



Dear Friends,

Over the past months, exciting things have been happening at Federation and Foundation. After two years of discussion and reflection with our leaders, donors, and organizational partners we have adopted a new strategic vision to guide our work. This fall, our work reflected this new vision, including:

- the launch of a *Community Planning Table*, a process to focus our combined efforts on the initiatives and programs that will bring the greatest impact to our East Bay Jewish community;
- the *Longevity Revolution*, a community-wide exploration of the issues facing our aging Jewish community;
- a leadership development program presented in partnership with the Hartman Institute that is bringing young leaders together to explore the challenges facing the Jewish community.

In anticipation of the year ahead, we are working diligently to raise the dollars that are essential to provide support to our East Bay Jewish community, as well as our partners in Israel and across the world. Working together, we are providing education for our children, medication and food to Holocaust survivors, meaningful Jewish connections for young adults, and humanitarian aid for thousands of needy families.

Together, we bring light to dark times in our community and our world:

The light of caring, community and continuity;

The light that brings hope and reassurance;

The light that supports our community into the next generation.

Thank you for your partnership and support,



Claudia Felson
Federation President



Joe Felson
Foundation President



Rabbi James Brandt
CEO

Holocaust Survivor Assistance Fund

The *Holocaust Survivor Assistance Fund* is a Signature Initiative of the Jewish Federation of the East Bay. Operated through the Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay (JFCS/East Bay), the program provides services and assistance to survivors in the East Bay. There are hundreds of Holocaust survivors in our area receiving help accessing transportation services, living expenses, and food. Some need extensive dental or medical care as a direct result of the injuries they suffered during the Holocaust. The *Holocaust Survivor Assistance Fund* ensures that survivors will live the rest of their lives with community, support, and dignity.

This partnership between Federation and JFCS/East Bay impacts the individual lives of East Bay survivors like Pavel. Pavel was born in Kishinev, Moldova while it was under Soviet control. When he was three, his father was arrested and taken away, leaving Pavel and his mother alone as the Nazis invaded.

When the Romanian army occupied Kishinev in August of 1941, Pavel and his mother fled on a flatcar of a train. The bombings started as they were leaving, and the blast of the attack threw Pavel from the train. The four-year-old suffered a head injury and multiple contusions, losing all hearing on his left side and severely damaging his right eardrum. Injured but alive, they managed to escape, becoming the only members of their extended family to survive.

Today, Pavel and his wife live in Contra Costa County in low-income housing and rely upon Social Security and Medi-Cal benefits to make ends meet. Throughout his life, Pavel has continued to struggle with hearing issues and the hearing aids he could afford on his own have been of poor quality. Not being able to hear is a constant reminder of the trauma he suffered.

Recently, Pavel's audiologist recommended that he purchase a high-end hearing aid that costs \$2,700, well beyond his means. With funding from the Federation's *Holocaust Survivor Assistance Fund*, JFCS/East Bay is now facilitating the purchase of this device for Pavel. With the use of this hearing aid, his quality of life will greatly improve.



Granting to Make an Impact

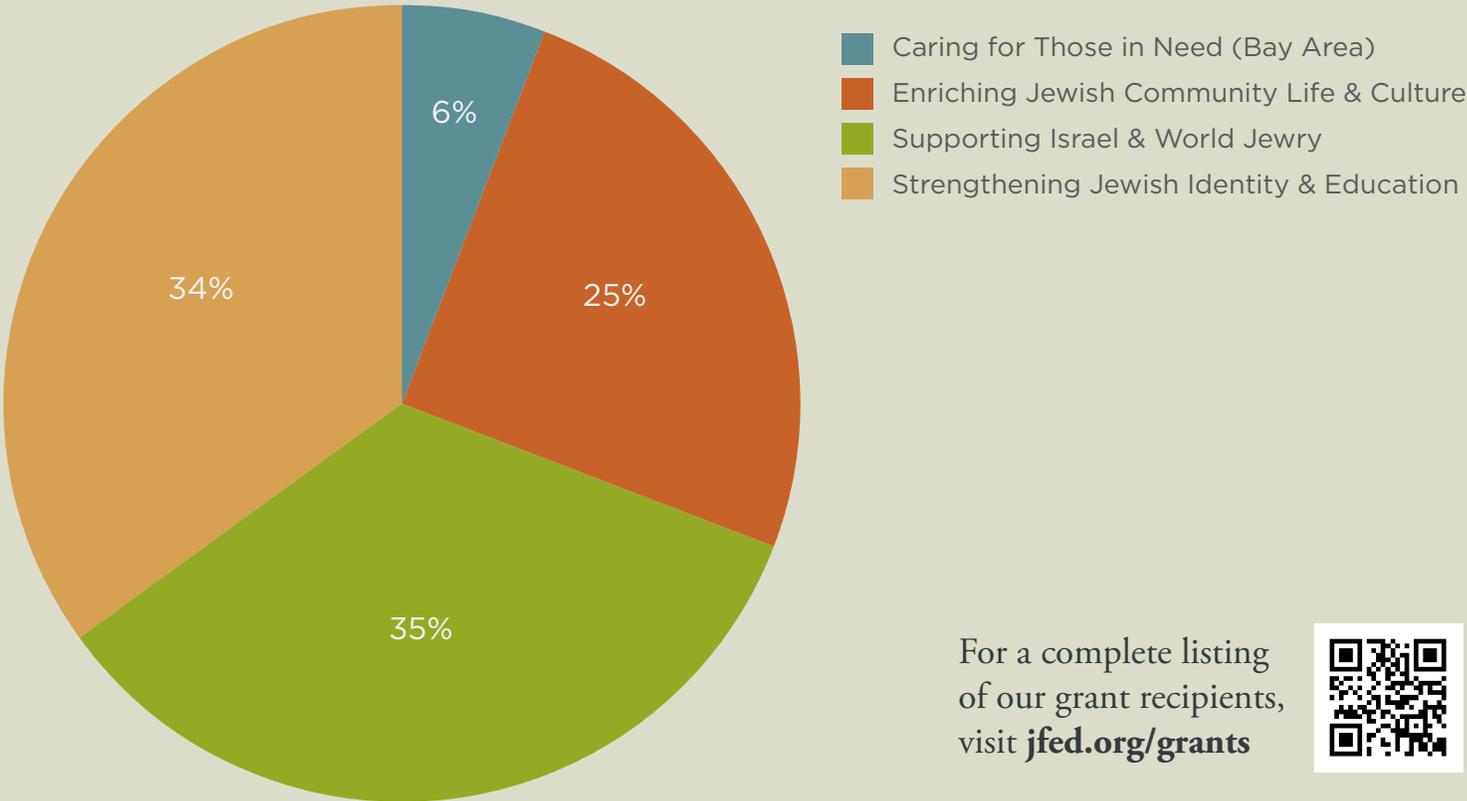
Caring for those in need: These grants improve the quality of life for Jewish families and individuals in the East Bay with programs and services provided through our network of family service agencies.

Enriching Jewish community life and culture: These grants enable community members to engage in leadership development, Israel advocacy, holiday celebrations, and Jewish cultural programs.

Strengthening Jewish identity and education: These grants provide financial aid for Jewish camping and day schools, and programs that strengthen teen programs and congregational religious schools.

Supporting Israel and World Jewry: These grants provide social services in Israel and in Jewish communities across the world, help resettle Ethiopian Jews in Israel, and support our partner Dror Israel's educational programs.

Federation's total impact is far larger than our grants to the community. We also invest in Jewish life by sponsoring programmatic initiatives such as: PJ Library®, Partnership for Israel, the East Bay International Jewish Film Festival, EastBayJews, and the East Bay Jewish Teen Foundation.



For a complete listing of our grant recipients, visit jfed.org/grants



Please note this information is based on unaudited financial data.

Forever in our hearts: Carole Chaiken

Carole Chaiken, of blessed memory, lived her life knowing the importance of giving back to the community. According to her daughter Jennifer, she was a pioneer in a generation where women weren't yet encouraged to be independent thinkers. She "raised my two sisters and me with the mindset that we could do anything we wanted to do. She lived her life the way she wanted with no regrets, always saying yes to life." Julie, another of Carole's three daughters, agreed that their mother encouraged them to have their own dreams. She was a strong advocate for organizations like Women's ORT, which empower individuals, especially women, to become independent and self-sufficient. "Last year," Julie added, "she encouraged us to put on a luncheon in honor of Gloria Steinem that raised funds for the Ms. Foundation."

Side by side with her husband Don, Carole championed organizations dedicated to building and enhancing the Jewish community. With Don, she established Federation's first supporting foundation which came to reside at The Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay.

Carole and Don's long-time funding of teen trips to Israel and Jewish summer camps is a reflection of their commitment to advancing the growth of children and teens who couldn't otherwise participate in these meaningful programs.

There was a wide variety of Jewish projects that Carole and Don have provided support for — here at home and in Israel. Building community was high on their agenda. They were lead donors to the Contra Costa JCC, the Contra Costa Jewish Book Festival, and the East Bay International Jewish Film Festival. A special screening on Saturday evening, March 8, will be dedicated to Carole's memory.

One important value that Carole passed on to her daughters Julie, Dana and Jennifer is that helping the community is a gift, not a responsibility. "It is not something you must do, but something that feels right," Jennifer notes. Carole was passionate about making the world a better place through philanthropy and cherished watching her children and their spouses follow in her and Don's charitable footsteps.

Carole will be fondly remembered for her vital presence in our community.



Trekking, together: East Bay community trip to Israel builds identity, friendships

by Emma Silvers, j. Weekly Staff

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This past spring, a group of 142 people from the East Bay Jewish community — ranging in age from their early 20s to late 70s — traveled to Israel from April 10 to 19. The East Bay Community Trip to Israel brought together members of 14 congregations and staff from the Jewish Federation of the East Bay, who sponsored the trip in partnership with the JCC of the East Bay and the Jewish Community Relations Council.

Over the course of 10 days, with roughly half spent in Jerusalem and half in Tel Aviv, participants chose from daylong excursions on four tracks — historical, geopolitical, innovations/green/technology, and arts and culture.

First-time visitor Sarah Magliaro reflected, “It’s interesting, because I had something of an expectation about how I was going to feel at the Kotel and I didn’t feel that way at all. But other things far surpassed my imagination. Going to Yad Vashem honestly made me feel proud to be part of a people that has stood the test of time throughout thousands of years no matter what the world has thrown at us. And I got that feeling just being in the land — driving through the desert, meeting Israelis, being immersed in the culture made me feel a lot more connected than I was expecting.”

The next East Bay Community Trip to Israel will be in April 2015. To pre-register, please contact Riva Gambert at 510.318.6453 or riva@jfed.org.



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