



**FSA**  
Family Service Agency  
of San Francisco

*Lives Transformed*



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## SPOTLIGHT: Julia Godzikovskaya, Senior Research Manager, Training and Research Division of Felton Institute



Julia Godzikovskaya  
Senior Research Manager  
Training and Research Division

Julia Godzikovskaya, Senior Research Manager for Felton's Training and Research Division, grew up in a family where education and hard work were highly valued. Her mother was a musician and her father was an engineer; both were successful in their fields in Moscow, Russia. Her grandparents had experienced great hardships in their youth, but what impressed young Julia most was their spirit of optimism and contentment, despite the suffering and trauma that they had endured.

"My maternal grandmother was a survivor of the Siege of Leningrad during WWII, which led to extreme starvation and resulted in the deaths of more than a million people. I spent a lot of time with her while growing up, and she was the kindest, warmest and most genuine person I ever met. She taught me to treat others the way I want to be treated and to appreciate every day of life," Julia recalls.

Reading was a favorite pastime of Julia's, and she and her classmates and friends spent many hours discussing what they read. Her first education was in Russian philology, and she thought her career might include being a literary critic and teacher.

When Julia moved to the United States, her first home was in Washington, D. C., and her second was in Los Angeles, California, before moving to San Francisco. She initially worked as a translator and graphic designer before deciding to attend graduate school at San Francisco State University, where she earned her MA in psychological research.

"When I decided to get a graduate degree, I wrote on my application that I wanted to feel that I was making a difference in people's lives and ultimately would like to work for

a non-profit organization that promotes social justice. Working for Felton Institute is consistent with this aspiration, and I hope to be able to contribute more to Felton's mission of responding to human needs with innovative social services," Julia shares.

Julia joined the Felton team in June 2014. Before that, she had a corporate high-tech job, but she really wanted to work with more diverse responsibilities that would help her feel more connected to people. Julia adds, "My work at Felton allows me to wear many different hats and interact with inspiring and knowledgeable people who dedicate their lives to helping others. My job forces me to adjust to other people's priorities, and this has been challenging, but at the same time, a rewarding experience. It also forces me to learn new things almost every day."

When Julia is not working, she enjoys traveling, volunteering, running, spending quality time with family and friends and her beloved hobby of reading.

Her personal motto is "everything is learnable, and it is never too late to learn", and her personal mission is to embody her beloved grandmother's values of treating people with kindness and to appreciate each day of life.

## Wilkes Bashford Upcoming Evening Event for Felton

On Thursday, December 13, 2018, from 4:00 pm-7:00 pm, Wilkes Bashford at 375 Sutter Street in San Francisco will host a special shopping event to benefit a Felton family in need.

Wilkes Bashford is renowned for exquisite designer clothing, jewelry and accessories, and exceptional customer service. Proceeds from patrons during those three hours will benefit Felton client Anahi Lopez and her toddler of 15 months, Camilla. Anahi has been working diligently to support her family and to complete her education. Staff at Felton's Family Resource Center have seen Anahi mature, and they applaud her excellent attendance record.



With the cold weather upon us, Anahi and Camilla's needs have increased and the generosity of Wilkes Bashford in providing this support is greatly appreciated. We hope you will squeeze in some holiday shopping at Wilkes Bashford during this Thursday evening and that knowing it goes for a very good cause will warm your heart and inspire joy.

Very special thanks to the Wilkes Bashford family for creating this wonderful gift! For more information, please contact Wilkes San Francisco at 415-986-4380.

## Holiday Party Highlights



There are holiday parties, and then there are special holiday fetes that transcend the routine seasonal celebrations. The Felton 2018 holiday party, thanking staff members for their hard work and held in the world-famous Green Room of the Veterans War Memorial in San Francisco, California, was such an event. Staff and board members enjoyed a jubilant celebration under the magnificence of gold-leaf columns, corbels and dentil molding.



In June 1945, fifty-one nations gathered in the Veterans War Memorial building to debate the potential of the United Nations Organization in an effort to preserve world peace. The member nations discussed details over cocktails in the Green Room that would eventually lead to the signing and ratification of the United Nations charter in the Herbst Theater down the



hall. Today, 191 nations participate in what was once only a vision that 51 delegates pursued within this building.

As the sun began its descent for the evening, the night was just beginning for Felton within the Green Room. Holiday tunes filled the air; guests arrived in greater numbers and a delectable spread of appetizers, side dishes and entrees were presented for all to enjoy. Revelers filled the dance floor, challenging colleagues to top their moves.



Felton President and CEO, Al Gilbert began the evening with warm greetings and Felton Board Chair, Amy Solliday, shared holiday wishes.

Both highlighted successes from 2018 and unveiled exciting new developments greatly anticipated for 2019. Board Vice-

Chair Will Smiley, Board Secretary Elizabeth Madden, and board members Paul Adams, Veronica Garcia, Christopher Seaman and Darren Skolnick also enjoyed the festivities. This year's staff attendance drew a much larger crowd than last year's party, with employees coming from as far away as the Monterey County offices.

Guests mingled under both the palatial expanse of the Green Room interior and under the high ceiling and arches of the balcony with commanding views of the area, including the regal architecture of San Francisco City Hall and the many high rises that fill the city skyline. Hybrid cars, scooters and limos whizzed back and forth below, and at the doorway of the Veterans War Memorial, a small group of musicians cheerfully played holiday music on a variety of instruments.

One of the most popular attractions was the free wacky photo booth where participants could dress up using hats, glasses and other accoutrements to record the evening's adventures with colleagues, friends and family. The highly anticipated annual raffle delighted the winners. As one employee shared, "I feel so blessed to work for a passionate organization like Felton. In my book, we are all winners!"

## Welcome to My World Upcoming Celebration

On Friday, December 14, 2018, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., clients of Felton's Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Program (TAPP) and the Young Family Resource Center (YRC) will celebrate the conclusion of their 12-week creative expression performing and digital arts program collaboration with Full Vision Arts Foundation (FVAF).

The pilot program, known as "Welcome to My World" continues Full Vision's mission of "Inspiring Youth Toward Success Through the Arts" by engaging teenage parents and transitional age youth in the disciplines of songwriting, music performance, music video production and drama.

A non-profit organization founded by Tony and Rhonda Spires, FVAF leverages relationships with world-class artists, entertainers, arts educators, and industry professionals to engage young people and guide them toward viable career paths in the arts. The goal is to cultivate understanding between and respect for the wide spectrum of peoples inhabiting our society.

Friday's celebration at 2730 Bryant Street will include performances, refreshments, and of course, an ugly holiday sweater contest!



**Felton the Beautiful:  
Janet Moyer Landscaping Award**



**CLCA STATE TROPHY AWARD**

PRESENTED TO

*Janet Moyer Landscaping*

NOVEMBER 9, 2018

FOR SOJOURNER TRUTH/FELTON DAY CARE CENTER

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

SPONSORED BY CLCA AUXILIARY



*Nelson Colvin Humanitarian Award*



You may remember that in June, the collaborative genius of Genentech and Janet Moyer Landscaping resulted in beautification of Felton's Family Developmental Center, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center and the Sojourner Truth Center. To see the amazing results, [click here](#).

Felton Board Chair Emeritus Mike Hofman, Executive Vice-President of Janet Moyer Landscaping, and his wife Janet Moyer, President of Janet Moyer Landscaping, initiated a planting and irrigation design, and last month, Janet Moyer Landscaping received the Nelson Colvin Humanitarian Trophy Award for the work done at Felton's Sojourner Truth Center!

The California Landscape Contractors Association sponsors the Trophy Awards to encourage interest in landscaping and to bestow public recognition on companies, institutions, municipalities and residents for their investment and excellent workmanship that promotes a beautiful California.

Janet Moyer Landscaping specializes in the creation of beautiful, sustainable custom residential landscapes that address the unique challenges posed by San Francisco's climate and architectural constraints.

"As a company, we strive to be good citizens of our community and what better way to do so, than to improve the daily lives of the children at Felton's Children, Youth and Family programs," Mike Hofman smiled.

The award recognizes landscape contractors who donate more than half the total labor/materials to a project benefitting a worthy cause. This is the second time that Janet Moyer Landscaping has received the award because of outstanding work.

Congratulations and thank you again to Janet Moyer Landscaping!

Thanks also to Felton Board Vice-Chair Will Smiley, who directs Genentech's sales and marketing, and Felton Board member and Genentech Senior Strategy Manager Alefiyah Shambhoora who worked to bring more than 40 members of their Genentech team to volunteer at the sites during Genentech Gives Back Week in June. Felton's youngest clients continue to enjoy their beautiful transformations and their gardens as a result of your dedicated labor of love.



## Felton and You



It's mid-morning; the sun is shining in the Mission District as an elderly man with weathered skin searches gingerly through a trash can in front of a taqueria, hoping to find a scrap of food someone has discarded. He finds a half-eaten burrito still wrapped in paper. Five o'clock on Market Street, crowds of professionals scurry down the sidewalk rushing to meet friends after work as they pass by a young woman. She holds a sign that reads, "Homeless. Lost job. Please help." She hangs her head and avoids eye contact as she asks passersby for change or anything they can spare. Later in the night, under a bridge, it's dark, windy, and cold; a family of four enter a small tent. They try to sleep. As the parents place their two small children between them, their little girl cries and says, "I want to go home, Daddy." They huddle together, parents' arms wrapped tightly around their little ones to keep them warm.

Do you see them? Can you imagine how they must feel?

Most of us are fortunate enough to not have firsthand knowledge of the scenarios above. For those who do, Felton Institute provides a broad range of mental health and social services year-round to people in great need in the San Francisco Bay Area and other California communities.

Felton Institute serves people of all ages, races and ethnicities and places special

emphasis on the needs of low-income children, adults, elderly adults, families and people living with disabilities. Felton offers more than 50 mental health and social services programs in 11 languages at multiple sites throughout San Francisco and Northern California which address education, homelessness, joblessness, housing, nutrition, substance abuse, justice-related issues, mental health and much more for participants. Our programs have been recognized as national models and have received the highest possible ratings from San Francisco's Department of Public Health.

During this holiday season and, as the year comes to a close, we want to thank those of you who have generously given to Felton throughout 2018. Your investment in Felton Institute is an investment in services and programs to help people lead healthier lives. When we support individuals, they become able to support themselves. When they can support themselves, we all benefit. Please help us help those who live in our neighborhoods and communities.


The power of one is good. The power of two, five, ten or more is incredible!


Please consider Felton Institute as you consider your holiday and year-end giving. We appreciate your generous support!


Happy Holidays to all!


## Your generous donations transform lives. Thank you!



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