

Jewish Family News



Jewish Family Services
of silicon valley

June 2018

Volume 14 No. 2

Celebrating Our 2017-2018 Funders

Jewish Family Services relies on **corporate, foundation and government support** for 67% of our income to provide essential services for vulnerable families and seniors in our community. It is our honor to recognize those fine institutions that help JFS ensure that those in need can get the assistance they deserve.

Chai House: social services for Chai House residents

Claims Conference: home care, case management, emergency food and medical care for vulnerable Holocaust survivors

County of Santa Clara Social Services: Connections to Work Program

Emergency Food and Shelter Board: emergency food packages for seniors, adults and families

HIAS: refugee resettlement and community outreach

Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley: overall support, transportation and quality of life scholarships



President-Elect Joe Isaacson is happy to hold up the Sharks Foundation Goals for Kids "check." JFS, along with seven other nonprofits are the 2018 beneficiaries.

for low income seniors, 75% discount of occupancy cost

Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley Giving Circle: Equipped to Learn Back-to-School Shoes, Welcome to America Packages, Project NOAH

Koret Foundation: Project NOAH Food Assistance Program

\$ Myra Reinhard Family Foundation: Project NOAH services for vulnerable adults and families

Office of Refugee Resettlement: employment services for refugees

Sharks Foundation, Goals for Kids program: Embrace-A-Family

Silicon Valley Community Foundation: Connections to Work Program

Safeway Foundation: Project NOAH Food Assistance Program

We appreciate your partnership! For more information, please contact Development Manager Allison Zur,

(408) 357-7491 or allisonz@jffsv.org.

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www.jfssv.org

From Our President

Confessions of a Lucky Guy

Richard Namm



Some people commemorate their so-called mid-life crisis by splurging on things they don't exactly need. I considered that option but chose another path.

My wife Patti and I dabbled in volunteering at JFS for many years. We delivered food packages to the elderly for various holidays and Patti served as a Friendly Visitor for a Holocaust survivor. It whet my appetite for something more than an expensive toy or a foolish fling in hopes of turning back the clock. Instead, I wanted to play a part in changing lives.

Thumbing my Jewish nose at protocol (the mid-life crisis?), I invited myself to join the Board of Directors. Then I became President. Now, as my 2-year term draws to a close, I'd like to share the gift of that experience. The past 24 months were a highlight reel of fun and adventure, but six moments will remain with me forever:

Embrace-A-Family. Everyone loves this program which runs from mid-November through late December. Take a tag shaped like a dreidel and fulfill the wish of someone in need with a gift. I'll never forget the sight of a father teaching the meaning of sharing to his 8-year old son. You don't need to be an adult to understand tzedakah.

Good Morning JFS! If you only have one hour per year to learn about JFS, this is it. Each story is

heartwarming. The people are amazing. Breakfast is delicious. For me, the camaraderie of the community makes the biggest impression. It's palpable and lingers long after we return to our daily routine.

Pro Bono Legal Clinic. My family...your family...our family. People patiently waiting their turn to speak with an immigration attorney at JFS the evening of the first Thursday each month. Their eyes tell a story. They are us...100, 125 or 150 years after our ancestors made their way to the promised land. In a quiet way, it's spellbinding.

Staff and Volunteers. It's often said miracles happen every day inside Jewish Family Services. If so, the 18 staff members and 700 volunteers are miracle makers. The sense of *tikkun olam* is tangible. Clients with seemingly few options in life gain a measure of renewal. A slice of heaven is reserved for people who ease the pain of others while receiving a modicum of remuneration and recognition.

Chai House. JFS provided services here for many years but established a full-time branch office in 2017. The grand opening sparked with enthusiasm. We declared to the residents, "You are not forgotten. You are celebrated." Although many considered Chai House a "Jewish Home For The Aged" in the 1970s and 1980s, the current inhabitants...both Jewish and non-Jewish...welcomed us with the warmth of a bubbe.

President • continued on page 6

Executive Director's Message

Taking Stock, Looking Forward

Mindy Berkowitz



Dear Friends,

June is an important month for us at Jewish Family Services for so many reasons.

It's the end of our program and fiscal year, and we take stock of all we accomplished. It's a time for us to thank our many sponsors and funders for partnering with us to help transform people's lives. It's also a time for three special events to which you are invited:

- **JFS Annual Meeting, June 13 at 7 PM.** Our Annual Meeting is like none other. Heartwarming stories come to life along with a cel-

ebration of people who go more than the extra mile for others. It's like a mini Good Morning JFS! – but with dessert.

- **Refugee Crisis 2018: What's Happening Now and How You Can Help, June 19 at 7:30 PM.** This is a great opportunity for you to hear the latest on our lawsuit against the Refugee Travel Ban, stories of hope and struggle from refugees we help, and learn about the myriad ways you can get involved. See page 5 for more information.

- **Equipped to Learn Back to School Drive:** Beginning June 25th. We have many ways you and your family can help someone be

equipped to learn and succeed. Look for the Equipped to Learn boards and bins at the Levy Family Campus and throughout the community, and check www.jfssv.org for more details.

June is also a month of celebration. Best wishes to the graduates and fathers among us!

Here's to a great summer,

Mindy

P.S. We're busting our buttons with pride! JFS SV's commitment to accountability and transparency have once again earned us a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator!

Creating Hope and Transforming Lives

You Are Cordially Invited to Attend
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at 7:00 PM
Levy Family Campus Auditorium

Inspirational Stories from the People JFS Helps
Honoring Volunteers and Staff for Outstanding Service
Installation of New Slate of Board of Directors

Festive Dessert Reception

R.S.V.P. to jfs@jfssv.org; 408.556.0600

Staff Direct Numbers Area Code 408

Mindy Berkowitz.....	357-7455
Zoya Lazer.....	357-7452
Lisa Warner.....	357-7456
Tami Levi	357-7454
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Sandra Pannell.....	357-7425
Sheila Monheit.....	357-7451
Valerie DuBose.....	357-7542
Zara Musayeva.....	947-7256
JFS at Chai House.....	947-7256

Equipped to Learn Back-to-School Drive

Benefitting Preschoolers thru Adult Learners



Bring your school supplies and shoe gift cards
June 25th—July 25th to Jewish Family Services

14855 Oka Road #202, Los Gatos; (408) 357-7467

Or deliver to one of our community partner locations:

Congregation Beth David

APJCC/Levy Family Campus

Congregation Sinai

Temple Beth Torah

Temple Emanu-El

(list in formation)

Link to our Equipped to Learn wish list: www.jfssv.org



Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley



Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley invites you to

Refugee Crisis 2018

What's Happening Now/How YOU Can Help

Hear the latest on the JFS lawsuit against the Trump Administration

Listen to stories of refugees told first hand

Learn how YOU can get involved and help

When: Tuesday, June 19, 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Where: Levy Family Campus Auditorium
14855 Oka Road, Los Gatos 95032

Wine and Cheese Reception

Open to the public, but RSVP required to Allison Zur
by Friday, June 15th: allisonz@jfssv.org or 408-357-7491

<https://www.jfssv.org/refugee-services.html>

JFS SV: Repairing Our World

President • continued from page 2



Bella was delighted to pick up some matazah at JFS after Passover to make her food budget stretch further.

Girl, 6 – Shirt. That was the description on a tag for Embrace-A-Family in November 2016. Just a shirt. I think about it almost every day. Hopefully, JFS played a small part in preventing a life of poverty for that young lady.

While I'm leaving my official capacity at JFS, my heart will never stray very far. It's a fervent hope everyone in the community gets a chance to experience the life-affirming capabilities of JFS...whether as a volunteer, client, donor or perhaps member of the Board. Your support continues to make all the difference in our world.

Like a 10-minute swim in the pickle barrel of an old New York deli, I hit the jackpot. We should all be so lucky.

Rich

Rich and Patti Namm are relocating to Nipomo, CA. We thank them for their years of dedication to JFS, and wish them all the best in their next adventure.

JFS@Chai House - Spring 2018

The JFS branch office at Chai House has had a busy spring!

- Lisa Warner, our Director of Clinical and Social Services, spearheaded a well-received **Compassion in Action** workshop.
- The San Jose Police Department presented on **Community Safety**.
- Since she started working at Chai House in February, **social worker Zara Musayeva has assisted more than 40 Chai House residents** with counseling and case management, helping them get access to benefits and programs they need.
- We've run three groups: **Aging Gracefully**, **Poetry**, and **Conversation Box**.
- We said **goodbye to our Chai House MSW interns** Bryan Leung and Margaret McCord.

This summer we **welcome intern Molly Ball** to Chai House. Zara will continue to facilitate the Aging Gracefully and Conversation Box groups. Additionally, Zara will bring in Russian-speaking medical professionals to talk at Chai House. We have new volunteers ready to provide after-dinner groups. Lisa Warner continues to provide individual counseling to Chai House residents.

For more information about JFS@Chai House please contact Lisa Warner at (408) 357-7456 and lisa@jfsv.org, or Zara Musayeva at (408) 947-7256 and zaram@jfsv.org.



Centerpieces for Tzedakah volunteers Lana Khavinson, Fagie Rosen, Ruth Bareket, Jody Borah, Betsy Arnstein, and Laurel Sevier with their gorgeous creations. Let us bring beauty to your next party. Contact Lori at (408) 357-7467 for more information.

JFS SV: Repairing Our World

YA-LIVE

JFS' Young Adult Leadership Initiative for Volunteer Engagement group (YA-LIVE) in Silicon Valley is an incredible way to have fun, meet new people, and have a direct impact on our community. We have a vast array of volunteer opportunities and - if you're interested - leadership opportunities. For more information, please contact Allison Zur: allisonz@jfssv.org or 408-357-7491 All young professionals ages 22-35 are welcome!

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- Patti and Richard Namm
- Kim and Bob Chortek
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Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley

The Ruth Perkins Emergency Fund for Refugee Services



JFS SV urgently needs your help! We protect refugees who have experienced persecution due to their religion, ethnicity, political expression or sexual orientation. They come from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Former Soviet Union and various countries throughout Africa. The people we help are fleeing dire and often violent circumstances.

As the second largest refugee resettlement agency in Santa Clara County, JFS SV serves **200+** refugees annually with resettlement, pro-bono legal immigration clinic, vocational English training, job search assistance, case management, and emergency food assistance. Our services to refugees have been funded through HIAS, County of Santa Clara, United Way Silicon Valley, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, foundations, and generous individuals.

Funding for refugee services is in peril! Our refugee resettlement and Connections to Work programs depend on annual awards of over \$300,000 for the past decade —and these are no longer certain.

Refugees in our care need the crucial services that JFS SV provides.
Learn more at www.jfssv.org.

To keep our Refugee Services work going strong,
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley launched
the Emergency Fund for Refugee Services.

Please join us!

Your gift will ensure that vulnerable refugees can build new lives
and live in safety and freedom.

----- **Jewish Family Services Emergency Fund for Refugees** -----

Enclosed is \$ _____ as my gift for the JFS Emergency Fund for Refugee Services

Please make checks payable to **JFS SV, 14855 Oka Road, Suite 202, Los Gatos, CA 95032 (408)556-0600**

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In honor of Dr. Joseph Decker's 80th Birthday: Bobbye Gorenberg and Judy Fisher
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In honor of Lauren Janov's birthday: Evelyn Richards
In honor of Rikki Kapiloff's Bat Mitzvah: Naomi and Jeffrey Salowe
In honor of Linda Mighdoll's special birthday: Cyd and Billy Braker
In honor of Rhonda Raider and Don Gould's "120th" birthday: Rabbi Allan and Mindy Berkowitz
In honor of Marcia Ratner's birthday: Marcia and Joe Riggio
In honor of Benjamin Stone's birthday: Bonnie and Lee Stone

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Bonnie and Lee Stone, in memory of Dr. Glenn Hait
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Are you 70 years old or better?

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- ☐ **Jewish Family Services Fund** supports JFS' work in our local community
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