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THE JCCSF PRESENTS
CONNECTING THREADS: QUILTS FROM THE
SOCIAL JUSTICE SEWING ACADEMY,
AN EXHIBIT IN THE KATZ SNYDER GALLERY

Now through November 2018

Opening Reception on Sunday, September 16

SAN FRANCISCO (August 23, 2018) — Today, the JCCSF announced the opening of Connecting Threads: Quilts from the Social Justice Sewing Academy, a new exhibition in the Katz Snyder Gallery. Celebrating the use of textile art as a vehicle for personal transformation and community cohesion, Connecting Threads works to amplify and bring awareness to social justice issues that youth care about. The featured young artists tackle issues of gender, discrimination, mass incarceration, gun violence, and gentrification in their work. Connecting Threads is on display now through November 2018. The JCCSF will host a free, public reception for the exhibition on Sunday, September 16 at 4 p.m. that will feature a conversation with artists from the Social Justice Sewing Academy and a drop-in quilting workshop.

Founded in 2017, the Social Justice Sewing Academy (SJSA) is a youth education program that connects artistic expression and activism to advocate for social justice. Through a series of hands-on workshops in schools, prisons and community centers across the country, SJSA empowers youth to use textile art to become agents of social change. Many of these young artists tell their own stories through powerful imagery created in cloth. The quilt blocks are then sent to volunteers around the world to embellish and embroider before being sewn together into quilts displayed in museums, galleries and shows across the country. This visual dialogue bridges differences in race, age and socioeconomics while sparking conversation and action across the country.

“The JCCSF strives to provide avenues for tikkun ha-olam, for our community to heal the world,” said David Green, Chief Program Officer, Roots + Culture at the JCCSF. “The Social Justice Sewing Academy has provided many young people with the creative tools for transformation as they address the difficult issues facing our nation. We are honored to feature their work and to spark conversations with our neighbors in San Francisco.”

Connecting Threads features quilts made by local high school students during an SJSA Berkeley Summer Program in 2016 in addition to other workshops across the country. One quilt on display is “Rest in Power, Trayvon” by SJSA founder Sara Trail, who was only 14 days older than 17-year-old Trayvon
Martin at the time of his death in 2012. Trayvon’s death brought awareness to the deep disenfranchisement of black folks and the intrusive ways society perpetuates the brutal policing and surveillance of black bodies. Following the acquittal of George Zimmerman, Trail took action by combining her two loves of fiber art and social justice to create a piece that commemorates the life and legacy of Trayvon Martin.

“For 13 years, I quilted the same traditional patterns and followed industry standard, spending thousands of hours refining my craft in the company of quilting mentors,” said Trail. “However, in these privileged spaces I began to realize that conversations of social justice were deafeningly absent. No one spoke about Trayvon’s death, the protests, or the acquittal of his murderer and I felt like I needed to do something to change that.”

The Katz Snyder Gallery is located on the second floor of the JCCSF and is open free to the public Monday–Friday from 8 a.m.–10 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m.–8 p.m. For additional information, please visit www.jccsf.org.

About the JCCSF
Urban and inclusive, the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco enriches, educates, and celebrates this vibrant City and its people. They host thousands of programs and experiences each year, from events with renowned performers and cultural icons, to spirited holiday celebrations and interactive pop-ups inspired by Jewish culture. The Fitness Center supports wellness through exceptional trainers and a daily lineup of performance-enhancing classes including yoga, cycling, boxing and swimming. Preschoolers discover the vital early love of learning at one of their three exceptional schools.

For more than a century, the JCCSF has evolved with the City, embracing its character and energy. Today, the organization taps into the rich layers of Jewish culture—its rhythms, resilience, and a call for justice—as a resource for everyone. With a commitment to providing people the opportunity for discovery, well-being and purpose, they believe in making the world better by helping the people in it be better. Experience the JCCSF at 3200 California Street or online at www.jccsf.org.

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