

Jewish Family News



Jewish Family Services
of silicon valley

March 2018

Volume 14 No. 1

Yay for YA-LIVE!

As the new *Portrait of Bay Area Jewish Life and Communities Study* points out, 53% of the Jews in the Bay Area are under the age of 35 years old. Silicon Valley millennials tend to be less Jewishly engaged compared to their counterparts elsewhere in the United States.

But... We at JFS SV have noticed a substantial increase

in the number of people wanting to volunteer since the 2016 election. We have found that more young Jews (on all sides of the political spectrum) are coming forward filled with angst, disillusionment, and the need to do something for their community; to find their voices and have them be heard. We are giving them the space and means to do just that. YA-LIVE (Young Adult Leadership Initiative for Volunteer Engagement) focuses on volunteer and community engagement for



YA-LIVE is an incredible way to have fun, meet new people, and have a direct impact on our community.

Jewish adults in their 20s and 30s. **YA-LIVE is the only Jewish young adult group in the South Bay exclusively focused on tikkun olam.**

One of the most exciting aspects of YA-LIVE is that it draws in young adults from a variety of social circles and networks. Our members are both affiliated and non-affiliated within the Jewish community. Most of them graduated from college within the past five-ten years and are single with no children. During these years of post-college and pre-

family, there is a “free fall” wherein many young adults don’t connect Jewishly. YA-LIVE steps in to fill that gap, providing a fun and inspirational way to stay Jewishly involved, or to become Jewishly involved if they haven’t yet.

In January 2018, the group elected its first Board. YA-LIVE Board members are empowered to grow as leaders and become ambassadors of

Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley. They also plan activities based on the evolving needs of the community and the interests of the group. In July the YA-LIVE Board will choose

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(408) 556-0600
www.jfssv.org

From Our President

Good Morning JFS!

Richard Namm



Good Morning JFS! Are those words an exclamation as spoken by Robin Williams in the 1987 movie *Good Morning Vietnam!*? A greeting offered by the staff of JFS each time they start a new day? Or the title of our annual event in the early spring? Perhaps all three!

As you read this, it's probably the week of **Good Morning JFS!** This annual breakfast is our chance to *contemplate* where we've been, *share* what we're currently doing, *renew* acquaintances in the Jewish community, *celebrate* our future and *take action* to ensure it comes true.

Contemplate. Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley had a humble beginning more than 40 years ago. The office moved a few times to grow with the community and provide additional assistance for an expanding population of children, adults and families in need. Throughout the years, we never lost sight of our mission to empower people facing life's challenges by delivering services inspired by Jewish values.

Share. We all know JFS does good deeds, but what are the specifics? Consider the newly arrived family from Iran where the father served as a translator for the US Armed Forces. Our food assistance program made a huge difference during their first weeks in a new country. Reflect on the single mother struggling to make a life with two small children. The JFS Embrace-A-Family program in

late November and December gave those kids a reason to smile. Or the manager of a local supermarket who gave a gentleman escaping the harsh realities of Afghanistan his first job in America after graduating from ESL classes at JFS. And, of course, let's not forget our seniors in the twilight of life who benefit from JFS home care and emergency aid.

Renew Acquaintances. There are few occasions which bring together hundreds of members of the Jewish community in Silicon Valley. Men and women from various synagogues, social service organizations and just friends and neighbors. Relationships are rekindled. If JFS is about one thing, it's people. It's a great feeling to simply reach out to one another.

Celebrate. We expect great things in our future. New avenues of helping people are unlocked by the day. Services for residents of Chai House are expanding at an exciting pace. Qualified individuals from foreign lands are welcomed with open arms and connected with family. Inspiring work creates inspiring results.

Take Action. The future is only as good as we make it. If you believe in the mission of Jewish Family Services and understand how we've changed the lives of thousands of people for the better, stand with us. Volunteer. Donate. Be part of giving continued life to an amazing organization in your own backyard.

Thank you for your support of JFS! The impact is almost immediate. Touch lives and change the world.

Rich

Executive Director's Message

Opening Our Hearts on Passover

Mindy Berkowitz



Dear Friends,
Right about now, so many of us are beginning to clean our homes and get ready for the miracle of Passover 5778. In addition to throwing away bread crumbs, we rid ourselves of spiritual hametz – any type of arrogance, over-indulgence or self-obsession. We open our hearts and our homes to guests who will share in a beautifully prepared seder.

But we know that not everyone has enough. If you are part of a household that **needs food assistance** or other help during Passover (or any time), please do not hesitate

to contact JFS. Seniors who need assistance should contact Avital Agam at (408) 357-7450. Families and adults needing help at Passover should be in touch with Sandra Pannell at (408) 357-7425. JFS is here for you.

At JFS, we're reaching the end of our 12th annual **Passover Food Drive**. Thank you – once again - to all our partner agencies and synagogues, donors, and volunteers for helping us distribute thousands of food packages over the years.

Our people were strangers in the land of Egypt – and so our Jewish values compel us to help the “stranger.” These days we are all concerned about the fate of refugees. See pages 4 and 5 for an update on the

refugee travel ban as well as a way to ensure that Jewish Family Services will continue to help refugees coming to Silicon Valley.

As we went to press, Good Morning JFS! was about two weeks away. (When you receive this in your home it will probably just have happened.) We love this tradition of sharing good news about people that face extraordinary circumstances and triumph in an often-difficult world. And – as you know – we are eager to give you ways to help. We at Jewish Family Services are so grateful for our many volunteers and for your support – and so proud to merit it.

Wishing you and yours a happy and meaningful Passover.

Mindy



Rabbi Philip Ohriner of Congregation Beth David and JFS Chaplain Aides studied together about leading Passover seders for seniors (left to right top row: Harry Cornbleet, Joanne Cornbleet, Rabbi Ohriner, Ken Abrams; left to right bottom row: Shell Rubenstein, Kristin Gustavson, Deborah Zimmer).

Staff Direct Numbers Area Code 408

Avital Agam.....	357-7450
Mindy Berkowitz.	357-7455
Galina Chyorny..	357-7458
Lori Cinnamon.....	357-7467
Valerie DuBose.....	357-7542
Azita Eshagh.....	357-7457
Caroline Golphashin.....	357-7449
Elena Kulvets.....	357-7406
Chad Lama.....	357-7459
Natalie Lazar.....	357-7448
Zoya Lazer.....	357-7452
Tami Levi	357-7454
Sheila Monheit.....	357-7451
Zara Musayeva.....	947-7256
Sandra Pannell.....	357-7425
Lisa Warner.....	357-7456
JFS at Chai House.....	947-7256



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.

Due to our current government's administration, funding for refugee resettlement is uncertain. Our refugee resettlement and Connections to Work for Refugees Programs have depended on annual awards of over \$300,000 from HIAS and United Way 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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Donor Name/Name on Card _____ Preferred Phone _____

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Signature _____ Email _____

☐ In honor ☐ In memory of _____

Please notify: _____
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Refugee Travel Ban Update

Many of you know that we joined with Jewish Family Service of Seattle as co-plaintiffs in a federal lawsuit challenging the most recent refugee ban Executive Order, imposed by President Trump. It was very empowering for us to pray with our feet to - as the Torah tells us - protect the stranger among us. As we went to press, the latest news is that the Supreme Court will rule on this in April. We continue to advocate for refugee families as we await the next steps, and to assist those already here.

Yavneh Day School Plant Sale

Benefiting JFS' Project NOAH

Friday, April 13th at 3:00 PM

Yavneh Day School Lobby
Levy Family Campus

Purchase delicious, organic tomato and other vegetable seedlings - and help raise money for JFS' Project NOAH Emergency Food Program.



For more information contact
Rene Prupes, Director
Environmental Education at
Yavneh Day School
rene@yavnehdayschool.org



JFS at Chai House Springs Into Action

The JFS office at Chai House has been very active. We welcomed **Zara Musayeva** as our new Senior Services Social Worker. Zara comes to us with extensive experience with seniors and case management – and she's multi-lingual, speaking English and Russian as well as other languages. Zara has jumped right into her new role, forming relationships with residents, helping them navigate IHSS and Medi-Cal applications, and finding resources in the community for assistance with various needs.

Our MSW interns Bryan Leung and Margaret McCord celebrated Valentine's Day with a card-making event for residents. Bryan continues to facilitate two groups: Poetry and Conversation Box. Lisa Warner, JFS' Director of Clinical and Social Services, is continuing our Aging Gracefully group. YA-LIVE held a fun, intergenerational Purim celebration.

JFS continues to provide counseling services to residents at Chai House and we have recently surveyed residents to learn what groups or activities they would like to see us provide. Residents come by the JFS office at Chai House frequently to vent and chat. They tell us they feel supported by JFS' staff. We are happy to be at Chai House to advocate for them.

You can reach the JFS Chai House office directly at (408) 947-7256. Contact JFS staff: zaram@jfssv.org and lisaw@jfssv.org.

YA-LIVE • *continued from page 1*

a President and Vice-President and create a calendar for the year. They will have projects that include working with seniors at Chai House, disabled adults at Hatikvah House, and Holocaust survivors/2nd generation of the Silicon Valley Holocaust Survivor Association. There will also be opportunities for YA-LIVE to learn about food insecurity in the Jewish community and then do a food assistance project under the auspices of JFS. They may also choose to work on Embrace-A-Family and our Equipped to Learn Backpack Drive. In addition, they will hold Shabbat dinners with Moishe House Silicon Valley and work together with other young adult groups from local synagogues, tech firms, etc. We also expect that YA-LIVE will develop new areas of service.

By gaining a love of volunteering within the Jewish community, young adults who join YA-LIVE will grow their knowledge of and connection to this community. This has the potential to have major impact, as young adults who get involved in our program today may stay involved with the Jewish community on multiple levels. We hope that after doing hands-on projects and events that they enjoy and that benefit the community, they are more likely to become members of their local synagogues, join their JCCs, send their kids to Jewish schools, serve on various Jewish organizational Boards, and more.

Are you in your 20's or 30's and looking for a way to connect? YA-LIVE wants you! Please contact Allison Zur at allisonz@jfssv.org, (408) 357-7491; or through <https://www.facebook.com/yalivesv/>.

JFS SV: Repairing Our World

Meet Allison Zur, Development Manager



Q: What is your favorite thing about working at JFS?

Allison: It's hard to pick just one, but one of my favorite things about working at JFS is the reaction people have after volunteering. They come in to help someone else, but end up leaving understanding that in helping others, they are improving their own lives. A community is judged by how it takes care of its most vulnerable – especially a Jewish community – and that's exactly what JFS is doing and we do it very well. Everyday I go into work, I know that I am doing something meaningful to elevate our community.

Q: What have you learned about the people we help /services we provide that surprised you?

A: Silicon Valley is a lot more diverse than it first seemed when I moved here. I was surprised by the varying needs in the community - and that no matter who you are, what your age is, where you come from, or what your beliefs are, we are here to help you in any way we can. JFS never says "no."

Q: What is your philosophy about fundraising?

A: I view fundraising for JFS as an invitation to do a mitzvah, a good deed. When I reach out to someone and ask for their support, I am offering them to be a partner in the work that none of us could do alone.

Q: What in your life has prepared you for working at JFS SV?

A: I grew up in a Jewish home dedicated to Jewish community work and Jewish values. I went to Jewish day school from kindergarten through high school. My mom is CEO of UJA-JCC in Greenwich, Connecticut and my stepfather is CEO of Jewish Family Services of Lower Fairfield County, Connecticut. All of this contributed to my enthusiasm for Jewish communal engagement and my understanding of the importance and necessity of fundraising. I've also always been involved in the Jewish community no matter where I lived - in both professional and volunteer positions. My professional experience includes the JCC in Stamford, Connecticut, UJA-Federation of New York, and CAMERA (Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America) of New York.

Q: Why did you choose to have a career in fund development?

A: Development work is so exciting! I am constantly learning and meeting new people. I get a chance to share my enthusiasm and love for what I do and what I believe with people in the community. Increased funds and engagement ensure that the work we do can continue and expand into needed areas.

Q: What excites you about YA-LIVE?

A: I always love working with young professionals. People have this image of millennials as very self-entitled and not contributing to society. YA-LIVE proves that there are young professionals not only willing to volunteer but wanting to do *tikkun olam* and get involved. I feel that there is a gap where young professionals are left out. In college it's very easy to get involved. After you have kids, you'll be looking for schools for them and maybe a Jewish school. YA-LIVE gives young professionals between college and having kids a meaningful and fun way to connect to Judaism through *tikkun olam*.

Q: Who among our readers should contact you and why?

A: *Anyone* who would like to learn more about our work, what we do, get exciting updates, wants to know how they can contribute to JFS. I look forward to meeting you soon.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish in your first year?

A: Increasing our funding is really important to continue and grow the programs we have. I want to engage more members of our community into getting involved. I want to inspire families to come together and be engaged with us – to teach kids to continue doing mitzvot. I want to grow our YA-LIVE group.

To reach Allison, please contact her at 408-357-7491 or allisonz@jfsv.org



JFS SV Agency Tours in April



Come See Jewish Family Services in Action!

- ☆ **Learn about all the good** we do together to help families facing challenges have better lives
- ☆ Experience **Project NOAH** Community Programs
- ☆ Become a part of our **Vocational ESL class** and meet recently arrived refugees seeking new beginnings

Tour Dates:

Thursday, April 12, 2018
Wednesday, April 25, 2018
Tours are 11AM—noon

At Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley

Levy Family Campus
14855 Oka Road, Suite 202
Los Gatos, CA 95032

RSVP to Lori Cinnamon: loric@jfssv.org or 408-357-7467

Donations

Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley Thanks You for Your Support!

November 14, 2017 - February 22, 2018

Addie and Ray Kopp Memorial Fund

Carol and Richard Anderson, in memory of Addie and Ray Kopp, and in support of JFS taking a stand against the Trump Administration's Refugee Ban
Frances Perren

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Elise and Dennis Wolf
Gail Bates and Peter Yessne
Gary Zatkin
Richard and Carol Zbriger
Alan Zisser

In appreciation of JFS senior services incl. ESL Classes, holiday packages program and holocaust survivor services; Margarita and Leonid Bukatik, Nataliya Dukarevich and Viktor Evdokimov, Fira and Vladimir Glikman, Sofia Masterovaya, Yuriy Perelman, Debora and Philip Seys

Big Hearted Birthdays

In honor of Jimmy Baer's 75th birthday: Bonnie and Lee Stone
In honor of Margie Cahn's birthday: Marcia and Joe Riggio
In honor of Dr. Joseph Decker's 80th Birthday: Bobbye Gorenberg and Judy Fisher
In honor of Heidi Eisis' birthday: Dawn Gringorten
In honor of Farah Hemati's birthday: Bonnie and Lee Stone
In honor of Harry Ratner's birthday: Marcia and Joe Riggio

Burt Epstein Community Service Fund

Kenneth and Marilyn Entin
Burt and Sandy Epstein, in memory of Janet Berg, Ida and Eli Epstein, Marcy Epstein Wolff
Julie and Harvey Sherman

Centerpieces for Tzedakah

Marjorie Alpert and Jeffrey Warwick, in honor of Maya Warwick's Bat Mitzvah
Viviana Burijson, in honor of Eitan Barylko's Bar Mitzvah
Ivy Chesser, in honor of Mason Bar Mitzvah
Wayne Firsty, in honor of Alana's Bat Mitzvah
Eva and Bruce Lippmann, in honor of Sonja's Bat Mitzvah

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Further information is also available at <http://www.jfssv.org/home-care.html>

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