

THE FOUNDATION'S **Legacy** NEWS

JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF LOS ANGELES

CELEBRATING A WONDERFUL YEAR and Some of the Donors Who Made It Possible

What a year! For The Foundation, 2017 was a record-breaker, and most significantly, it was our biggest grantmaking year ever, with \$97 million in grants distributed. This included \$10 million from The Foundation's grant programs, endowments, and other sources that positively influenced the lives of thousands of people locally, nationally, and in Israel.

Behind those numbers, of course, are many generous donors. "Every Foundation donor has a different background and faces unique challenges that inform his or her giving," said Foundation President and CEO **Marvin I. Schotland**. "Together, we work to make our world a better place through our combined grantmaking. We are most grateful to our donors for choosing The Foundation as their partner in philanthropy."

FROM THE DESK OF

MARVIN I. SCHOTLAND

PRESIDENT & CEO, JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Jewish Community Foundation is built on personal relationships and trust. This issue of *Legacy* focuses on people because The Foundation is all about people: new people joining our Foundation family of donors for the first time, people who have been donors for a long time, people who are positively affected by our grantmaking, people becoming trustees on our board, and people joining our staff and growing in their roles here.



For example, you'll read about donors **Paul Kester** and his wife, **Susanne, Z"L**, who survived the Holocaust by fleeing Germany, making their way to Sweden, and then to Los Angeles, where

they became committed supporters of the Jewish community locally and in Israel. **Sonia and James Cummings** grew up in families that deeply value Jewish tradition and philanthropy, and have carried on their families' legacies through their own meaningful charitable endeavors. New donors **Samantha and Jeremy Garelick** cultivate *tzedakah* with their children — teaching them about those in need and taking them to distribute food to the homeless.

Some of the people we help through grantmaking are reflected in our **General Community Grants** awarded in 2017 (see page 5) that focus on human trafficking. The State Department estimates that as many as 15,000 people are trafficked into the United States each year for the purposes of commercial sex or forced labor, and Los Angeles is particularly affected. Two of our highlighted grant recipients, **Saving Innocence** and the **Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking**, help people

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Paul and the late Susanne Kester, circa 2011

Our purpose in life should be to help others — be it family, community, country, or the world. Helping others has enhanced our lives and made them more worthwhile."

— Paul Kester



Samantha and Jeremy Garelick with their four children

PAUL KESTER

Surviving the Holocaust and Living *Tikkun Olam*

Paul Kester says his philanthropic instinct comes from a deep sense of appreciation for the kindness he received early in life at a time when he desperately needed it. Paul spent his early years in Wiesbaden, Germany, where his father managed the clothing store his family owned. But after Kristallnacht, Paul's parents arranged for him, then 13, to flee in January 1939 on the Kindertransport to Sweden. Paul's mother, father, and a grandmother were sent to Theresienstadt, where his grandmother died. His parents ultimately perished in Auschwitz.

In Sweden, Paul spent 10 years attending schools and later working for Stockholm's Jewish community. It was in Sweden that Paul met his wife, Susanne, of blessed memory, who had also fled Germany. From Sweden, Paul and Susanne made their way to the United States, settling in Los Angeles, where Paul's sister was living.

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CELEBRATING A WONDERFUL YEAR

“We met people who had a great deal of goodwill and were willing to help us,” Paul said. “Later, when we were in a position to help others, we were reminded of what people had done for us, and we felt committed to do the same.”

Committing to LA’s Jewish Community and Israel

As Paul built an accounting career, he and Susanne became committed supporters of the local Jewish community and Israel. **Susanne** volunteered for 35 years at what ultimately became the **Skirball Cultural Center**. “We always had a sense of the history and background of our families, which created a sense of loyalty to the Jewish community and Israel,” he says. They also supported local institutions such as the **Los Angeles Philharmonic** and the **Venice Family Clinic**.

Charitable Giving With The Foundation



Paul and the late Susanne Kester

In the 1980s, the Kesters established a Donor Advised Fund at The Foundation to channel their philanthropic giving. As an accountant, Paul says he is acutely aware of the tax advantages and other benefits of a Donor Advised Fund. “It’s a vehicle that provides me flexibility and convenience to better manage my contributions and time them optimally.”

Paul is pleased that their son **Daniel** carries on the family’s commitments in Buffalo, New York, where Daniel is deeply involved with the Jewish community and Holocaust education.

“Our purpose in life should be to help others — be it family, community, country, or the world,” Paul says. “Helping others has enhanced our lives and made them more worthwhile.”



Paul with his granddaughter, Shiri Kester, at her bat mitzvah, 2004

SONIA & JAMES CUMMINGS

Finding Allies in Philanthropy

Sonia and James Cummings have their own term to describe the organizations and individuals that benefit from their philanthropy: “implementation allies.”

As James explains it, those who provide funding should see themselves as equal partners with others who contribute ideas, potential solutions, and passion for the work.

“When grantees come to us with a good idea, we are honored to be able to support them,” adds Sonia. “We might provide the funding, but they provide the services — and the change for the good of all.”

Deep Family Roots in Philanthropy

The instinct to invest in bettering their communities runs deep in the couple’s roots. James’s grandparents supported Jewish causes in Chicago, New York, and Israel. His parents were founding members of **Congregation Beth Am** in Los Altos Hills, California. They later returned to the Chicago area, where they were active and generous philanthropists.

Born in France to an Ashkenazi father and a Sephardic mother, Sonia recalls stories of her Moroccan grandparents who were known for opening their home to people in need. Later, Sonia moved to New York City, and the family actively supported several synagogues and causes, including the **National Council of Jewish Women** and the **Anti-Defamation League**.

Sonia and James’s multi-decade careers have spanned business, philanthropy, and the arts. Sonia has been a designer/creative director in the fashion and interior design industries, serving clients in the U.S., Japan, and France. James is a private investor and consultant to family foundations.

It was after Sonia and James participated in the **Wexner Heritage Foundation** program that they found their way to The Foundation. In 2015, James established a Donor Advised Fund. Here at The Foundation, Sonia has served in leadership roles, including as a former trustee, on several grants committees, and currently on the Advisory Board.

Supporting Causes Embracing Their Values

Jewish values and ethics always inform their philanthropy. Says Sonia, “We support organizations that are embracing the same values we do — that care about educating and uplifting people, finding solutions, and empowering our communities.”

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— Sonia Cummings

“We want our kids to see the immediate result of helping somebody and to see how good that feels so it’s ingrained in their brains and their lives.” — Jeremy Garelick

Among their top priorities: environmental concerns, social justice causes, and promoting diversity. For example, they support **Commonweal**, a Northern California-based program focused on healing people and the earth; the **OneVoice Movement**, which supports activists working to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and the **New Israel Fund**. Their local concerns include **Chabad of Pacific Palisades**, the **Pico Union Project** (a 2016 Foundation Cutting Edge Grant recipient), and **Open Temple** in Venice.

Some of their giving is facilitated by The Foundation, which “does the due diligence to make sure everything is in order,” says James. He praises The Foundation for keeping him current on legal and tax matters related to their philanthropy.

Fittingly, James compares a philanthropist’s role to that of the *shamash*, the candle that lights a Chanukah menorah. “The *shamash* ignites up to eight candles, but it is not at all diminished,” he says. “It is only enhanced.”

SAMANTHA & JEREMY GARELICK

Creating a Family Culture of Tzedakah for Their Children

To celebrate Purim, **Samantha and Jeremy Garelick** take their four children on a *mitzvah* spree, distributing sandwiches, granola bars, and water bottles to people experiencing homelessness.

“It’s one way we try to instill in them a sense of *tzedakah*—the obligation to help everyone around you,” says Samantha.



Samantha and Jeremy Garelick with their children, Zion, 8, twins Emmett and Boaz, 6, and Aria, 18 months

Family Values of Tzedakah From the U.S. to Jerusalem

It’s a value Samantha and her husband both learned in their early years in Rockland County, New York, where Jeremy’s family attended the synagogue where Samantha’s father served as *chazzan* (cantor).

“My earliest memories are of my mom’s holding meetings about walk-a-thons for **United Jewish Appeal**,” says Jeremy, whose father served on boards of various Jewish organizations.

His parents also generously supported a Jerusalem orphanage, and Jeremy and his siblings became close to many of its residents. “As far back as I can remember, we would write letters to our orphan ‘sisters,’” he recalls.

Samantha’s grandparents set a model of giving to Jewish causes that her parents, aunts, uncles, and cousins continue. “It’s just what we do — *tzedakah* is part of our DNA,” she says.

The couple has long been committed to raising a family with those same values, though Samantha says that her generation has its own approaches to Judaism and *tzedakah*. For example, the Garelicks join friends for a monthly “*tzedakah*-box lunch” to learn about various charitable causes and then pitch in donations.

Their own favorite causes include their synagogue, **Beth Jacob Congregation**, and their children’s school, **Pressman Academy**. They’re also very committed to Israel and advocate on its behalf. Samantha serves on **AIPAC’s National Council** and its LA board. She also teaches art at **Shalhevet High School**. Jeremy is an accomplished comedy screenwriter, director, and producer, whose portfolio includes **The Break Up** and **The Wedding Ringer**.

Growing With The Foundation

The couple established a Donor Advised Fund with the Foundation in 2016, which they say has helped them better organize their charitable giving. “What The Foundation offers is really helpful when you’re young and busy,” says Samantha. “It has provided a good starting off point from which we can grow.”

It’s all part of the effort to instill in their children the same generous instincts that were modeled for them. “We want our kids to see the immediate result of helping somebody and to see how good that feels,” says Jeremy, “so it’s ingrained in their brains and their lives.”

A Diverse and Colorful Mosaic of Foundation Donors

The Kester, Cummings, and Garelick families are emblematic of our 1,300+ strong donor family. Although they may have different charitable interests, objectives, and challenges, they all share one thing in common: Each family decided to enhance its philanthropy through The Foundation. Each is part of a diverse and colorful mosaic that we’re most grateful for — The Foundation’s donor family! ✧

WELCOME NEW TRUSTEES!

We’re proud to welcome three members to our Board of Trustees. Our Board is composed of leaders from throughout Los Angeles, representing a pantheon of industry expertise and decades-long dedication to our community. Michael G. Smooke has been serving in leadership roles with The Foundation since 2002, and we’re delighted to welcome him back to the Board. We’re also happy to be joined by our two newest members, Mindy Freedman and Steven C. Gordon, who are both seasoned advocates for numerous causes.



MINDY FREEDMAN

Mindy Freedman is a social entrepreneur, philanthropist, and founder of The SAM Initiative — a social venture fund composed of philanthropic women who support programs that significantly improve the lives of women and children. Mindy consulted for several years on micro-lending programs in Latin America. In the U.S., she now applies her consulting expertise in strategic planning, implementation, innovation, and executive coaching. Mindy is on the Board of the American Jewish Committee of Los Angeles, a member of the Jewish Venture Philanthropy Fund, and guest faculty at the Graduate School of Nonprofit Management at American Jewish University. She earned her bachelor’s degree in international affairs and Spanish from the University of Colorado and a master’s in public administration in international development and Spanish from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two children.

“The Foundation is one of the greatest gifts in our community to support individual donors in fulfilling their passion for meaningful giving. Thanks to The Foundation’s staff, I was able to create my own organization of giving. Everything I do for The SAM Initiative was born from the nurturing care and guidance of The Foundation.” — Mindy Freedman



STEVEN C. GORDON

Steven C. Gordon is chairman and a principal owner of Domino Realty, a holding company for a multifaceted international trading, apparel manufacturing, and real estate group. Steve created the nonprofit Public Education Program. He is a member of The Jewish Federation Board of Directors and UCLA Health Systems Board and is a founding member of both the Richard S. Ziman Center for Real Estate at the UCLA Anderson School of Management and the Friends of Beverly Gardens Parks. He was previously a member of the Real Estate Board, Finance Committee Board, and the Board of Governors at Cedars-Sinai Hospital; served as vice chairman of the Los Angeles Jewish Home; served as vice chairman of the Jewish Federations of North America; and has been honored by the American Jewish Committee. He is a guest lecturer at universities and professional seminars.

“I am fortunate to join the Board and to work with so many community leaders. The Foundation provides insights to many community needs. I have had the opportunity to gain knowledge from others through their philanthropic passion, which has provided me with much inspiration.” — Steven C. Gordon



MICHAEL G. SMOOKE

Michael G. Smooke is chair of the Capital Grants Committee at The Foundation. He is of counsel to the law firm Eisner Jaffe and vice-chair of its real estate practice group. Michael has practiced in the area of real estate development, leasing, and finance for more than 45 years and has frequently written and lectured for various publications and forums. He is a trustee of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and serves on its Audit and Finance Committees. Michael is also chair of the Beverly Hills Fine Art Commission and on the Board of Governors of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. He previously served on the Board of Temple Emanuel in Beverly Hills. Michael earned his bachelor’s degree in economics from UCLA and his law degree from Harvard Law School. He and his wife, Terri, live in Beverly Hills and have two children who are both married, and four grandchildren. ✧

“I am proud to be rejoining the Board. The Foundation has been a great help in supporting our family’s philanthropy. I frequently encourage others to consider joining The Foundation’s family of donors, as I know they will find helpful information and services for their own philanthropic needs.” — Michael G. Smooke

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

Addressing Human Trafficking

Our commitment to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) is reflected in the breadth of our grantmaking — not just in the Jewish community but also in the general community. On average, approximately one-third of the grants from our donor funds support the community at large. In addition, each year, The Foundation’s **General Community Grants** focus on a different high-priority concern in Los Angeles. Our focus in 2017 was addressing human trafficking. Our grant recipients included 1736 Family Crisis Center, Alliance for Children’s Rights, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Covenant House California, and Journey Out, as well as **Saving Innocence** and **Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking**, which are highlighted below.

As many as 15,000 immigrants are brought into the U.S. annually for exploitation, according to the CIA. As a global gateway, Los Angeles is a leading point of entry for human trafficking. After those trafficked have arrived here, the metropolis’s urban sprawl is ideal for moving and concealing those in bondage, making Los Angeles attractive to traffickers. Estimates peg this as a \$30-plus billion per year industry and one of the three top global crime categories.

Only by educating ourselves about human trafficking is it possible to inform and protect. Raising awareness can shine a light on a crime that is cloaked in obscurity and too often goes unreported.

Saving Innocence

Saving Innocence received a \$50,000 two-year grant to support its Case Management program. The program provides intensive first-response services and long-term support to 600 sexually exploited children, helping them escape abuse and live independent lives. Children are connected to a caring and experienced advocate as soon as they are identified by law enforcement, resulting in a dramatic increase in the number of children who find and stay in safe placement and receive the support they need to start new lives.



Since its founding in 2010, Saving Innocence has grown alongside Los Angeles County’s response to sex trafficking of minors and has helped nearly 700 minors escape sexual exploitation. It is a leading agency approved to respond directly to crisis calls from law enforcement and to deliver immediate intervention services.

Kim Biddle, founder and CEO of Saving Innocence, stated, “This grant will help us serve even more youth survivors of commercial sexual exploitation. This support from the Jewish Community Foundation will help us achieve our vision of providing care for every child in need of escape and restoration from sex trafficking in LA County.”

www.savinginnocence.org

Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking

The Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) received a \$50,000 two-year grant to support its Comprehensive Case Management program. The program provides stabilization, recovery, and self-advocacy for hundreds of survivors of labor and sex trafficking.



Established in 1998, CAST is a multiethnic human rights organization dedicated to serving survivors of all forms of human trafficking through its model of direct service programming and a strong network of more than 135 Los Angeles-based partners that provide specialized care to survivors. Since its founding, CAST has served more than 1,500 survivors of trafficking and their families.

Kay Buck, CAST CEO, stated, “Survivors of human trafficking are fighting for their very existence. In this crucial moment, CAST is a proud partner with the Jewish Community Foundation to embolden our commitment to social justice principles and protect the rights of the most marginalized Angelinos.” ✖

www.castla.org

To learn more about supporting these and other nonprofits that received Foundation grants, please contact The Foundation’s Center for Designed Philanthropy at thecenter@jewishfoundationla.org.

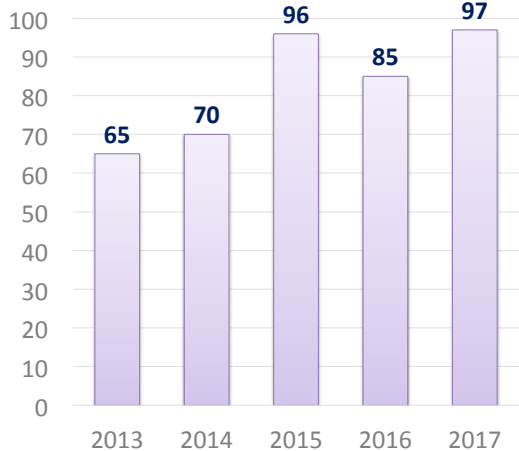
Thanks to Our Donors, a Year of Record Grantmaking

2017 was a terrific year, with a record \$97 million in grants distributed. Our generous donors are the reason.

During the past five years, we and our donors have distributed \$413 million in grants!

As of December 31, 2017. Unaudited financials.

Grant Distributions From 2013 – 2017 in Millions



WELCOMING GUESTS at Skirball for Anita Brenner Exhibit



Cece Feiler, Ruth Feiler, and William Feiler



Dan Rothblatt



Dania Wasongarz and Leon Kaplan



Marvin Schotland, William Feiler, Larry Rauch, and Lorin Fife



Susan and Rick Feldman



Jaime and Marilyn Sohacheski



David and Sue Rosenblum



Shai and Sara Nussbaum



Myron and Arlene Lieberman

In the tradition of welcoming and connecting people, we were delighted to host many of our newer Foundation donors and guests at the Skirball Cultural Center, one of the world’s most dynamic Jewish cultural institutions, this past February.

After a warm welcome from Foundation Chair **William Feiler**, the audience was treated to a private, curator-led viewing of **Another Promised Land: Anita Brenner’s Mexico**, part of the Getty initiative **Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA**. This was an extraordinary exhibit of Mexican art as seen through the life and work of Anita Brenner, a Jewish Mexican-American writer born in 1905 in Mexico to Latvian Jewish immigrant parents. To escape the Mexican Revolution, Brenner moved as a child to Texas, where she faced discrimination both for being Jewish and a foreigner. As a teen, she returned to Mexico and began to build strong relationships with the leading intellectuals and artists active in creating the Mexican Renaissance, including Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, Jean Charlot, Tina Modotti, and Edward Weston.

The exhibit underscored Brenner’s importance as a Jewish woman in Mexico who inspired artists and used her formative experiences of discrimination to build bridges through her life’s work as a writer, journalist, and activist. For decades, she was instrumental in introducing the North American public to Mexican history and culture. ✧

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Our Executive Leadership

Trust is the bedrock of The Foundation’s legacy, and our people are the core reason. We’re proud to announce two promotions within our senior leadership, **Dan Rothblatt** and **Lew Groner**. We’re excited to welcome **Ellen Rosen** and **Natella Royzman**, and to acknowledge the awarding of a Wexner Field Fellowship to **Elana Wien**.

DAN ROTHBLATT, Executive Vice President

“After my nearly 11 years at The Foundation, and a lifetime working in the nonprofit world, my new role is an expression of the community’s faith in me and my faith in it. I’m excited to continue my work with all the amazing families, nonprofit leaders, and people who work to make the world a better place.”



Dan joined The Foundation in 2007 as senior vice president, philanthropic services to manage the development and donor stewardship functions. During his tenure, Dan’s portfolio has expanded to include coordinating The Foundation’s development efforts with the Center for Designed Philanthropy and its work to help donors plan their giving more strategically, and the marketing and communications department to help guide its work in telling The Foundation’s story.

LEW GRONER, Vice President, Marketing & Communications

“It’s a great privilege to showcase all the inspirational stories of our donors, professional advisors, and grant recipients whom we work with so closely. I look forward to helping elevate The Foundation even further throughout our community!”



Lew joined The Foundation in 1999 as director, marketing and communications to lead all of its promotional activities. Over his tenure, he has helped The Foundation develop a clear, consistent, and distinct brand identity and communicate its story more effectively. The Foundation has emerged as a national leader in the use of marketing to affect charitable giving. Most importantly, these efforts have helped people better understand the value and benefits of working with The Foundation to achieve their philanthropic goals.

ELLEN ROSEN, General Counsel

“For this ‘third stage’ of my career, being able to combine my legal and accounting backgrounds to help make the world a better place is extremely fulfilling. I am very excited to help our donors achieve their charitable goals.”



Ellen joined The Foundation in 2017 to oversee all legal and compliance matters, and complex transactions. Prior to joining The Foundation, Ellen was a tax partner and consultant at CohnReznick, providing advisory services to clients in the areas of estate planning, taxation, and the formation of private foundations and other nonprofits. She also served as senior attorney in the trust and estate practice group at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton. Ellen received her bachelor’s degree in accounting from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and earned a JD from USC and an MBA from Pepperdine University.

NATELLA ROYZMAN, Director, Charitable Gift Planning

“I am so proud to be part of an organization that is truly values-driven and committed to operating with integrity. Collaborating to make our community stronger, kinder, and more vibrant gives me a deep sense of meaning and purpose.”



Natella joined The Foundation in 2017 as director, charitable gift planning, working closely with The Foundation’s donors and their advisors, helping them find meaningful and effective solutions for their charitable giving goals. Prior to joining The Foundation, Natella was the managing attorney of Royzman Law Firm, specializing in the representation of creditors, debtors, trustees, and third parties in bankruptcy and business litigation matters. Natella received her bachelor’s degree in English, summa cum laude, from CSU, Northridge. She earned a JD with honors from the UC Hastings College of the Law.



Wexner Field Fellowship Awarded to VP Elana Wien

Elana, vice president of The Foundation’s Center for Designed Philanthropy, has been awarded a Wexner Field Fellowship, a three-year intensive program designed to provide opportunities for professional growth to promising Jewish professionals. The prestigious fellowship is awarded by The Wexner Foundation in partnership with the Jim Joseph Foundation. Elana manages the vetting and distribution of The Foundation’s grantmaking — nearly \$5.4 million in 2017— and works with donors to help them plan their philanthropy. ✧

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survive exploitation and transition to healthy, safe, and empowered lives.

Also in this issue, we welcome three community leaders to our Board of Trustees: **Mindy Freedman, Steven C. Gordon, and Michael G. Smooke**. You can read more about their impressive backgrounds and extensive community service on page 4. We're grateful to have them join our Board and share their expertise with The Foundation.

Thanks to all these people and many more, 2017 was a terrific year for The Foundation, culminating in \$169 million in contributions to The Foundation and a record \$97 million in grants distributed to thousands of nonprofits locally, nationally, and in Israel.

As 2018 continues to unfold, I look forward to the future with much confidence and great hope knowing that our relationships with people throughout the community will keep growing and thriving this year and well beyond. ✧

Have you thought about your estate plan recently?

We offer a great online tool designed to help you gather and organize all pertinent information in one place. Find it at:

www.jewishfoundationla.org/estate

Israel's Health Is Excellent!



Recently, Foundation donors and friends were treated to an enlightening presentation on the state of Israeli healthcare by Professor Avi Weiss, executive director of the Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel (pictured in front left corner). He shared research from the Taub Center's 2017 "A Picture of the Nation" survey reflecting an excellent level of health in Israel, including that Israelis' longevity is among the highest in the world. However, an aging population will result in increased medical needs and health system costs over time. The Foundation hosts these intimate educational sessions to expand our knowledge on issues we care about.

Photo Credit: Lew Groner

THE FOUNDATION'S Legacy NEWS

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