A Message to Our Community

Yesterday, our President & CEO Jay Sanderson held a conversation with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti about systemic racism, what's being done to keep communities safe, and broader issues around COVID-19. You can view the recorded webinar here.

Our Federation is committed to addressing our community’s short- and long-term challenges connected to the COVID-19 crisis. From providing essential resources for those most in need to hosting timely policy briefings to keeping our community connected, you can count on us to be at your side. This weekly newsletter offers dependable access to help, critical relief, reliable information, and meaningful opportunities to volunteer and support one another. Please share this vital community resource and also look for updates by email and on our Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Important Action Alert

Governor Newsom’s proposed budget calls for the elimination of a critical program serving nearly 12,000 low-income, frail, older adults across the state. Please take action now to help our fragile elders served by our partner Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles and others.
Community Call Line
If you or someone you know needs access to social services including financial assistance, please contact The Jewish Federation’s Community Call Line at (323) 761-8305. The Jewish Federation has increased its funding and support of the Max Factor Family Foundation Financial Assistance Network. This assistance will help Jews whose income has been reduced, hours have been eliminated, or businesses are suffering.

No Guarantors Required for $1,000 Interest-Free Loans
To cover expenses related to COVID-19, help with free, no-interest loans is one click away. A loan fund has been established to help Jews in need. Additionally, through a new $1 Million COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund, the Jewish Free Loan Association will offer a total of one thousand individual $1,000 loans (no guarantor required) to local community members in need.

GET HELP.

Food for Those in Need
Jewish Family Service (JFS) SOVA Community Food & Resource Program is now providing prepackaged bags of food to help minimize the risk to both clients and volunteers. The JFS senior nutrition program is now providing all food via delivery. To receive these services, please call JFS Central Access at (877) 275-4537.

Teen Talk
Do you know a teen who could use peer support to vent, share, or just talk? Tell them about Teen Talk! Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Los Angeles created the Teen Talk mobile app to provide social and emotional support to teens. Now more than ever, we see Teen Talk as a critical lifeline for teens in Los Angeles and around the world. Read more about the Teen Talk app.

GET INVOLVED

Give — Now is the Time
We need you now more than ever. Please keep us strong so we can keep our Jewish community thriving and resilient.

DONATE NOW

Volunteer Opportunities
For those who want to give of their time, we are sharing virtual volunteer opportunities
and adjusted in-person volunteer activities available for those who are not high-risk and accounting for proper social distancing.

**Pico Union Project**
This multifaith cultural arts center currently provides 2,000 families with fresh produce and household items every week. Interested volunteers can complete this intake form or email Caroline. The Pico Union Project also needs donations of food, hygiene items and toys. You can drop off items at any one of the following locations into well-marked bins.

1. **SANTA MONICA** — Bins can be found in the parking lot behind 1902 Wilshire Blvd. East side of lot on the island.
2. **BEVERLY GLEN** (halfway to Sherman Oaks) — The Glenn Centre, Beverly Glen Blvd. and Beverly Glen Circle. The three bins are accessible from the parking lot.
3. **BEVERLY HILLS** — Sinai Temple, 10400 Wilshire Blvd. Bins are near Beverly Glen entrance.
4. **DOWNTOWN** — Donations accepted on Tuesdays, 10:00 AM-2:30 PM at the Pico Union Project, 1153 Valencia St., Los Angeles 90015. You can also mail/ship to Pico Union at this address.
5. **OR you can always order items online using the Pico Union Project’s Wish List.**

Simply add the requested items to your cart and they will be automatically shipped to the Pico Union Project.

**SOVA**
SOVA in Van Nuys is open and has opportunities for volunteers. Shifts run Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM and on Sunday from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Volunteers must stay for the entire duration of the shift. There are also a few Friday and Sunday shifts that are two to three hours long.

At this time, SOVA is booked with volunteers to assist them through June. If individuals are interested in exploring available and open dates, contact Jewish Family Service SOVA volunteer coordinator Felice Resnick, who can describe the job in more detail and schedule individuals for a shift(s).

**Blood Drive**
In partnership with the Legislative Jewish Caucus and the American Red Cross, sign up to donate blood at one of these blood drives. All drives are from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

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<td>Thurs., 6/4</td>
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POWERFUL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Coffee & Conversation: L.A.’s Recovery & Reopening
Join us via Zoom for Coffee and Conversation: The Recovery and Reopening of Los Angeles in Tumultuous Times. CEO of Bet Tzedek Diego Cartegna and former Bet Tzedek Executive Director and current President's Council member David Lash will lead a thoughtful discussion about where we go from here, L.A.’s economic future, and their organization’s work toward important next steps as the city slowly reopens.

Tuesday, June 9th, at 9:00 AM
Register today.

What Employers & Employees Need to Know During COVID-19
Join our Legal Network and Finance & Business Professionals Network for a moderated conversation about labor and liability issues facing employers and employees due to COVID-19. The discussion will cover matters surrounding furloughs and layoffs, considerations for employers to safely bring their employees back to the office, and precautions businesses can take to protect themselves, their employees, and patrons.

Tuesday, June 9th, at 6:00 PM
Sign up today.

NuRoots Programs for Young Adults (20s and 30s)
NuRoots mobilizes and inspires people in their 20s and 30s to create meaningful Jewish community across Los Angeles. The following experiences are for young adults only.

Valley Pride Shabbat
What do you love about being Queer? What do you love about being Jewish? What do you love about being Queer and Jewish? As Pride month kicks off, join us for a special Shabbat to meet new people, celebrate each other, share stories, and express our love for our Queer-Jewish-Valley-dwelling identities. Reach out
to our Valley Fellow Chelsea Snyder to join. *This experience is designed for LGBTQ+ community members and allies in their 20s and 30s living in the Valley.*

Friday, June 5th, at 7:00 PM
Sign up today.

**Tah-Dig & Talk Persian Cooking Class**
Join us to learn how to make a delicious Persian dish that will nurture your body, all from the comfort of your home! Amy Pezeshki, our lovely co-creator and former *MasterChef* contestant, will lead us in making one of her favorite dishes: *sabzi polo* (Persian herb rice) with *tah-dig* (the crispy cooked rice at the bottom of the pot) and chicken. She'll guide us step by step in creating this mouthwatering meal and give us an opportunity to connect with each other over meaningful conversation while our food cooks on the stove.

Wednesday, June 10th, at 5:00 PM
Register now.

**NuRoots NuMoon Circles**
Ongoing monthly gatherings for female-identified persons in their 20 and 30s to connect with the ancient Jewish ritual of *Rosh Chodesh* (the holiday that marks the start of the Hebrew lunar month) and harness the power of lunar cycle and the female body. Inspired by *At The Well*.

Reach out to Rabbi Rose to join our NuMoon community and be connected to a circle.

**Mensch Work**
Ongoing gatherings for male-identified persons in their 20s and 30s interested in exploring constructs of masculinity within the Jewish community will build breathable community through more connected and open relationships and develop tools to counter violence and deepen into love.

Reach out to ISchiffer@JewishLA.org to join.

**NuRoots Pilot Schmilots**
Our community of East Side screenwriters meets monthly to discuss new works. Message our East Side Fellow Oren Peleg to get connected.
Virtual Meet-Ups
Want to do a virtual meet-up with a NuRoots team member? Message us to be connected. It’s BYOC — Bring Your Own Coffee!

PJ Library for L.A. Families with Young Children
Our PJ Library team offers a virtual activity schedule for L.A. families with young children.
All PJ Library LA offerings can be found here.
All PJ Library National offerings can be found here.
All listings below are Pacific Daylight Time

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3 — A Basket Full of Figs
- 2:00 PM — Plant a garden.
- 4:00 PM — Learn how to cook fig jam.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4 — The Little, Little House
- 2:00 PM — Build a castle out of cardboard and cardboard tubes.
- 4:00 PM — Create a picture frame shaped like a house.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5 — Dinosaur on Shabbat
- 2:00 PM — Hatch your own dinosaur egg.
- 4:00 PM — Design a dinosaur using materials around your home.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7 — Weekly Roundup Preview
Here’s the weekly roundup of what PJ Library in Los Angeles has in store for families this week.

MONDAY, JUNE 8 — Bone, Button Borscht
- 2:00 PM — Let’s cook a delicious vegetarian soup.
- 4:00 PM — Make a paperclip button bookmark out of repurposed office materials.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9 — Todah
- 2:00 PM — Design a thank-you card for a friend or loved one.
- 4:00 PM — Create a Thankfulness Jar with PJ Library East Valley Community Connector JoLynn Brock.

Spotlight: The Board of Rabbis Spreads Hope
Since the coronavirus caused the closure of all synagogues and the Federation building, rabbis and Jewish communal professionals have had to learn how to do our jobs in entirely new ways. How do rabbis and the Federation staff keep our community members safe, fed, and connected while isolated at home? Our
Federation’s Board of Rabbis (BOR) serves as the support network and communication hub for 222 rabbis of all denominations across Southern California. Through the BOR, we maintain strong relationships with the rabbis of the community, working in partnership and leading the community through good times and bad. During this pandemic, this partnership has proved more critical than ever. Over the next few weeks, we will be sharing glimpses of the work of our BOR.

Critical Support for Rabbis & Congregations
In this time of rapidly moving events, the Board of Rabbis (BOR) is a critical support system for rabbis. The BOR convenes weekly Zoom support calls for rabbis, which have been a crucial forum for rabbis to assess the needs of our hospital chaplains, schools, and congregations and to help one another. The BOR’s daily email updates inform rabbis of the Federation’s crisis resources such as the Community Call Line for those needing financial assistance as well as the Federation’s educational webinars. These emails also provide divrei Torah by BOR members, prayers, webinars, and SBA loan and other crucial information to help rabbis sustain their communities.

In response to this weekend’s events, the BOR sent out prayers and reflections written by its member rabbis. This week, the BOR is sending its members information about interfaith Zoom prayer services and communal resources during this time of crisis.

BOR’s Rabbi Ilana Grinblat serves as a voice for the rabbis, bringing the message of the BOR and the Federation to the entire community. Her weekly divrei Torah are sent to the rabbis through the BOR and featured in the Jewish Journal. Read Rabbi Ilana’s dvar Torah for this week, A Lifeline in the Waves, here.

Now more than ever, rabbis and the Federation have been there for each other through the Board of Rabbis. Together, we are sharing our voices, our Torah, our compassion, and our love as the community needs us more than ever. Through the BOR, the Federation is supporting the rabbis as the rabbis hold their congregants, patients, and students together. As Hillel said, “If not now, when?”

Community Calendar on JewishLA.org
Our calendar is back! Check it out to view up-to-date virtual offerings from our Federation and partner organizations. Partners can now submit events as usual.

We’ve made it easier to share this information! Simply download the PDF version of this newsletter and email it to anyone who you think may benefit.

JEWSIH JOURNAL
In an effort to keep you, our community, informed and connected and to support our partner experiencing physical distribution challenges, we are sharing this digital edition of the *Jewish Journal* with you.