

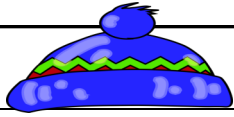
Vol.8 Issue 2

2018



Phyllis Farrow

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Winter Events



For more information on events listed in the calendar,
please contact your local Congregation:

Temple Beth Israel (TBI) 559 432-3600
Congregation Beth Jacob (CBJ) 559 222-0064
Chabad of Fresno- 559 432-2770
Congregation B'nai David (CBD) 559 732-3139
Congregation Beit Shalom (CBS) 559 308-1333

***Every Tuesday & Thursday 10-11 a.m./**
TBI exercise class sponsored by Jewish Family Services as
part of their "Tools for Life" program

January 18
 JFS-"Tools for Life" Guest Speaker
 11:30 a.m. / TBI
 See flyer page 6

January 18
 JFCC Board Meeting
 CBJ/ 7:00 p.m.

January 19
 CBS Presents JANKA
 7 p.m. -Café 210

January 19-20
 CBD/Shabbaton weekend
 Reservations & information 741-1165

January 19-21
 Interfaith Scholar Weekend

January 20
 Jewish Film Series/TBI "**Closed Season**"
 5:45 p.m.Deli Service; 6:30 Srugim; 7:15 Film
 RSVP Elizabeth Kassel 439-9638
 kassel9638@gmail.com

January 23
 Fourth Tuesday
 TBI, Social Hall/1 p.m./Genealogy

January 27
 CBD/5:30 p.m.
 Tu B'Shevat Celebration

February 2-3
 Federation Shabbat Weekend
 See flyer page 6

February 4
 SUPER SUNDAY at CBJ 10-6 p.m.

February 15
 JFS-Tools for Life" Guest Speaker
 11:30 a.m. / TBI
 See flyer page 6

February 18
 Jewish Women's Theatre Play
 "Hold Me Heal Me"
 TBI / 7p.m./See INSERT

February 20
 Jewish Film Series / TBI "**Alda's Secrets**"
 6:30 p.m. Srugim; 7:15 p.m. Film
 RSVP Elizabeth Kassel 439-9638
 kassel9638@gmail.com

February 27
 Fourth Tuesday/TBI
 11:30 a.m. Lunch out

March 1
 Purim

March 3
 TBI Annual Purim Spiel
 TBI /6 p.m.

March 4
 TBI Annual Purim Carnival 11 a.m.
 CBD Annual Purim Carnival 11 a.m.

March 11
 TBI/ Annual Mahjong Tournament

March 15
 JFCC Board Meeting
 CBJ/ 7:00 p.m.

March 17
 Jewish Film Series / TBI "**Rabin-In His Own Words**"
 6:30 p.m.Srugim; 7:15 p.m. Film
 RSVP Elizabeth Kassel 439-9638
 kassel9638@gmail.com

(continued on page 4)



President's Message

by Murray Farber

You don't have to be a football fan to recognize Fresno State University is important to the area. And so it felt significant when university President Joseph Castro asked retired Professor Ann Berliner to initiate a meeting in his boardroom with members of the Jewish community. That meeting brought together Dr. Castro, four other administrators and 14 local Jewish residents.

For ninety minutes, the meeting remembered old hurts over discrimination as well as manipulation of the Middle Eastern academic department by keeping out Jewish faculty and eliminating Israel's role.

Hiring controversy

The frank discussion also cited personal attacks emanating from a current hiring controversy. A professorship is to be funded in part by a grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities and from a private donor, still pending. Former Dean Vida Samiian alleges that the university interviewed four candidates for an opening in Middle Eastern Studies but stopped the process under pressure from "advocacy groups" and Jewish faculty lobbying. She resigned as director of Middle Eastern Studies program in protest. The university now faces law suits and negative national publicity that it says stem from the former dean's claims that Fresno State has labelled a lie. Although a number of persons spoke at the meeting, some are sensitive about using their names because they received threats and their emails are being subpoenaed.

University wasn't pressured, it says

The university, through Provost Lynette Zelezny, maintains FSU was not pressured and there was no Jewish interference. It halted the hiring when it realized the process was flawed and had not followed university regulations. In addition, "an unauthorized party participated in the search committee delibera-

tions and was influencing the committee in violation of academic policy." Dr. Zelezny noted the search was initially approved by the Philosophy Department "but no philosophers were on the search committee." FSU expects to renew its efforts at hiring in spring 2018 and invites the original applicants to re-apply.

Dr. Castro said the university's approach was "thoughtful;" and the deans were unified about the need to follow usual procedures. Several persons asked whether the Jewish community could help in "the back and forth." Dr. Castro said he would consider the offer.



Dr. Joseph Castro

As president of the Federation, I cited past one-sided discussion panels or guest speakers that attacked Israel. I was concerned about attempts to bring politics into the classroom and influence students to support BDS – the boycott, divestment and sanction movement intended to undermine the Israeli economy.

Rabbi Rick Winer suggested the creation of a board of advisors comprised of Jewish and Muslim academics with Christian involvement, a carry-over of the existing Interfaith Scholars Program, to assure fairness in Middle Eastern Studies. He received a favorable reaction for further study from Dr. Castro.

Praise for Jewish Studies program

There was considerable praise for the growing Jewish Studies program founded by Dr. Jill Fields. Five students received certificates of completion last semester; fundraising to support the program has increased; and the Jewish Federation has agreed to fund a five-year plan to create a named endowment to provide scholarships for students in this new minor.

Federation executive Director Phyllis Farrow drew smiles as she presented gifts to FSU hosts: Jewish calendars, embossed canvass bags and copies of the Federation Focus newsletter. She also explained the role of the Federation in serving three Fresno congregations, two in Visalia, as well as unaffiliated Jews.

CALENDAR (continued from page 2)**March 27**

Fourth Tuesday

TBI, Social Hall/11:30 a.m./Annual Passover Seder
 RSVP by April 1 to Judy Haber at 431-2102
 or jahaber@comcast.net

March 30

Passover Seder 1st Night/TBI * Reservations required
 Congregation Beit Shalom * Reservations required
 Congregation B'nai David * Reservations required

March 30-31

Passover Seder 1st & 2nd Nights
 Chabad of Fresno
 Reservations required * 432-2770
 chabadfresno@sbcglobal.net

March 31

Passover Seder 2nd Night;
 Congregation Beth Jacob

April 12

Yom HaShoah Service
 TBI/7 p.m.

April 24

Fourth Tuesday/TBI Social Hall/1:00 p.m.
 Comedy with Bob Boro

April 14

TBI Jewish Film Series /TBI "Live and Become"
 5:45 p.m.Deli Service; 6:30 Srugim; 7:15 Film
 RSVP Elizabeth Kassel 439-9638
 kassel9638@gmail.com

April 12

Yom HaShoah Service
 TBI/7 p.m.

MAY 6th...SAVE THIS DATE

70th Israeli Day Celebration
TBI/11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**New course, new professor
 in Jewish Studies program**

Jewish Studies at Fresno State is growing fast, with lectures and cultural programs designed to reach out to the whole community. Jewish Civilizations will be taught by a newcomer to the program and to Fresno— Prof. James R. Russell. For nearly a quarter century he taught Armenian, Ancient Iranian, Russian, and other subjects at Harvard. He is now Distinguished Visiting Professor at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has lived in the Soviet Union, India, and traveled in Iran.

Jewish Civilizations is a new course, a comprehensive survey of the Jewish people, languages, geography, texts, history, religious practices, mystical traditions, home life, and culture worldwide— from earliest times to the present day. The class will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:45 in Social Sciences 110. Members of the community can audit the course free.

As of this year, Jewish Studies graduates from a certificate program to a full minor undergraduate concentration. Many Jewish studies courses fulfill General Education requirements, too.

WHY I GIVE . . .

I was raised in a family which always supported the ideals that perpetuated Judaism, whether through a synagogue or through organizations that did the same. The State of Israel has always been of great importance to me and donating will be part of my life forever.

- Carol Reba



Jews in Uganda?

Could there be more Jews in Uganda



A Ugandan Rabbi

than in Fresno? Stemming from a conversion about a century ago that created a sect, there are now nine Jewish communities in Uganda.

This past August, a Ugandan rabbi together with a rabbi from Massachusetts married five Jewish couples before about 1500 witnesses gathered from all over the country. The ceremony was conducted in Luganda, English and Hebrew. The huppah, made of sugar cane stalks, was held up by local Jewish youth group leaders. The wedding parties arrived in beribboned vans accompanied by dancers. Tents had been set up but were blown down by a severe rainstorm lasting an hour. The ketubahs were translated from Aramaic to English to Luganda and duly signed, followed by the breaking of the glass.

This was followed by a roaring Ugandan wedding yell and a shouted Mazel Tov. The wedding feast featured bananas, yuccas, sweet potatoes and russet potatoes enjoyed by the celebrants despite the mud and rain.

- Francine Farber



The JFS Committee:

Carol Reba, Chairperson; Rabbi Paul Gordon; Phyllis Farrow, Federation Director; Linda Nahin, Community Outreach Coordinator; Leslie Briney, Rita Karsh, Elizabeth Kassel, Jenny Mann, Amy Schmidt

Jewish Family Services continues to be busy with activities and services for our community.

Our new programs are going strong. Attendance at the Tuesday and Thursday exercise classes at TBI keeps growing and all seem to be having a wonderful time in addition to feeling good.

We are looking forward to guest speakers in January and February. Topics include mental health and grief and loss. See flyer page 6

- ♦ Savemart food cards are always available to those who need them.
- ♦ Rides for shopping and medical appointments are provided by Linda Nahin, and our clients are very grateful for this service.
- ♦ Friendly Visits and challah are always well received.
- ♦ JFS recently helped one of our clients find, and move to, a new home for which the client was extremely grateful.
- ♦ Remember that we can provide resources and references for care providers should anyone need extra help.
- ♦ Email: fedfresno@sbscglobal.net * 559-432-0529

WHY I GIVE . . .

We financially support the Jewish Federation as an umbrella organization representing both affiliated and non-affiliated Jews in the Central Valley. We find that by fulfilling our pledge with an appreciated asset (common stock) we not only give more, but the resulting tax deduction is greater by 30% than if we gave a cash donation.

We urge you to give a generous pledge to the JFCC through an appreciated asset such as stock, property, etc.

-STAN AND FRAN ZIEGLER



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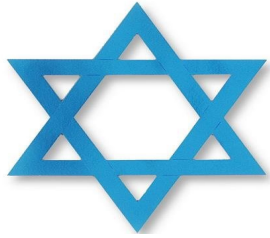
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Jewish Federation of Central California



Cordially invites you to

Federation Shabbat

Friday, February 2, 2018

- * Temple Beth Israel * 6622 North Maroa * Fresno
- * 6:30 p.m. dinner, hosted by JFCC
- * Dinner is complementary
- * Please call 432-2162 for reservations
- * 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service and Special Oneg

Saturday, February 3, 2018

- * Congregation Beth Jacob * 406 West Shields * Fresno
- * 9:30 a.m. Shabbat Service and Kiddush

*Murray Farber, JFCC President, will give a brief update
of Federation activities at both events*



TOOLS FOR LIFE

Presented by Jewish Family Services

Senior Fitness Program

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11 a.m.

Chair exercises with qualified instructor



*Tools for Life
is free and
open to the public*

Discussion Groups

January 18, 11:30 a.m.

Mental Health Overview

Christania A. Roup, Executive Director, NAMI Fresno

February 15, 11:30 a.m.

Loss and Grief: Candace Wilkins, Hines Hospice

Temple Beth Israel * 6622 North Maroa, * Fresno



LETTER FROM ISRAEL by Vic Rosenthal

Comments?

K2vco.vic@gmail.com

The big news as I write this is the US recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

I'll start with two facts: first, almost every Israeli Jew, except for those at the far political extremes, is ecstatic! Finally, the United States recognizes what has been true since the founding of the Jewish state. The Government and the Opposition agree on this.

And second, much of what you read about it is wrong or misleading. The declaration very carefully refers to "Jerusalem," not East or West Jerusalem, and it explicitly says that nothing is implied about the boundaries of Israeli sovereignty. It leaves the door open to the establishment of a Palestinian capital in part of the city, if that is what comes from negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said "This closes the door to a two-state solution." That is absolutely untrue, unless the only "two-state solution" you will accept is one in which Palestinians get the *entire* city.

But the position that is taken by the Palestinian leadership when they speak and write in Arabic is just that; more than that, in fact, because it holds that *no* part of the land between the river and the sea belongs to the Jews. You will never see a Palestinian map that shows a Jewish state of any size – it is all "Palestine" from the Jordan to the Mediterranean. This is what they teach in their schools and mosques, and what appears on their TV and radio.



And this is why they so violently oppose the recognition of Israel's capital, and equate it to the Balfour Declaration of 1917, which they also despise, because it too implies the legitimacy of Jewish sovereignty in the land of Israel.

This is also why the offers of a Palestinian state made in 1937, 1948, 2000, 2008 and probably 2014 were rejected. Because no offer that does not imply the end of Jewish sovereignty (for example, by the "return" of millions of Arabs who claim to be descended from the 600,000 Arab refugees from 1948) is acceptable to them.

So when media or liberal Jewish groups in the U.S. oppose the declaration because it "makes peace more difficult," they are putting the cart before the horse. Peace can't happen until the Palestinians accept the existence of a Jewish state. One of the most welcome effects of the U.S. declaration is that it has caused the true Palestinian position to become clear to everyone.

If the city that has been Israel's capital since its founding, the city that hasn't been the capital of any other people since King David took it from the Jebusites around 1000 BCE, the city that has had a majority Jewish population throughout most of the last 3000 years, isn't part of Israel, then nothing is.

In this way, Trump's action actually brings peace closer. Perhaps it will make the Palestinians understand that the U.S. is committed to the continued existence of a sovereign Jewish state. If they can get it through their heads that Israel is here to stay and that the international community, led by the U.S., is not going to support their program of replacing it with an Arab state, maybe a discussion of borders and other questions can proceed.

Or maybe not, but the choice is up to them.

WHY I GIVE . . . My parents always donated to Jewish causes. So as a teenager I caught the spirit and rode the subway, walked through the cars, rattled my Jewish National Fund blue pushka container. I asked riders for coins and bills and hid from cops and conductors. Today it's safe and so easy to have a stock broker transfer appreciated stock to support the Jewish Federation and its projects and save on your taxes.

— **MURRAY FARBER**



TRANSITIONS

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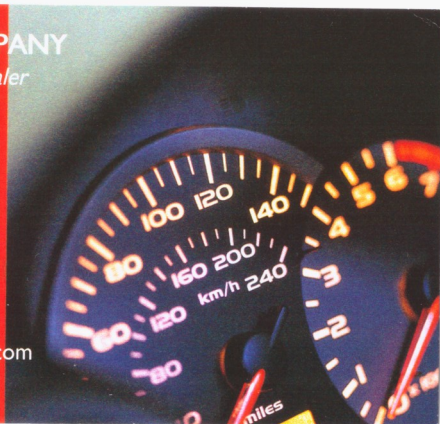
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CHASSIDUS CORNER

The concept of the number 2 is fundamental to kabbalah and Chassidus. For example why doesn't the Torah start with one but rather with two. Two means growth and expansion which is required, as Hashem's spiritual essence and unity expands into the physical world known as Elokim. Each of us has two souls, and it is no surprise that the Torah is filled with stories about twins. Our goal is to infuse this world with Godly light by doing mitzvahs.

At a practical level, each of us has at least two choices in most situations-good and evil. However, it's not so easy to recognize the consequences of our decisions. A hot headed person

confuses his heat of the moment with righteousness, while a cold calculating person callously disregards another's feelings and the danger he poses to society. There is a time for each of these, but how do you choose?

To assist there are three Jewish schools of practice:

1. School of Mussar- this school teaches that the physical body must be nullified, as the body is abhorrent. Fasting and abstinence are methods of subduing the animal soul and body.

2. School of Chakira (philosophy)- this school recognizes the superiority of the inner form and the power of the intellect. A series of lessons is provided to expand and get closer to this.

3. School of Chassidus – this school teaches the unique qualities of purifying the material world. This results in an amazing opportunity to fuse and integrate with your spiritual essence. As such the beginning and end of all processes are thoroughly fused. By doing this, your purpose in revealing the holy light and power of Hashem becomes a reality, and the world is illuminated with a never ending light.

How do you choose? The rules are clear!

- David ben Hirsch HaCohan

Congregation Beit Shalom

www.congregationbeitshalomvisalia.com
 congregationbeitshalom@yahoo.com
 559.308.1333

Visalia Voices

Congregation B'nai David

www.congregationbnaidavid.com
 559.732.3139



phillemartin.info

We hosted our annual Hanukkah party with latkes, matzah ball soup, and all the trimmings...

To commemorate Kristallnacht in November we welcomed Gabriella Karin and Robert Geminder, two Holocaust survivors, who spoke to adults and children about the will to survive and the up-standers who helped and/or saved them. Cafe 210 was filled to capacity for this emotionally moving event.

Tickets for the play, "JANKA", are available now. Beit Shalom and the California Holocaust Education & Resource Center will host Oscar Speace's and Janice Noga's theater performance on January 19 at the Cafe 210 at 7 pm. (Info-559-308-1333)

The Holocaust Memorial Button project is going very well. Thirteen large boxes arrived from Pennsylvania—putting us well over the half way mark toward collecting 6 million buttons.

Hebrew class is available either in group or individually and Shabbat Services and Oneg are on Fridays at 7 p.m.

Shalom and Happy New Year!

- Cynthia Fischer

We will have our annual Shabbaton weekend January 19-20 with our Student Rabbi Meir. Friday night we will have a delicious meal of Jewish foods, a Challapalooza contest, and Torah study, Lunch n Learn program on Saturday, then an evening program starting with Havdallah.

On January 27 we will gather together for our Tu B'Shevat seder, enjoying lots of fruits and nuts followed by a meal.

In December we held our annual Hanukkah party with delicious latkes, salads and desserts. Our website, www.congregationbnaidavid, has been updated by one of our members. It looks great and is very informative. Our Facebook page also has a new look.

The monthly Lunch n Learn program is on-going and will continue until May

We were proud to host a Bar and Bat Mitzvah in the fall, Mazel Tov to Alea and Raziell!

We are looking ahead to our Purim carnival on March 4th and our Passover Community Seder on March 30, led by Student Rabbi Meir. Congregation B'nai David welcomes those in our community who are interested in Judaism and want to attend Friday evening services.

- Marcia Brooks Smith



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JFCC ALLOCATIONS 2018

Israel/Overseas

Jewish Federation North America	\$15,000
Honest Reporting Media Central	500
Israel Independence day	5,000
Guest Speakers Israel	1,500
Krembo Wings (youth program)	1,941
Total Israel/Overseas	23,941

Local

JFS	\$20,000
Interest free loans	3,000
CBJ/Yom Hashoah	1,000
JCRC	500
CBD/Holocaust Project	1,800
Prison Project	600
Camperships	1,500
"New Cemetery"	2,500
TBI/ Cemetery	8,000
Manchester School Holocaust Program	1000
FYBGI	2,000
Camp Shalom	1,000
TBI-4 th Grade Class/B'nai B'rith Dinner	280
Total Local except JFS	\$23,180
Grand total except restricted funds	\$67,121
Jewish Studies Program (restricted fund)	\$5,000
Play "Hold Me Heal Me" (restricted fund)	\$3,500

THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Camperships

Maya Carmit
Leo Price

Fresno Jewish Day School

Brooke Leedy

General Donation

Anonymous

Jewish Community Relations

Isabel Angres
Ashley Affleck
Payton Ford
Maya Kaye
Nathan Lopez

Jewish Family Services

Debra Carter
Jerry and Jenny Mann
Victoria Ramirez
Jeanna Valencia
Anonymous

TBI- Cemetery

Jackson Ivener

Congratulations on David & Margot Teperman's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Stan and Fran Ziegler

In Honor of Murray Farber

Alfred and Carolyn Evans

In Honor of Murray Farber's 86th Birthday

Mario and Judith Reposo
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Quick Recovery of Silvia Silberman

Stan and Fran Ziegler

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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.*

For your convenience we accept Visa/Master Card for your pledges and donations. We appreciate your adjusting your gift to accommodate our 4% bank charge. Thank you.

Federation Offers Youth Scholarships

The Jewish Federation of Central California provides subsidies for Jewish youth to travel to and attend recognized Jewish camps and other programs in U.S. And Israel. Applications or requests must be received 30 days prior to need. For information call the Federation at **432-2162**.

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.

NEXT DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES

AND CALENDAR LISTING

August 15, 2017

Federation Focus

The publication of the
Jewish Federation of Central California

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We welcome your articles for publication in the Focus. Submit via e-mail to fmfarber@hotmail.com as a Microsoft Word attachment. Pictures and graphics should be attached as separate JPG files. Submissions are subject to editing and become the property of the Jewish Federation of Central California. We reserve the right to accept or reject any submissions.

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"When a person's good deeds exceed his wisdom, his wisdom will be enduring."

- Rabbi Hanina Dendosa -

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Mail to: Jewish Federation of Central California 406 West Shields Ave., Fresno, CA 93705

JEWISH WOMEN'S THEATRE

Presents

HOLD ME, HEAL ME



*A riveting evening of stories, poems, one act plays and songs
about the healing power of kindness*

February 18, 2018

7:00 p.m. * Reception to Follow

Temple Beth Israel
6622 N Maroa Avenue
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***Tickets: \$15 in advance
Call for reservations at 432-2162
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