The Torah teaches us that silence in the face of injustice is a sin. At Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley, we proudly protect refugees from all over the world who flee persecution. They flee because they are Christian, Zoroastrian, Bahai, Mandean, Muslim, – and of course, Jewish. They may be gay or transgender and facing oppression because of it. The people we help escape dire and often violent circumstances. We do this because our Jewish values compel us to do it. “Welcoming the stranger” and “treating the stranger as you would be treated” is the commandment mentioned most – no fewer than 36 times in the Torah.

It is out of these deeply held values and unwavering commitment to this lifesaving work that we joined with Jewish Family Service of Seattle as co-plaintiffs in a federal lawsuit challenging the most recent refugee ban Executive Order, imposed by President Trump on October 24. This latest Executive Order blocks refugee resettlement from eleven countries for at least 90 days and indefinitely pauses the program for refugees already living in the United States to be reunited with their spouses and children.

The lawsuit seeks a nationwide injunction on both restrictions and charges that the order is yet another attempt by the Trump administration to suspend refugee admissions without authority and ban refugees from entering the country.

JFS SV’s refugee services are designed to help refugee clients become economically self-sufficient, integrated, and civically engaged. In partnership with HIAS, JFS SV serves refugees from the moment they arrive at the airport until after they become naturalized citizens. The relationship that JFS SV establishes with our refugee clients continues for years, long after individuals transition out of refugee status.

The restrictive policies rolled out by the administration in October would destroy our refugee clients’ hope, and endanger their lives.

Let us tell you about a few of our clients.

A young mother and her 7-year-old son fled religious persecution in Iran seeking refugee status. They’ve been in transit for 10 months. The Executive Order prevents them from traveling to the United States to join their family and find safety. They lack money for basic survival; their family in the United States is very poor and cannot provide for all their needs. The mother is ill with diabetes, high blood pressure, and a severe anxiety disorder, and her son cannot attend school.

A client of JFS SV has a son currently in Turkey who fled Iran when he converted from Islam to Christianity. He risks death if he returns to Iran; his life in Turkey is extremely difficult. He is not permitted to work under Turkish law and he lacks money for basic

Trump • continued on page 3

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More Than Meets the Eye

Richard Namm

The fall season brings many things into our lives. Leaves change color, Hanukkah approaches and the annual Embrace-A-Family program is in full swing. Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley posts bulletin boards brimming with paper dreidels throughout the community. Each dreidel has a brief description of an item requested by a client of our not-for-profit organization. It’s an exciting phase of the year for both our staff and the people we serve.

However, the story does not end there.

Whenever you view the dreidels, imagine the life of the person who posted the request. I’ll never forget one I chose in 2016. It read “Girl, 6 - Shirt”. What is life like for a little girl or her parents who need something so normally inconsequential as a shirt? What other basic necessities are they missing? In an area abounding in wealth, she and her family probably have a different set of priorities than most of us. Did they tumble on hard times? Were they newly resettled refugees? Befallen by a serious illness?

Of course, Embrace-A-Family represents requests from more than children. Many seniors have wish lists that are reflected in the dreidels. Another one my wife and I took in 2016 said, “Man, 86 - Coat.” Imagine his situation. Was he recently widowed? Struggling to maintain a sense of independence after a life taking care of his family? A Holocaust survivor?


In our 10th year of Embrace-A-Family sponsored by JFS of Silicon Valley, any assistance you provide is much appreciated. Whether you fulfill the request of one child, an elder, or a whole host of people - either with an actual item or gift card - consider the lives closely connected to each dreidel. They are certainly more than mere paper.

The JFS SV Board, staff and the people we help through Embrace-A-Family appreciate your support.

My wife Patti and I extend best wishes for a happy and healthy 2018.

Rich
Dear Friends,

For the past three years I’ve kept a gratitude journal. In it I record the little everyday things along with life’s miracles. Some days I’m expressing my thankfulness for my grandson’s smile; other days I’m grateful for oatmeal with blueberries. Keeping this journal has changed my life. I’m a happier person, and have gained perspective about just what is important – and what I let pass me by.

It’s very easy for me to tell you what I’m grateful for when it comes to Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley. Here’s my list, which grows every day:

I’m grateful for our nearly 700 (!) volunteers of all shapes and sizes who have decided to share their hearts, hands, and heads with JFS.

I’m grateful for our community partners – particularly our campus agencies who give us rooms to meet, volunteers for our programs, and lots of support for the important work we do.

I’m grateful for the hundreds of people who study our Embrace-A-Family boards, searching for the perfect wish to grant.

I’m grateful for our expanding staff. Their passion for their work and dedication to the welfare of their clients inspires me to give my all to my job.

I’m grateful for our ever-growing partnership with Chai House that makes life brighter for its residents.

I’m grateful for small children who come with their parents to bring a Hanukkah gift or fruit from their trees, making sure that someone else won’t do without.

I’m grateful for our JFS Board members who have the courage to do what is right, even if it’s not easy.

I’m grateful whenever I hear one of our clients laugh with joy - over accomplishing something important, receiving support from a case manager, pronouncing a tough English word correctly, or getting a gift they hadn’t counted on.

I’m grateful for an opportunity to advocate for people who don’t have a voice.

Finally, I’m grateful for those of you who donate to JFS – whether it’s to benefit refugees, our program at Chai House, emergency food or other programs – who make sure we can do this beautiful work.

From our family to yours, I wish you a happy Hanukkah, holiday season and 2018 filled with gratitude and joy.

B’shalom,
Mindy

---

**Staff Direct Numbers**

**Area Code 408**

- Avital Agam: 357-7450
- Mindy Berkowitz: 357-7455
- Galina Chyorny: 357-7458
- Lori Cinnamon: 357-7467
- Valerie DuBose: 357-7542
- Azita Eshagh: 357-7457
- Caroline Golpashin: 357-7469
- Elena Kulvets: 357-7406
- Chad Lama: 357-7459
- Natalie Lazar: 357-7448
- Zoya Lazer: 357-7452
- Tami Levi: 357-7454
- Sheila Monheit: 357-7451
- Yanex Orellana: 947-7256
- Sandra Pannell: 357-7425
- Lisa Warner: 357-7456
- JFS at Chai House: 947-7256

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Jewish education, cultural events, preschool, camp, fitness, aquatics & more.

Addison-Penzak JCC of Silicon Valley
Levy Family Campus
www.apjcc.org
Come See Jewish Family Services in Action!

★ Learn about all the good we do together to help families facing challenges have better lives

★ Experience Embrace-A-Family Holiday Gift Program

★ Become a part of our Vocational ESL class and meet recently arrived refugees seeking new beginnings

Tour Dates:
Wednesday, December 6, 2017
Thursday, December 14, 2017
Tours are 11AM—noon

At Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley
Levy Family Campus
14855 Oka Road, Suite 202
Los Gatos, CA 95032

RSVP to Lori Cinnamon: loric@jfssv.org or 408-357-7467
Embrace-A-Family This Hanukkah - Celebrating 10 Years of Generosity
Make Hanukkah Brighter for People in Need


Generosity Restores Hope for Gift Recipients

Embrace-A-Family started 10 years ago with two dreidel boards. This year JFS SV has expanded to 26 boards in 23 locations including area synagogues, schools, churches and businesses. The generosity of the community has been astounding and restores hope to gift recipients such as these:

A 35-year-old man working a low paying job had to live in his car for a few months until he found a shared apartment situation. JFS gave him gift cards that had been donated to the Embrace-A-Family program so he could buy a futon and he also received a bedding set. He is grateful for a proper night’s sleep – something many take for granted.

In 2016 generous donors fulfilled wishes for a five-year-old refugee who was adjusting to English, day care, and a new country. When he received his Embrace-A-Family toys and bike, he smiled from ear to ear. That was the moment he began to feel at home and believe everything would be okay. These acts of kindness made a family feel more supported during this very difficult time.

What You Can Do to Help

Look for JFS SV dreidel boards in the community between now and December 19. The boards are at: Levy Family Campus (main and Yavneh/APJCC Preschool lobbies, upstairs at Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley), area synagogues (Congregations Beth Am, Beth David, Emeth, Shir Hadash, Sinai; and Temples Emanu-El and Beth Torah), Fragomen Worldwide, The Church of the Latter-day Saints (multiple locations), Pars Kosher Market, South Peninsula Hebrew Day School, and Gan Ronit.

Purchase the gift on the tag and bring your unwrapped gift to the JFS SV office. Your gift will bring a smile – and be a blessing - to someone in need.

Embrace-A-Family Brings the Community Together

Parents of preschoolers find that donating gifts is an easy way to help young kids learn about tzedakah and tikkun olam. This year when you bring your gift, your child will get a Mitzvah Hero sticker to display proudly. Members of havurot get together and buy gifts or pool their resources for larger requests. Some families incorporate Embrace-A-Family into their family Hanukkah celebrations.

More Ways to Help

Contribute gift cards (gas station, supermarket and discount department store) for struggling families and isolated seniors. Choose a Shabbat meal dreidel so needy seniors, individuals and families can receive a delicious, hot kosher Shabbat meal.

We have a Target Gift Registry for those who prefer to shop online. Please check the Jewish Family Services Embrace-a-family webpage at http://www.jfssv.org/embrace-a-family-2017. html.

Choose a dreidel to help newly arrived refugees, students, and job seekers with transportation. These donations will enable us to provide bus passes and bicycles.

Embrace-A-Family is a program of JFS’ Project NOAH. For additional information or to volunteer, visit www.jfssv.org or contact Lori Cinnamon, Manager of Community and Volunteer Engagement at 408.357.7467 or loric@jfssv.org.
Knitzvah Brings Comfort to Victims of California Wild Fires

Before the wildfires in Northern California were contained, Dr. Elizabeth Lichy asked if Knitzvah had anything that she could take to Santa Rosa for the fire victims. Elizabeth, who was volunteering at the Red Cross shelters, contacted Barbara Berlant. Barbara quickly pulled together shawls, lap and baby blankets, and hats - 61 pieces total. Elizabeth picked them up on her way back to Santa Rosa for her next shift at the shelter. She wrote this inspirational message to Knitzvah.

Barbara and Knitzvah -

I wish I could express the impact of your generous Knitzvah donations to the people affected by the wildfires in Santa Rosa. I will share a few moments with you.

I moved about the Red Cross shelter at Veterans Hall at the Fairgrounds. The people who remained had been out of their homes for nine days and many had lost their homes to the fire. I approached a woman finishing her breakfast and offered her a hand-knit shawl. Her eyes lit up and she said, “I love earth tones.” She wrapped it around her and commented, “I’ll have something beautiful to remember from this place.” I could tell that she felt better about herself, more human, more beautiful.

I approached two older Filipino couples. The women were amazed at the offerings and chose lovely hats and lap blankets. They put the hats on right away to counter the chill that had settled in that morning.

An older man, weathered complexion and sporting a cowboy hat, commented, “Those are just like my grandma used to make.” He was so pleased to choose a dark green hat and put it on right away and then put his cowboy hat back on over it. I spotted him later outside looking quite comfortable with the two hats.

Some people declined to take anything saying, “We are just evacuated. Our home is ok. Give it to the people who need it more.”

I shared your hats and blankets with several individuals gathered around a television in the back of another shelter building. And I gave your baby blankets and hats to a couple of families with small children. One young boy loved orange and chose the bright orange blanket. One of their grandmothers asked if I had yarn, if she could help. She said she knew how to knit but couldn’t afford to buy yarn.

I headed over to Congregation Shomrei Torah. It sits on hillside with a now smoky view of the fairgrounds where many, many fire engines were visible. Inside the synagogue, it was bustling as their volunteers ran an impromptu day camp for kids who could not go to school. One of the volunteers gushed over your beautiful items as she is a knitter herself. When I explained about your group, she said, “We should start a Knitzvah group here, too.” And there was another young volunteer from Los Altos who chimed in that their synagogue also had a group. They could not stop admiring your lovely blankets, hats and shawls. They already had families in mind - 7 congregant families had lost their homes.

I then went to Congregation Beth Ami which also had families who had lost their homes. A staff member chose items to take over right away to a family with a 3-year-old daughter who was staying in a hotel because their home had burned down. Their 3-year-old had lost all of her toys and special things and she just knew that she would be excited to have a new fleece blanket.

Having something made with love and care made an impact for a community facing incredible challenges. They really appreciated that people care. There are thank you notes on the highway overpasses, the street corners, the fences, the store fronts, and the LED billboards. What you do is so appreciated.

Kol ha kavod and todah rabah. Keep up your amazing work. You are so inspiring...

Elizabeth
JFS Social Services at Chai House Are Going Strong

The JFS social work office at Chai House is a busy, popular place. Senior Services Social Worker Yanex Orellana, MSW provides counseling and case management services for Chai House residents. Lisa Warner, LCSW, the JFS Director of Clinical and Social Services, has been delivering psychotherapy for residents with more challenging mental health issues.

We also have fun at Chai House. The management at Chai House, along with our social services staff, organized a Halloween costume contest for residents and their dogs. The grand prizewinner was Jane Kelly, and her dog, Noelle. In November, social work intern, Bryan Leung, started a residents’ poetry group. The members write poems and then share them with the other residents in this group setting. Yanex organized a pet photography session. The theme was “Being Grateful for our Pets” in the spirit of Thanksgiving.

Additionally, JFS provided Thanksgiving food packages for lower income residents of Chai House. JFS’ YA-Live! group of young adults delivered the packages and enjoyed socializing with residents at a pre-Thanksgiving party. The residents were very grateful. Our staff continues to plan events around the holidays, providing socialization and engagement for the Chai House community.

For more information about JFS services at Chai House, contact Yanex Orellana, (408) 947-7256, yanexo@jfssv.org; or Lisa Warner, (408) 357-7456, lisaw@jfssv.org at JFS.
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley

The Ruth Perkins
Emergency Fund for Refugee Services

JFS SV urgently needs your help! We protect refugees who have experienced persecution due to their religion, ethnicity, political expression or sexual orientation. They come from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Former Soviet Union and various countries throughout Africa. The people we help are fleeing dire and often violent circumstances.

As the second largest refugee resettlement agency in Santa Clara County, JFS SV serves 200+ refugees annually with resettlement, pro-bono legal immigration clinic, vocational English training, job search assistance, case management, and emergency food assistance. Our services to refugees have been funded through HIAS, County of Santa Clara, United Way Silicon Valley, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, foundations, and generous individuals.

Due to our current government’s administration, funding for refugee resettlement is uncertain. Our refugee resettlement and Connections to Work for Refugees Programs have depended on annual awards of over $300,000 from HIAS and United Way for the past decade—and these are no longer certain. Refugees in our care need the crucial services that JFS SV provides. Learn more at www.jfssv.org.

To keep our Refugee Services work going strong, Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley launched the Emergency Fund for Refugee Services.

Please join us!
Your gift will ensure that vulnerable refugees can build new lives and live in safety and freedom.

Enclosed is $ ____________ as my gift for the JFS Emergency Fund for Refugee Services

Please make checks payable to JFS SV, 14855 Oka Road, Suite 202, Los Gatos, CA 95032 (408)556-0600

☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard  Card # __________________________ Sec. Code # _____ Exp. _________

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☐ In honor  ☐ In memory of __________________________________________

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Yavneh 6th graders had a great time helping JFS pack nearly 600 food packages. We can’t wait to have them join us again!

At one time, you were proud of that old car.

Now, you can be proud of it again.

Donate your unwanted vehicle to Jewish Family Services and support vital programs for families, children, and older adults in need.

Donate Today!
1-877-JFS-4-CAR
1-877-537-4227
www.jfssv.org

Donations August 11, 2017 - November 14, 2017

In appreciation of JFS holocaust survivor services, senior esl classes and holiday packages program:
Efim Fainberg and Klara Turchinsky, Fira and Vladimir Glikman, and Bella Makarevich
Naomi Alpert
Altman-Aronow Charitable Foundation, for the Yahrzeit of Don Rosenheim
Joel Amzallag
Michael Applebaum
Rabbi Melanie Aron and Michael Dine
Mark and Miriam Atlas
Beth and Stu Baker
Noah and Ruth Bareket, in honor of JFS’ 700 volunteers
Raisa Berenberg, in memory of her parents
Dahlia and lian Blech, in honor of their seven beautiful grandchildren
Marjorie Resnick Blickman
Ahron and Barbara Bogomilsky
Martin and Rhoda Bress
Boris Brodskiy, in memory of Izabella Levina and Emma Levina
Margie and Edward Cahn, in honor of Fagie Rosen
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David Chernomordik and Izabella Letskin, in memory of Asya Chernomordik
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Dina Fayngold, in memory of her parents Dora and Aron Guberman
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Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley Thanks You for Your Support!

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Marcia and Joe Riggio
In honor of Joe Riggio’s birthday: Marcia and Harry Ratner
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Marcia and Harry Ratner
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In honor of Bettina Rosenberg’s birthday: Rabbi Allan and Mindy Berkowitz, Rhonda Farber, Susan Greenberg, Engleander and Jeff Engleander, Ruth Miller, Sarah and Norman Rosenberg
In honor of Harriet Siegel’s 91th birthday: Bagie Rosen

Burt Epstein Community Service Fund

In honor of Burt Epstein’s birthday: Philip Leon and Ester Freeman, in memory of Marsha Yashar’s mother

Centerpieces for Izedakah

Ivy Chesser, in honor of Mason Chesser’s Bar Mitzvah
Jhasmin Grosskopf, in honor of Ariel Grosskopf’s Bar Mitzvah
Adriene Tuch, in honor of Skylar’s Tuch Bat Mitzvah
Marjorie Alpert and Jeff Warwick, in honor of Maya Warwick’s Bat Mitzvah
Lourdes Yashar, in honor of Will Joshua Yashar’s Bar Mitzvah

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In honor of Will Yashar’s Bar Mitzvah: Philip Leon and Anderson, Carrie and Neel Chatterjee, Kimberly and Mohana Dissanayake, Diane Durham, Qiu Fang and Shiqian Yu, Brian Friss and Julie Lin-Friss, Susan and Gary Kato, Craig and Tonya Kaufman, Jonathan Khazam and Cynthia Holly Jacobs-Khazam, Alex Kreis Monica Llagaria and Feliciano Gomez, Michael and Lily Malick, Louis Rich, Jeffrey and Marico Scott, Gail Skinner
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Jewish Family Services Fund

In memory of Dianne Portnoy: Paul and Belle Adams, Fred and Linda Arkenberg, Jerry and Marge Katleman, Phyliss and Joe Sosnow
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Lisa Ayala
Kefira Bar-Golani
Diane Calms
Genya and Yakov Glukhovsky
Debra Hannon
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Sarah Harner
Noa Horn
Arleen Kluger, get well wishes for Jeanne Korn, Michael Ashe, Howard Adelman
William Meisburger
Adelle Salle and Marvin Kohn
Eric Selvin
Sew for Love
Cathleen and Robert Silverstein
Phyliss and Joe Sosnow
Bonnie and Lee Stone in memory of Allen Moss
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San Jose Chamber Orchestra
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Fancine Rose, congratulations to Mindy and Rabbi Allan Berkowitz on becoming grandparents
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Visit our website
www.jfssv.org
Please accept this donation to Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley

Your gift to Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley last year made a difference in the lives of more than 9,800 people in our community.

☐ Jewish Family Services Fund supports JFS’ work in our local community
☐ Burt Epstein Community Service Fund supports JFS SV collaborations with local groups to provide community service
☐ Project N.O.A.H. (No One Abandoned Here) provides emergency services to the most needy among us
☐ Ursula Gusdorf Memorial Scholarship Award grants educational scholarships so refugees can pursue their education
☐ Addie and Ray Kopp Memorial Fund supports programs for seniors and émigrés
☐ Harvey Belsky Fund for where the need is greatest
☐ Ruth Perkins Emergency Fund for Refugee Services supports refugees in our community

Enclosed is $ _________ as my gift to Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley.

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