



# LEGACY

## NEWSLETTER

Fall 2015

## 2015 RECIPIENTS OF JEWISH FOUNDATION HEALTHCARE SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED



*Jewish Foundation Healthcare Scholars for 2015 are: Front Row, left to right: Danelle Hamilton, Jaime Henegar, Jennifer Ellis, Mindy Diehl, Meagan Martinez, Jessica Wallace, Jessie Libby, Ashley Rutherford. Back row, left to right: Monica Cook, Jessica Dickinson, Miranda Plueard, Harvey Kenyon, Daniel Fisher, Ishadanna Files, Shailee Jones, Robert Altmanshofer, Gabe Roybal, Tomas Medevielle.*

At a reception in the Community Room on August 27th, Yavapai College announced the recipients of the Jewish Foundation Healthcare Scholarships for 2015. Excitement and gratitude were the catch phrases of the day, as the group of eighteen students expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to pursue their chosen healthcare careers. Coming from all walks of life and past experiences, the eighteen scholars expressed one common theme – their desire to help others in our community. Sixteen of the students are enrolled in the Sciences and Health School of Nursing and two students are enrolled in the Allied Health School of Radiologic Technology.

Announced in 2012, the Jewish Foundation Healthcare Scholarship Program is the largest scholarship program in Yavapai College's history. The scholarship program is designed as a community effort to identify, support,

and train students who are committed to pursuing a healthcare career in the local community. The Margaret T. Morris Foundation and Yavapai Regional Medical Center have provided additional funding for 22 nursing scholarships, bringing the total number of scholarships to 118 for the program. Dr. David Hess, president of the Jewish Foundation said: "The program simultaneously supports education and healthcare while ensuring a pipeline of vital healthcare professionals for the local medical community."

Speaking to the audience of more than one hundred people, that also included the 2014 JCF Scholarship recipients, were Diane Drexler, Chief Nursing Officer of Yavapai Regional Medical Center, Dr. Penny Wills, President of Yavapai College, and Dr. David Hess, President of the Jewish Community Foundation. Each provided words of admiration and encouragement to the scholarship recipients, noting the students were embarking on a demanding but rewarding profession of service to others.

At the conclusion of the event, Jewish Foundation trustees, Phyllis Robinson, a retired critical care nurse, and Dr. Hess, a retired cardiologist, presented each of the nursing scholarship recipients with a stethoscope engraved with the student's name and each of the radiologic technology students with a set of engraved X-ray markers. These gifts will accompany these energetic and committed individuals throughout their journey as healthcare professionals.



“DEEDS OF GIVING ARE THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE WORLD.”

## HANUKKAH MENORAHS ADORN OUR COMMUNITY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

This holiday season residents of our community will find Hanukkah Menorahs in Prescott and Prescott Valley. The first Hanukkah Menorah was publicly displayed in November of 2011 with the unveiling of an outdoor Menorah at the 12th Annual Valley of Lights in Prescott Valley. Jointly sponsored by Temple B'rith Shalom and the Jewish Foundation this outdoor Menorah stands thirteen feet tall, is ten feet wide, and displays nine candles that are each five feet tall. This holiday season will mark the outdoor Menorah's fifth appearance in the Valley of Lights festival. The Valley of Lights opens on Thanksgiving evening.

Since 2012, Hanukkah Menorahs have also adorned the East and West Campuses of Yavapai Regional Medical Center. You will find the east campus Menorah in the main hospital lobby and the west campus Menorah in the first floor cafeteria. With each Menorah is signage that explains this eight-day Jewish holiday that is also known as the Festival of Lights.

Hanukkah is the 2000 year-old story of the miracle of the sacred oil that occurred in ancient Israel. The story began when a Jewish priest and his five sons rebelled against the Syrian tyrant, Antiochus IV, who had outlawed the Jewish religion and defiled the Temple in Jerusalem. Although vastly outnumbered by Antiochus' soldiers, the tiny army of Jewish rebels, called the Maccabees, defeated the Syrians and regained control of Jerusalem and the Temple.

Once the Temple had been cleansed and the new altar readied for services, the Maccabees discovered that only one vial of sacred olive oil had survived the defilement by the Syrians. Although the vial contained only enough oil to light the altar Menorah for one day, the sacred oil miraculously burned for eight days – enough time to prepare a fresh supply of olive oil for the Temple.

An eight-day festival was declared by the Jewish leaders to commemorate this 'miracle of the oil'. Each year at Hanukkah, Jews celebrate by lighting the candles on a unique nine-branched Menorah – lighting one candle on each night of the holiday, progressing until all eight are lit on the final night. The ninth, or raised candle, is called the *shamash* and is used to light the other candles.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*This issue of Legacy reflects the Foundation's emphasis on education and religious expression and welcomes two new leaders to our Jewish community. Our front-page education story announces the 2015 recipients of the Jewish Foundation Healthcare Scholarships at Yavapai College while one of the inside pages describes the Hanukkah Menorahs that will be displayed throughout our community this holiday season.*

*On the opposite page, the Foundation announces its new Executive Director, Michelle Falick, who will oversee daily operations of the Foundation and management of its many programs. And finally, the Foundation is proud to welcome Rabbi Elie Filler and his wife, Bracha, to our vibrant Jewish community.*

*The Foundation's success is due to the generosity of its donors, the efforts of its volunteers, the wisdom of its Board, and the support of its community partners – to each I want to say thank you. Together we aspire to improve our community.*

David S. Hess, M.D., President

*Hanukkah Menorah display in the lobby of Yavapai Regional Medical Center East Campus in Prescott Valley.*





## FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*On the left, Michelle Falick, in her prior role as chairperson of the Grants Committee, presents a check to Fritz Mavis of People Who Care.*

In 1998, three Jewish leaders, Harold Greenberg, Robert Morris, and Rabbi William Berkowitz, founded the Jewish Community Foundation envisioning that it would become the focal point of Jewish philanthropy for the Greater Prescott area. Over the past seventeen years, this dream has become a reality through the efforts of countless volunteers, who have served on the Foundation's Board of Trustees, who have staffed the Foundation's programs, and who have donated generously to the Foundation's charitable efforts.

Because of the growth of the Foundation's many programs and initiatives, the Board of Trustees began a search for an Executive Director in 2014. On November 1, 2015 search committee chairman, Harold Greenberg, announced the appointment of Michelle Falick as the new Executive Director of the Jewish Community Foundation. Greenberg stated: "Michelle was the obvious choice for our organization. She has served on the Board of Trustees for five years, has previously served as the chairperson of the Grants Committee, and most recently served as the group leader for our 2014 Leadership Mission to Israel. I have the utmost confidence that Michelle will serve admirably as our first Executive Director."

Falick was born and raised in California and attended the University of the Pacific where she earned a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration in 1993. The next ten years were spent in various positions with financial firms including Robeco, USA, Smith Barney, and Robertson Stephens, Inc., being assigned to offices in Houston, San Francisco, New York, and Washington, D.C. Falick specialized in portfolio management and analysis for institutional investors and high net worth individuals as well as domestic and international media relations. In Washington, D.C., Falick worked for Edelman Public Relations where Michael Deaver, former Deputy Chief of Staff for President Ronald Reagan, chaired her division.

When asked about the appointment of Falick to the position of Executive Director, Foundation president, David Hess, M.D., said: "Michelle is a person who has demonstrated a passion for contributing to her community. Previously, she served with distinction for five years on the James Family Prescott YMCA Board of Directors, including two years as the treasurer of that respected organization. The Jewish Foundation was fortunate to attract Michelle to its Board of Trustees in 2010. Over the past five years I have observed Michelle as she has taken a leadership role in many of the Jewish Foundation's ongoing programs and initiatives. She possesses a unique set of skills that will serve the Foundation well as we expand our programming efforts in the community."



*On the far right, Michelle Falick leads the 2014 delegates of the Leadership Mission to Israel to the overlook at the Alfi Menasche settlement.*



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## FOUNDATION WELCOMES RABBI ELIE FILLER

In December of 2014, Rabbi Elie Filler and his wife Bracha moved to our community to establish the Chabad of Prescott. Chabad is an Orthodox Jewish, Hasidic movement known for its outreach programs to Jews, regardless of their previous religious affiliation. Born and raised in Palo Alto, California, Rabbi Filler studied in Los Angeles and New York where he was ordained in 2012. Prior to moving to Prescott, Rabbi Filler worked in outreach programs for Jews in Venezuela, Germany, and the U.S. Bracha Filler was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York and is a graduate of Beth Chana Tsfat in Israel. Providing community service in Guatemala, England, Canada, and Israel has kept Bracha busy for the last several years.

The Jewish Community Foundation welcomes Rabbi Filler and Bracha to our community and wishes them the best as they assume their duties at the Chabad of Prescott. Please call 928-362-8924, email [rabbi@JewishPrescott.org](mailto:rabbi@JewishPrescott.org) or go online to [www.jewishprescott.org](http://www.jewishprescott.org).



*Rabbi Elie Filler with his wife, Bracha, and son, Mendel.*

*David S. Hess, M.D. President  
Phyllis Robinson, Secretary  
Loren Greenberg, Treasurer  
Michelle Falick, Executive Director*

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