

JFedSTL.org

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Fall 2017

JFED CONNECTS



INSIDE

From Our Leadership.....	1
Development Update.....	2
Funding Focus.....	2
Direct Services.....	3
Israel Bound.....	3

Beneficiary Agency Highlight.....	4
What's Happening at the Holocaust Museum & Learning Center.....	4
What's Happening at the Center for Jewish Learning.....	4
One Happy Camper.....	5

JEWISH FEDERATION OF ST. LOUIS | LEADERSHIP

FROM OUR CHAIR, Gerald P. Greiman



Why be Jewish? Some in our community might say there's no need to consider that question. If you're Jewish, you just are – so there's no reason to ponder the why of it. I think, though, that for Jews to focus on the meaning of their being Jewish can provide a greater appreciation for what underlies our Jewish identity. And, for those who choose to consider the question, the answer will not always be the

same, which underscores the diversity and richness of the Jewish community.

For some, the answer may be the Jewish religion, its laws, its teachings, its majesty and its mystery. For others, the answer may be more secular. It may be Jewish culture and traditions – the holidays, the food and family memories. It may be a devotion to Jewish values, such as improving the world, caring for the needy, welcoming the stranger and promoting social justice. Or, it may be the history of the Jewish people, and the feeling of being connected to other Jews and to Israel.

And, as to those for whom none of the above answers resonate, there is always another answer, reflecting the classic Jewish tendency to

answer a question with a question. That answer to the question of why be Jewish is, of course, why not?

In the Federation's demographic study of the St. Louis Jewish community completed in 2014, 53 percent of the respondents said they believe being Jewish is very important to them, and another 31 percent said they feel it is somewhat important. Those survey results suggest that a strong foundation exists for an actively engaged community. But, viewed against the low level of engagement within the overall St. Louis Jewish community, those numbers may suggest that many within our community have not sorted out the meaning of their Jewish identity.

I hope that in the coming days, members of our community will reflect on why it is that being Jewish is important to them and, whatever the answer may be, find a way to connect with others in the community who share their vision. And, I hope that our entire community will recognize the diverse reasons that lead various members of our community to value their Jewish identity – religious, cultural, historical and ethical, among others – and celebrate the resulting rich and diverse fabric of our community.

Best wishes for a happy and a healthy new year!

Greiman Elected as Board Chair for the Jewish Federation of St. Louis

Gerald (Gerry) P. Greiman was elected as Board Chair of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis at the organization's Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers on Thursday, September 7, 2017 at The Magic House.

Greiman is a partner in the law firm Spencer Fane LLP. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis as Vice Chair for Strategic Planning, as well as the Board of Directors for the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), where he served as President from 2009-2012. He also has served as Advisory Board Chair of the JCRC's Barbara and Michael Newmark Institute for Human Relations. He is a past co-chair of Federation's Cardozo Society, which focuses on the legal community. Gerry has also been involved with the Jewish Council for Public Affairs on the national level, serving on its Executive Committee as Vice Chair. Gerry also serves as Treasurer of the Good Government for Missouri PAC, a political action committee comprised of St. Louis Jewish community leaders, and serves on the Board of Directors, and as Chair of the Legislative and Political Committee of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri.

Greiman is married to Susan Carlson, a lawyer in private practice and former Missouri state representative. They have two children, David and Nora Greiman, and are members of Central Reform Congregation.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO, Andrew Rehfeld



This edition of JFED Connects should arrive to you during the end of our Annual Campaign: 100 Days to Make an Impact. The Campaign is the single most important fundraising effort that the Jewish Federation of St. Louis makes to support our Jewish community. The funds we raise help support a network of agencies, programs and services that help individuals live lives of dignity, meaning and

purpose through our four core commitments:

To Build the Jewish Community of St. Louis

Your investments in the Campaign support our ongoing investment in creating pathways to Jewish life by funding the core non-congregational Jewish institutions that support Jewish education and engagement: Hillel, the Holocaust Museum & Learning Center, the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Community Relations Council, the St. Louis Jewish Light, Saul Brodsky Jewish Community Library, the Center for Jewish Learning, and our Jewish day schools, including Saul Mirowitz Jewish Community School and Epstein Hebrew Academy.

To Care for the Security and Safety of our People

We are living through some concerning times, and your investment in the Annual Campaign helps us protect those most at risk. We are active partners with Jewish Family & Children's Service that operates social service and mental health programs, as well as its Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry. Your support benefits Covenant Place, a senior community for low-income residents on the Millstone Campus, and helps offset costs for the Naturally Occurring Retirement Community that mobilizes volunteers to help seniors live as long as possible in their own homes, reducing the need for institutionalization, lowering costs and helping them live significantly longer and without illness. And, in light of the events that have recently targeted our community, your support has allowed for expanded coordination of security for all our Jewish institutions.

To Support Israel and the Jewish People

The Federation is your source to build and strengthen our relationships between our community and the global Jewish people. Your contributions fund critical social service support through the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for 100,000 Jewish impoverished seniors in the Former Soviet Union, many survivors of the Holocaust or the purges during WWII and under Stalin. They are struggling to live out their lives in Ukraine where their family networks have fled to Israel or the West to rebuild their lives. You are supporting programs of the Jewish Agency for Israel that strengthen its ability to help Ethiopians integrate into Israeli society. You are supporting our ability to run dynamic community missions that help people connect to our heritage in Israel. And you are supporting our work to strengthen our economic partnerships between Missouri and businesses in Israel. Indeed, we were the only group to advocate for the creation of a Missouri trade desk in Israel that is now making a significant difference in strengthening our economic relationships.

To Build Human, Financial and Physical Infrastructure

Our community depends on your contributions to be able to attract and develop excellent volunteers and professionals willing to give of their time and energy to strengthen our community. Through your support of the Millstone Institute, our creation of shared insurance services and ability to offer back office support on an as-needed basis helps our Jewish communal organizations focus on the programs and projects that matter to them.

And this is just a small list of the work that your support enables! I hope you will consider giving this year – whether it is a renewed commitment, an increased gift to help us manage rising costs or a first-time gift. Every contribution matters and touches a life. Thank you for being part of this important effort.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis will host an evening of celebration, community and giving featuring film writer and producer Nancy Spielberg. The event, A L'Chaim Production Featuring Nancy Spielberg, will take place on Wednesday, November 1 at The Ritz-Carlton St. Louis beginning with a reception at 6:15 pm. Dinner and a formal program will follow at 7:00 pm. Guests may also purchase a special ticket for "Backstage Pass", the VIP Pre-Event from 5:30-6:30 pm to meet Nancy Spielberg and hear her personal anecdotes, including life in the filmmaking business in Israel.

Nancy will share stories of her professional experience as a filmmaker, growing up Spielberg and her strong Jewish identity.

Visit JFedSTL.org/events/LChaim-Production to register by October 26. A L'Chaim Production Featuring Nancy Spielberg tickets are \$65 each; "Backstage Pass" VIP Pre-Event tickets are \$180 each and include one ticket to A L'Chaim Production Featuring Nancy Spielberg. Attendees will have the opportunity at the event to make a gift to the Jewish Federation of St. Louis' 2017 Annual Campaign.

Thank you to generous sponsors: The Ritz-Carlton St. Louis, BJC Medical Group, Brown Smith Wallace LLP, Cooperative Home Care, Diane Katzman Design, US Bank, Patty Croughan & Sheila Greenbaum, Debbie & Mike Lefton, The Delmar Gardens Family,

Madeleine Elkins & Harvey Wallace, Sanford Jaffe, Missouri Foundation for Health, Memory Care Home Solutions, PNC Wealth Management, The Eye Bar, Town & Country Veterinary Hospital, Vitas Healthcare and Barnes Jewish Hospital.

This event is co-chaired by Madeleine Elkins, Debbie Lefton and Stacey Wallach. The Pre-Event is co-chaired by Julie Flom and Alison Seidler. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Sheldon at WP@JFedSTL.org or 314-442-3751.



FUNDING FOCUS

Planning

On Tuesday, September 12, the Jewish Federation of St. Louis convened a "Call to Action" for families of people with disabilities. The Federation is working with the Center for Independent Futures, based in Evanston, Illinois, which offers a roadmap, called New Futures Initiative™, to guide families on their path towards identifying community-based housing options for their loved ones. Federation is partnering locally with Jewish Family & Children's Service (JF&CS) to serve as the Family Group Convener.

Over 60 individuals attended the Call to Action. Following the meeting, 25 families expressed initial interest in participating in the New Futures™ training. A Family Group Meeting will be convened to get commitment from at least 7-10 families to participate in the training. The training will consist of four days of workshops, two days in Evanston, Illinois and two in St. Louis, and families will also participate in the monthly family partnership meetings that will be held between the training sessions.

For more information about the training, please contact Ken Schwartz at JF&CS at 314-812-9320.



The Interfaith Couples Mission

The Interfaith Couples Mission was designed to help participants learn about the importance of the land of Israel, its culture, people and economy from the perspective of each other's faith. Eight couples recently returned from the mission as part of the third cohort of participants. In addition to touring Israel's historic sites, the group went to Yokneam to learn about projects the Federation supports, while building friendships that will last beyond the mission. The Interfaith Couples Mission to Israel is subsidized by a generous gift from Susie & Stuart Zimmerman and a Jewish Federation of St. Louis Strategic Program grant.



KranzbergFamily

FOUNDATION

Foundation Highlight

The Kranzberg Family Foundation, a Supporting Foundation of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis, is accepting applications for its 2018 funding cycle from St. Louis area 501(c)(3) organizations and congregations. This year celebrates the 10th funding cycle for the Foundation. Established through a generous commitment from Ken Kranzberg, the Foundation's purpose is to provide funds to benefit the Jewish community of St. Louis, specifically focused on the outreach to and engagement of the "Next Generation." The Foundation has budgeted \$50,000 for this grant cycle. The minimum grant amount is \$5,000. Grant applications are open October 16-November 27, 2017 (no exceptions).

Applications will be accepted online through JFedSTL.org/Kranzberg-Family-Foundation or contact Mindee at MFredman@JFedSTL.org for more information. Please note that all applicants will be notified of their grant status by the end of the year.

JEWISH FEDERATION OF ST. LOUIS UPCOMING EVENTS

Millstone Institute's 4th Annual Coaching Academy

A few places remain for the Millstone Institute's 4th Annual Coaching Academy with a choice of day-long sessions on Sunday, November 12, Monday, November 13 or Tuesday, November 14. Coaching provides a framework and skills to improve communication, build teamwork, open up new ideas for problem solving and deepen commitments. The Sunday session is oriented toward work in the Jewish community. The Monday and Tuesday sessions are open to the entire community and applicable to diverse work settings. For information, contact Marci Mayer Eisen at 314-442-3810 or MEisen@JFEDSTL.org, or go to MillstoneSTL.org/Coaching2017. Scholarships and group rates are available.



DIRECT SERVICES

2017-18 Millstone Fellows

The 2017-18 Millstone Fellows (Cohort #6) kicked off with a day-long retreat at WashU Hillel facilitated by Ed Reggi, Rabbi Tendler and Emily Bornstein. Karen Sher directs the program. Fellows create conditions that allow for the emergence of new ideas and new leaders who can vision and realize a strengthened Jewish community. Eighteen participants, representing a diverse cross-section of the St. Louis Jewish community, will engage in eight sessions over the coming year. The Millstone Fellows is supported by Mont & Karen Levy and the Lubin-Green Foundation, a Supporting Foundation of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis.



Picture Yourself...

In Israel

NEXT SUMMER

June 10-29, 2018

\$5,595 All Inclusive (including flight from St. Louis)
Earlybird pricing \$5,250 through December 1, 2017

\$750 travel grant given to all St. Louis teens!
Open to teens in 10th-12th grade.



BENEFICIARY AGENCY HIGHLIGHT



Federation Beneficiary Agency Jewish Family & Children's Service (JF&CS) now has a Jewish Community Mental Health Care Manager, thanks to a Strategic Program Grant from the Jewish Federation of St. Louis. Michael Faccini, LMSW, will be joining the JF&CS staff in this new position to provide comprehensive case management services for individuals with serious mental illness. While Michael will serve the whole community, he will specifically aim to reach teens and young adults. The goal for the program is to support 50 individuals and their families to successfully link clients to community resources, decrease isolation and improve mental health and quality of life. Michael is hoping to help break down the barriers that keep individuals from seeking help and connect them to resources and the Jewish community. You can contact Michael at MFaccini@JFCS-STL.org or 314-812-9307.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE HOLOCAUST MUSEUM & LEARNING CENTER

Untold Sacrifices: The St. Louis Jewish Community in the Great War, will be open November 5-December 31, 2017 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the U.S. entering World War I. The exhibit will show the greater St. Louis community the extent of the Jewish community's involvement in the war and will honor the effort and sacrifices men and women of the Jewish community made, both at home and in military service.

In 2016, the Missouri Humanities Council (MHC) awarded a \$2,500 grant to the Jewish Federation of St. Louis in support of this project. "We would like to express our deepest thanks to the Missouri Humanities Council," said St. Louis Jewish Community Archivist Diane Everman. "The support of the MHC not only shows the importance of this original exhibit, but the funds will allow us to reach a greater audience with the untold story of the Jewish community's role in World War I."



Dr. Petra DeWitt, Assistant Professor of History at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, will provide the keynote address on the exhibit's opening day, Sunday, November 5. Dr. DeWitt's lecture will begin at 1:30 pm at the Adult Day Care Center at the J's Stenberg Family Complex. The exhibition will be on view in the wellness center hall way on the first floor.

For more information or to RSVP, call Andrew Goldfeder at 314-442-3711 or email AGoldfeder@JFedSTL.org. The exhibit is also being underwritten by the Harlene and Marvin Wool Endowment Fund.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CENTER FOR JEWISH LEARNING

The Center for Jewish Learning (CJL) of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis invites you to discover or deepen your dive into the richness of Jewish learning. If you would like to further your Jewish education, or begin it, you can do so at the Jewish Federation of St. Louis through our Adult Education Classes. We offer a wide selection of courses for adults with varied interests and backgrounds. All are taught by experienced teachers who welcome and value every Jewish learner. Whether you're a newcomer to adult Jewish study, a seasoned veteran or someone in-between, you are certain to find a course that suits your needs and your interests – and in which you feel "at home."

Please note: Jewish Federation of St. Louis' Kopelow Building will be under renovation for 2017-2018. We are so grateful to our community partners for graciously hosting

and partnering with the CJL during this time. Make sure to look for the location for each of our courses and speakers.

- Online registration is preferred at JFedSTL.org/Adult-Education-Classes.
- Some courses have a minimum and maximum enrollment, so please register early.
- Scholarships are available and it is an easy and discrete process.

Credit card and checks accepted; checks are made payable to the Jewish Federation of St. Louis.

For information about scholarships or questions on any of our adult learning programs, contact Rabbi Nathan at 314-442-3757 or RabbiNathan@JFedSTL.org.





Jewish Federation
OF ST. LOUIS

Supporting the 2017 Annual Campaign ensures the Jewish Federation of St. Louis can help Anne* get the services she needs.



Deteriorating health prevents Anne, an 81 year old resident of Covenant Place, from doing her own housekeeping chores, creating health and safety concerns. Anne's only child lives 300 miles away and she has no other local friends or family to provide support. Participating in the Covenant Place housekeeping program, made available to her and others by a program grant from the Jewish Federation of St. Louis, was a game-changer for Anne. Her apartment is now beautifully maintained with the housekeeper's assistance, and Anne, who had become reclusive, now gets up in the morning and dressed for her housekeeping appointment and looks forward to the "chat" time she enjoys with her housekeeper while the chores are performed.

**Name changed to protect privacy.*

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stars, and making lifelong friends. First-time campers get up to \$1,000 with OneHappyCamper.org.

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5

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