporting Media Central	500
Israel Independence Day	3,500

Local

Jewish Family Services	\$20,000
Interest free loans	3,000
CBJ/Yom Hashoah	1,000
Jewish Community Relations Committee	500
Camperships	2,500
"New Cemetery"	5,000
TBI/ Cemetery	13,000
Manchester School Holocaust Program	2,000
Jewish Museum Display	15,000
TBI-4 th Grade Class/B'nai B'rith Dinner	280

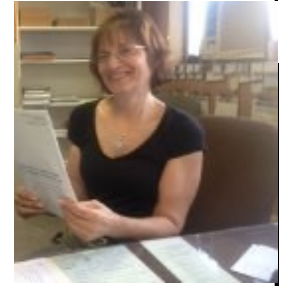
Jewish Studies Program (restricted fund) 5,000

Play "Matzoh Ball Diaries" (restricted fund) 3,500

Grand Total \$89,780



From the Director



I hope you and your families enjoyed this special time together and that you had a wonderful Pesach and meaningful Seder.

Our 2019 Campaign is still going on and I would like to thank everyone who has made a pledge and encourage those who have not to please consider one. If you have not made your pledge yet here is how to do it:

*Call the JFCC office at 432-2162

* sent your pledge in to JFCC (use form on back page)

* send an email to fedfresno@sbcglobal.net

As well as pledges, we gratefully accept donations in honor of, or in remembrance. When we receive these donations, we notify the associates or family of those being honored or remembered.

We also accept advertisements that will be included in both our Focus publication and on our website. The cost is \$100 annually. We hope you will consider placing an ad and we encourage all of our community to support our advertisers.

May 5- Yom Haatzmaut, Israel's 71th Independence Celebration

I hope you will attend this event and show your support for Israel as we celebrate their 71th year of Independence. See flyer page 1.

If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to give me a call at 432-2162 or fedfresno@sbcglobal.net

L'hitraot,

Phyllis Farrow

Executive Director, JFCC



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LETTER FROM ISRAEL by Vic Rosenthal

Comments?

K2vco.vic@gmail.com



Being a dual citizen of the U.S. and Israel is especially entertaining this month. Your American half has to file a US tax return – you didn't think the IRS would let you off just because you live in another country, did you? – and your Israeli half gets to vote in a national election.

The election is over, and it's close to 100% certain that Binyamin Netanyahu will form the next government, making him the longest-serving Prime Minister in Israel's history, even beating David Ben-Gurion. Probably his coalition will be similar to the previous one, including right-wing and religious parties, although there is a small chance of a "unity government" with his major opponent, Benny Gantz.



Now begins the worst part of Israeli politics, the deal-making (some would call it "extortion") that surrounds the formal coalition agreements and the distribution of cabinet ministries between the various claimants, both in Netanyahu's Likud party and the other coalition parties. There are more "deserving" politicians than portfolios, so it can be painful. The Knesset once passed a law that there could be only 18 cabinet ministers, but had to repeal it because sometimes there is no alternative to expanding the cabinet.

Just a word about Netanyahu: many American politicians and liberal organizations, especially Jewish ones, seem to enjoy bashing him, calling him a "racist" or accusing him of "destroying democracy," "encouraging religious intolerance," and so forth. Some even throw what they consider the ultimate insult at him, saying he is "just like Trump."

Folks, please take all this with an entire barrel of salt. The Israeli Left, which has dwindled to a small fraction of its former majority, still has a much louder voice in the media than its opponents, especially internationally. It has also made alliances with liberal organizations in the US, including the Reform and Conservative movements, which have their own agendas in Israel.

Netanyahu is neither a racist nor a fascist; but most importantly, he is the choice of the Israeli people, who trust

him more than anyone else to keep them safe, to improve their economy, and to raise the international standing of the Jewish state. And (for good or for ill) he is not very much like Trump at all, except for his propensity to evoke boundless hostility in his political enemies.

Israeli Jewish life is influenced by European and Mizrahi Jewish cultures. The results of the immigration of Soviet and Ethiopian Jews are increasingly being felt as the generation for whom Hebrew is a first language has come of age. And it's impossible to ignore that about one out of every five Israeli citizens is an Arab (usually a Muslim). All this is present when I walk down the street or buy food in the shuk. Which brings me to the moral of this story:

When Americans think about Israel, they think about her in terms of social and political situations that they are familiar with. But this isn't America, even if Tel Aviv looks a little like San Francisco. There are subtle and not-so-subtle differences in mentality. Palestinians are not at all analogous to black people in America. There is very little violent street crime in Israel, as there is in American cities, but there are often small-scale terrorist attacks. Israeli Jewish and Arab families usually have at least three or four children. There is government-provided health insurance, but there are not enough doctors or hospitals.

So please give Israel space: space to elect her own Prime Minister, space to defend herself against terrorism and aggression, and space to work out the relationship of religion to state. The result almost certainly won't be perfect, but it will be done democratically by, and for, the people who live here.

Vic Rosenthal is a resident of Israel, former editor of the FOCUS, and now a columnist and blogger.

TRANSITIONS

Counseling Center

Margot E. Tepperman, L.C.S.W.
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2019 JFCC Pledge List

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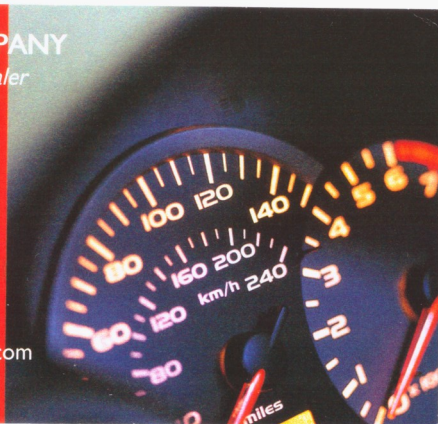
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♥JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES PRESENTS ♥

"TOOLS FOR LIFE"

at Temple Beth Israel

Senior Fitness Program

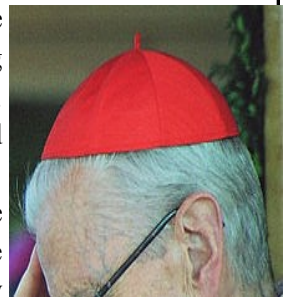
Tuesday and Thursday

9-10 a.m. stretching exercise

10-11 a.m. chair exercise

**CHASSIDUS CORNER**

Hashem blessed the Jews with amazing intellectual skills, carefully controlled by their spiritual soul. Doeg the Edomite was a leader in the Jewish community



who used his intellect to impact the Jewish community primarily for his own arrogance and desire for power. King Saul's reliance on him cost Israel's first King his life. When King Saul was commanded to eradicate the Amalekites, Doeg convinced him that he should spare Agag and his choicest animals. So Agag lived and procreated resulting in a killer, Haman 500 years later, who tried to eradicate the Jews.

But what about the animals. The evil Agag reasoned that the Amalekites could be regrown through these animals. A similar event occurred with the Jews and the tragedy of the golden calf. So the prophet Samuel was forced to kill Agag.

The lesson is that the Jewish people and King Saul collectively erred in placing reason and logic before humbly submitting to God's will. So let's apply this to today's world. Rebbe Menachem Schneerson required that we must study Torah daily and learn from every Jew. Some of our Jewish leaders seemed to have forgotten the critical lesson is to help another Jew.

This is a Jewish mission, to prepare this world to be a dwelling place for Hashem. Love and peace to all Valley Jews.

- *David ben Hirsch HaCohen*



Jewish Family Services

April was a busy month for Jewish Family Services. Exercise classes are always full and new members keep joining. We had a talk on Happiness by Robert Levine, who was surprised when he arrived because he thought "seniors" were going to be high school seniors. All had a good laugh. This month Batsheva Williamson will lead our discussion group with a talk on Positive Affirmations.

As in past years, we were pleased to host 33 people at the lovely Seder at Temple Beth Israel

Jewish Family Services has been very lucky to have had Linda Nahin as our Community Outreach Coordinator for the past 17 years. Linda is retiring at the end of May and hoping to move closer to her children and grandchildren. Linda has enjoyed working with the Federation community and the JFS committee. She will have fond memories of shopping trips, lunch dates and even sitting in dentists' offices with clients.



**Linda
Nahin**

We are pleased to welcome Jeri Horwitz back to Fresno as our new Community Outreach Coordinator, taking over where Linda leaves off. Jeri was born and raised in Fresno and brings her knowledge of our community as well as experience from her work with the Jewish Federation of New Mexico. Jeri can be reached at jfsfederation@gmail.com or 559-432-0529.

The Jewish Family Services Committee

Carol Reba-Chairperson; Rabbi Paul Gordon, Phyllis Farrow-Federation Director; Linda Nahin-Community Outreach Coordinator; Leslie Briney, Rita Karsh, Elizabeth Kassel, Jenny Mann, Amy Schmidt

Email: fedfresno@sbcglobal.net

Phone 559-432-0529

Can Dogs Help Change the World?

Tel Aviv was recently declared to be the friendliest city for dogs in the world. The city has 70 dog parks and four dog beaches. There are an estimated 30,000 dogs living with the 413,000 residents. Dogs are welcome

in most cafes, stores, restaurants, buses, trains and taxis.

Hila Meudah, 24, recently assigned as legal advisor to the Israel Air Force, is visually impaired. Although there are 21 visually impaired soldiers in the military she is the first and only one who has been granted support for her

assistance dog, Niels, to work with her at Camp Rabin in Tel Aviv.



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Our Mission

The mission of the Jewish Federation of Central California is to build and strengthen the Jewish community locally, overseas and in Israel, by

- ◆ *Raising funds and allocating them to identified Jewish community needs and priorities at home and abroad*
- ◆ *Providing education and cultural programs to promote community awareness of the Federation and its mission*
- ◆ *Listening to a broad spectrum of opinions from throughout the community to assure all Jewish voices are heard*
- ◆ *Evaluating efforts to ensure that Federation human and fiscal resources are used most effectively.*

For your convenience we accept Visa/Master Card for your pledges and donations. We appreciate your adjusting your gift to accommodate our 4% bank charge. Thank you.

Federation Offers Youth Scholarships

The Jewish Federation of Central California provides subsidies for Jewish youth to travel to and attend recognized Jewish camps and other programs in U.S. And Israel. Applications or requests must be received 30 days prior to need. For information call the Federation at **432-2162**.

Jewish Federations of North America protects and enhances the well-being of Jews and Jewish communities in North America, Israel and around the world. We strive to realize our core values of *chesed* (caring and compassion), *Torah* (Jewish Learning), *tikkun olam* (repair of the world) and *tzedakah* (social justice). As the focus of the federations, JFNA acts upon these values through philanthropy, strategic initiatives, and collective leadership—in partnership with local communities, national and international agencies.

NEXT DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES

AND CALENDAR LISTING

August 15, 2019

Federation Focus

The publication of the
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We welcome your articles for publication in the Focus. Submit via e-mail to fmfarber@hotmail.com as a Microsoft Word attachment. Pictures and graphics should be attached as separate JPEG files. Submissions are subject to editing and become the property of the Jewish Federation of Central California. We reserve the right to accept or reject any submissions.

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Have you made your 2019 pledge? Our community is depending on you!

"When a person's good deeds exceed his wisdom, his wisdom will be enduring."

- Rabbi Hanina Dendosa -

For the annual campaign, I pledge and promise to pay the Jewish Federation of Central California:

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