A New Year

The phrase speaks to us. If we are fortunate, the New Year holds the potential for promises fulfilled, hopes answered, anticipations met. We eagerly face the New Year with expectations that are bright and joyful. We cannot wait for the New Year to begin!

And, if the past year has been difficult, we may see the New Year as the opportunity for change, for renewal, for leaving the past behind. And, for some, the thought of going into the New Year is more than one can bear. It means starting over, finding new meaning, looking for direction.

One phrase. Many possibilities.

This New Year, as leaders in our Jewish communities, we may enter the New Year with all of these thoughts and emotions. We see success in programs that have been built, adjustments that need to be made, or perhaps plans gone awry.

We also enter the New Year with many questions yet unanswered: Can Israel have lasting peace? Will anti-Semitism continue in Europe? Can we stem the tides of apathy and disaffiliation? These are difficult questions. They weigh on us and on our communities.

And in the end, as in the beginning, we know that only together, only as a community, only through our willingness to seize hope and grasp opportunities will these questions be answered successfully. Together, the promise of the New Year for renewal can be fulfilled and hopes become reality.

In this New Year, let us work together. For peace. For justice. For a joyful future.
JPRO Network Awards

JPRO Network Young Professional Award

Established in 1972, the JPRO Young Professional Award distinguishes young professionals who have demonstrated exemplary service and commitment in their profession. Nominating a young colleague is a valuable means of acknowledging his or her work and contributions to the success of your agency and community.

Criteria:
- 35 or younger
- 3-10 years of working in Jewish Communal Service
- 2 or more years in nominating organization
- Demonstrates a successful impact on his/her work, agency, field of research
- Takes initiative
- Committed to the future vitality and vibrancy of the Jewish Community and people
- Employment must be of benefit to the North American Jewish Community

The 2014 JPRO Young Professional Award provides a 10-day educational seminar to Europe and Israel. The seminar will focus on Jewish identity and peoplehood, exploring innovative programming and redefining relationships. Travel will be during January, 2015.

For more information, see below and go to www.JPRO.org

The Bernard Rodkin Professional Development Israel Fellowship

The Bernard Rodkin Professional Development Israel Fellowship provides an opportunity to increase one’s knowledge and understanding of Israeli society and its social welfare system. The recipient must present a well articulated interest in participating in a 10-day Professional Development Experience in Europe and Israel which will enhance his/her Jewish community organization skills and career development.

The Bernard Rodkin Professional Development Israel Fellowship will be granted to a select number of individuals who
- currently work in a JPRO Network Member Agency or Organization
- have worked professionally in the field of Jewish Communal Service for at least 3 years
- demonstrate a long term commitment to a professional career in the Jewish community

Objectives:
- To learn about existing philanthropic partnerships with the Diaspora
- To explore best-practices in project development, planning and
- To understand the role of voluntary agencies vis-à-vis the public sector and how specific voluntary agencies function
- To study the societal issues confronting Israel and World Jewry
- To explore national social policy and service delivery strategies

To Download nomination forms for both awards, and to see qualifications and criteria for applying, go to www.JPRO.org.

September 15, 2014 at Noon EST Deadline

For more information, email info@jpro.org or call (212) 284-6945
MANDELKORN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

There is no greater honor then to be recognized by your peers for outstanding contributions to the field of Jewish community practice.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2014 DEADLINE

Ben Mandelkorn was the founding President and first Executive Director of AJCOP. He served as the first Executive Director of the Columbus Jewish Federation, which established this award to honor his leadership and dedication, which spanned more than 43 years.

The MANDELKORN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD annually recognizes a full time individual who has made a significant contribution to the field of Jewish community organization practice.

To qualify, one must have a minimum of ten years in the field of Jewish community organizational practice.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2014 award. Nomination Forms should be emailed to info@jcsana.org by Monday, September 15, 2014, no later than NOON EST.

The Award Winner will be honored at the General Assembly of JFNA November 10, 2014 in National Harbor, Maryland.

Download nomination forms at www.JPRO.org.

For more information, email info@jcsana.org or call (212) 284-6945

www.JPRO.org
The Edell Award sends one young professional to experience the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America for the first time, with preference given to those from a small or intermediate agency. Through this national exposure to Jewish leaders, colleagues, and best practices, the Scholarship hopes to give younger professionals a clearer sense of the national system, unique opportunities for learning practice and most importantly, the motivation to continue their careers in Jewish community work.

Criteria:
♦ Has been a professional in the field of Jewish Community Organization Practice for five (5) years or less.
♦ Is employed in a Federation or National Jewish agency affiliated with JPRO. Preference given to those whose agency’s annual fundraising does not exceed $3 million.
♦ Will be a first time attendee at the General Assembly as a professional.
♦ Must be 35 or younger.

The 2014 Norman Edell Award will be honored at the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America to be held November 9-11, 2014; in National Harbor, MD.

Nominations are due in the JPRO office by Monday, September 15, 2014, without exception.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO WWW.JPRO.ORG

Local Groups

Jewish Communal Professionals of Southern California (JCPSC)
34th Annual Dinner Banquet

date & Time: Wednesday, September 17, 2014; 5:45 p.m. PST
Location: Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel
Honoring:
Dr. Ron Wofson, American Jewish University
Jonathan Schreiber, Cedars-Sinai
Elinor Marks-Gordon, Jewish Family Service of L.S.
Leah Kitz, new Community Jewish High School
Maggie Howard, Anti-Defamation League
Amy Popkin, The Jewish Federation of Greater L.A.
Lilia Arbona, The Jewish Federation of Greater L.A.

For more information, go to www.jcpsocal.org/awards-dinner.org or email JCPSCLA@yahoo.com.

JPRO St. Louis
The Next Big Idea

JPro St Louis is sponsoring The Next Big Idea, a six-part series on professional leadership and innovation. The first two workshops focused on Innovation in the Jewish Community with Dr. David Bryfman and then, the Power of You with Noomi Melchior Natan, international consultant, with Maharat Rori Picker Niess of Congregation B’nai Amoona. In November, Jesse Barash, owner of Zero Gravity Facilitation, will lead a session on The Power of Idea Generation. Participants will experience high level structured brainstorming as a model for boosting creativity and generating new ideas. The series continues in 2015 with The Power of Networks and The Power of a Clear Message and culminates in Gefilte Tank: The Power of Community, based on the TV show Shark Tank. For details, contact Marci Mayer Eisen at 314-442-3810 or meisen@jfedstl.org.

DFI—The Darrell Friedman Institute for Professional Development at the Weinberg Center; Baltimore, MD

Yasher Koach on JPRO Day!

The internationally acclaimed communication expert, Michael Brandwein, was the facilitator for DFI’s JPRO day on August 6, kicking off a year of relationship building and collaboration, leading workshops on the Importance of Changeability, Conflict Communication, and the Value of Varying Views. With 165 professionals in attendance, the winners of the Challenge of Collaboration award presented their programs: Jewish Community Garden, 4 Rabbis: 5 Opinions, and Deafblind Shabbaton, encouraging relationship building and collaborative efforts in the Baltimore Jewish community.

New Beginnings: Preparing Ourselves for a Productive Year

Date & Time: Monday, September 15, 2014; 12-1:30 p.m. EDT
Location: Park Heights JCC, Baltimore, MD

In this interactive workshop during the month of Elul, professionals prepare for the High Holidays with self-reflection, relationship building and repair, leading to a year filled with satisfaction and collaboration.

For more information, go to www.thedfi.org.
Events & Updates

My Jewish Coach
Presented by Lisa Colton

Webinar: Passion for Process: How to Create Engaging and Successful Committees, Teams, Boards and Collaborations

Date & Time: Wednesday, September 17, 2014; 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST

Presented by Deborah Grayson Riegel, President, MyJewishCoach.com

Webinar: Delegate without Drama

Date & Time: Wednesday, December 31, 2014; 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM, EST

For more information go to myjewishcoach.com.

International Association of Jewish Vocational Services (IAJVS)

2014 Annual Conference

The 2014 joint IAJVS & AJFCA Annual Conference took place May 4th - 6th at the Fairmont, Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal, Canada. With over 300 conference attendees, the networking and shared learning was a big success. IAJVS would like to thank the conference hosts at Agency Ometz. Yasher Koach to the 2014 Award winners!

Pictured from Left to Right: Kim Coulter, Lorie Shekter-Wolfsen, Stefanie K. Fine, Jay Spector, Howard Berger, Peter Fraenkel, Allison Steinberg, Nancy Fisher, Caren Ford, Peggy Himsl, Ira Machowsky, Virginia Cruickshank, Gail Magaliff, David Marcu, Genie Cohen, Rick Aranson, Maryann Warrington, RoMaine Jones and Joe Cipolla

Jewish Climate Change Campaign and Hazon

People's Climate March NYC

Date: Sunday, September 21, 2014

A Jewish contingent will march alongside other faith communities, labor unions and environment groups to call on world leaders convening at the UN to take strong action for a world safe from the ravages of climate change. The March is an appropriate way to begin the new year of 5775, which is a Shmita (sabbatical) year in which the Torah instructs us to nurture the life-giving capacities of the earth and the people who depend on it.

For more information go to www.jewishclimatecampaign.org or email mirele.goldsmith@hazon.org

JDC Entwine

Global Jewish Service Corps Fellows 2014-2015 Cohort

The JSC Fellowship is a year-long, paid opportunity for Jewish young professionals to volunteer overseas with JDC. The new cohort, a group of young men and women from the United States, Canada, Argentina, England, and Australia, will spend the year responding to international Jewish and humanitarian needs, supporting JDC’s work in 14 countries around the world, including China, Estonia, India, Turkey, Argentina, and the Philippines.

They just spent a week in New York for their pre-departure orientation! Check back with JDC Entwine on Facebook and Instagram to see updates from the cohort in the field. For more information go to www.jdcentwine.org.
Man as Machine
By Brian Silberberg, JPRO Benefit Plans Administrator

Recently, a colleague shared a metaphor which I found very interesting. The ensuing discussion was thought provoking. One can conjure up many individual scenarios of just how a human being is similar to a machine. In my role as an educator of Financial Services, I come in contact with both young and seasoned JPRO’s who below the surface believe they are indestructible and invincible and who view a shield of protection from accident and illness as one solely designed for other guy who is less fortunate.

Did you secure an extended warranty on the last car or major household appliance that you purchased, given the vulnerability of the moving and working parts of a machine in general?

Assuming you did as most of us would, ask yourself why?
- Were you planning on keeping the machine for a long time?
- Were you less than 100% confident that the working parts of the machine will never break down and not perform to your satisfaction?

If a warranty for your body were available, would you purchase it?
- Do you plan on keeping your body for a long time?
- Is there any chance at all that your body may be vulnerable to breaking down before its life cycle has ceased?

If you have answered yes to these questions, you may be able to take the first step in breaking down an emotional defense barrier that often times exists when one is healthy, active and unfortunately, not prepared.

Of course if there were a warranty for our bodies we would all make that invaluable purchase but such a warranty, sadly does not exist. What does exist is the availability to be properly prepared financially because quite simply, there is in fact no warranty or guarantees for any of us.

Whether you are that young or seasoned pro and whether you are single or married with a young family, none of us, like our machines are indestructible and invincible.

Contact our administrators for JPRO Benefit Plans, Brian and Irving Silberberg at:
- Telephone: 1-800-597-9245
- E-mail: bsilberberg@ceteraadvisors.com
- Website: www.jcsabenefitplans.com

Graduate Programs

The University of Michigan’s Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP) offers a distinctive educational opportunity for emerging leaders committed to helping Jewish communities meet 21st-century challenges while also addressing broader social concerns. In this twenty-month program, students earn a Master's of Social Work degree and a Certificate in Jewish Communal Leadership. For more information and to learn about the application process, please visit http://ssw.umich.edu/offices/jewish-communal-leadership-program.

The University of Michigan's Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP) warmly welcomes our new students: Jaime Bean, Mayan Herman, Katherine Malekoff, Allison Rosen, Aubree Sepler, and Emily Zussman. We congratulate them on receiving scholarships for graduate study through our program and look forward to their future contributions to the field of Jewish Communal Service.

www.JPRO.org
The Graduate School of The Jewish Theological Seminary offers the most extensive academic program in advanced Jewish studies in North America, awarding master’s and doctoral degrees in numerous areas of specialization including Jewish Ethics, Modern Jewish Studies and Jewish Professional Leadership. Students delve deeply into an area of specialization while also acquiring a broad-based knowledge of the Jewish experience.

Professional development is a significant part of students’ experiences: students present their research and develop skills while being mentored by faculty, and participate in workshops in which they hone their skills as they develop their careers. Alumni of The Graduate School successfully serve as professors, educators, organizational leaders, professionals, lay leaders, and more.

Many students are interested in The Jewish Professional Leadership Program, which prepares students for careers in the Jewish community by providing them with the essential knowledge, skills, and experience to meet the challenge of building Jewish community. Students may apply to JTS and Columbia University’s School of Social Work (CSSW), or Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). At JTS, students study Jewish history, tradition, and culture with JTS’s esteemed Jewish studies faculty. At CSSW or SIPA, students study non-profit management and leadership.

Rolling admissions are offered through the spring and summer. For more information on our programs and application process, please contact Director of Admissions Abby Eisenberg at abeisenberg@jtsa.edu or (212) 678-8032, or visit www.jtsa.edu/graduate.

The William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education, the largest pluralistic school of Jewish education in North America, offers master’s degrees in Jewish education with concentrations in Day School Teaching and Educational Leadership in Synagogues and Communal Settings. All students study experiential education, pedagogy, and Jewish text, and participate in hands-on training. Students are eligible for generous tuition fellowships. In-residence and online options, and full-time and part-time options are available for MA students. MA as well as non-JTS students may also apply for Kesher Hadash, The Davidson School’s groundbreaking semester-in-Israel program.

Rolling admissions are offered through the spring and summer. For more information on our programs and application process, please contact Director of Admissions Abby Eisenberg at abeisenberg@jtsa.edu or (212) 678-8032, or visit www.jtsa.edu/davidson.

The Journal of Jewish Communal Service will be distributed this month! For more information, contact the JCSA Office. info@jcsana.org or call 212-284-6945
There are those who won’t go. Those who will go but do not want to. Some find no meaning. Some find it torturously long or dull. Some resent paying. Some just can’t get their act together to reserve a seat on time.

The high holidays are upon us, and with them, we confront the reality that American Jews don’t seem to particularly like being in the synagogue. The Pew study indicates that (roughly) only a quarter of us attend with regularity, half a few times a year or seldom, and a quarter never. Among all Americans, twice as many attend services regularly, and half as many never—and the Christian appetite for services appears to be a big driver of the overall averages.

The interesting thing is that the high holiday services themselves are a testimony to the love affair of the Jewish people with their liturgy—a love affair that seems to have withered in America. The halachically-mandated high holiday services would not be unduly long. On Rosh Hashanah, the Amida might take an extra few minutes due to the addition of two extra blessings, and on Yom Kippur, we’d have to add perhaps twenty minutes in the evening for the additional Neila service. But, instead, traditional services became enormously elongated in the middle ages by the addition of myriad liturgical poems (piyyutim), Yizkor, additional blasts of the shofar, and long flights of cantorial fancy. Some of these additions—such as Yizkor and the Yom Kippur martyrology poem, which were introduced following the massacres of the Crusades—reflected the people’s deep-seated need to address tragedy. But much is pure celebration of God’s love and mercy. Either way, these additions were not compelled by Jewish law; some of them arguably violate Talmudic requirements. The bottom line is that Jews found meaning, solace, and comradery in communal worship—even arts and entertainment in a pre-Hollywood world. They actually wanted to sit and listen to the hazzan.

And, of course, the Pew statistics remind us that our problem is not a high holiday affair. Jews avoid Shabbat services in droves; even a ten-minute weeknight Ma’ariv is simply off the radar screen—except maybe at a shiva. Perhaps it is the archaic nature of the service—the foreign language and ancient texts. But a plethora of Anglicized, abridged, and creative service options have not stemmed the trend. And even in the Orthodox community, I hear people speak of the JFK crowd—that is, the Just For Kiddush latecomers.

More likely, this is not just the synagogues’ problem. I’d venture that many of the underlying causes of declining participation in synagogue services are the same as those that threaten federation campaigns and have JCC’s, nursing homes, or family service agencies serving increasingly mixed demographics. Those of us in the field see the trends and comprehend the challenges.

Following the shofar blasts, those of us who are in shul ask God to accept our prayers as we sing Areshet S’fateinu:

אַרְשֵׁת שְׁפַטֵּינוּ עַרְבּ לְפָנֵי – מָלֵךְ וְרָם יוֹשֵׁה. מַבִּט וְמַאֱזֵן מִיבָּאָי וְמקִישֵׁה.

May our words be pleasing before You, exalted King, who understands and hears, looks and listens.

Our liturgy is speaking to us, telling us that God comprehends because he looks and listens and hears. We are in our field and attending services because we find meaning in community; we can never fully understand those who don’t. Our liturgy is speaking to us, telling us that we must look and listen and hear those who are not in shul with us if ever we are to understand how to make our service—liturgical and communal—beautiful to them.

 Shanah tovah.

Mazel Tovs

Mazel Tov to Michelle Westmiller, JCPSC member, on her marriage to Barak Malkin.
Mazel Tov to Abby Knopp on her recent appointment as COO of the Jewish Education Project.
Mazel Tov to Laura Rodriguez, Chair of JPRO Miami, on her new position as the Director of Development at Lehrman Community Day School.
Mazel Tov to Yahaira Arias, Executive Assistant to the President and CEO of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation on her Labor Day marriage to Benny Taveras.
Mazel Tov to Alan Sweifach on his appointment as the Director of Strategic Development Support for JAFI.
Mazel Tov to Karin Blum on her new position as Chief Development Officer for JVS.
Mazel Tov to Emily Sweet, on her new position as Executive Director for the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) and Government Affairs at the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

www.JPRO.org
Fellowships and Scholarships

Global Justice Fellowship
A year-long program of learning, activism and leadership to promote global justice

**Dates:** January 2015 - December 2015

Including travel to the Dominican Republic **June 7 - 16, 2015.**

- **Learn** about human rights and international development, including Jewish perspectives
- **Develop** advocacy and organizing skills
- **Take action** as part of AJWS’s *We Believe* campaign, focusing on ending violence against women, girls and LGBT people
- **Organize** your communities to advocate for human rights
- **Lobby** members of Congress
- **Join** a national network of American Jewish leaders dedicated to promoting human rights and ending poverty.

To apply or learn more, visit www.ajw.org/NYFellowship2015

JCC Association Graduate Scholarship
The scholarship application for the 2015-2016 school year is open.

The scholarship is intended for applicants interested in working in a JCC after graduation. Scholarships up to $20,000 for two years of study are available. Tuition Assistance is also available for current Full Time JCC Professionals who are attending Grad school part time.

For applications and more information, please visit JCCWorks.com.

Deadline for application submission is **February 1, 2015.**

Call for Grants: 2014 Natan Grant Application Process Now Open

The **Natan Fund**, a giving circle of young philanthropists supporting Jewish and Israeli social innovation, is now accepting initial Letters of Inquiry (LOI) from new applicants in two program areas: Emerging Models of Jewish Connection in North America and Jewish Peoplehood. The deadline to apply is by **5pm EDT on Tuesday, September 30, 2014.** For more information go to www.natan.org or contact Jackie Fishman at Jackie@natan.org.

Employment Opportunities

**Hillel** is looking for top executives, educators and engagers that want to make an impact on the future of the Jewish people. Positions are available around the county. Please check out www.jobs.hillel.org or contact Aviva Zucker Snyder, Talent Recruiter at asnyder@hillel.org, to find out more!

The **Mandel Center for Leadership Excellence at the Jewish Federations of North America** is looking for candidates for open positions across North America. Exciting job opportunities include a Senior Associate, Planning and Allocations at the Jewish Federation of St. Louis and a Development Officer at the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest, New Jersey. To learn more and apply, visit www.jfna.org/mandelcenter or email personnel@jewishfederations.org.

The **JCC Association** is looking to hire candidates for open positions. If you, or you know of someone interested in working for a JCC please visit www.jccworks.com for a complete listing of jobs openings across the US and Canada.

Mission

The JPRO Network supports the enhancement of professional Jewish communal leadership, uniting a broad spectrum of individuals, entities and disciplines sharing a commitment to advancing their communities guided by Jewish values.

Visit our website: www.jpro.org

Powered by: The JPRO Network

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