



JEWISH COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
ORANGE COUNTY

NEWSLETTER

December 2023

11TH ANNUAL ENDOWMENT BOOK OF LIFE HONORING LEGACY DONORS AND ISRAEL

In a night filled with stories of legacy, heritage, and savory memories and flavors, the 11th Annual Endowment Book of Life event left an indelible mark on our Life & Legacy community.

A highlight of the evening was our special guest star, Gil Hovav, whose enchanting tales transported us to his childhood in Jerusalem. Born into a vibrant family of both Ashkenazi and Yemenite descent, Gil regaled us with anecdotes that painted a colorful picture of his upbringing. Gil traveled from Israel to attend our event, and it was a meaningful opportunity to express solidarity and honor the nation, especially during these challenging times.

As a culinary and storytelling maestro, Gil delved into the heart of his family's recipes, sharing the rich flavors and spices that defined his culinary heritage. The evening took a delicious turn as our guests indulged in these time-honored dishes, savoring the same tastes that shaped Gil's upbringing.

The culinary journey didn't end there. Attendees had the unique opportunity to craft their very own Yemenite-inspired spice blends, turning the event into a hands-on experience that resonated with the essence of tradition.

Our guests were presented with a copy of Gil's book, "Candies from Heaven," and were granted the special honor of having Gil personally sign their copies.

This community celebration was a testament to the power of preserving our legacy and the flavors that define who we are. It was an evening where stories, generosity, and culinary delights converged, leaving a lasting imprint on all who attended.

If you are not yet part of our Life & Legacy community, contact Wendy Arenson at wendy@jcfoc.org. Join those who have already created over 950 legacy commitments for our community - and let us honor **YOU** at next year's Endowment Book of Life event on October 20th, 2024.



MAZAL TOV TO THIS YEAR'S ENDOWMENT BOOK OF LIFE SIGNERS!



AND THE WINNER IS...

Congratulations to **Rabbi Chazzan Marcia Tilchin** of Jewish Collaborative of Orange County, recipient of this year's **Jewish Community Foundation Orange County's Founders Legacy Award**.

TOGETHER WE GUARANTEE A JEWISH TOMORROW

LIFE & LEGACY SPOTLIGHT

ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOLAR PROGRAM

“ Guest article written by Arie Katz, Founder of OCCSP and partner in the L&L initiative since its inception in 2013

The success of CSP's **LIFE & LEGACY** program is truly remarkable, as it has attracted over 100 dedicated members to its Legacy Circle. These individuals have demonstrated their commitment to the program through generous material legacy gifts. The Cherry family honored Bobbi Cherry's memory, Phyllis Gilmore remembered her husband Bernard Gilmore, the Sloan family commemorated Polly Sloan, and the Zeleznick family paid tribute to Ina and Lowell Zeleznick. With respect to each of these legacy gifts, CSP hosts annual programs for the entire community in their memory. This tradition not only preserves their legacies but also enriches the broader community, fostering connections and shared remembrance.

As Legacy member Rhea Dorn beautifully stated, 'From the moment I entered the CSP classroom 23 years ago, I knew that our Orange County Jewish community would become a special place. My continuing Jewish learning through the Community Scholar Program is more than I could have imagined. However, our Jewish community has gained even more. We are more connected to one another because of CSP.'

CSP is delighted to be a part of JCFOC's **LIFE & LEGACY** program!



L&L members on CSP trip to Spain, Oct. 2023



Maimonides and CSP



Rhea Dorn in Besalu, Spain



WEISSMAN ARTS 2024 ▶▶▶

A LEGACY GIFT IN ACTION

Through the **WEISSMAN ARTS** program, **JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ORANGE COUNTY** knows that art is a powerful force for bringing our community together.

Looking back on our 2023 program cycle, we hosted 30 events across the county. Working together with 22 program partners, we produced three major projects, including hosting a visiting Israeli visual artist, inspiring a 28-acre farm to embrace Sukkot and welcomed LA-based theatre dybbuk for a week-long residency in December. Our projects reached 6,500+ attendees. We hope you will join us in February for theatre dybbuk's final performance.

Thanks to the visionary support of the **Albert & Rhoda Yvette Weissman Endowment Fund**, we are able to foster a vibrant and dynamic Jewish community that celebrates and is drawn together by the transformative power of art. **Check out our 2024 programming!**

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

(Annotated), or In Sooth I Know Not Why I Am Sad

theatre
dybbuk at The UCI Little Theater

February 17, 2024 - 7:00 pm

BE THE CHANGE

with Jewish Arts Collaborative

April - June 2024 - Multi-Site

SUKKOT FESTIVAL

THE ECOLOGY CENTER

San Juan Capistrano

October 16 - 23, 2024