

April 03, 2025



# In Pursuit

## For donors seeking impact

*Jewish Community Foundation by The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington*

Passover is a powerful touchpoint in the Jewish calendar. For many, including both of us, it's the time of year we feel most connected to our Jewish legacy. As we prepare to gather around the Seder table and recount timeless stories of Jewish courage and determination, we are proud to offer you a newsletter edition full of ways we can meet this moment with vision and resolve.

We are here to help you make the most of your giving this season—and turn inspiration into impact for the Jewish people.

Wishing you a happy and meaningful Passover,  
Sara and Debby

**Sara Brenner**

Executive Director  
Jewish Community Foundation

**Deborah Ratner Salzberg**

President  
Jewish Community Foundation



### **LEARN: Five Powerful Giving Practices to Meet the Moment**

Individuals, families, and Jewish organizations across Greater Washington are reeling from the impact of federal layoffs. In her latest blog post, Sara Brenner shares tangible, meaningful ways donors can support our Jewish communal organizations—from one-on-one conversations with nonprofits to expanded and flexible funding, and more—so that they can be there for those in need. [\*\*Read Post\*\*](#)



## GIVE: Help Ease the Impact of Federal Cuts

### In Our Community

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington has established a **cash and grant assistance program** to support families and agencies facing urgent needs. As the crisis continues to evolve, it's critical that we bolster these funds to ensure we're meeting the growing needs in our community. If you are a Jewish Community Foundation Donor Advised Fund (DAF) holder, we invite you to consider [recommending a grant](#) from your DAF to support this effort. If you don't have a DAF and are inspired to contribute, please email [sara.brenner@shalomdc.org](mailto:sara.brenner@shalomdc.org) to learn more about how you can help.

### In the Region

The Capital Area Food Bank is set to lose 670,000 meals and face a \$3 million shortfall due to cuts to USDA programs. Funding has ended for two initiatives that enable the Food Bank to source nutritious food from local farmers for those in need. [Watch the CNN Interview](#) with Capital Area Food Bank CEO, Radha Muthiah to learn more. [Consider a gift through your DAF](#) or give directly to the [Capital Area Food Bank](#).



## IMPACT: Your Support Is Powering Relief Efforts in Israel

### Offering Joy and Resilience to Sick Children and Their Families

Sunrise Israel brings joy, hope, and healing to Israeli children—Arab and Jewish—with cancer and their healthy siblings. Through inclusive summer day camps and year-round in-hospital programs, all free of charge, they create space for kids to just be kids.

Since the outbreak of the war with Hamas, and thanks to our community's support, Sunrise Israel has adapted and expanded their programs to address the added layers of emotional needs of sick children and their families. Through our community's generosity, Sunrise Israel has been able to extend their camp from 10 days to 12 days—providing even more relief, connection, and joy when it's needed most. [Learn more](#)

### On the Path to Healing

[Bshvil Hamachar](#) helps IDF combat reservists navigate the emotional and psychological

toll of war. Thanks to generous grants from our community, this Israeli nonprofit has brought groups of soldiers on special healing retreats—creating space to begin processing the trauma they experienced in the aftermath of October 7th. Hear their stories in their own words. [Glenn Cohen](#) / [Amitai Luzon](#) / [Omri Okev](#)



## **GIVE: Just Three Months Left to Double Your Impact to Partner Agencies**

Through the [Donor Advised Fund \(DAF\) Partner Agency Matching Program](#), your generosity has allowed us to distribute \$1.8 million of our \$2 million goal to our local Jewish agencies.

### **Support Where It's Needed Most**

While 80% of eligible agencies have received at least one match, several have received limited or no matching funds this year. Please consider giving to: **Avodah, Garden of Remembrance, Gesher Jewish Day School, Gallaudet Hillel, George Mason Hillel, George Washington Hillel, JCADA, Hebrew Home of Greater Washington, Jewish Council for the Aging, Torah School of Greater Washington, and Tzedek DC.** [See the full list of agencies and program requirements.](#)

With \$100,000 in matching funds still available through June, and as agencies face growing needs from federal layoffs and looming budget cuts, now is the time to act.

[Donate from your DAF](#) or consider [opening one](#) today to participate.



## **ON OUR RADAR: Trends in the Jewish World and Building Bridges**

### **Trends in the Jewish World**

#### **Trend 1: Jewish Families Today**

A major takeaway from a new 2025 report: Jewish families are craving community and searching for ways to give their children a sense of belonging—especially as more families move away from extended relatives and large centers of Jewish life.

## **Trend 2: Jewish Geography**

“The percentage of Jews living in the [American] South has grown from 9 percent in 1960 to 22 percent today.” This *Sapir* article discusses ongoing changes in Jewish geography and what it means for the future.

## **Building Bridges: InSolidarity**

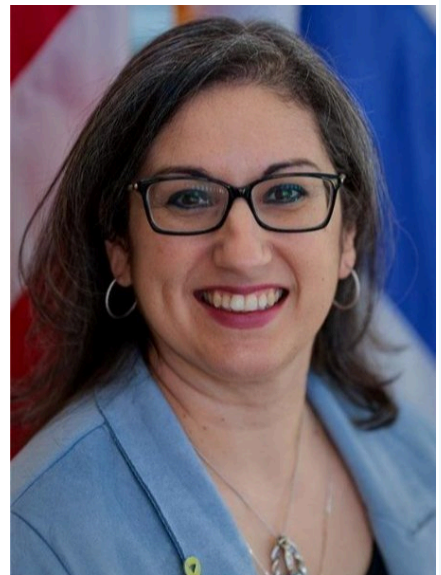
We were proud to join the Greater Washington Community Foundation to launch our InSolidarity initiative in February. The project aims to deepen relationships and build community between the Jewish and broader worlds—to fight antisemitism and hate in all forms.

[Catch the recap of our heartfelt launch event](#) and email [foundation@shalomdc.org](mailto:foundation@shalomdc.org) for more information on upcoming events.

## **OF NOTE**

### **Honoring Leadership**

The Phyllis Margolius Family Foundation is thrilled to announce that Jennifer Scher has been named as the recipient of the [2025 Phyllis G. Margolius Impossible Dream Award](#). Scher was selected by the committee for her work to foster support for Israel as Vice President of the MidAtlantic Region for Friends of the IDF (FIDF). Scher will receive her award at an event to honor Jewish communal professionals on Thursday, May 8th at the Bender JCC in Rockville, Maryland. [Learn more](#)



### **Navigating Federal Layoffs**

For anyone facing federal layoffs or supporting someone who is, please visit Federation’s [Navigating Federal Layoffs resource page](#) for links to programs offering financial relief, mental health support, employment services, and more.



## Supporting Hopeful Parents

[Jewish Fertility Foundation](#) provides hopeful parents struggling to build their families with financial assistance, emotional support, and infertility education. Learn more about their work and impact in our region by attending a **parlor meeting** on **[May 14th](#)** or **[May 15th](#)**.



## Add Depth to Your Seder

Looking to bring modern questions to your Seder? **Shalom Hartman Institute** and the **Alliance for Middle East Peace** have prepared a **[haggadah insert](#)** to guide us in discussing peace, hope, and redemption.

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## We exist to support your giving.

### Turn to Jewish Community Foundation to:



Give to causes you care about inside and outside the Jewish community.



Take advantage of collaborative giving and learning opportunities.



Contribute to a permanent legacy of support for Federation's family of agencies.



Access advisory services to start, manage, and grow your charitable funds.

**Contact us to open a Donor Advised Fund, collaborative giving, or to discuss your philanthropic goals.**

[foundation@shalomdc.org](mailto:foundation@shalomdc.org) | 301-230-7223

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# Jewish Community Foundation

by THE JEWISH FEDERATION  
OF GREATER WASHINGTON

*The Jewish Community Foundation and The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington welcome the participation of interfaith couples and families, and people of all abilities, backgrounds, gender identities, and sexual orientations. Building an inclusive community is a priority.*