

## DWELL Festival: Harvest, Welcome, Gather A VIBRANT SUKKOT CELEBRATION

On October 20th, the Foundation's Weissman Arts program partnered with The Ecology Center to host DWELL Festival: Harvest, Welcome, Gather – A Sukkot Experience, celebrating the rich traditions of Sukkot with over **1,200 guests** from across Southern California. Together, we embraced the beauty of community, creativity, and connection to the land, all while honoring the Jewish harvest festival and its timeless values.

Against the stunning backdrop of autumn on the farm, attendees immersed themselves in **42 interactive experiences** that brought ancient traditions to life. Guests explored hands-on workshops like dill pickle making, kombucha demos, floral arranging, and nature crafts. Joyful drum circles and engaging farm tours added rhythm and movement to the day, while gardening panels, environmental educational panels, and experiences in architect-designed sukkot highlighted the interplay of art, sustainability, and Jewish heritage.

At the heart of the Festival stood the DWELL Design Challenge, a creative showcase that reimaged the sukkah—an iconic structure symbolizing hospitality and gratitude. Inspired by biblical guidelines and modern architectural ingenuity, five innovative designs took shape, brought to life by talented teams from Lehrer Architects LA, Petersen & Gottelier, SC Builders & Teale Architecture, and The Ecology Center. These sukkot served not only as shelters, but as vibrant expressions of our cultural emphasis on gathering together in celebration of community, artistic imagination, and sustainability, embodying the spirit of Sukkot in fresh and exciting ways.

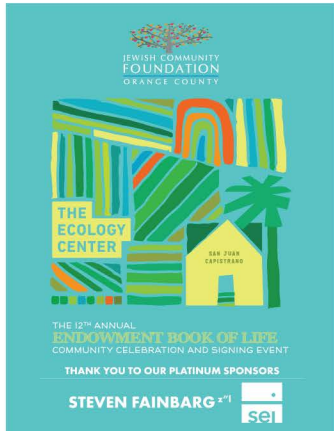
This Festival wouldn't have been possible without the enduring legacy of Albert and Rhoda Yvette Weissman, whose generous bequest established the Weissman Arts program. Their gift continues to infuse Jewish and greater Orange County with inspiring Jewish arts and cultural programming, bringing us together in meaningful ways.

**Thank you to everyone who joined us for this unforgettable celebration, helping us bring the Weissmans' dream to life. Stay tuned for more inspiring events from the Weissman Arts program—we can't wait to see you at the next one!**





## THE 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ENDOWMENT BOOK OF LIFE CELEBRATION A NIGHT OF LEGACY AND CONNECTION



On Sunday, October 20th, as the DWELL Festival day wrapped up, we led right into our 12th Annual Endowment Book of Life Celebration. In harmony with the spirit of Sukkot and LEGACY, the Jewish Community Foundation Orange County gathered together to celebrate the generous donors and dedicated partner organizations of the Life & Legacy program. This special evening marked an annual tradition honoring the values of commitment, community, and continuity that define our collective future.

Set amidst the stunning backdrop of The Ecology Center, the evening embodied the spirit of sustainability and connection.

Guests were treated to a delicious farm-to-table dinner, thoughtfully prepared on-site with fresh, organic ingredients sourced directly from the farm. This meal was a beautiful reflection of the mindfulness and gratitude inherent to honoring the harvest during the Sukkot holiday.

The celebration continued with a captivating performance by The Braid, which presented a newly commissioned Salon theater production inspired by the theme of "Dwell." Through touching, humorous, and surprising stories, the performance explored the spaces we inhabit—both physical and emotional—and their profound impact on our lives.

Thank you to all who joined us for this unforgettable evening. Your unwavering support and dedication are what keep the Life & Legacy program thriving, ensuring a strong and vibrant Jewish future for generations to come. Together, we guarantee a Jewish tomorrow.

If you haven't yet joined our Life & Legacy community and are interested in learning more, contact Wendy Arenson at [wendy@jcfoc.org](mailto:wendy@jcfoc.org) to find out how you can get involved. Join the over 1,000 people who have already made legacy commitments to our community, and let us honor YOU at next year's Endowment Book of Life Event!



MAZAL TOV to this year's  
Endowment Book of Life signers!



## HONORING A TRUE LEGACY, STEVEN FAINBARG z"l



This year's Jewish Community Foundation Orange County's Founders Legacy Award was presented posthumously to Steven Fainburg z"l, the ultimate champion of the concept of legacy. With immense gratitude, we honor Steven, who we sadly lost this past August.

Steven's unwavering dedication to our community was evident through his generous commitment of time and resources to causes he deeply cared about. His actions were driven by a profound desire to follow in his parents' footsteps and uphold their legacy of philanthropy.

The award was accepted on his behalf by his loving sister, Nancy Chase.

