



Howard Pearl and Erin Combs Pearl (she's gala co-chair), Jamie Carr (gala co-chair), Scott Schindler (gala co-chair), Ilene Mittman (honoree), Norma Chavez-Peterson (honoree), Aviva Saad (honoree)



Michael Jeser (Jewish Federation CEO), Dr. Bob Rubenstein and Marie Raftery (dinner sponsors; she's JFS board chair), Michael Hopkins (JFS CEO), Rachel and Adam Welland (he's incoming JFS board chair)



Gabriel and Lauren Avraham, Liz Nederlander Coden and Dr. Dan Coden, Hanna and Mark Gleiberman



David Rolland, Jean Walcher, Gad Shaanan, Theresa Dupuis, Marcia Hazan and Mark Cammell



Ed Kuenster, Cathy Capper, Lesley Alexander, John Flores, Ewa Knopf, Patrick Finn

A second century of service

STORY AND PHOTOS BY VINCENT ANDRUNAS • SPECIAL TO THE U-T
JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE GALA

Jewish Family Service had its beginnings in 1918, shortly after the First World War ended. Always committed to making a positive difference in people's lives, the organization's focus evolved toward family strengthening and counseling, eventually becoming a client-centered, impact-driven human services agency working to build a stronger, healthier, more resilient San Diego. Its approach is rooted in supportive personal relationships and strong community partnerships, and the services it delivers foster the health, skills, confidence, and resilience of every person it serves. Through a range of integrated services, JFS touches the lives of many thousands of people annually, regardless of their faith or background.

Its annual "Heart & Soul" fundraising gala is held every April. Last year's gala celebrated the success of JFS' first 100 years, and the recent 2019 event began its second century. Held as usual at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla, it was an evening of captivating stories and magical moments — including entertaining close-up and on-stage illusions performed by "Magic Mike."

A reception in (and around) the Hyatt's glass pavilion began the festivities. A big silent auction enticed bidders. Sushi on a Roll worked a large sushi bar on the patio, and there was a risotto bar indoors. Both got rave reviews, and were so popular that it was difficult to lure the 600 guests into the ballroom for dinner and the event program.

Gala chairs Jamie Carr, Erin Combs Pearl, and Scott Schindler welcomed them. CEO Michael Hopkins and board chair Marie Raftery spoke of JFS' work in the San Diego community (which was also illustrated on six video screens). A paddle-raise drew generous pledges, and when the total approached the \$200,000 honorary gala chairs Evelyn and Ernest Rady had promised to match, the Radys promptly lifted the limit! A live auction offered concert packages for Paul McCartney at Petco Park, and Billy Joel in New York (with a choice of Broadway shows).

After a dinner featuring Antarctic salmon superbly prepared by the Hyatt's chef, the 2019 Mitzvah Honorees were introduced. Ilene Mittman and Aviva Saad were honored for their inspiring work and dedication at JFS' Balboa Avenue Older Adult Center, which provides an uplifting environment and programs for individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Norma Chavez-Peterson, ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties executive director, accepted the award for the ACLU's partnership in launching the San Diego Rapid Response Network.

After an announcement that the overall event had raised a record-setting \$1.5 million, Bonnie Foster Productions began to play and partygoers filled the dance floor.

FOR THEIR BENEFIT

MONDAY
Golf Fore Autism charity golf tournament: Benefiting B.I.-A.N.C.A. (Be Involved Act Now Cure Autism). 10:30 a.m. The Country Club of Rancho Bernardo, 12280 Greens East Road. \$50 to \$700. bi-ancusa.org

Bridge and Bunco party: Benefiting high school scholarships. 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. La Mesa Woman's Club, 5220 Wilson St. \$30. (619) 440-2449.

FRIDAY
Drives for Rides: Benefiting the Emilio Nares Foundation. 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Maderas Golf Club, 17750 Old Coach Road, Poway. \$50 to \$250.

enfhope.org

SATURDAY
2019 Children's Charity Gala: Benefiting Father Joe's Villages. 5:30 to 10 p.m. US Grant, 326 Broadway. \$350. my.neighbor.org/take-action/events/gala

Horses, Hats and Hope: Benefiting REINS and Foundation for Senior Care. Noon to 4 p.m. REINS, 4461 S. Mission Road, Fallbrook. \$95. Must be 21 or older to attend. (760) 731-9168. reinsprogram.org

Looking ahead

MAY 10
Mama's Day: Benefiting Mama's Kitchen. 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine, 3777 La Jolla Village

Drive. \$50 to \$200. mamaskitchen.org

MAY 11
50th anniversary ball: Benefiting the Chicano Federation. 5 p.m. US Grant, 326 Broadway. (619) 285-5600 ext. 446. chicano federation.org

The Magic of Wine gala: Benefiting the Fleet Science Center. 6 to 10 p.m. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado, Balboa Park. (619) 685-5759. rhffleet.org/events/magic-wine

Cherishing the Joys of Childhood anniversary celebration: Benefiting the San Diego Center for Children. 6 p.m. Humpreys by the Bay, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. \$350 to \$450. centerforchildren.org/celebration

Food and Wine Festival: Benefiting mission-based projects supported by the Junior League of San Diego. 2 to 5 p.m. La Jolla Cove, 1100 Coast Blvd. \$75 to \$110. jlsd.org

Salsa y Salsa Fiesta: Benefiting service projects organized by the Lemon Grove Lions Club. 6 to 9 p.m. Monte Vista Village Auditorium, 2211 Massachusetts Ave., Lemon Grove. \$20 to \$25. (619) 469-7350. keb91945@gmail.com

MAY 18
Stars and Stripes Gala: Stand Up for Liberty: Benefiting USO San Diego. 5:30 p.m. Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina, 333 W. Harbor Drive. \$150 to \$1,000. usosandiego.org/gala-2019

Cabrillo Under the Stars: Benefiting Cabrillo National Monument Foundation. 6:30 to 10 p.m. at Cabrillo National

Monument, 1800 Cabrillo Memorial Drive. \$65 to \$75. cnmf.org/event/cabrillo-under-the-stars-2019

Wine, Women & Shoes: Benefiting Voices for Children. 1 to 4 p.m. Del Mar Plaza, 1555 Camino Del Mar. \$250 per person. speakupnow.org/event-calendar/wine-women-shoes

MAY 31
"America's Finest Fashion Show: A Salute to San Diego's 250th Anniversary": Benefiting Vista Hill Foundation. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Town and Country San Diego, 500 Hotel Circle North, Mission Valley. \$125 to \$160 per person. (858) 514-5155. vistahill.org

JUNE 1
2019 Seedling Soiree: Benefiting Olivewood Gardens & Learning Center. 5 to 9 p.m. Olivewood Gardens & Learning Center, 2525 N Ave., National City. \$50 and up. (619) 434-4281. olivewoodgardens.org/seedling-soiree

JUNE 22
The Baja Bash: Benefiting WILDCOAST. 5 to 9 p.m. Coronado Cays Yacht Club, 30 N. Caribe Cay Blvd. \$95 per person. wildcoast.org

JULY 14
Annual Phil's Big BBQ at the Ballpark: Benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County. 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Petco Park, north tailgate lot, 14th and K streets. \$25 to \$60. sdbigs.org/philsbigbbq

Email calendar items at least two weeks in advance of the event to fortheirbenefit@sduniontribune.com

Celebrations

The San Diego
Union-Tribune

BIRTH AVERY JAX



Welcome to the World Little One!
AVERY JAX
April 26, 2019 8 pounds 4 ounces.
Proud mom Ashley Nicole Perez.
You are the best gift from heaven.
You're my bundle of joy my little prince.
May God protect you and guide you.
Can't wait to create so many memories.
Love Mom

15TH ANNIVERSARY Rebecca and John O'Connor

Happy 15th Wedding Anniversary to Rebecca and John O'Connor! Married on May 1, 2004.

Dearest Rebecca,
Thank you for fifteen wonderful years of marriage. We have traveled the world and seen many things. We have the three most incredible children any parents could ask for. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our family and community. I look forward to many more years of sharing my life with you.

I love you,
John



HAPPY BIRTHDAY Ezra



Wishing you all the best for today and in the future. May this birthday be just the beginning of a year filled with happy memories and wonderful moments.

With Love,
Lynn, Family & Friends