

THE "J" MEMBERS' JOURNAL

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

Jan and Lauren welcome the new year



"Katcho on Israel" talk, April 2012
Pictured (top to bottom): Lauren Bandari, Executive Director; Lauren addressing crowd

L'shanah Tovah - Happy New Year!

From your Executive Director, Lauren Bandari

What an exciting year JCCSLO experienced, especially with our 1st successful Annual Campaign and land-based developments. Through the Campaign's investment, we are able to fund the Executive Director position and grow in programming. We very much look forward to allocating a portion of our budget toward Youth Programs and launching a Jewish day camp by summer 2013.

If you have not yet seen what has happened on the JCCSLO property, please do come by! Now that the office is furnished and wired, I start office days there and welcome your visit! Through our collaboration with UCP's Ranch program, we are now host to a lavender field, vegetable garden, fruit orchard, picnic area, and nature trail - with more to come!

As Executive Director, I am proud to have watched the Menorah lighting at the Mission grow to over 100 families on the 1st night, and each subsequent night grow ever more popular. I have seen 300-500 people of different backgrounds crowd into spaces to watch Jewish culture highlighted at our Jewish Film Festival in January and hear Holocaust survival stories in the spring. And, I have enjoyed good company with our Kehilla social group, the Jewish News Junkies, and at our Jewish Cooking Classes throughout the year.

I feel lucky to live in San Luis Obispo and love playing a role in strengthening our Jewish community. I am only one person – it is up to all of us to participate in and support this very enjoyable work.

To Our Membership

From Board President, Jan Durocher



Jan at "Jews and Chocolate" Speakers Bureau event at Salisbury Winery

Your JCCSLO Board of Directors is honored to be serving our Central Coast Jewish community. We gather monthly and discuss, of course, our fiscal responsibilities to you, but most importantly the future of our JCC. This includes the planning events, helping those less fortunate, and creating opportunities to unite our community. We kick around ideas from babysitting coops to Jewish Singles, always with the goal of strengthening Jewish presence on the Central Coast.

We now have two tenants on our Laureate Lane property: Temple Ner Shalom and United Cerebral Palsy. We regularly monitor the progress of UCP's Ranch project, as they develop facilities for the adult developmentally disabled; truly a Tikun Olam endeavor. We love receiving ideas and input from our members, so contact Leo, Susan, Phylissa, Jon Erik, Dvora or me, whether it is a party idea or to alert us to someone in need.

JCCSLO Programs Continue their Success

Imagine 500 area residents crowded into one space experiencing Jewish culture. Now imagine these people are of all backgrounds, ages, and interests. They have one thing in common: they want to keep alive the stories of the Jewish people. Our **SLO Jewish Film Festival** achieves this through our enjoyable and elegant cultural weekend in January. Mark your calendar for our 3rd: **January 12-13, 2013** at the Palm Theatre.

Here's what our contributor, Deborah Lee Ramsgard, has to say about the SLOJFF:

As a volunteer, sponsor, and film-goer of the previous years; I've had the best time. At first, it was all about being entertained by the films and contributing to my Jewish community, but it has evolved into a multi-faceted 'relationship' with my Jewish family, the SLO community & the entertainment world. I love it! It's a whole lot of fun!



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Jan Durocher, President
- Jon-Erik Storm, Vice-President
- Leo Tendrih, Treasurer
- Phylissa Kwartner, Secretary
- Dvora Braunstein
- Susan Stern-Pearl
- Rabbi Mehring, Interfaith Liaison
- Lauren Bandari, Executive Director

2011-12 Annual Campaign

Major Accomplishments:

- **Funded Executive Director position**
- **Created Development Director for land-based programs position**
- **Furnished and equipped JCCSLO office**
- **Allocated seed money toward a Jewish Family Fund, helping local Jewish families and individuals in need**
- **Allocated funds to go toward Jewish Federations of North America; supporting social services programs in Israel and global Jewish communities in need**

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Top to bottom:
Start of nature trail,
1st planting of lavender field

875 Laureate Lane Transformed

By Lauren Bandari

Have you been to JCC's property recently?

If so, you may have seen lavender sprouting up as you enter, or a new picnic table resting underneath a large eucalyptus tree. Only by walking the grounds do you find our new nature trail that follows the perimeter of our 10 acres, and if you follow the road out back, you can marvel at the prolific vegetable garden recently established.

All these developments are due to

the hard work of those employed through The Ranch, United Cerebral Palsy's outdoor program for the adult developmentally disabled. UCP is JCC's tenant, and the program enhances our land in invaluable ways.

JCCSLO is committed to playing a strong role in the development of its property. Four JCC members sit on the Ranch Development Committee, as described in the next article. We recently brought on Courtney Melblom, our Development Director for land-based

programs, and our goal is to start a Jewish day camp, using these ecological developments on the property. Finally, with a little bit of mazel, we will work with our tenants to build together an Activity Center on the land.

Also, don't forget—as a paying JCCSLO member, you are always welcome to use the clay tennis court. The scenery is bucolic and the court is easy on the knees! Just contact us to make sure a private lesson isn't already scheduled!

"JCCSLO members and guests can take advantage of all of the facilities developed over the coming years, as we join the Ranch and UCP in developing the facility."

Written by Marty Meltz, PhD

In this first column, I am excited to introduce you to Ranch Development Committee (RDC). The RDC meets almost every month to advance the development of The Ranch, and serves as the "Manager" of the project.

The Ranch is a program under United Cerebral Palsy of SLO, that leases our property and provides a place for young people with a

spectrum of disabilities to come together to participate in agriculture, learning of skills, play and socialization. JCCSLO members and our guests can take advantage of all the facilities developed over the coming years. A more extensive description of the Ranch program can be found at: www.theranchslo.org.

I serve as Chair of the RDC meetings; other members include Lauren Bandari, Courtney Melblom,

and John Belsher representing the JCCSLO; Binah Polay, representing Temple Ner Shalom (as a co-lessee); Lynn Hendry, Pam Zweifel, and Jim Battersby, representing the Ranch Committee (under the UCP), and Mark Shaffer, Executive Director of UCP of SLO. It is a definite pleasure to work with this group of concerned and responsive individuals, and I look forward to a further description of how we proceed in our next JCCSLO Newsletter.

Jewish Cooking Class Recipe!



Jewish Cooking class members enjoying a lesson on Patti Robbins' "Clandestine Kugel"

Contributor: Diane Abrams

Learn recipes, sip wine, and enjoy a night out at our next series of Jewish Cooking Classes!

Classes range from classic kugel and latkes to Jewish rye bread.

We plan to host classes again in the winter at SLO Kitchen. Interested in attending or teaching a class? Contact Jan Durocher at janinslo@att.net.

Jewish New Year Zucchini/ Yellow Squash Bread

3 eggs (room temp)
2 cups sugar
3 cups flour
2 cups zucchini or yellow squash (grated)
1 Tablespoon cinnamon
1 Tablespoon vanilla
1 teaspoon baking powder and 1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt

1 cup oil
Mix all wet ingredients together.
Mix all dry ingredients together.
Add dry batch slowly into wet.

Add nuts, chocolate chips or nothing.

Makes 2 large loaves or 4 small ones.

Bake at 350 till done.

*sometimes I sprinkle cinnamon-sugar on top. Enjoy!

4th of July BBQ & Softball a Big Hit!

Written by Jack Pearl

The second annual JCCSLO July 4th BBQ, Picnic and Softball Game took place once again at French Park in the heart of sunny San Luis Obispo. The softball action started a little after 9 am and didn't end for another two plus hours. Players ages ranged from 8-85 which included enthusiastic members of both genders. The participating players and fans who were in atten-

dance for the diamond action came from San Luis Obispo, North County, South County and from Santa Maria.

Once the last batter had taken a mighty swing, everyone sat down to nosh and kibbutz. The kosher lunch consisting of hot dogs, chips, drinks, and mouth watering baked delights. Conversations were universally happy on the morning of this national holiday...and it was overheard from many that fu-

ture fielding and hitting practices would be scheduled before we get together next year!!

This year's game was also featured on KSBY! Take a look at our Facebook page to watch it! (facebook.com/jccslo)



Jewish News Junkies: Nights to Remember

By Dvora Braunstein

Ask an average American who Bashar Assad is and you will most likely get directions to the nearest Middle Eastern restaurant.

However if you ask an active participant of the "News Junkies," you will get detailed, knowledge about Syrian President Assad's most

secret dreams. Just come, and you'll find out...

The "News Junkies " is a group of people who care for the future of the Jewish people and Israel. They like to schmooze, debate in the most "politically correct" manner and share their knowledge. We usually sip on local wine and nosh as we converse.

The number of opinions is not always in line with the number of people participating. As we say in Israel: "Two Jewish people have three opinions".

All this is done every 3rd Thursday of the month at participants' homes or offices. Contact John Belsher (john@bbrlawfirm.com) to find out where we meet next.

"The number of opinions is not always in line with the number of people participating...Two Jew[s] have three opinions!"

My Experiences with Kehilla

By Shannon Fitzpatrick

The original concept of Kehilla, as I understood it, was to bring together younger Jewish adults in the San Luis Obispo-area community that otherwise would not have a way to connect. As a charter member of Kehilla (I say this only because my wife and I attended the first event), I thought this an interesting concept, but didn't

really see the point. My wife and I knew everyone at the first event, a dinner party, and already had good relationships with all. Since then, I've come to understand how amazing Kehilla is because we have become much closer to our friends, and new Kehilla acquaintances.

Past Kehilla events include dinner parties, bowling, and

Tu B'Shvat seders. In June, Kehilla kayaked around Morro Bay, then joined together for a great lunch.

Future events this year include a trip to the Melodrama and bowling. Contact me or the JCCSLO for more information on Kehilla and join us!



Investing in Jewish culture locally; connecting globally

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WWW.JCCSLO.COM

JCCSLO is committed to enhancing “Jewish Peoplehood” through our membership drives and programs. We propagate the *mifgash*, or encounter, with Jewish peers of all affiliations with our gatherings, parties, and discussion groups.

We are proud of our role in educating the broader community about Jewish culture and bringing a sense of cultural diversity to the area.

JCCSLO is here for you!!



Program Success, continued

JCCSLO’s annual **Holocaust Remembrance Program** is another success in connecting our community and most importantly, educating. Each year we host a community presentation and bring in 300-500 residents. We also take our speakers to area schools to tell their stories to students, including Nipomo High School and Mission College Prep. Your JCC is proud to serve its role in ensuring we Never Forget.



2012 Speakers (left to right):
Irving Klein and Bianca Rosenthal speaking at community presentation, April 2012

JCCSLO Launches Jewish Family Fund

Jewish Family Services –
San Luis Obispo
Jewish Family Fund



JCCSLO is extremely pleased to announce the beginning of its Social Services division, Jewish Family Services, and the launching of an area Jewish Family Fund.

The Jewish Family Fund is made possible by contributions through JCCSLO’s budget allocations and donations from all area synagogues, including Temple Ner Shalom, Congregation Beth David, Congregation Ohr Tzafon, Temple Beth El, and Chabad of Cal Poly/SLO. A portion of the

Fund was donated in the memory of JCCSLO member Barbara Rosenthal’s son, Joshua Abraham Birnbaum. Thank you, Barbara. May Joshua’s memory be a blessing to us all.

This September we are introducing the Jewish Family Fund application process for local Jewish families and individuals in need. The grants are modest, but will help in small things like back-to-school clothing, supplements to rent, and groceries. Please visit www.jccslo.com to download the application, or pick one up at an area synagogue.

The Jewish Family Fund is a major start toward SLO’s own Jewish Family Services, and one to be proud of. We intend on offering support services to various groups within a Jewish context, and will serve as a resource to link those in need to our vast local network

of nonprofits, and Jewish resources regionally, state-wide or nationally.

Deep gratitude goes toward the JFS Steering Committee, as they have paved the way in making this much needed service get off the ground: Jack Pearl (JFS Committee Chair), Mimi Naish, Susan Shalit, Jared Sharon, Rabbi Chaim Hillel, Gila Pomerantz, & Sue Taylor

Please note there will be regular fundraisers for the Fund, in which you can participate. We plan to host a kosher BBQ this fall; more information forthcoming. JCCSLO welcomes donations at any level toward this Fund. Please contact us for further questions or information .