

Federation Focus

Winter 2022

Vol.13 No. 1

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

Begins

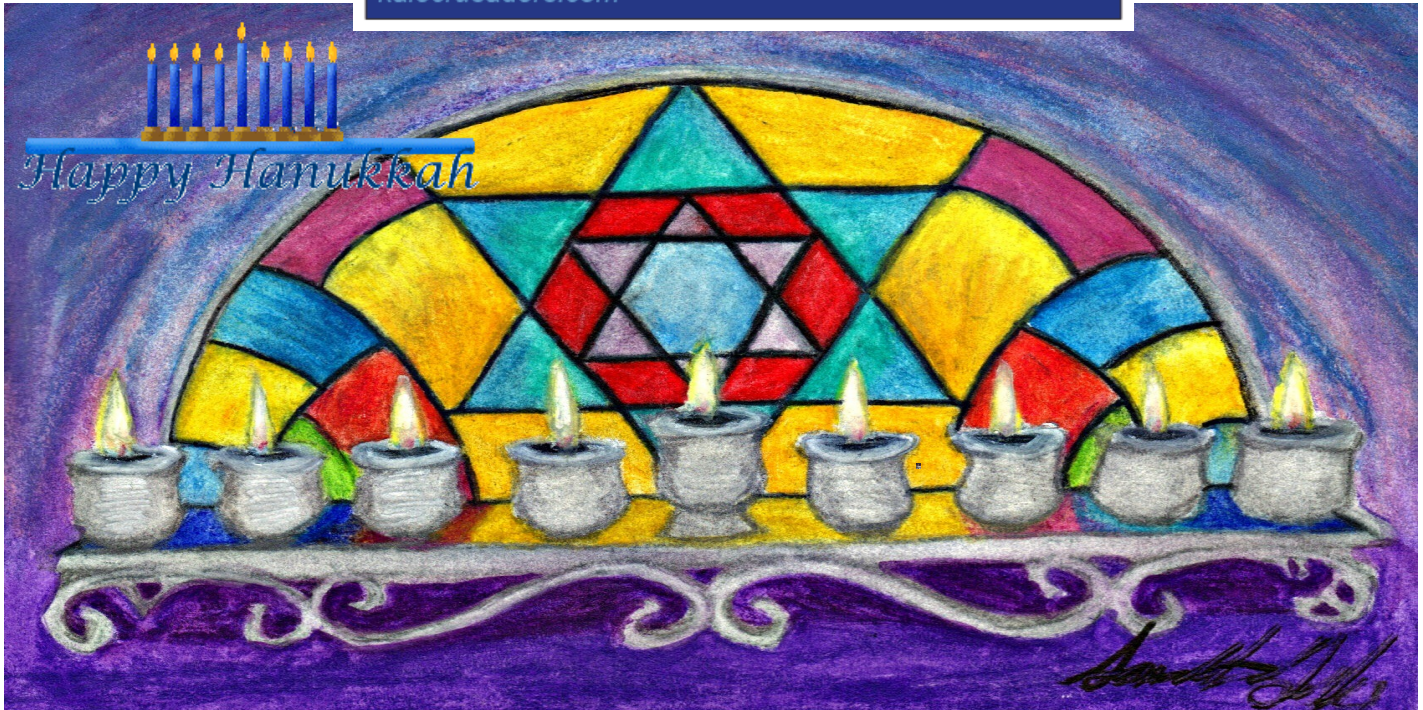
December 18

Happy Chanukah!

kalecrusaders.com

Ends

December 26



**Let There Be
Light**



See page 3

Director's Message

I hope everyone has a wonderful Hanukkah. May the lights of the season brighten our world and may we all have a healthy and peaceful year ahead of us.

Gae's exercise class is held every Tuesday and Thursday from 11-12 at Temple Beth Israel. Stephanie Shannon is the instructor and she does an incredible job! Some of us stand while most of us sit; we are working together to stay fit. We have participants from age 50 to 99 and still have room for a few more.

If you have not made your pledge yet, remember our community is counting on you and we have many ways you can do it:

* call the office 559-432-2162; * email me at fedfreno@sbcglobal.net
 * Click on link from emails you receive from us on Fridays *
 Send in back cover

We gratefully accept donations in honor or remembrance. We notify the associates or family of those being honored or remembered. We also accept advertisements for the FOCUS. The cost is \$100 annually. We encourage our community to support our advertisers.

We have two additional ways to help with our fundraising. The next time you order from Amazon please go to **smile.amazon.com** and select Jewish Federation of Central California under the supporting icon at top of page.

If you have a vehicle to donate, please use the information below and select Jewish Federation of Central California. <http://www.cardonatingiseasy.org/> 866-985-GIVE (866-985-4483)

Don't forget to visit us at
www.facebook.com/jewishfederationcentralcalifornia

Lehitroat, Phyllis Farrow
 Executive Director

How

Can

You

Help

Us?

**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.*

Let There Be Light



This year the Jewish Federation of Central California wants the lights of Hanukkah to shine into dark corners. We are collecting new and gently used lamps through our Or L'Hanukkah (Light of Hanukkah) celebration. The lamps will be donated to Wings Advocacy, a non-profit in Fresno that works with clients who are referred by case managers to the Marjaree Mason Center from 25 local social service agencies.

Imagine moving yourself (and your children) into the Marjaree Mason Center as a domestic violence victim. Then, after several months, you move out into your new house or apartment, which is completely empty. No beds, no kitchen table, no dishes, no linens, nothing. The living room and your child's bedroom are

dark because there are no lamps.

Wings gathers essential gently used items to give to formerly homeless families, veterans, individuals, women and children escaping domestic violence. Volunteers clean and sort the items, then deliver them to families being housed, serving five to fifteen families every week.

Our goal is to collect 613 lamps, one lamp for each Mitzvah in the Jewish tradition, by Friday, December 23. We will recognize our community's efforts at TBI's Hanukkah Family Service Oneg that evening.

Just as you place your menorah in the window to spread light to the world, so, too, will the lamps you donate spread light where there is

none. Temple Beth Israel has graciously agreed to accept your lamp donations Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the TBI lobby, and Wings will be collecting them.

And we hope they do pile up!

Please help us reach our goal. Let the light of Hanukkah shine and brighten the lives of so many people in need.

Thank you for participating in this wonderful, worthwhile project. For more information, please call Phyllis at 559.432.2162

Esti Barak, President
Jewish Federation



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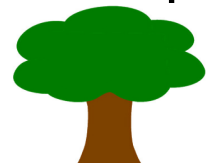
TRANSITIONS

Counseling Center

Margot E. Tepperman, L.C.S.W.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker

171 N. Van Ness Avenue
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WINTER DONATIONS



General Donation

Bill and Laurie Leifer

Jewish Family Services

Congregation Beth Jacob

Lee Horwitz

Elizabeth Kassel

Shelia Kornswieg

Susan Lev

Jenny Mann

Bill and Karen Podolsky

Carol Reba

Carol and Richard Sorsky

Gae's Exercise Class

Pat Hoffman

17th century Jewish artist discovered during ghetto research

Watching paint dry is tedious, but maybe a speedier process than the 600 years it took to discover that a Jewish artist broke barriers in Italy in the 17th century. Recent research reported by The New York Times revealed that Jona Ostiglio, a member of a distinguished art academy, was Jewish.



Landscape by Jona Ostiglio

It's not clear whether he was an exception or whether there were other Jewish artists. But we know that during his lifetime (1620 or 1630-1695), Jews in Florence were confined to a ghetto and could be rag pickers and other lowly occupations, but barred from professional guilds or from opportunities in fields such as architecture. Rather than gaining recognition as artists, they could become artisans—craftsmen. But now, the world famous Uffizi Gallery has several Ostiglio works in its collection. He was regarded as a professional who worked for some of Florence's leading families and a member of a prestigious academy supported by the powerful Medicis.

He was rediscovered during research into literary and archival sources for an exhibition on the Jewish ghetto to be hosted by the Uffizi next year. According to The Times report, he was self-taught and so expert at copying the masters that "it was impossible to tell his work from the original." Eight of his works have been found: still lifes of fish and landscapes. He also painted a huge family tree of the aristocratic Mannelli family that hangs in the reading room of the city's state archive room, a sign that Ostiglio was commissioned by nobility.

A museum curator commented, "Jews weren't allowed to become goldsmiths or painters or be part of any guild so Ostiglio was quite extraordinary." For Ostiglio to be sponsored by the Medici grand dukes is "extremely important."

Silvana Greco, Berlin professor of sociology of Judaism, commented that Ostiglio's story "underlined the interaction that existed between Jews and Christians and the importance of Jewish culture in various art forms, including painting. She added, "Even though the life of the Jewish and Catholic world was divided, there could be constructive exchanges."

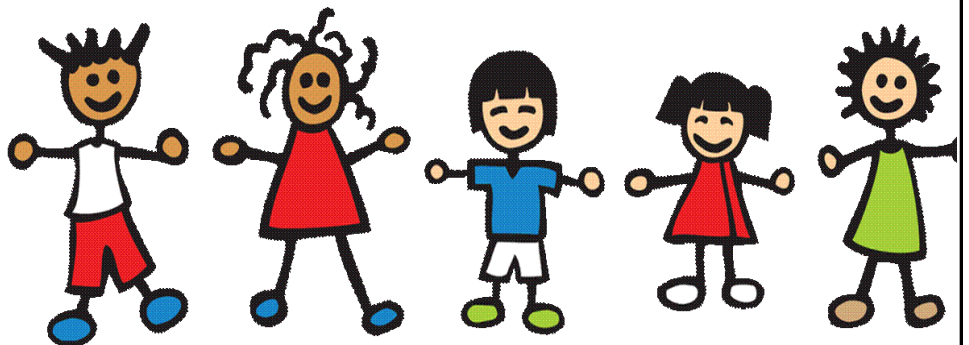
-Murray Farber

Jewish Day School



Happy Hanukkah and Happy Holidays from the Fresno Jewish Day School. We are having a blast at our new location at the Wesley United Methodist Church and are excited to see what amazing new adventures this next year will bring for us. We currently have spaces available for enrollment immediately. If you or someone you know are interested in play-based Jewish Preschool, ages 2-5, check out our website at www.fresnojewishdayschool.org or call our center and speak to the director, Sarah, at 559-447-1984 for more information.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Visalia Voices

- ◆ CBD had its first Bar Mitzvah in November in almost three years. Great job, Clark!
- ◆ Upcoming events include our Hanukkah lunch/party on 12/11, Shabbaton 01/20/23, and Tu B'shevat Seder 02/06/23. The last two will be led by our Student Rabbi Tori.
- ◆ We have upgraded our audio/video so the people on ZOOM can hear and see those who are there in person.
- ◆ Our Student Rabbi Tori led our High Holy Day services and we were enriched by her and Barry's voices throughout the days.
- ◆ Our Sunday School is in session and we have some new equipment and books in the library.



◆ A long time member, David Perez, passed away in November. May his memory be for a blessing.

- ◆ Looking forward to having a bright, happy and healthy 2023.
- ◆ If anyone is interested in learning more about Judaism or attending services, please call 559 732-3139 for more information.

Marsha Brooks-Smith

Congregation B'nai David
Visalia, CA



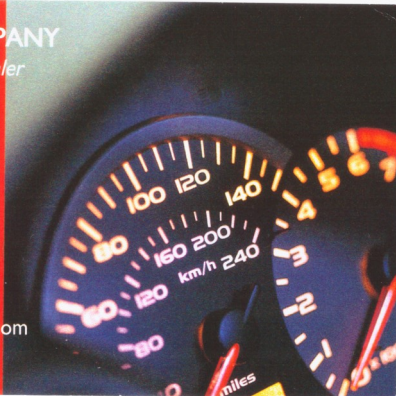
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Holocaust
Memorial

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Sunday, December 11
2:00 p.m.

The Chabad Jewish
Community Center
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I hope everyone is staying safe, keeping warm, and in good health.

We have been very busy here at JFS. Our staff is small, yet our job is big. We receive many calls from people who are trying their best to deal with the challenges in their lives. They may need food to get through the month, assistance with a bill, clothing, referrals for caregivers, and the list goes on.

Through the continuing support from the Jewish Federation of Central California, we are able to continue to help Jewish people from Merced to Visalia improve their lives. With your donations, we continue to give out \$50 food cards for SaveMart/Foodmax to those in need. On Fridays, we enjoy delivering a challah as a Shabbat gift to several community members.



Those who attend Gae's Exercise Classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11-12 at Temple Beth Israel are truly thankful for the very generous endowment from Gae Werfel. It is well attended and very enjoyable. In fact, as I write this, we still had about 20 participants at class this very rainy morning. Comments from today's class: "I wouldn't have missed this class. It makes me feel so much better," and "This rain is making my body ache, but this class helps to get me movin'," and "I love the teacher, and have made new friends. Thank you JFS for providing this class."

During these cold winter months, many seniors may remain isolated. That's where our Caring Calls Program comes in. This social call program provides invaluable connection and friendship to our local Jewish seniors. If you would like to be a volunteer caller or know of those seniors who would favor this social connection, please contact us at 559-432-0529 or jfsfederation@gmail.com.

Don't forget to check out the weekly federation E-blasts and the JFS TOOL BOX with various links to helpful information. May the gift of love, the gift of peace, and the gift of happiness be yours at Hanukkah.

Jeri Michner Horwitz

JFCC/JFS Community Outreach Coordinator

Join Caring Calls!



**Have a Conversation
Create a New Friendship
& Change a Life!**

If you're interested and want more information, please send an email to Jeri Horwitz jfsfederation@gmail.com or call her directly at (559) 281-1104. **You can change a life!**



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New Film Series Continues



The Films Committee continues an entertaining new film season with meals to complement each film. We will show films at TBI during what are predicted to be “safe” months, with guidelines requiring attendees to be current with Covid vaccinations and masked when appropriate.

Films shown at TBI will include the option of purchasing a TBISTRO meal. TBISTRO meals will be served at 6:00 p.m. with films starting at 7:30 p.m.

For December and January, we are suggesting films to watch at your leisure on Kanopy.com followed by a Zoom discussion. Please check our website FAQ page on how to set up your Kanopy account. In February, we have listed both an in-person film and a Kanopy selection, pend-

ing Fresno’s health conditions. Consult the flyer, our website and make sure you are on our email list so that we can keep you informed. Sign up for our email list here: <http://eepurl.com/gCWukX>

DECEMBER 10, 2022
Discussion on Zoom
WHEN HITLER STOLE PINK RABBIT Film on Kanopy.com

JANUARY 14, 2023
Discussion on Zoom
NO PLACE ON EARTH
Film on Kanopy.com

FEBRUARY 4, 2023 AT TBI
(pending health guidelines)
THE WORLD WITHOUT YOU
TBISTRO available

****OR****

FEBRUARY 4, 2023
Discussion on Zoom
THE KIND WORDS
Film on Kanopy.com

MARCH 4, 2023 AT TBI
SHEPHERD: The Story of a Jewish Dog
TBISTRO available

APRIL 22, 2023 AT TBI
PERSONA NON GRATA - The Story of Chiune Sugihara
TBISTRO available

MAY 13, 2023 AT TBI
ONLY HUMAN
TBISTRO available



Yes, there are Jews in Africa . . .

To recognize that not all Jews are white and European, Harriet Bogard supported isolated Jewish communities in 33 countries, including Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria, Cameroon, Madagascar, Guatemala and other places.

It all started when she visited her daughter who had taken a summer job in a village in Ghana where about two dozen families considered themselves Jewish, even if authorities did not.

Guessing at their roots, they could be related to the 10 Lost Tribes of Israel, the Spanish Inquisition which scattered Jews in far-off countries, and centuries-old conversions by community leaders.

After that trip, Harriet *(continued on page 8)*

JFS at Temple Beth Israel

Gae's Exercise Class

Tuesdays & Thursdays at 11 a.m.



JFCC ALLOCATIONS 2022

ALLOCATION DESCRIPTIONS



Israel Overseas

Jewish Federation North America	\$5,000
Jewish Distribution Committee	\$10,000
Magen David Adom	\$2,000
Akim Israel	\$2,000

Local

Jewish Family Services	\$20,000
Israel Independence Day	\$3,500
Interest Free Loans	\$3,000
TBI Yom HaShoah	\$1,000
Jewish Community Relations Committee	\$10,000
Camperships	\$2,500
TBI Cemetery	\$9,000
TBI Cemetery Water Project	\$12,400
Jewish Studies Program, Fresno State	\$5,000

TOTAL **\$ 85,400**

Jewish Federation of North America Umbrella organization to help support and sustain worldwide Jewry.

Jewish Distribution Committee The world's leading Jewish humanitarian organization that works to lift lives and strengthen communities, by providing life-saving care to those in desperate need.

Magen David Adom With Israel under attack, MDA provides first responders, vehicles, and training, as well as transportation to hospitals to save lives.

Akim Israel The Israeli national organization to help people with intellectual disabilities and their families, using legal, community, and self-advocacy.

Jewish Family Services Provides services and support for the Central Valley Jewish Community (Visalia to Merced) regardless of age, income, or synagogue affiliation, and to strengthen Jewish identity, build community, and fortify family life.

Jews in Africa *(continued from page 7)*

joined Kulanu, which works where most American Jews don't realize there are Jews.



Harriet Bograd

She died recently at 79. She was president of the Kulanu board for 14 years, which operated from her New York apartment. The organization means "all of us" in Hebrew, and built synagogues, primary schools and a mikvah, as well as distributing prayer books, Torah scrolls, prayer shawls and other ritual items in isolated Jewish African communities.

Orthodox authorities in Israel have recognized Ethiopian Jews, but not those in other parts of Africa. When conservative rabbis tried to convert some Africans to Judaism, many Africans objected, saying "Who are you to tell me I am not Jewish?"

Harriet was one of only 11 women in her law school class at Yale. Her diagnosis of breast cancer 25 years ago made her more determined to use her time for "tikkun olam", repairing the world, and for her work with Kulanu.

- *Francine Farber*

(this article adapted from the NY Times 11/25/22)

Israel Independence Day Yearly Yom Ha'atzmaut community celebration, marking the establishment of the modern state of Israel in 1948.

Interest Free Loans Promotes financial assistance to Jewish families in need by offering them a NO interest loan.

Yom HaShoah A day set aside for Jews to remember the Holocaust.

Jewish Community Relations Council Liaison between the Jewish community and our non-Jewish neighbors, engaging in dialogue and clarifying misunderstandings, as well as sponsoring pro-Israel speakers and arts events.

Camperships Provides financial assistance to Jewish students wishing to attend a Jewish camp.

TBI Cemetery Pays part of annual maintenance costs.

TBI Cemetery Water Project Pays part of the new water pump and pipes.

Future Cemetery Help start a fund to purchase a new cemetery for the Jewish community as TBI is running out of plots.

Jewish Studies Endows a Jewish studies scholarship fund for Fresno State students in the Jewish Studies Program who have completed at least two courses toward earning either the Jewish Studies Certificate or the Jewish Studies Minor.

HAVE YOU MADE AND FULFILLED YOUR 2023 PLEDGE?

*“When a person’s good deeds exceed his wisdom,
his wisdom will be enduring.”*

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

*\$54 ___ \$126 ___ \$180 ___ \$396 ___ \$613 ___
\$1242 ___ \$1800 ___ Other \$ _____*

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Address _____

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Signature _____

How will you make your contribution?

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Name on card _____

Expiration Date _____

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Federation Focus

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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.