

## Message from the Chair

Dear Jewish Women's Foundation Members,

Last November, the JWF membership approved a strategic plan outlining a bold new course for our Foundation. Together, we agreed that the needs of Jewish women and girls in our community were too great for us not to invest in our organization, expand our offerings, and increase our membership.

I'm proud to report that, thanks to your efforts, the strategic plan has not been shelved; rather it is a living document, a blueprint for our operations. Much has been accomplished since we approved the plan. I want to share with you just a few highlights in each of our three strategic areas:

### **1. Philanthropy**

- We held focus groups with community leaders to identify key needs for Jewish women and girls in our community and used the information to shape our granting strategy for the year.
- The Hands-On Committee was established to provide direct connection opportunities to our grantees and implemented two projects.
- We held three educational programs on issues facing Jewish women and girls.

### **2. Membership**

- Members attended a Shabbat dinner at the home of Judy Fisher and our annual meeting at the home of Barbara Lubin. Both gatherings were social in nature in response to member feedback.
- 13 new members joined the JWF, exceeding our goal. Our membership now totals more than 85.

### **3. Infrastructure**

- Our first designated staff person, Barbara Marcus was hired as JWF Manager.
- We implemented a redesigned governance structure with a governing board that focuses on the operations and management of the organization.

As you can see, we've been busy. But we need your help to thrive. There is much to accomplish, and we can only fulfill our mission by working together to improve the lives of women and girls in our community and around the world.

Warmest wishes and a happy healthy new year,



Elaine Galinson



Left to right: *Founding Chair*, Jan Tuttleman;  
*Chair*, Elaine Galinson; *Immediate Past Chair*, Marcia Hazan

JWF Grants Improve Lives



Grant awards from the Jewish Women's Foundation this year are touching some of the most vulnerable in our community: single parents and those affected by domestic violence. Both groups have been particularly hard hit by the recession.

#### **Supporting Jewish Single Parents (SJSP):**

Established and funded by the JWF in 2004, SJSP, a program offered through JFS, preserves Jewish continuity for San Diego's single parent families. The program offers supportive services which strengthen belonging in the Jewish community. Last year, the program served 222 clients. This year, this number will likely exceed 250. **The JWF granted \$12,000 to SJSP this year.**



From an SJSP Client:

*Thank you so much for SJSP's advocacy and financial assistance with membership to join our neighborhood temple and towards my son's preschool. As a full-time student and single mother with an unbelievably tight budget, I can't begin to tell you how grateful I am and how much your generosity has helped me. The children with whom my son will build relationships, will likely be the same children with whom he'll attend Hebrew school and study for his Bar Mitzvah. Those strong Jewish community bonds are what every Jewish mom wishes for... so thank you for making my wish come true.*

#### **Project SARAH:**

Funded by the JWF for the second year, Project SARAH, a JFS program, reaches out to families struggling with domestic violence, increases public awareness and breaks stereotypes. Program staff tell us that the grant funds from the JWF are more important now than ever with domestic violence on the rise due in part to increased stress from the recession. In fact, this was confirmed at the focus group with rabbis the JWF conducted earlier this year. Many of the rabbis reported they were seeing significantly more congregants with domestic violence issues. **The JWF granted \$18,000 to Project SARAH this year.**

#### **Assessing the Needs of Jewish Teenage Girls:**

The JWF has also embarked on a planning process, headed by member Jennifer Levitt, to assess the needs of Jewish teenage girls in our community, particularly as related to self-esteem and identity. Jewish community leaders identified this as a top issue at the focus groups. You will be kept informed as the planning team conducts focus groups, interviews and research.

#### **Hands-On Project Brightens the Summers of 60 Children:**

The Hands-On Committee, led by Melissa Garfield Bartell, Barbara Lubin and Helene Ziman, put together 60 attractive, durable summer backpacks. These backpacks were given to children identified by JFS who are involved with JWF grant recipients Supporting Jewish Single Parents and Project SARAH. Each backpack contained fun summer items including a big beach towel, a BPA-free water bottle, an insulated lunch bag, and two name tags.

From one mother whose children received backpacks:

*"The generosity of the Jewish Women's Foundation reminds me of all the good in humanity. My children love the backpacks and are excited to reuse them for the coming school year!"*

## Become Involved with the Foundation

**As a member-driven organization, we need your wisdom and energy. The best way to contribute is to get involved on a committee.**

### **Education**

Chair: Ellen Marks

*Develops educational programs for JWF members and women in the community*

### **Grants**

Chair: Toby Eisenberg

*Assesses needs of Jewish women and girls and recommends grants to membership*

### **Hands On**

Chairs: Melissa Garfield Bartell, Barbara Lubin, Helene Ziman

*Actively reaches out to families involved in JWF-funded programs*

### **Marketing**

Chair: Judy Fisher

*Promotes the JWF internally and externally*

### **Membership**

Chairs: Phyllis Epstein and Orit Ostrowiak

*Recruits new JWF members*

If you are interested in serving on a committee or have any questions, please e-mail JWF Manager [Barbara Marcus](#).

## Membership Outreach Event Held at lululemon

In June, more than 50 women gathered at yoga apparel outfitter, lululemon athletica, in La Jolla to enjoy discount shopping, healthy bites and learn from a panel of experts on self-esteem and body-image issues facing teenage girls.

For more information about this event and others visit the [Jewish Women's Foundation online](#).



Left to right: Julie Bronstein, *Membership Co-chairs*;  
Phyllis Epstein and Orit Ostrowiak, and Jane Scher