The Jewish Federation
OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

A YEAR OF IMPACT

Jewish Federation 2024 Annual Report

EVENTS THAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER

Our events this year gathered thousands of community members, fostering connection, culture, and shared memory.

- **Jewish Film Festival:** 1,000 attendees celebrated Israel and Jewish culture through stories. The 25th anniversary of the Film Festival was held in Sacramento, and for the first, time also in Davis.
- **Yom HaShoah:** 300 attendees commemorated the Holocaust in a meaningful ceremony with testimony from Holocaust survivor, Andra Bucci.
- **Yom HaZikaron:** 300 attendees gathered to honor fallen soldiers and victims of terror.
- **Yom Ha'Atzmaut:** 500 attendees celebrated Israel's Independence Day with joy and unity.
- **Memorial Day:** 100 participants honored those who served in the U.S. military.
- **Jewish Heritage Day at the River Cats Game:** 60 participants represented the Jewish community at the stadium enjoying a fun American style afternoon.
- **October 7 Candlelight Vigil:** 700 participants gathered to grieve together in community at the State Capitol.
- **Mitzvah Day:** On Veterans Day, 50 volunteers performed acts of kindness to honor our Veterans, both Israeli and American.
- **PJ Library Hanukkah:** scheduled for December 26, we hope you join us!
- And our current **Annual Meeting!**

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

Education is a top priority for the Jewish Federation, and we focus our efforts to offer educational opportunities for our members and through outreach to non-Jewish communities in our region.

Student to Student Program empowers Jewish teens to educate peers about Jewish culture, fostering understanding and combating antisemitism. Last year the program was presented at 40 classrooms in the Sacramento Region. This year 13 students are participating to keep expanding the outreach. This program is led by lay leaders Randi Gold and Sharon Rogoff and a committee of dedicated volunteers.

PJ Library is one of our most successful outreach programs for families with young children. We have distributed more than **14,400 Jewish-themed books**, inspiring young minds and families.

NEW! PJ Library—Jewish Family Education Program is a new initiative that provides parents with children in public schools the necessary resources to teach a lesson in their classrooms about Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah and Jewish Heritage. It aims to help expose students and teachers to Jewish culture. We provide everything: curriculum, materials and individualized support if needed. The curriculum was written and is led by Naomi Gould, a passionate lay leader, and PJ Mom. Since the launch in December 2024, this program has already reached 543 students.

IMPACTFUL GRANTS

Even though our allocations program has been put on a hiatus for the moment, we have made significant efforts to make sure that we support our community in the best possible way. Additionally, we have begun to expand our attempts to receive additional financial support through grants.

Schwab-Rosenhouse Memorial Scholarships awarded **43 new Scholarships**, totaling $100,000 and **renewed scholarships providing $293,500** to continue the education for previous recipients.

Transportation supporting students from Sacramento State University to attend Shabbat dinner at Hillel in Davis. This program cost $1000.

We were awarded the **Tepper Security Grant** by the Tepper Foundation, through the JFNA. The **$50,000** was distributed among 6 organizations in our region to enhance security for programs for children 0-5 years old.

In partnership with the **Teen Israel Trip Fund**, we have awarded **four scholarships** this year to help teens have a transformative experience in Eretz Israel.

We received a grant from JFNA for **$3,000** and generous support from the Schuman family to help provide a meaningful October 7 Candlelight Vigil.

The **Trust Fund for the Jewish Elderly** granted the Federation **$41,000** to support the weekly Kosher Meal program.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Jewish Family Services and each one of its programs remains the flagship of our organization. We can help our most vulnerable in our community, because we have your support and the understanding that it's our mission to do it. In this case, when the meaning of the act is the most important part, the numbers make the picture clearer:

Kosher Meal Delivery Program delivered 1,454 Shabbat meals year-to-date.

The Grocery Gift Card Program distributed 688 cards worth $55,040 to families in need.

Transportation Program supported individuals with essential travel needs.

Social Worker Casework delivered dedicated support to community members, reaching out to dozens per month.

Holiday Gift Bags (Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah, and Passover) 85 thoughtfully curated bags for each holiday, spreading joy and a dose of TLC.

INITIATIVES: ADVOCACY AND SAFETY

This year, we launched or expanded five key initiatives to help build bridges, lower stigma about Jews, and increased the sense of support for and from the community.

Countering Antisemitism Committee: Advocating for awareness and action on Antisemitism in the Sacramento Region. **Created an Incident Reporting System.**

Student to Student Program: peer to peer education to help lower stigma and build bridges. To date, 830 students have been reached.

Jewish on Campus: Supporting Jewish college students and their parents, offering a safe space to discuss concerns and build resilience.

Building Bridges: Partnered with diverse faith communities to foster understanding.

PJ – Jewish Family Education Program: Helping fight antisemitism through education and engagement.

COMMUNICATIONS: KEEPING YOU CONNECTED

Weekly Articles: Ensured transparency and community updates, helping you stay informed and connected.

The Voice: Our print publication to share information about the Federation.

COLLABORATIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS: WE'RE STRONGER TOGETHER

Partnerships:

Shalom School

- Stay and Play: Monthly gatherings.
- Pizza in the Sukkah: Welcomed 200 attendees.

Hillel at Davis and Sac State

- October 7th Vigil in Davis, CA.
- Shabbat Dinners: Supported Hillel at Chico and Davis/Sac State.

Bad Jews, a new collaboration

Sponsorships:

- Shalom School Gala
- Winterland Chabad Hanukkah Festival

SACRAMENTO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

The Sacramento Jewish Film Festival not only entertains but also educates and fosters an appreciation for Jewish heritage and creativity, making it a cornerstone of cultural life in the region.

Organizing the festival is no small feat; our 20-person planning committee typically works for 6-8 months each year under the tireless leadership of Film Fest Director Teven Laxer. We also have a dedicated team of 30 volunteers each year who contribute their time and expertise to select and curate films, coordinate screenings, build and manage the website, procure sponsors, and publicize and manage event logistics.

JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL (JCRC)

Convened more than a dozen meetings with public officials where constituents from our community could discuss their experiences and urge action, including bringing parents and students together with principals, superintendents, and University presidents at schools where students have experienced antisemitic incidents.

Sponsored workshops at multiple local synagogues to learn more about the recent recommendations of the California Reparations Task Force and the related policy proposals that have started to move forward.

Proudly represented the community when the Sacramento City Council honored Jewish American Heritage Month in May.

Cohosted and participated in events to connect with and support our neighbors, including the Latino Jewish Seder and the MLK Day March.

2024 Program Expenses

This year, the Federation has 135 new donors. To date, we have received $432,955 in donations. $361,719 is unrestricted, and $71,236 is restricted.

