Work Above the Bull: Spark the Light!
Brenda Gevertz, JPRO Network Executive Director

As Jewish community professionals, we talk a lot about leadership and, more often than not, we are referred to as leaders. Perhaps it’s in our DNA, passed down through the generations since Abraham. We expect our volunteers to be leaders and we participate in leadership development programs. Instantaneously, as we take positions in the Jewish social sector, we ascend to leadership. There is something empowering in this assumed role as a leader and much that is more daunting.

Let’s face it, leaders guide and direct others—that’s how dictionaries define what a leader is. Some leaders don’t have followers, but we’re not so interested in being that kind of leader. We are interested in bringing about change and it’s rare to do that single-handedly in a community.

On a recent webinar offered by the Stanford Social Innovation Review, Linda Wood of the Haas Fund offered the foundation’s definition of leadership: mobilizing others to take action. That’s a powerful role and worthy of the title “Leader.” That is exactly what most of us do day in and day out. We encourage clients to change debilitating behavior, offer opportunities for charitable giving, plan social service delivery systems or provide educational resources. We may have a handful of clients or be responsible for the well-being of thousands. We may not define ourselves as leaders, yet few of us would be outside of this definition. Even with such important roles, Wood noted that less than 1% of all philanthropic dollars go to strengthening leadership. This is a challenge for all of us.

If we are to guide, direct and mobilize others, we need the tools and knowledge to do so. No one wants to be mis-directed. No one wants to jump on a bus to nowhere or worse. None of us, I should hope, wants to be that lost driver. That is why, month after month, these pages are filled with professional development programs. That is why, month after month, we talk about being a Jewish leader. That is why, at this time of Hanukkah, we recall the power of leadership. Spark the light!

Happy Hanukkah

Wishing you a Joyous and Happy Hanukkah filled with many bright lights.

Deadline for news you would like to share in the January issue of the eNews is Tuesday, December 30, 2014. Contact info@jpro.org.
Local Groups

**JPro New Jersey**

*From Networking to Relationship: Getting past “So, what do you do?”*

**Date & Time:** Friday, December 12, 2014; 9-11 AM EDT  
**Location:** Alex Aidekman Family Jewish Community Campus (901 Route 10, Whippany, NJ 07981)

The workshop will cover: Opening the conversation, determining the right communications style, being sensitive to the time invested by yourself and your contacts, maintaining relationships, and sharing tools and techniques for keeping it together.

To register, go to [www.tinyurl.com/jpornjfall2014](http://www.tinyurl.com/jpornjfall2014). For more information, contact sgoldberg@thepartnershipnj.org.

**JPro San Diego**

*San Diego Hanukkah Celebration for Staff of Jewish Community Organizations*

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, December 10, 2014; 8-10 AM PST  
**Location:** Congregation Beth Israel (9001 Towne Centre Drive, San Diego, 92122)  
Breakfast included, dietary laws observed.

For more information, go to [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jpro-san-diego-hanukkah-celebration-tickets-14336766655](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jpro-san-diego-hanukkah-celebration-tickets-14336766655)

**Advancing Jewish Professionals of New York (AJP)**

*Ideation Event*

**Date:** Tuesday, January 27, 2015

More information will be available soon. Visit AJP’s Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/ajpnych/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ajpnych/)

**JPro St. Louis**

*10th Annual JPro St. Louis Recognition Luncheon*

**Date & Time:** Thursday, January 29, 2015; 11:30 AM—1:20 PM

For more information, go to [www.jewishinstlouis.org/jpro14](http://www.jewishinstlouis.org/jpro14).

Yasher Koach on their Jewish Coaching event.

More than 40 people from 22 different organizations gathered to join in a Jewish Coaching event. Deborah Grayson Riegel presented and the group connected with coaching pairs. Below are some pictures of the event.

**JPro Miami**

On December 3rd, JPro Miami hosted Dr. Erica Brown, Author, Facilitator and Leading Authority on Jewish Leadership. She spoke about how to deal with difficult people. She is pictured (left) speaking at the event.

Renew your membership for the 2014-2015 year.

All JPRO 2013-2014 members receive FREE one-year membership renewal.

Contact Mimi Klimberg at MKlimberg@gmjf.org for more information.

**Jewish Communal Professionals of Southern California (JCPSC)**

*iEngage Conference*

A special one-day conference for Los Angeles Jewish leaders.

Monday, December 15, 2014; 8:30 AM—5:30 PM PDT at UCLA Hillel, 574 Gilgard Avenue, Los Angeles

**Registration:** $36—regular/$18—students

Register online at [www.shalomhartman.org/loyalty-LA](http://www.shalomhartman.org/loyalty-LA). JCPSC is proud to partner with the Hartman Institute on December 15th for an important one-day conference on the theme of "Loyalty, Empathy, and Moral Clarity," geared specifically for "Jewish communal professionals, educators, rabbis, and board chairs."

[www.JPRO.org](http://www.JPRO.org)
A Millennial Safety Net
By Brian Silberberg, JPRO Benefit Plans Administrator

Just prior to the Thanksgiving holiday I had an interesting discussion with a Local Group member on the West Coast. This young member asked me to review and make suggestions to his various insurance plans which are protecting himself and his young family. When we broached the topic of life insurance which I found to be an exposure, we both found the sharing of ideas and beliefs to be enlightening.

As a 29 year old professional with a wife and young child, he was comfortable with the life insurance protection afforded him by his agency. His wife has similar protection with her employer. They had never given thought to how prevalent and important portability features are as they relate to insurance for a young pro building a career in Jewish Communal Service.

In addition, after discussing their current life stage they quickly realized that coverage for 2X salary was simply insufficient protection. The sole family focus had always been on being young, in good health and overall invincibility and not on hard core existing obligations.

Many Millennials will often protect a mortgage and often overlook college funding, everyday obligations that are taken for granted and future retirement dreams and goals at a time when the loss of income would be catastrophic to the nurturing stages of growing assets. The time for the millennial generation to purchase protection is now, when one is young and healthy. Term insurance that is purchased privately is a wonderful and very cost effective safety net for a young family wishing to alleviate their risk of existing and future responsibilities should there be a loss of income.

Contact our administratos 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) is accepting applications for Fall 2015 on a space-available basis. Earn an MSW degree and Certificate in Jewish Communal Leadership in 20 months. JCLP is for emerging leaders committed to helping Jewish communities meet 21st-century challenges while also addressing broader social concerns. Dual-degree options and coursework in community organizing, management, intergroup dialogue, and therapeutic interventions. Field placements locally, nationally, and internationally through a partnership with University of Haifa. For more information, visit their website: http://ssw.umich.edu/offices/jewish-communal-leadership-program or contact Andrea Siegel: ansiegel@umich.edu.

JCLP students and staff at the 2014 GA with alumni Debby Barton Grant (Indianapolis), Jeff Levin (Miami), and Rachel Pereles (St. Louis). JPRO Network organized a Graduate Student Meet-Up and Orientation, attended by all ten JCLP student delegates at the GA, as well as students from other programs.
Graduate Programs Continued...

The Jewish Theological Seminary of America Jewish Studies and Social Work Program

The Jewish Professional Leadership (JPL) Program is the umbrella for the two dual-degree programs through The Graduate School of JTS and Columbia University. Students in the JPL Program participate in an integration seminar which allows them to explore the intersection of their two masters as well as other relevant issues in the Jewish community. Go to http://jtsa.edu/Academics/Registrar/Academic_Bulletin/AB_Jewish_Studies_and_Social_Work.xml for more information.

The Jewish Theological Seminary of America Jewish Studies and Public Administration Program

The Jewish Professional Leadership (JPL) Program is the umbrella for the two dual-degree programs through The Graduate School of JTS and Columbia University. Students in the JPL Program participate in an integration seminar which allows them to explore the intersection of their two master's as well as other relevant issues in the Jewish community.

Students study simultaneously at both schools and are awarded two degrees: Master of Arts in Jewish Studies (JTS) and Master of Public Administration (Columbia). At The Graduate School, students take twenty-four credits. In order to fulfill prerequisite requirements, a student may need to take additional Jewish studies and Hebrew courses prior to graduation. An additional six credits toward the degree are transferred from SIPA. Go to http://jtsa.edu/Academics/Registrar/Academic_Bulletin/AB_Jewish_Studies_and_Public_Administration.xml for more information.

Giving Purpose to Our Work

By Arthur Sandman, Jewish Agency for Israel, Executive Vice President

The confluence of biotech and hi-tech has yielded a new fascination with family. First, there were sites like ancestry.com, where you could research and build family trees. But now we can add DNA analysis to map our ancestry and relationships at sites like 23andme. It turns out that everyone is now your mishpachah; if you aren’t the third cousin four times removed of President Obama, then you are probably the fourth cousin three times removed of Paris Hilton. Despite the irony that we may ignore the family at home in order to spend our waking hours connecting online to the family we don’t know we have, perhaps technology is trying to remind us that, at a moment when we are professionally obsessed with the challenge of Jewish peoplehood, the answer lies in a concept far less abstract. Family.

The Torah tells us, “I will make of you a great nation,” God told Abraham. Yet only one of Abraham’s sons, Isaac, followed in his footsteps. So too Isaac’s sons—only Jacob followed. Let’s face it. The forefathers were lousy fathers. Abraham cast off Ishmael at Sarah’s request and nearly butchered Isaac at God’s. Isaac and his wife, Rebecca, played favorites and prodded their sons into conflict. They could not create a nation because they could not even create a family. Ultimately, it was Jacob’s sons—Joseph and his brothers—who elected a shared destiny and become a nation, a people. But it was no fault of Jacob that they did so; he was a lousy father, too.

Jacob favored Joseph as the firstborn of his favored wife Rachel. It made Joseph arrogant, compelling the other sons to sell him into slavery. Later in the saga, when the brothers—save for Benjamin—are sent by Jacob to Egypt to obtain food, Joseph contrives the famous test of his family. He took Simon hostage, to be freed only if his brothers produced Benjamin. When the remaining brothers returned to their father, Jacob would not give permission to send Benjamin to Egypt. Having earlier split his family by favoring one son, Jacob now chose to abandon Simon rather than risk his replacement-favorite, Benjamin. Jacob was imprisoned in his own patterns of behavior. He was, like his father and grandfather, incapable of uniting his family.

Finally, Jacob’s hand was forced only by imminent starvation. Judah convinced him to allow all the sons, including Benjamin, to return to Egypt. Now Joseph schemed to place Benjamin into captivity. Judah, who had once sold his father’s favorite into slavery, offered himself as hostage, to redeem the replacement-favorite. Unlike his father, Judah escaped the limitations of his past. And in doing so, he unified his family—he created a people. His exploit is reflected in the ascendancy of Judah as the preeminent tribe and memorialized by our designation as Jews (from Judah).

Much of our work is oriented at trying to build peoplehood or community. But these are abstract concepts. Disenfranchised Jews have no interest in connecting to their people because “peoplehood” is bizarre professional jargon that we cannot even properly define. But family is deeply understood—not just intellectually, but emotionally. Judah’s lesson for us is that we must tend to building family. At one level, that’s a personal endeavor, as we strengthen the bonds of our immediate families and infuse our family life with Jewish content. After all, strong Jewish families are essential building blocks to Jewish survival. But it also means bringing the warm embrace of family to our fellow Jews who are alienated from Jewish family. Sometimes, like with Judah, it means placing ourself in the situation he desired, breaks down. The Torah tells us, v’lo ya’chul Yosef nitpe’en, “Joseph could no longer control himself.”

Too often we think of ourselves as those who provide access to Jewish community, and only sometimes does it work. When, instead, we offer ourselves wholeheartedly and selflessly, perhaps then those who seek to stand apart from community will no longer be able to control themselves. For they will have found family.
Events & Updates

AJAS

Webinar: Pass it On—Older Adults, Fraud & the Federal Trade Commission

Date & Time: Tuesday, December 16, 2014; 1:00 PM—3:00 PM EST
Presented by Jennifer Leach, Acting Assistant Director, Division of Consumer and Business Education, Federal Trade Commission & Lisa Schifferle, Attorney, Federal Trade Commission

This webinar will discuss the FTC’s new consumer education campaign for active older people - Pass It On. The campaign is based on the idea that older adults - a group with life experience and social networks - are part of the solution, not simply the victims of scammers. Pass It On acknowledges their experience, expertise, and trusted place in the community. It reinforces what they already know about some common scams, and gives them the tools to start conversations about these scams with a friend, neighbor or relative.

For more information, email Rachel@ajas.org.

My Jewish Coach

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.

There is a new pension law now available to survivors who were in forced labor under the Nazis. Germany has agreed that these survivors and their heirs are qualified for a pension payout. For more information, please contact info@beitahavavetorah.com or call 888-888-2180. Applications may be downloaded at www.beitahavavetorah.com.

Employment Opportunities

Synagogue Council of Massachusetts (SCM) is seeking an Executive Director that will supervise and coordinate SCM programs, provide leadership to SCM, oversee office management, budget and finance, fundraise, act as SCM’s ambassador to the community, work with the support officers, Board and volunteers, and collaborate with other Jewish agencies. For more details, please go to http://tinyurl.com/n8mfgzx or to apply, send a resume and cover letter to Fred Cohen at SCMsearch15@gmail.com.

The Kaplen JCC on the Palisades is looking for a Director of Children’s Programming. Some duties of the Director include organizing and collaborating on programs for children and their families, organizing departmental programs, designing marketing materials, serving as support to Teen department programming and writing grants. For more information or to apply, email mgreenbaum@jccotp.org.

Bend the Arc is looking for an Administrative Assistant of Programs, a Development Officer, and a National Organizer to join their team. Qualifications and responsibilities vary based on position. Bend the Arc helps to bring Jews together from across the country to advocate and organize for a more just and equal society. Their headquarters are in New York, and they have offices in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Boston, with chapters organizing nationwide. For more information about the open positions, please contact jobs@bendthearc.us.

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 the Director of NextGen Detroit at the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit; Campaign Director at the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando and the Women’s Philanthropy Director/Assistant Director of FRD at the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas. 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 for JCC overnight camps for Summer 2015. Candidates must be creative, dynamic educators who understand the value and power of overnight camp and can help facilitate thriving Jewish learning environments. To apply, send a cover letter and resume to Matt Abrams Gerber at mabramsgerber@jcca.org.

www.JPRO.org
Mazal Tovs

**Mazal Tov** to **Rebecca Porath**, General Council, JFNA and her husband, **Daniel Septimus**, Executive Director, Sefaria on the birth of their twin boys.

Fellowships and Scholarships

### JDC Entwine
**Global Jewish Service Corps Fellows**
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](http://www.jdcentwine.org).

### 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](http://www.jccworks.com).

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

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.