



JEWISH WOMEN'S FUND

The Federation's San Francisco Jewish Women's Fund (SFJWF) strives to strengthen the Jewish community by helping women and girls flourish. As the only Northern California fund specifically focused on that population, we allocate grants primarily in the Bay Area and in Israel.

This expression of *tikkun olam* deepens our connections to each other and pays homage to our Jewish heritage.

GRANT RECOMENDATIONS FOR 2019-2020

A total of \$272,000 was granted in the areas of health and well-being, economic security, and leadership development benefiting women and girls. As diverse as the missions of these organizations are, they all captured the core values of our increasingly influential giving circle, now in its fourth year, leveraging philanthropic resources to shine a light on inequalities and unmet needs in the Bay Area and Israel. Through these grants, we highlight a range of issues from advancing women's stories and participation in film in the Bay Area, to increasing access for women social entrepreneurs on par with men, supporting internships for women religious scholars in orthodox communities, and protecting women's civil liberties in Israel. We empower women in each sector to flourish while having their voices heard and value known.

▶ **Ashoka Israel**— \$50,000 (One Year)

Ashoka is an international organization founded in 1980 dedicated to supporting and working with large-scale social entrepreneurs, promoting worldwide systemic social change. An office in Israel opened in 2009 to drive efforts to transform the Start-Up Nation into the Impact Nation. This grant will support 30 Jewish women social entrepreneurs in Israel to scale their social enterprises with the assistance of workshops, mentorship, Ashoka network access and the development of a web-based Impact Scaling Platform.

▶ **The Center for Women's Justice** – \$90,000 (Two Years)

Previously funded for one year, this two-year grant will continue to support women's civil liberties in Israel by providing legal advocacy, Knesset activism, public engagement; and by promoting legal paradigms that strengthen women's autonomy in the face of growing religious control over marriage, divorce, and personal status.

► **Kolech** – \$42,000 (One Year)

Kolech, founded in 1998, is the first Orthodox Jewish feminist organization in Israel. This grant will work to transform social and cultural norms by placing educated Modern and Open Orthodox women Torah Scholars in religious leadership positions in four communities open to exploring women's religious leadership. The grant will support positive role models and career opportunities for Orthodox women.

► **Jewish Film Institute** – \$90,000 (Two Years)

The Jewish Film Institute inspires communities in San Francisco and around the world to expand their understanding of Jewish life through film, media, and dialogue. Her/Story is a two-year initiative in which JFI will use film and media as a catalyst for dialogue about gender equity through the development of a program at the Signature Summer Festival and four programs throughout the year to create community-wide conversations.

JEWISH WOMEN'S FUNDS NETWORK COLLABORATIVE GRANT IN ISRAEL

Jewish Women's Funding Network – Granted \$5,000

This grant is the second installment of SFJWF's contribution to a \$170,000 collaborative effort of all the Jewish Women's Funds, supporting a two-year transformative employment effort aimed at uplifting and galvanizing women contract workers in Israel

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

"We are thrilled to have been chosen by the Women's Fund to use film and media to further the community conversation about gender equity. This funding will allow us to bolster the consciousness about the connection between the perspectives of women in making and reviewing films, representation of women in film, and cultural assumptions about the role of women in society. We believe in the power of film and media to change hearts and minds, and we are confident that with this support from the Women's Fund, we can make a difference by engaging our community in dialogue." – Lexi Leban, Jewish Film Institute

"It was so moving to sit in that conference room at the JCC, speaking to such a remarkable group of intelligent, capable women who are committed to improving the lives of women throughout our Jewish community. I remember describing Hebrew Free Loan's origins in a men's Torah study group and telling you about the ways our agency has evolved and had an impact that those founders could never have imagined.... We couldn't be prouder to join with the Federation and the San Francisco Jewish Women's Fund in assisting women to achieve financial self-sufficiency and equality. We look forward to building this new Fund, making more loans than ever to women in need, and reporting back to you on the ways in which it's making a difference in women's lives." – Cindy Rogoway, Hebrew Free Loan

"I've been in a Well Circle for over two years now and I cannot imagine my life without it. As a young urban professional, life moves fast, and some relationships feel transactional. Holding a sacred time each month to gather with my Well Circle, a place where we are each seen and heard, adds such a beautiful depth to my life here. The Well Circle revived a sense of spirituality within me I had been missing. I appreciate the idea of wellness, taking care of ourselves emotionally and physically, as a spiritual practice. I also love being more in sync with the Hebrew calendar. I'm grateful to be able to deeply connect with other women who share these values, allowing me to feel more at home in my chosen city of San Francisco." – Lauren W., At The Well participant