



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

SIVAN-AV 5774

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

June/July 2014



ISRAEL: THE ADVENTURE

Some of the new experiences to be discovered

PAGE 24, 25



COME TOGETHER

San Antonio's Jewish Community is joining together in a multitude of ways. See what's happening.

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AT ISSUE: A "NEW" ISRAEL?

One proposal would establish a Jewish homeland in Texas.

PAGE 10

Jewish Federation welcomes new professionals

The Jewish Federation is pleased to welcome two new faces to the Federation team: Susan Avitan Kariv has been hired to fill the new position of Chief Development Officer, and Lauren Abraham joins the staff as the new coordinator of the PJ Library.

Kariv will represent the Jewish Federation of San Antonio along with CEO



Susan "Suzi" Avitan Kariv

"I am incredibly excited to have such a top-notch Jewish communal professional, with

Ronit Sherwin on a mission to Athens and Israel in July. She will arrive in San Antonio in August.

such extensive Federation experience, like Suzi join our staff and our community," said Ronit Sherwin, CEO of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. "I am not only optimistic, but confident that our organization will progress to great heights with Suzi as a significant leader in our development of both financial and human resources. I know

this community will warmly embrace Suzi in the manner which I have experienced in my short few months."

Kariv has been involved with the Federation Campaign for over 16 years. In Cleveland, she served as the Women's Division Director, providing

See **DEVELOPMENT**, page 7

Museum attack comes as no surprise to Belgian Jews

By Cnaan Liphshiz

BRUSSELS (JTA) — The cold determination with which the shooter at Belgium's Jewish museum murdered four people shocked many Belgians, but local Jewish leaders have long anticipated the possibility of such an attack on their community.

The shooter who entered the Jewish Museum of Belgium on May 25 in central Brussels "approached each victim with calm, aiming only



Police guarding participants of a silent vigil on May 25 outside Brussels' Jewish museum. (Cnaan Liphshiz/JTA)

for the head without uttering a word in manner that is shocking because of the level of training it

suggests," said Mischael Modrikamen, the Jewish

See **MUSEUM**, page 31

New PJ Library coordinator

In July, Lauren Abraham will assume her new position as PJ Library Coordinator for the Jewish Federation of San Antonio (JFSA).



Lauren Abraham

The PJ Library Program, a partnership of the Federation and the Grinspoon Foundation, provides Jewish books and music to homes of Jewish children from six months up to age

7 in the San Antonio. (PJ Library is also supported by the Nathalie and Gladys Dalkowitz Charitable Trust).

For the past 8 years, Abraham, a

See **PJ**, page 7

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Also read the Journal online at: www.jfsatx.org



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OF SAN ANTONIO

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EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS

The submission deadline for the AUGUST 2014 issue of the Jewish Journal is JULY 12, 2014 at noon.
All materials submitted after this date will be considered for the following issue.
How to submit: Email submissions to jewishj@jfsatx.org
• Articles & Announcements - Email as word documents. Articles submitted for consideration are subject to editing.
• Photos - Email high resolution images (300 dpi) in jpg attachments only.

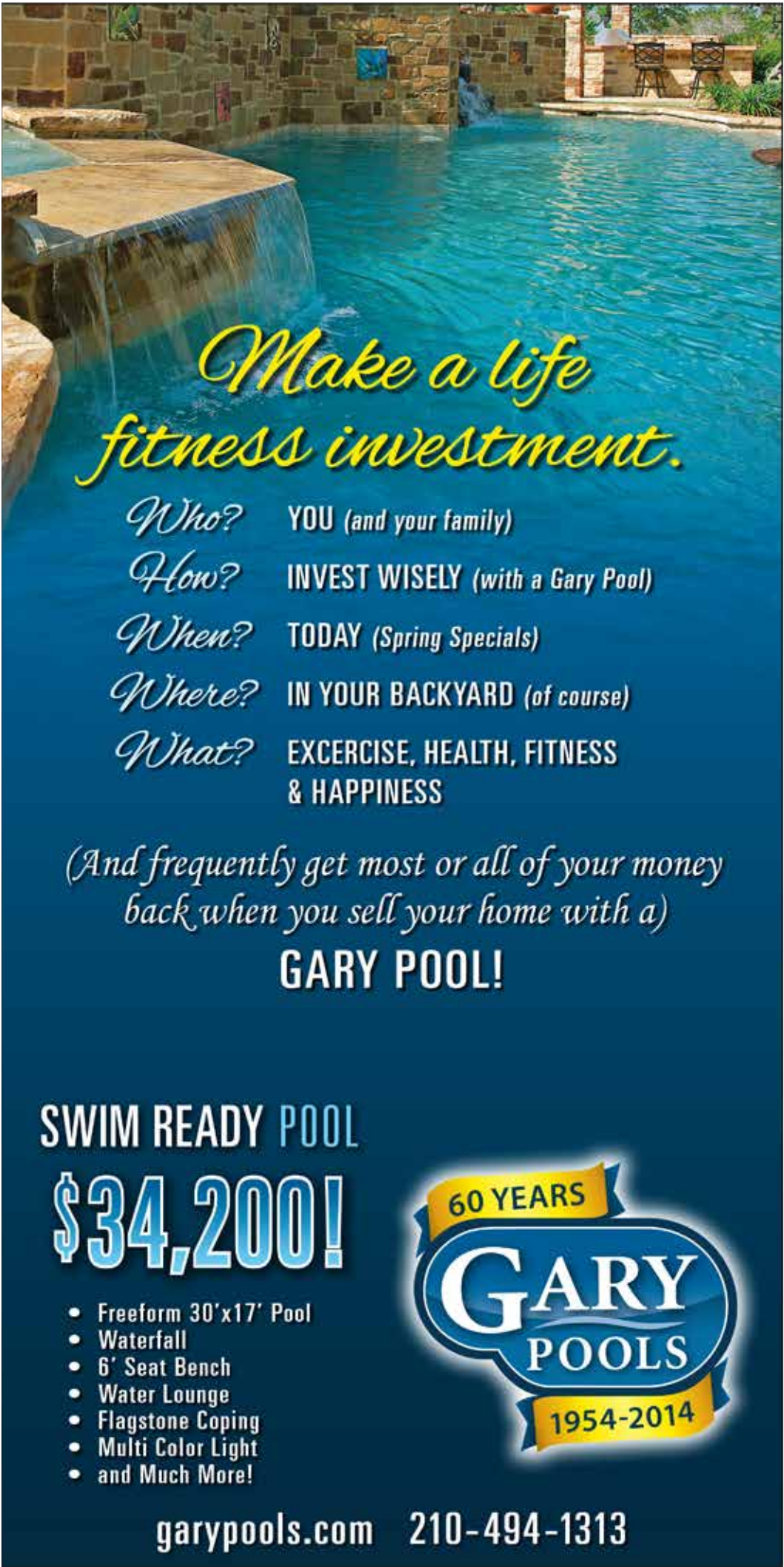
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Ad deadlines for AUGUST 2014 ISSUE:
• Ad space reservations due no later than JULY 12, 2014 by noon;
• Press ready ads due by JULY 12, 2014.
Please include a contact name and phone number with all submissions.

The Jewish Journal is a free publication of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, and is published in print and online 11 times a year as a public service to the community. Donations to offset production and mailing costs are always welcome.



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FOCUS ON FEDERATION

CANDLE LIGHTING

Tuesday, June 3 - 8:12 p.m.
Eve of First day Shavuot
Wednesday, June 4 - 9:11 p.m.
Eve of Second day Shavuot
Thursday, June 5 - 9:12 p.m.
Holiday Ends

Friday, June 6 - 8:14 p.m.
Light Candles at: 8:14 p.m.
Shabbat, June 7 - 9:13 p.m.
Shabbat Ends: 9:13 p.m.

Friday, June 13 - 8:17 p.m.
Light Candles at: 8:17 p.m.
Shabbat, June 14 - 9:16 p.m.
Shabbat Ends: 9:16 p.m.

Friday, June 20 - 8:19 p.m.
Light Candles at: 8:19 p.m.
Shabbat, June 21 - 9:18 p.m.
Shabbat Ends: 9:18 p.m.

Friday, June 27 - 8:20 p.m.
Light Candles at: 8:20 p.m.
Shabbat, June 28 - 9:19 p.m.
Shabbat Ends: 9:19 p.m.

Friday, July 4 - 8:20 p.m.
Light Candles at: 8:20 p.m.
Shabbat, July 5 - 9:19 p.m.
Shabbat Ends: 9:19 p.m.

Friday, July 11 - 8:19 p.m.
Light Candles at: 8:19 p.m.
Shabbat, July 12 - 9:17 p.m.
Shabbat Ends: 9:17 p.m.

Friday, July 18 - 8:17 p.m.
Light Candles at: 8:17 p.m.
Shabbat, July 19 - 9:14 p.m.
Shabbat Ends: 9:14 p.m.

Friday, July 25 - 8:14 p.m.
Light Candles at: 8:14 p.m.
Shabbat, July 26 - 9:10 p.m.
Shabbat Ends: 9:10 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 1 - 8:09 p.m.
Light Candles at: 8:09 p.m.
Shabbat, Aug. 2 - 9:05 p.m.
Shabbat Ends: 9:05 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 8 - 8:04 p.m.
Light Candles at: 8:04 p.m.
Shabbat, Aug. 9 - 8:59 p.m.
Shabbat Ends: 8:59 p.m.

Federation: New beginnings

Cecil B. DeMille's classic *The Ten Commandments*, was released in 1956.

Starring Charlton Heston as Moses, this religious epic film chronicles the Exodus of the Jews from Egypt. The climactic scene, when Moses receives the Ten Commandments atop the mountain, is awe-inspiring and powerful. It is this act of receiving Torah and formalizing our covenant with



Letter from
our CEO

RONIT
SHERWIN

God that we celebrate this month during the holiday of Shavuot. Shavuot concludes the seven week omer period and leads us into the summer months, preparing for yet another new year that will begin with Rosh Hashanah at

summer's end.

The summer months, which include Tisha B'Av (commemorating the destruction of the Temple) and the reflective period of Elul (the month before the High Holy Days), allow us to prepare for the New Year. No sooner does summer begin than we prepare for its conclusion - our Jewish calendar is always in motion, adapting, preparing for what's

next. So, too, is your Jewish Federation.

This summer we will add two new professionals to the Jewish Federation team. Susan Kariv will begin in July as the new Chief Development Officer, charged with strengthening and growing our annual campaign and planned giving program. Lauren Abraham will also

See **LETTER FROM CEO**, page 5

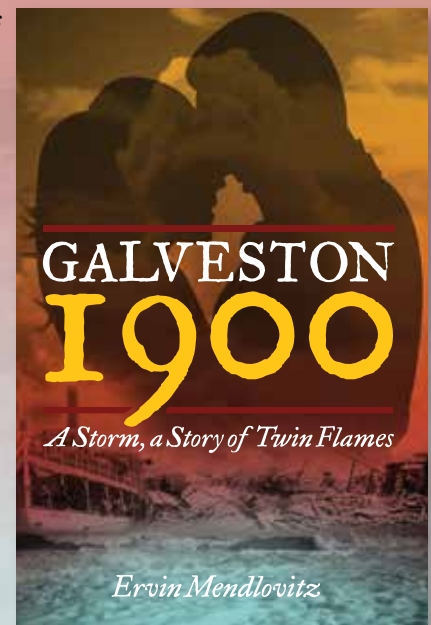
GALVESTON 1900 *A Storm, a Story of Twin Flames*

The Deadliest Natural Disaster in the Nation's History – NOW A HISTORICAL FICTION NOVEL

Set in Galveston, Texas, *Galveston 1900: A Storm, A Story of Twin Flames* is the story of Uri Petrokov, a Russian immigrant, and Genevieve Parker, a beautiful, independent-thinking young Texas woman who is far ahead of her time. As successful as Uri has been partnering with his brother Peter in the print business and thus living the American Dream, Uri remains, none the less, unfulfilled until the day Genevieve walks into the shop. The struggles the young couple endure to be together including prejudices in the community- and more agonizingly in Genevieve's own family- test the very limits of their being and love. Meanwhile, another storm is brewing, quite literally. On a Saturday in 1900, Galveston is taken by complete surprise when a hurricane unexpectedly devastates the port city, nearly sweeping it from the face of the Earth. The resulting cataclysm, an intersection of personal and communal tragedy, changes the young couple's life forever.



Ervin Mendlovitz. OD lives in San Antonio, Texas where he has a private optometric practice. He has a passion for writing, taking care of his patients, and studying mystic wisdom. He is married to his wife Elizabeth, and they have two sons, Aaron and Bryan.



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For information on purchasing
the paperback, ebook and the
historical background of
The Storm itself.
<http://on.fb.me/1iJ1iqF>



For information on
Dr. Ervin Mendlovitz, OD
<http://on.fb.me/1iHFCda>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: June/July 2014

JUNE 1

- The Sheldon Vexler Theatre Presents *The Fantasticks*, 2:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theatre
- Jewish Federation Annual Meeting, 4 p.m., Holzman Auditorium at The Campus

JUNE 3

- Erev Shavuot Service, Midnight, Congregation Rodfei Sholom

JUNE 4

- Shavuot – All Campus Offices Closed
- Shavuot Morning Service, 9 a.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

JUNE 5

- Jewish Federation Offices Closed
- Shavuot Yizkor Service & Luncheon Honoring Teachers, 9 a.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom
- JCC Silver Cinema *Gentleman's Agreement*, 1 p.m., at The Campus
- 2nd day of Shavuot morning services, 9 a.m.; Yizkor, 11 a.m. Religious school and Hebrew Teachers will be honored at luncheon following services, Congregation Rodfei Sholom

JUNE 7

- Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services 50th Anniversary Celebration, 6 p.m., The Playhouse San Antonio

JUNE 8

- Rodfei Sholom Ice Skating social, 4-6 p.m., Ice Center at Northwoods, 17530 Henderson Pass. \$10 per skater; \$36 per family. RSVP at (210) 493-3557.

JUNE 9

- NCJW Trashy Book Club, 6:30 p.m.

JUNE 11

- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Book Club, 7:30 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

JUNE 15

- SA Giveback Dinner, 5 p.m., SAMMC

JUNE 16

- Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus

JUNE 19

- JCC Silver Cinema *Sarah's Key*, 1 p.m., at The Campus

JUNE 22

- NCJW Honors Esther Vexler, 11:30 a.m., Oak Hills Country Club
- JCC Film Festival Sequel Event *Hunting*

Elephants, 7 p.m., at The Campus

JUNE 24

- Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Board Meeting, 9:45 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim

JUNE 25

- JCC Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus

JUNE 26

- JCC Summer Concert Series Presents Rick Recht, 6 p.m., at The Campus

JUNE 29

- Jewish War Veterans Post 753 Business Meeting, 9:30 a.m., at The Campus

JULY 2

- JNetSA 1st Wednesday Breakfast Featuring Reuben Bar-Yadin, 7:30 a.m., Il Sogno
- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Book Club, 7:30 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

JULY 4

- Independence Day
- JCC Sports & Fitness Facilities Open 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- All Campus Offices Closed

JULY 6

- Congregation Rodfei Sholom 4th of July Picnic, 5 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

JULY 11

- JCC Summer Concert Series Presents Israeli Scouts, 2 p.m., at The Campus

JULY 13

- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Movie *Night Against the Tide*, 6 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

JULY 20

- Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services Annual Meeting, 4 p.m., at The Campus

JULY 27

- Jewish War Veterans Post 753 Business Meeting, 9:30 a.m., at The Campus

AUGUST 4

- Tisha B'Av Eicha reading at evening service, Congregation Rodfei Sholom

AUGUST 5

- Tisha B'Av Kannot reading following morning service, Congregation Rodfei Sholom

AUGUST 6

- JNetSA 1st Wednesday Breakfast Featuring Joe Straus, 7:30 a.m., Il Sogno
- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Book Club, 7:30 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

COMMUNITY LETTERS

Community rallies in support of JFS after tragic loss

Special to the Jewish Journal

On April 26, Jewish Family Service lost a member of its family to a tragic car accident. Cesar Rivera, a therapist at JFS, had been with the agency since 2008. He is survived by his wife, Celina and his young daughter, Samantha.

JFS appreciates the outpouring of support from the community. People sent cards and emails, made phone calls and left voice mails. Many more expressed their condolences in person.

“When incidents like these occur it is usually JFS that steps up to support those in need. This time JFS needed the support and the agency received it in spades. We could not be more grateful to everyone for reaching out to us as we said goodbye to a beloved co-worker,” said M.H. Levine, Executive Director of JFS.

Cesar was an intern at JFS before



becoming a full time counselor at the agency. He provided therapy in both English and Spanish and often integrated music into the treatment. Cesar was deeply committed to his clients and to JFS. He will be missed.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Mark Alvarado

Aaron Charles

Rafael Elisha Meir ben Yaakov HaCohen

Rosalind Gordon

Eleanor Guthman



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Letter from the Torah Academy San Antonio

By Aaron Sarfati,
President of the Board of the
Torah Academy of San Antonio

The first year of the Torah Academy of San Antonio (TASA) is coming to a close and what an amazing school year it has been. By any measurable metric, TASA has been a resounding success. We overshot our initial enrollment goal by 20%, we stayed within budget for the entire school year, and we received

substantial support and donations from over 100 contributors. And those are just on the business side of the school.

Academically, our students thrived. Most of our students are reading above grade-level, and in some cases, two grades ahead; our students have attended theatrical performances, immersed in special fine arts programs, and we even had one student, Aaron Pearsall, place 7th place in the state's Spelling

Bee. In Judaic Studies, our *Talmidim* have excelled in all areas. Our lower classes are able to decipher the Hebrew language and can give an overview of the weekly Torah portion, while our upper classes are learning in-depth Chumash studies with Rashi and finished a whole section of Mishna.

The enthusiasm and excitement for next year has been overwhelming. Not only are we expecting continued growth from

within the local community, but we have also received serious inquiries from across the U.S. – Boston, Seattle, Los Angeles, Houston and Dallas. To accommodate the expected numbers, the Kindergarten class of next year will be stand-alone, while first and second, third and fourth, and fifth and sixth will be combined, respectively.

We are grateful to the Jewish Federation for awarding us an allocation to

support our first year, and for continuing their support for our second year. We are humbled to serve as an integral component for all segments of the San Antonio Jewish Community, as evidenced by the diversity of religious affiliations in our first year's class, and we look forward to continuing that outreach as we grow in the future.

We welcome and encourage anyone looking for more information about our school – whether to visit, to attend or to support – go to our website at www.TorahAcademySA.com or contact us at info@torahacademysa.com or 210-

LETTER FROM CEO

continued from page 3

join the JFSA staff as the PJ Library Coordinator, helping to create Jewish opportunities for families with young children in the community. We will welcome a new volunteer board chair when Richard Planto begins his two-year term this summer. Richard and I are eager to begin implementing the newly adopted strategic plan of the Jewish Federation, and there will be many more new endeavors in the months and years ahead.

Cecil B. DeMille captured the majesty of the Sinai revelation in his film. So it is no surprise that *The Ten Commandments* was nominated for seven Academy Awards and is preserved in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress, noted for its historical and cultural import. Our history as a people is one of journeys, trials and accomplishments, with the moments of Shavuot at the top of the highlight reel.

Wishing you a summer of refreshment and fulfillment, with excitement for what we can accomplish in San Antonio and around the world as we continue to climb mountains together.

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FOCUS ON FEDERATION

From the desk of Beldon Librarian Lynn Waghalter

Todah rabbah to author Jack G. Hyman who presented his new children’s book, *Breakfast with the Birds*, to a very attentive and appreciative audience on May 11.

We all had a wonderful time learning about his book and experiences as an author, actor, director, and playwright. His book is being made into a musical and he is working on the script. A copy of his delightful book is here ready to be checked-out.

More visits with authors are being planned—watch for upcoming announcements in the Jewish Journal.

Our last PJ Story Time for the current school year took place on May 18. The next PJ event will take place here at the Beldon Library in the fall.

I am looking forward to attending the AJL (Association

SUMMER HOURS AT BELDON LIBRARY

Monday, 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
Wednesday, 1:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

in Las Vegas, Nevada this month. We will be awarded a Certificate of Basic Accreditation during the awards luncheon on June 23.

Thank you, Federation for enabling me to attend this Conference.

I hope to come back with new ideas and activities for our library.

Our hours for the summer will stay the same: Monday, 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.; and Wednesday, 1:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Come by and check us out!



L-R: Jack Hyman's San Antonio childhood friends came to hear his presentation at the Beldon Library: Marty Wender, Carol Robalin, Ilene Arbetter, Rene Wender, Ronald Coleman, Jack Hyman (seated), Joyce Tawil, Beldon librarian Lynn Waghalter, Janice Hobbs and (standing) Margy Ressler.

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DEVELOPMENT

continued from page 1

professional leadership for a board of 40 leaders, and 170 Campaigners. Under her watch, the Women's Division reached a first time achievement of four million dollars to the Annual Campaign. In subsequent years, Susan has led various trade divisions in the campaign and has trained numerous staff and lay leaders throughout the years.

Kariv has also served as

the Director of Leadership Development, providing training and development opportunities to both staff and lay leadership.

During her tenure, she designed and implemented Lay Leadership Development Year Courses for nine cohorts, and has placed 92% of the graduates in leadership positions throughout the community. Additionally, she managed the annual placement of over 800 lay volunteers onto various Federation committees.

Kariv also recommended placement of individuals onto agency boards both in the Jewish and general communities.

While living in Columbus, Ohio, Kariv served as a lecturer of Hebrew Language at The Ohio State University for 8 years where she taught all levels of Hebrew to over 380 students, several of whom have chosen to continue a career as Jewish communal professionals after their experience with her. "I am humbled to

think that I may have had an impact on someone's desire to choose a professional path of service to the Jewish community. Our heritage is so very compelling, and taking care of one another is our core value."

While living in Israel, Kariv worked for Israel Discount Bank as a Financial Advisor. She also enjoyed volunteering as she taught English to at-risk youth in the Tel-Aviv area.

In her spare time, she is a musician and DJ. She

has performed in Israel and the US with her band primarily performing Israeli music. Susan is married to Rony Kariv, and is the mother of Maya who recently made Aliyah and is living in Jerusalem; Alon, who is a 2014 graduate of Yeshiva University; and 2 stepchildren, Guy, 17 and Hadar 12, in Tel-Aviv.

Kariv holds a BS in Business Administration and Masters' Degrees in Human Resource Development and in Adult Education.

PJ

continued from page 1

Dallas, Texas native, has served as the Coordinator of Judaism in Action at Rodeph Sholom School in Manhattan. As coordinator, she taught 5th grade Jewish

Studies, led prayer services, and developed the holiday, community service and learning programs for the Rodeph Sholom's Middle School.

For younger children, Abraham created *Watermelon Wednesday*

Summer Story Time along with a number of other special young family programs, and led weekly Tot Shabbat services at Congregation Sons of Israel in Nyack, New York.

"The Jewish Federation is thrilled to be adding a proper part-time PJ Library Coordinator to our community," said JFSA CEO Ronit Sherwin. "It is our intention to build community-wide programming for families with young children, building partnerships with all of our agencies and synagogues. Most significantly, we want to communicate the message that it is these families who are the future of our Jewish community and we need to create multiple opportunities for them to connect to everything Jewish in our city."

Abraham is married to

Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, who will be assuming his new pulpit in July at Congregation Agudas Achim in San Antonio. The couple has two children, 3 ½ year old Benny and 18 month old Henry.

"I have been very involved in leading programs for young families at my husband's current pulpit, Congregation Sons of Israel in Nyack, New York," said Abraham. "I also served on the board of directors of the Jewish Federation of Rockland County and am a very active community member. I am excited to move back to Texas and continue my career as an informal Jewish educator."

Abraham says her goal is to engage young children in the San Antonio Jewish Community.

"Meeting Harold Grinspoon really put a face to the name of the special

man whose foundation sends books to not only my, but many, Jewish children each month. He is changing the lives of all of our families at such an amazing young age.

To prepare for her new position with Federation, Lauren recently attended the annual PJ Library Conference at Pearlstone Retreat Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

"The PJ Library Conference was so inspirational," said Abraham. "It was phenomenal to learn that when PJ Library conducted a national study in 2013, 58% of the families said PJ Library influenced them to build upon and add to the Jewish traditions in their homes.

"I look forward to helping the many loyal PJ subscribers connect with each other, to continue to build upon Jewish traditions, and to bring new people together to receive Jewish books, as well as participate in stellar programs."

For more information on the PJ Library program, visit www.jfsatx.org.

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Shofar dedication

Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg was invited by the Methodist Pastoral Care Department to dedicate a Shofar in a ceremony on Thursday, April 24.

The Shofar was donated to the Pastoral Care Department by Linda Rose.

The inscription in the Shofar reads:

“The sound of the Shofar was a signal to the children and enemies of Israel that God was with God’s people in worship or in war.”

Rabbi Scheinberg recently joined the Pastoral Care Team of the Methodist Hospital, which is dedicated



Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg; Jaime A. Wesolowski, President and CEO of the Methodist Healthcare System; and Linda Rose, Clinical Educator of the Methodist Healthcare System.

to helping patients and their families deal with any health crisis, and carries

out the hospital’s mission of “Serving Humanity to Honor God.”

Burial Society expert to visit San Antonio

Rabbi Elchonon Zohn, internationally known Chevrah Kadisha (Burial Society) expert, will visit Congregation Rodfei Sholom on Sunday, June 22.

Rabbi Zohn has lectured throughout the country to Jewish leaders, Chevrot Kadisha, health care and hospital personnel, synagogue and community groups, and the general public. Rabbi Zohn is considered to be one of the foremost experts on issues pertaining to Chevrah Kadisha.

Rabbi Zohn is the founder of the Chevrah Kadisha of the VAAD Harabonim of Queens, New York, and the founder and coordinator of the Association of Chevrah Kadisha, a national

network devoted to the exchanging of information and the providing of technical assistance.

Rabbi Zohn will conduct a tahara training seminar for beginners and more experienced members of the San Antonio Chevrah Kadisha, as well as those who may be interested in joining the Chevrah.

In the evening, there will be a lecture “Bridge to Eternity: The Traditional Jewish View of Death and Beyond”. Both events will take place at Congregation Rodfei Sholom.

For more information, contact the synagogue at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

SAVE THE DATES:

• Sunday, June 8 at 10 a.m., Business Meeting, at the JCC Room 227

• Friday, June 20-22, TALO election/meeting in Austin. If interested in attending, contact Post Commander Norton Shectman at (210) 493-6660

• Sunday, June 29 at 9:30 a.m., Regular Post breakfast meeting at the JCC Room 227

• Friday, July 4, 1-3:30 p.m., ice cream and cookie social with patients and staff at Audie Murphy VA Hospital. Volunteers are welcome, if interested contact Ken Ashworth at (210) 647-0330



• Monday, July 14 at 7 p.m., tentatively scheduled at JCC speaker

• Sunday, July 27 at 9:30, regular post breakfast meeting at JCC Room 227

• Tuesday, July 29, from 6:45 pm to 8:15 pm, Bingo/Social at

Audie Murphy VA Hospital CTC Building. To volunteer, contact Ken Ashworth at (210) 647-0330

• Sunday, Aug. 10 at 10 a.m., Business Meeting at the JCC Room 227

• Sunday Aug. 24 at 9:30 am, post breakfast meeting with guest speaker Rose Williams relating her experiences as a Holocaust survivor. To RSVP, contact Post Commander Norton Shectman at (210) 493-6660

2015 Membership Drive begins August 1, contact Lodge President Irwin Barath, (210) 341-4502 for membership application

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Tisha B'av at Rodfei Sholom

Tisha B'av is known as the saddest day in Jewish history. While the day recalls general tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people over the ages, the day focuses on commemoration of five events: the destruction of both the First and Second Temple in Jerusalem, the sin of the 12 scouts sent by Moses who spoke disparagingly about the Promised Land, the razing of Jerusalem following the siege of Jerusalem in 70 CE, and the failure of the Bar Kokhba revolt against the Roman Empire.

Over time, Tisha B'av has come to be a Jewish day of mourning, not only for these events, but also for later tragedies.

The fast lasts about 25 hours, beginning at sunset on the eve of Tisha B'av and ending at nightfall the following day. It is customary to sit on low stools or on the floor while Eicha (The Book of Lamentations) is recited by candlelight.

This year, Tisha B'av begins on Monday, August 4. For service information, see Community Calendar, page 4.

Evening of Thought and Melody at Chabad Center

The community is invited to attend an *Evening of Thought and Melody*, marking the 20 anniversary of the passing of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of blessed memory.

The evening will be held on Tuesday, June 24 at 7 p.m. at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning at 14535 Blanco Rd.

Dr. David Luchins, of Queens, NY, will deliver the keynote address and share his personal account of the Rebbe's relationship with world leaders and his impact on global affairs.

Dr. Luchins is the Chair of the Political Science Department at Touro College and a long time Senior Advisor to the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of



Dr. David Luchins, (left) will deliver the keynote address at an Evening of Thought and Melody marking the 20th anniversary of the passing of Rabbi Menachem Schneerson (right).

New York. He is a National Officer of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs and a National Vice President of the Orthodox Union since 1976. He was a devoted disciple of the late Rav Ahron Soloveichik zt"l.

Dr. Luchins is a much sought after speaker throughout North America and Israel and has lectured

for the State Department Distinguished Visitors Program.

The program will be enhanced by the music of Cantor Yehoshua Samuels, who currently serves as the cantor of the Rockwood Park Jewish Center in Howard Beach, NY.

"Cantor Samuels is blessed with a beautiful lyric tenor voice, bringing the warmth of chazzanut and Jewish music to people's hearts," said Rabbi Levi Teldon.

He will be accompanied by Choni Zucker on the keyboard.

Light refreshments will be served. The program is free and opened to the public. For more information please call Chabad at (210) 764-0300.



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GMJSS to hold 46th annual meeting

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, July 20 at 4 p.m. at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the Jewish Community, 12500 N.W. Military Hwy., in the Holzman Auditorium.

GMJSS touches the lives of Jewish seniors in San Antonio through direct programming, community partnerships, transportation,

and one-on-one connections, including delivering kosher meals for seniors with this need.

GMJSS strives to combat two of the biggest obstacles seniors today face – isolation and transportation.

"Celebrate accomplishments and growth, and discuss exciting ideas for the future during this 46th Annual Meeting. See why our grant programs

continue to be successful and how our partners help keep our senior community connected," said GMJSS Executive Director Daniel Laser.

The meeting is open to the community and free of charge. Appetizers and drinks will be served.

RSVP to Lety at (210) 302-6946 or LetyV@GoldenManor.net.

Agudas Achim hosts Shabbat in honor of Harold Vexler's 100th birthday

On Saturday, July 26, Congregation Agudas Achim will be hosting a special Shabbat and Kiddush luncheon in honor of Harold

Vexler celebrating his 100th birthday.

Vexler, his wife Esther, and their family have been members of Agudas Achim

for 96 years.

No RSVP to the Shabbat service is necessary.

Thoughts on Shavuot

Shavuot, of all the festivals, is the least observed in non-Orthodox communities. It is one of the major holidays of the Jewish year, on par with Pesach and Sukkot. It is the holiday of the giving of the Torah, the single most important event in Jewish history. But, it has no special foods or rituals; it comes at a time of year when we are so busy with other things, that it tends to be neglected.

Yet, Shavuot dictates the very rationale of the existence of our people. We are a covenanted people, and we have a duty to keep, not merely the Ten Commandments, but all our responsibilities to G-d and to



The Rabbi's Voice

ARYEH SCHEINBERG

humanity.

The fact is that whatever definition of Jew others use, the most important is the definition we have of ourselves, that "Ayn oomatayna ooma ela batorah" (The Jewish people exist only by virtue of the Torah). Without Torah, we are people committed to be a messenger to mankind, having forgotten the message.

The Torah represents our commitment to a life of values, to the moral moorings our

society desperately needs and to our own self-understanding and that of our heritage and tradition. If Socrates taught us that "life without thinking is not worth living", Sinai taught us that life without commitment is not worth living.

Shavuot compels us to realize that our strength as individual human beings and as a person will be determined, not by surface things, but by the content and substance of our lives and our capacity to realize our unique heritage -- the meaning of our Jewish being.

Indeed, the Torah is our guide to life, our destiny as a light unto the nation. As we

uplift ourselves, we elevate all around us. This is the ultimate choice, which we must make, and it affects the thousands of other decisions we make in our lifetime -- some of major, some of minor consequence. We choose to either take G-d into our lives, make Him a part of us and our conscience, constantly remind ourselves of His presence through the elaborate Jewish system of rites and rituals, reinforce the role He plays in our life by referring to Him in our ethical judgments, or we choose to pay lip service to G-d, saying "I believe," when we really mean, "It's nice to know that you are there, Lord, when I need you. Don't bother contacting me. I'll call when I'm ready."

If we care about G-d, we

must care about the world and the humanity which he created and which we are obligated to serve.

Today's standards seem to be: whatever makes you happy is the supreme ethic, sex above love, money above *menschlichkeit*, religious convenience above religious commitment.

We need standards and ideals toward which we can direct our thoughts, toward which we can aspire. Sinai should still speak to us today. We cannot absolve ourselves of that obligation, for the Torah tells us that all of us stood at the foot of Mt. Sinai and were involved in the covenantal process.

Chag sameach! May you have a happy and meaningful Shavuot!

At Issue: A Jewish Homeland in Texas

European thinkers and leaders called it "The Jewish Question" (Die Judenfrage, La Question juive): what to do with a strange, stubborn people who refused to adapt to their surroundings, or -what was perhaps even more enraging - attempted to insinuate themselves into the mainstream. One solution was to kick them out.

In addition to many other expulsions over the centuries, Jews were evicted from France and Germany in 1182, from England in 1290, from Spain in 1492, from Portugal in 1497, from the Netherlands in 1582, from Russia in 1727, and from several Arab countries in 1948.

Another standard solution was to make life so miserable for them - by restricting residence to ghetto or a pale of settlement, outlawing ownership of land, limiting education and employment,



Perspective:

STEVEN G. KELLMAN

conscripting sons into decades of military service, and inciting pogroms - that Jews would choose to move on.

And then there was the genocidal Final Solution to The Jewish Question (Die Endlösung der Judenfrage) - the Nazi attempt to exterminate the entire Jewish population.

A more benign approach to the question was to relocate Jews in a homeland of their own. In 1903, British Colonial Secretary Joseph Chamberlain proposed setting aside 5,000 square miles of the Mau Plateau in what was then Uganda and is now Kenya. Contemplating the prospect of wild lions and inhospitable Maau, the World

Zionist Congress politely declined Chamberlain's generous offer. During the 1930s, Joseph Stalin set aside swampland in Birobidzhan in far eastern Siberia to serve as the Jewish Autonomous Region. Though some Jews did settle there and though it still publishes a newspaper in Yiddish, Birobidzhan became a curiosity, not a homeland.

In 1939, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes advocated resettling European Jews in Sitka, Alaska.

Though the plan was rejected by Franklin D. Roosevelt, it is the premise behind Michael Chabon's clever 2007 novel *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, in which what Chabon calls "the Frozen Chosen" have taken root in the Pacific Northwest. Before the Final Solution was adopted as the most efficient way to solve the Jewish Question, Nazi leaders Heinrich Himmler,

Julius Streicher, Hermann Göring, and Joachim von Ribbentrop supported a German plan to turn the island of Madagascar into a Jewish preserve.

Other proposed sites for a Jewish homeland have

included Argentina, British Guiana, and Tasmania. But the dream of returning to the land once ruled by Hebrew kings made the most emotional sense.

See **AT ISSUE**, page 13

Gary S. Gossen, M.D., F.A.C.G.

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Israel: Always a new adventure

Dr. Michael Ozer

I usually try to visit Israel at least once a year. But when the opportunity to do a holiday with my brother who had not visited Israel in 20 years was proposed, I couldn't pass it up.

We planned a 10 day visit between Purim and Pesach. With the help of the Houston Jewish Federation, the American Associates, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, and our own contacts, we created a compelling and exciting personal "mission" to Israel.

Among the most interesting aspects of our trip was the morning we



visited the newly opened KIPP-inspired YEDA school in Kiryat Bialik, outside Haifa. It was

created under the auspices of the Leo Baeck Education Center with the generous support of the Houston

Jewish Federation and Houstonian Benjamin Warren. Currently only a kindergarten, the school plans to expand a grade per year, as well as add additional campuses to

From left, Dr. Masad Barhoum, Michael Ozer, and Bob Ozer standing in front of the Western Galilee Hospital in Nahariya. Dr. Barhoum is Director General of the hospital, the first Israeli Arab to hold such a high position.

serve underprivileged children. During our visit we met the Head of School, Itai Karin, a former career officer in the IDF. Watching him interact with a youngster who was having a supplementary reading lesson with a volunteer, we were totally impressed by his kindness and sensitivity.

While in the Western Galilee we also reconnected with the Western Galilee Hospital in Nahariya. Since my last visit, the hospital has opened a neurosurgical unit, which has enabled it to accept the majority of wounded Syrians now treated in Israel. These are victims who have presented at the border after being injured in the terrible conflict in their country. Dr. Masad Barhoum, the Director General of the hospital, is the first Israeli Arab to hold that position in Israel. He is well known in our San Antonio Jewish community since Nahariya is in San Antonio's Jewish Federation Partnership region. The hospital's new protected maternity unit, funded in part by a grant from the John Hagee Ministries, is also nearing completion.

To round out our visit to the North, we had a meeting with the leaders of Tsafen in Nazareth. Tsafen is an Arab/Jewish organization promoting the integration of Israel's Arab citizens into its high-tech industry, through employment and the creation of high-tech centers where their skills can be updated. We

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See **ISRAEL**, page 12

PERSPECTIVE & OPINION

ISRAEL

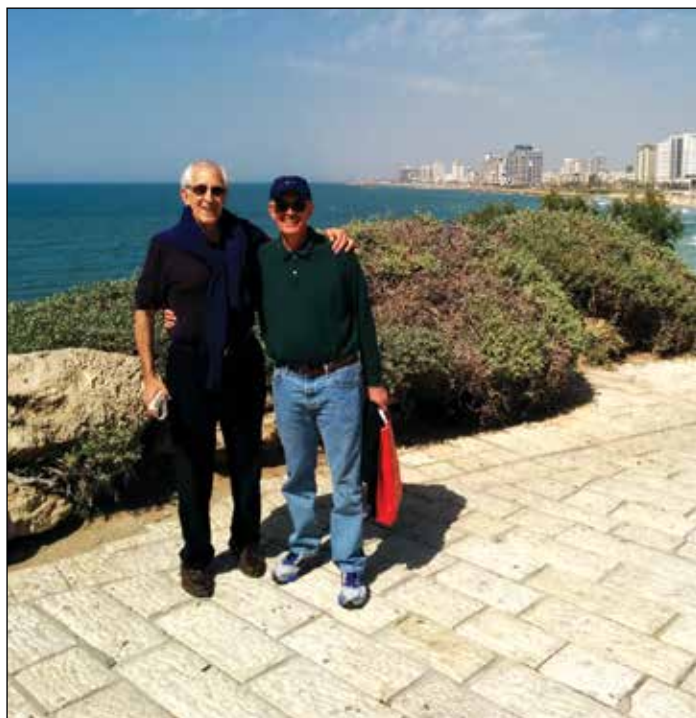
continued from page 11

also met with officials of Sikkuy, a Jewish/Arab collaborative organization, working to implement full equality between Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel.

A highlight of our time in Jerusalem was a visit to the Hand in Hand School. The school educates over 600 Arab and Jewish children in grades Pre-K through 12. Each class has both an Arab and a Jewish educator. Currently, Hand in Hand is the only mixed high school program in Jerusalem. The Hand in Hand program stresses a bilingual curriculum from an early age coupled with regular shared activities for the entire community. The aim is to engage students and their parents in a meaningful Jewish-Arab partnership to build a stronger more integrated Israeli society. There are four other Hand in Hand schools in Israel.

For the “touring aspects” of our time in Jerusalem, we hired Rabbi Michael Cytrin to help us efficiently organize our schedule. Rabbi Cytrin, originally from San Antonio, teaches at a post high school yeshiva in Ramat Beit Shemesh, outside Jerusalem, when he is not guiding tours.

In the Negev our first stop was Project Wadi Attir, near the Bedouin town of Hura. We met with the mayor of Hura and a representative of the Jewish National Fund, a partner in the project, which seeks to develop and demonstrate a model for sustainable, community-based agricultural enterprise, adapted to a desert environment. Although Wadi Attir is in its early phases, it has the potential to showcase modern day science and cutting edge technologies, as



Mike Ozer and Bob Ozer in Old Jaffa, Tel Aviv in background

well as raise the aspirations of the Bedouin community in the Negev.

Next stop was the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research in Sede-Boquer, a division of Ben Gurion University (“BGU”). There we met with several professors working in research on projects including water desalination and solar energy. The first professor we met was Dr. Boris Zaltzman, who immigrated to the Negev from Siberia over 20 years ago, and has never looked back. He set the stage for our overview when he told us that the major focus of the university was to “develop the Negev”.

The following day we visited the main campus in Be’er Sheva where we had further meetings with faculty members. BGU is an impressive, dynamic place with over 19,000 students. The campus is a beehive of activity with a new Advanced Technologies Park recently opening adjacent to the university where American and international companies will partner with BGU.

With commuter train service extended to Be’er Sheva in recent years and the IDF decision to move bases from the center of the country to the Negev, there should be massive growth and development in the region in the years to come.

My brother and I returned to Texas after a memorable holiday and personal mission. We will certainly not forget the time we spent together, and we will



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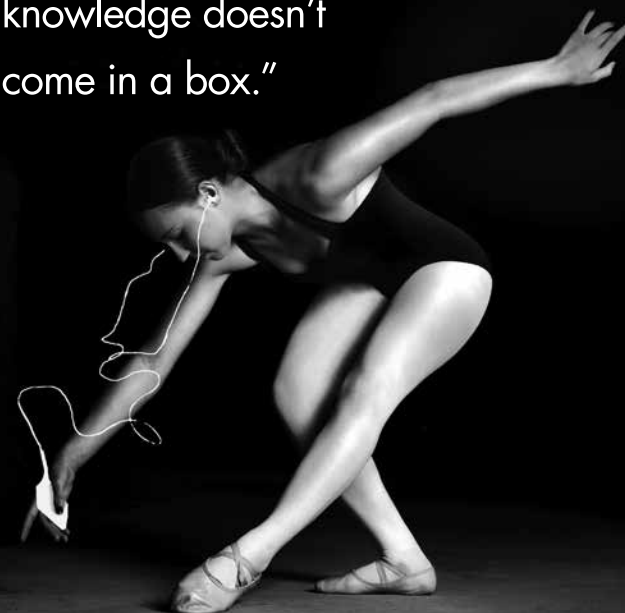
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remember that Israel always provides new adventures.

Dr. Michael Ozer is a pediatrician in San Antonio. He is San Antonio Chairman

for State of Israel Bonds and a leader of the Maimonides Society of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. His brother, Bob, is a retired attorney from Austin.

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AT ISSUE

continued from page 10

Throughout its 66 years of existence, Israel has faced violent resistance from those who would have preferred an alternative site for a Jewish homeland. Allan Levene now proposes a second homeland – in south Texas.

A British-born American citizen who lives in Atlanta, Levene, a Republican, is so intent on becoming a member of Congress that he filed for election from four distant districts – Georgia's

11th, Hawaii's 1st, Michigan's 14th, and Minnesota's 6th (Residence is not required to run in a primary, but if, as seems unlikely, Levene ever advanced to the general election, he would have to move to that Congressional district). He has pledged to pursue peace in the Middle East by getting Israel to relinquish all territory acquired in the 1967 Six-Day War. In return, Israel would gain an equivalent amount of territory – about 2,880 square miles – in the United States. The land swap would create a second

homeland, what Levene calls "New Israel."

It would be located in south Texas. It would consist of a swath along the Laguna Madre south of Baffin Bay and east of Harlingen and US 77.

The climate of New Israel would be familiar to inhabitants of old Israel. Israel would gain ports on the Gulf of Mexico, and, though old Israel and New Israel would be thousands of miles apart, Levene notes that Alaska and Hawaii made the United States itself non-contiguous.

The fact that overseas

departments such as Guadeloupe, Martinique, and French Guiana are an integral part of France makes it, too, a non-contiguous nation. A boon to both Israelis and Texans, New Israel would result in eliminating the principal cause of Israel's insecurity, its occupation of territory claimed by Palestinians. And it would bring prosperity to the boondocks of North America. It would certainly improve the quality of hummus in the region.

The proposed site in Texas – about 1 percent of the

state's total area – is sparsely populated, and largely devoid of Jews.

If reconstituted as New Israel, it would need at least two synagogues – one to attend and one to boycott. Levene minimizes the difficulty of acquiring the land through sale or eminent domain.

The few Texans living there now would be invited to remain as citizens of the Jewish state, and the flocks of rare migratory birds that winter in New Israel could be designated honorary Zionists. Expenses incurred by the United States would be more than made up for by reducing the billions Americans spend for Israel's military defense. If the plan brought peace at last to the Middle East, it would also bring creative, enterprising Hebrew-speakers to the borders of the United States.

More complicated than establishing an annex of Israel in south Texas would be persuading Jewish settlers to evacuate the West Bank. Like Madagascar, Uganda, and Tasmania, Texas lacks any biblical connection to the Jewish people. An additional official homeland here would be an arbitrary outpost, a mere franchise.

Rather than reduce dangers to the Jewish people, it would entice violent anti-Semites with yet another bull's-eye. But, as recent events in Kansas, Kiev, and Paris indicate, Jews need not inhabit an officially designated homeland in order to be targets.

We already have multiple New Israels spread around the world. They are called the Diaspora.

Steven G. Kellman is a professor of comparative literature at UTSA.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

AGUDAS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD



The Social Action Committee of Agudas Achim hosted a Habitat for Humanity Joshua Build, bringing a home building worksite to the synagogue on April 27. Participants of all ages helped assemble the wall panels for a complete Habitat home. "In the midst of our Passover celebrations we are frequently reminded of our ancestors' quest for a new home and the importance of putting down roots. There couldn't be a better time than right after Passover to hold this build," said Judy Kelne, event chair.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH THROUGH S.A. GIVEBACK



Deborah Miller, Jacob Miller, Jimmy Toubin and Isaac Miller enjoyed a family moment together while volunteering for S.A. GIVEBACK

S.A. GIVEBACK held an Easter Dinner for wounded service members and their families at the Warrior Family and Support Center. The dinner was sponsored by the Joel A. Toubin Endowment Fund. To learn more about donation and volunteer opportunities, call the Federation's Community Relations office at (210) 302-6960.



The Gurwitz family arrived early to volunteer. Allie Gurwitz took a family selfie with her phone. Allie, Rachel, Jordan, and Jonathan Gurwitz



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WALK RAISES AWARENESS ABOUT HUMAN ATROCITIES

San Antonio's Third Annual Walk Against Genocide was held at the Campus of the San Antonio Jewish community on April 27. Alex Marie Secondeire, a Rwandan survivor, spoke about the 20th Anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide. He presented a ribbon to Jean Pierre Ndenheyingoma for his heroic efforts that saved thousands of Rwandan lives. The Walk was held to raise awareness about genocides and mass atrocities that are happening today.



Alex Marie Secondeire, a Rwandan Survivor, with Judy Lackritz, CRC Director of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, Jean Pierre Ndenheyingoma, and Nathan Ratner, Coordinator of the Jewish Coalition for Literacy

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

HILLEL PASSOVER



Audree Sullivan, Shayna Rosenthal, Eva Littman and Sarah Friedlander prepare the Seder plates for the San Antonio Hillel Seder at Trinity University.

B'NAI TZEDEK AND BBYO TEENS HOLD HUNGER SEDER



Leaders of the San Antonio Hunger Seder included (l to r) Ariana Sonsino, Carly Stockstiel, Bailey Ratner, Alec Litofsky, Justin Zeldes and Josh Halff.



Dylan Ashworth and Jordon Litofsky follow readings of the Hunger Seder

A Hunger Seder, organized and led by leaders of the B'nai Tzedek and the BBYO members, was held to raise awareness and encourage activism about senior hunger.

Older Americans are significantly less likely to participate in nutrition assistance programs than other eligible groups. Factors contributing to low participation rates among seniors include decreased mobility, isolation, technology barriers, perceived stigma, and confusion about programs and/or eligibility.

B'nai Tzedek is a Jewish Federation program under the direction of Rachel Stern, and BBYO is a Barshop JCC program under the direction of Dylan Ashworth. The Hunger Seder was created by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs.

General information about senior hunger issues was distributed prior to Passover at the Jewish Campus and to area synagogues by the Community Relations Council (CRC) of the Jewish Federation and Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services. For more information, contact the CRC office at (210) 302-6960.



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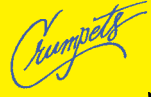











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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Inspiring Women, Inspiring Stories

By Stacey Kline Schwartz

"Delightful, Lovely, Delicious" were some of the words used to describe the Lion of Judah Luncheon which took place on Thursday, May 15, at the Argyle. The luncheon is an annual event which celebrates women who generously contribute \$5,000 or more to the Jewish Federation of San Antonio's Annual Campaign. The Lion of Judah program began nationally in 1972 and locally over twenty-five years ago when Esther Vexler had the vision to become San Antonio's first Lion. During the luncheon, Esther was presented with flowers as a "thank you" for her inspiration and continued commitment.

Sondra Sugarman was acknowledged for inaugurating the Lion of Judah Endowment in San Antonio in 1999. Dr. Alice Viroslav, Board Chair of the Jewish Federation, spoke beautifully about Sondra, of blessed memory, and how she lives on through her legacy of giving. Others who have established a Lion of Judah Endowment were also recognized, as were those who have moved into new Lion levels of giving with their increased gifts during the past year.

Jodi Starr was presented with a Lion pin as the community's youngest and newest Lion of Judah. Women's Philanthropy Chair Lauren Stanley charged Jodi with wearing the Lion pin with pride and encouraging other young women in the community to follow in her footsteps.

Dr. Amy Benedikt, Vice-President of Financial Resource Development, highlighted the impact of a Lion gift on the community and the importance of increased giving in order to build a stronger Jewish community in San Antonio, in Israel and around the world. Ronit Sherwin, CEO of the Jewish Federation, focused on the influence women have had in Jewish philanthropy.

Attendees were treated to an inspiring musical presentation by Dmitri Kasuk and Luba Agranovsky of Duo Dmitri, an internationally-acclaimed piano/flute duo who interweave their touching story of rescue and return with their beautiful music. Dmitri and Luba were rescued from the Former Soviet Union in 1990 with the help of North American Jewish Federations at a time when Jews were not allowed to practice Judaism in Russia. The dollars raised through the Jewish Federation of San Antonio's Annual Campaign helped to get Jews out of the Former Soviet Union. Dmitri and Luba went to Israel with their daughter where they began a new life, learning Hebrew and what it meant to be Jewish while also re-starting their music careers. They continued their education, were summoned all over the world to play their lovely music and settled in the United States in 1997 where they have continued playing and teaching music to young people. They travel to various Jewish communities, like San Antonio, to share their music and their story as a way of giving back.



Dr. Amy and Elana Benedikt, Dmitri Kasuk and Luba Agranovsky of Duo Dmitri, Dr. Alice and Hannah Viroslav



Beverly Birnbaum, Gail Gurwitz and Roxana Kelfer



Judy Palans, Judith Lachman and Gloria Silber

WHAT'S HAPPENING



STUDENTS COMMEMORATE ISRAEL MEMORIAL DAY

Students from the Torah Academy of San Antonio (TASA) participated in the Yom Hazikaron memorial event at the Jewish Community Center on May 4.



YOUNG STUDENTS JOIN IN ISRAEL CELEBRATIONS

TASA Students Elisheva Sarfati, Avigail Salzman, Rachel Sarfati, and Arianna Tawil prepare to celebrate Yom Ha'Azmaut (Israel Independence Day).

IN THE ZONE WITH THE YOUTH ZONE



On Sunday, May 4, children at Chabad's Youth Zone enjoyed a bubble pool, cupcake decorating, and a sand Mt. Sinai volcanic eruption celebrating the holiday of Shavuot.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

TEMPLE BETH-EL'S 140TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION GALA

Temple Beth-El hosted an Unforgettable Evening to celebrate the congregation's 140th birthday. The gala, which took place on May 3, included dinner and dancing with live music by Beatles' cover band, 1964: The Tribute.



The theme of the evening was *Dress for 1964*, and these ladies certainly dressed the part. From left, Lori Stockstiel, Emmy Eth, Miranda Sutin, Danna Halff, Mindi Silver-Weiss, Courtney Silver and Sandy Levenshus



Beatle #5, Rabbi Mara Nathan, performs a number with the Tribute Band, 1964.



Above: Cantor Julie and Rabbi Alan Berlin lead Havdalah to open the event.



At right: Fran Cohen and Courtney Silver show off their 60's outfits and Go-Go Boots.



Appetizers and cocktails before the dinner were enjoyed in the Jacobson Garden. From left, Joe Westheimer, Buddy Gardner, Mickey Roth, and Jutta von Borg Roth.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

EARTH DAY AT THE HEINTZ

Heintz Preschoolers celebrated the earth and their dedication to Tikkun Olam with a whole school assembly on Earth Day. Children enjoyed healthy snacks, they shared a great book about recycling and taking care of our planet, and created a hands-on project making eco-friendly bird and squirrel feeders.



RODFEI CELEBRATES ISRAEL'S ANNIVERSARY

Rodfei Sholom hosted the Israelstock Concert to celebrate Israel's Independence on May 6.



At left: Area teens enjoy hanging out at the Israelstock Concert.



At left: Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg is joined by Lisa Abramson, and her daughter Lauren at the Israelstock Concert.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



RABBI JEFFREY ABRAHAM



RABBI DAVID KOMEROFSKY



RABBI MARA NATHAN

Welcoming our new Rabbis

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio is pleased to welcome several new rabbis to our community:

Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Senior Rabbi of Congregation Agudas Achim; Rabbi David Komerofsky of Temple Chai; and Rabbi Mara Nathan, Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth-El.

We also extend our best wishes to Temple Beth-El interim Rabbi Darryl Crystal and Congregation Agudas Achim interim Rabbi Howard Siegel as they depart our community to serve others.



SUNDAY FUNDAY

Children enjoy Rodfei Sholom's Sunday Funday outing at the Kiddie Park, April 26.

(Lower left to top): Max, Nicole, and Sofia Nestel join (Top to lower right) Tori Benatar, Samantha Abramson, and Lauren Abramson at the Kiddie Park

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

JAS PASSOVER



Emma Garcia, Anna Chester and Alex Fux had the opportunity to make matzah brei in the kitchen with their teacher Barbie Gorelick Callanan and Irene Ramirez of Campus Catering.

A MOMS' CELEBRATION



On Friday, May 2, Gan Gani Preschool children enjoyed singing and giving gifts to their moms in honor of Mother's Day.

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SPREADING SUNSHINE



On Wednesday, April 30, Sunshine Club members enjoyed a Mother's Day luncheon celebrating their "Yiddishe Mommies" (Jewish mothers.) The Sunshine Club is a monthly luncheon and social for seniors held at the Chabad Center. It is a grant recipient of Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

JCC WEEK OF ISRAEL

The Barshop JCC celebrated Israel's Independence with a week of programs, classes, and events May 4 through May 9.



Anatole and Sherie Trakhtenbroit and Emily Sparks and Ronnie Levy enjoyed the cooking demonstration and Israeli-themed dinner by Green Vegetarian Cuisine.

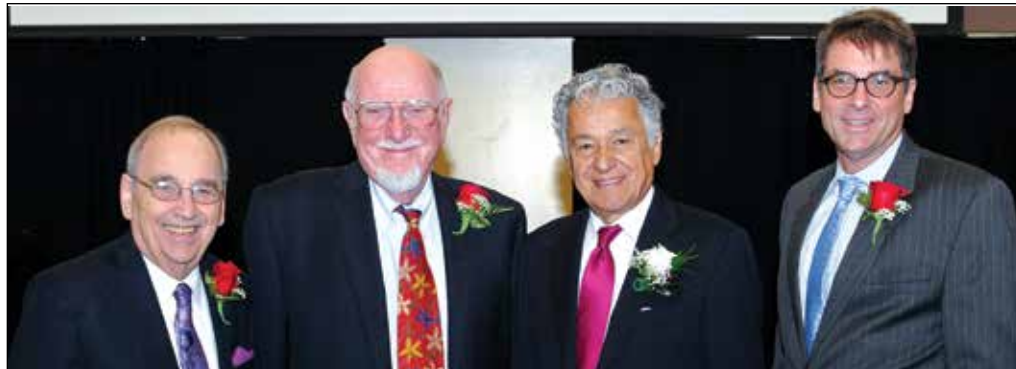


Sandra and Tory Wadiche attended Hands on Israel, with free crafts and falafel.



Betty Kelman and Candy Gardner enjoyed Israeli crafts, food and film with the JCC Senior Center programming.

JFS TAKES ON NEW LOOK AT ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON



In a bit of a twist on Jewish Family Service's annual Mother's Day Luncheon, this year's honorees were all men. They included (l to r) Jack Efron, Marty Epner, Dr. Habib Nathan, and Mike Molak.

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Sherwin@jfsatx.org

Susan Avitan Kariv,
Chief Development Officer -

Laurie Van Liew, Chief Financial Officer
vanliew@jfsatx.org

Lauren Abraham, PJ Library Coordinator

Alan Carney, Accounting Manager -
carneya@jfsatx.org

Francesca Garrett, Holocaust Memorial
Museum Director - *garrettff@jfsatx.org*

Stacey Kline Schwartz, Women's
Philanthropy Director - *schwartzs@jfsatx.org*

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Tribe Coordinator - *Rpstern@gmail.com*

Lynn Waghalter, Beldon Librarian -
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SAN ANTONIO CONGREGATIONS

Congregation Agudas Achim (Conservative)

16550 Huebner Road, 78248
Phone: (210) 479-0307
Fax: (210) 479-0295
website: www.agudas-achim.org
Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Senior Rabbi (July 2014)
Hazzan Jeremy Lipton

Congregation Beth Am (Reconstructionist)

7150 IH 10 West, 78213
Phone: (210) 492-2173
Fax: (210) 342-8935
website: www.bethamsatx.org
President: Helene Bachmann
Lay Leader Marion Bernstein

Congregation Rodfei Sholom (Orthodox)

3003 Sholom Dr., 78230
Phone: (210) 493-3557
Fax: (210) 492-0629
E-Mail address: rodfeisa@gmail.com
Website: www.rodfeisholom.org
Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg
Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg

Temple Beth-El (Reform)

211 Belknap Place, 78212
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Website: www.beth-elsa.org
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(July 1, 2014), Rabbi Elisa Koppel,
Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl, Emeritus
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COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Barshop Jewish Community Center

12500 NW Military Highway, Suite 275, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6820
Fax: (210) 408-2341
Executive Director: Saul F. Levenshush Email: jcc@cc-sa.org
President: David Palans
Website: www.jccsanantonio.org
Programs include a nationally-accredited nursery school, an after-school center for school age children, a variety of summer camp programs, weekly programming for senior adults, and many cultural, educational and recreational programs.

Jewish Family Service

12500 NW Military Highway, Suite 250, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6920
Fax: (210) 302-6952
Executive Director: M. H. Levine
President: Ilene Kramer
Jewish Family Service (JFS) offers a wide range of professional counseling, social services, advocacy for victims of crime, and services for seniors including senior living and care options. JFS maintains the highest level of confidentiality at all time.

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services

12500 N.W. Military Hwy. Suite 260, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6946
Website: <http://www.goldenmanor.net>
Executive Director: Daniel L. Laser
President: Shari P. Pulman
Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) works to meet the needs and enrich the lives of Jewish seniors in the San Antonio area through services that keep seniors connected to the broader Jewish community by providing transportation for Jewish seniors, through direct services, and through grants to other organizations for programs that benefit all San Antonio area Jewish seniors.

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San Antonio Hillel

Website: www.sahillel.org
Director: Rachel Rustin
Phone: (210) 201-Jews
Email: Info@sahillel.org
San Antonio Hillel serves college students throughout the San Antonio area. SA Hillel maintains a presence on the primary campuses (UTSA and Trinity), with students from other campuses invited to join those events or city-wide events.

After School Judaics (JAS @ The J)

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Gan Gani Preschool

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Heintz Preschool

16550 Huebner Rd. 78248 / Phone: (210) 479-0429

JCC Block & Dreeben School for Young Children

12500 NW Military Hwy., 78231 / Phone: (210) 302-6846

Torah Academy of San Antonio

3003 Sholom Drive, Suite #200, 78230 / Phone: (210) 607-7261

SENIOR NEWS

Share the Israel experience on GMJSS annual trip

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services will host its annual trip to Israel, December 3-11, 2014.

Following a successful voyage in June 2013, *Israel at a Pace You can Afford* is a trip designed for those who prefer an itinerary set at a slower pace.

The experience includes visits to Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and travels north to Safed, Tiberias, and the Golan Heights.

Interspersed with stops to tour religious sites, will be opportunities to meet some of Israel's newest citizens to learn how the country has integrated Jewish people from across the globe.

Participants will also have the opportunity to hear from Israel's top academic and political leaders while enjoying fine cuisine.

GMJSS has put together this experience for those wanting to go to Israel with the desire to avoid the rugged physical pace normally associated with the journey.

Organizers say baby boomers may want to take this opportunity to take one or both parents and share the experience while everyone is still healthy, active and mobile.

For more information or to sign up for the trip, call the GMJSS office at (210) 302-6946 or email IsraelExperience2014@goldenmanor.net.

Kiddush Klatch Yom Hashoah trip: Remembering together

Congregation Agudas Achim's senior program, Kiddush Klatch, hosted a day trip to the Houston Holocaust Museum on Monday, April 28 (Yom Hashoah). The event, underwritten by Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services, included lunch at the Houston

JCC and private docent tours. The group consisted of fifty participants, including Holocaust survivors Susanne Jalnos, Anna Rado and Rose Williams. "This trip was an amazing experience.

Although the museum was quite emotional, we all really

enjoyed being together and had a fantastic day," said Mindi Stern, Membership and Communications Director at Agudas Achim. Agudas Achim is planning a larger community-wide trip to the museum on Yom Hashoah 2015.

PASSOVER SEDER AT GOLDEN ESTATES



A Passover Seder was held at Golden Estates on April 16. Cantor Julie Berlin led the Seder. The staff of Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services along with friends and family of the residents enjoyed a meal and conversation together.



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JCC Teen Trip to Israel

The JCC is coordinating a ten day teen trip to Israel December 23 to January 1, 2014, for students who, as of Fall 2014, will be in 8th and/or 9th grades. This opportunity will offer local teens the chance to experience Israel firsthand with their friends and peers from San Antonio and other Texas cities. Through excursions to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and the Negev, the teens will be thoroughly engaged and gain valuable insight as they learn about Israel's past, present and future through the many sights, sounds and tastes that make Israel so unique.

For more information about the JCC teen trip to Israel, visit www.jccsanantonio/teenisraeltrip or contact Dylan Ashworth at (210) 302-6869 or ashworthd@jcc-sa.org.

Yad B'Yad Intergenerational program ends year on high note

Risa Weinberger
Yad B'Yad Grant
Coordinator

While most schools are thinking of the end of the school year and summer activities, the children at Heintz Preschool were busy with their senior friends during a variety of Yad B'Yad Intergenerational programs.

The month of May started with the Pre-K traveling to Golden Estates to present a Shabbat/Mother's Day program on May 2. The children sang a variety of songs and invited the seniors to sing along if they knew the songs.

They then lit the Shabbat candles, sang Kiddush and Hamotzi for the seniors. After everyone enjoyed a snack of grape juice and challah, the children divided up and worked



Children in the Heintz Preschool Pre-K program perform at Golden Estates as part of Yad B'Yad.

with the seniors on a colorful Mother's Day wall hangings. While busy hands were creating "Yad B'Yad – hand-in-hand" there was a great deal of conversation between the children and the Golden Estates residents. The wall hangings were presented to the residents with a joyous "Happy Mother's Day."

The next week, the seniors were invited to Heintz Preschool for a

special Yom Ha Atzmaut – Israeli Birthday celebration.

The children and their senior friends enjoyed singing and dancing with Ms Mindy, tasted a snack of hummus, pita chips and dates, and created a "birthday" hat and parade shaker. During class that week, all of the children created some kind of Israeli flag to carry during a Yom Ha Atzmaut parade.

The parade led everyone into the Gurinsky Family Social Hall for lunch. The adults enjoyed falafel in pita bread, cucumber salad, a variety of vegetables and mini cupcakes for dessert.

The Yad B'Yad Intergenerational Program is made possible through a generous grant from Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.

Look for a calendar of upcoming Yad B'Yad events for the 2014-15 school year in August.

The next Yad B'Yad event for all Jewish seniors in the San Antonio area will be in September. If you would like more information about the Yad B'Yad Intergenerational Program, email Risa at yadbyad.heintz@gmail.com or call the Heintz Preschool at (210) 479-0429.

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Hillel launches jcollegebound.org

Hillel International recently launched a new website to ease the transition from high school to college for Jewish students.

Incoming students who enter their information on www.jcollegebound.org will have that information sent directly to the Hillel at the college they designate on the form.

"This website will make the process of engaging new Jewish students in campus life easier for Hillel programs all over the country while also providing incoming students with timely information about their new

home," Rachel Rustin, San Antonio Hillel director, said.

According to the jcollegebound website, "One of the biggest challenges about starting at a new college is finding a place to make connections and make new friends. Hillel is at the center of Jewish life on campus. Hillel helps make the transition to college easier."

Information submitted on the website will only be shared with the designated Hillel. For more information about Hillel locally, contact Rachel Rustin at Rachel@sahillel.org.

JCC Maccabi Games

The JCC Maccabi Games will be hosted in Boca Raton, Florida during the week of August 10-15. During the week-long experience, teen participants will stay with Jewish host families and take part in competitive sports and evening social events, as well as a day of community service with teens from around the country.

Twenty-four San Antonio teens and 2 Israeli sister city athletes will participate in individual sports, including bowling, tennis, and swimming, and team sports such as girls' volleyball and soccer and

boys' basketball and soccer. For more information, contact Dylan Ashworth at (210) 302-6869 or email at ashworthd@jcc-sa.org.

EKHLA 8th graders: our trip to Israel

In March 2014, members of the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy ("EKHLA") 8th grade class traveled to Israel for their graduation trip.

Here are some of their thoughts and experiences from their 10-day journey.

It Wasn't Just A Camel Ride

— *Tori Shiver*

Feet dangling off the side, I felt the camel rise, and we screamed and laughed, thinking: This is the coolest thing! But, it didn't begin like this.

We had just come from the Purim festival in Jerusalem and had stopped to eat falafel, shwarma, hummus, and Israeli salad. I wasn't sure what city we were in, but I knew we must've been close to the Bedouin Village. I could smell the camel leftovers. Being raised on a farm, it didn't bother me as much as others. Everyone was beaming because soon we were going to ride on an actual camel! My new friend from the Jewish Academy of Orlando and I paired up and tried not to bounce out of the

bus with excitement.

As we were pulling in, we saw people on camels. Barak, our tour guide, told us to wait while he went to make sure everything was ready. Waiting was like being strapped to a torture chair. When he told us we were good to go, we rushed off the bus. For miles to my left, there was nothing but sand packed in hills. To my right was a little Bedouin settlement. When Barak said "yala" ("let's go" in Arabic), it was our turn to ride the one-hump, spitting, desert horse.

My friend and I decided on a camel that was a dirty blonde color with a blue-green saddle. When the Bedouin man came over and sort of gurgled to the camel and petted its goatee, it stood up! It felt like a baby roller coaster. First, we leaned back as the camel got up with its back legs and then its front. We squealed and then started to laugh when we were fully in the air. For 30 minutes,

we went up and down sand mounds. We joked, giggled, and named our camel "Carlos" as we rode in the Negev desert.

Even though this camel ride was short, it was still one of the biggest highlights in my life. This experience made me wonder what it would be like to live in the days of my ancestors who possibly raced camels or rode them to school. What if my father would have, one day, offered camels to the man who wanted to marry me? What if my life had revolved around taking care of these animals every day? I can't picture my life being like that, but that's how it was for my ancestors, and how it still is today for some. I realized that the camel ride helped build a friendship and a memory that both will last a lifetime. It deepened my love for Israel and added a new spice to my life.

See **EKHLA**, page 27

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EKHLA

continued from page 26

Overlooking War

– Ilan Sonsino

“Let’s go!” said our tour guide Barak, as we were at the bottom of Mount Bental in the Golan Heights. As we began our hike up the 3,842-foot mountain, Barak explained that when we got to the top, we would be able to see Syria and possibly even hear the explosions of the Syrian civil war. He told us about the Crusades and pointed out the hill where the Crusaders lost, just a couple miles to the left.

So many things were going through my mind during that climb. One was that I looked above me and saw the dark clouds, and I hoped it wouldn’t start storming. Another was that I was getting so close to a dangerous place. I couldn’t believe what I was about to see. Then I heard Barak announce, “We’re here!”

We arrived at the top of the Mount Bental, and it began to hail, hard and fast. We were higher than some storm clouds, which was amazing to me, but it was still surprisingly hard to see Syria. Looking 3-7 miles ahead of us, we saw an area of light, which Barak explained was the southernmost part of Syria. I could not believe it. Barak told us to be quiet so we could hear the explosions of the civil war. Ethan jumped

up and screamed “I heard it! I heard it!” Two things amazed me at that moment: first, how a person could be so excited about hearing an explosion, and second, how close I was to constant death. By this time, the hail was coming down like a hurricane, so we all ran into a nearby coffee shop.

As I got my cappuccino, I was thinking about how important it is that Israel has control over the Golan Heights because Syrian snipers could easily shoot at the Israeli villages in the north from the mountains of the Golan Heights. And, I was thinking about how close I was to bloodshed. Syria, a country in such turmoil, is going through every country’s worst nightmare - a civil war. Every day people on both sides of the war are dying, and nobody knows when it will end. Least importantly, I was thinking that Israeli coffee is the best in the world.

The experience I had on Mt. Bental made me think about how different Israel and Syria are. Even though they are both going through constant attacks, Israelis are united, but Syrians are not. I am deeply happy to have had this experience, and especially to have had it in Israel.

For more information about EKHLA, visit the website at www.ekhla.org.

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ARTS & CULTURE

The Grandmother of the bride

If one of the most attractive tenets of Judaism is the strong belief in family, I was just privileged to enjoy the riches of that tradition this past weekend.

I was, and am the grandmother of the bride and enjoyed the distinct pleasure of being part of the wedding festivities of my precious Robin, as she married her soul mate, Douglas Grieser. It was one of those “besheryt” connections as they “happened” to meet in a drugstore that neither of them ever went to after meeting briefly at a gathering the year before. He recognized her and started up a conversation that resulted in a magnificent wedding that none who attended will ever forget.

What a thrill it was to see the bride, adorned like the true princess she is, float down the aisle on the arm of her father as we all gasped with joy. For the entire evening, she and her prince moved graciously



Mishugas:

LINDA KAUFMAN

among their guests, making each one of us feel so special to be part of this magical celebration.

Watching the slide show that the bride and groom put together, I got a fresh glimpse of my almost 24 years here in Texas. Newly married, Al and I moved here from Los Angeles in 1990, when Robin was three weeks old. Though we had originally planned to stay in California, once I heard my first grandchild was going to be born, our plans changed.

My husband wanted me to have the pleasure of watching Robin, and several years later, her brother Eric, grow up as he had been privileged to be part of his grandchildren’s lives in Detroit.

I sat teary-eyed as I watched the images of the

smiling, dark-haired baby who in the next slide was a darling two year old, amusing my now deceased mother. It is so true that the years fly by and we need to cherish each family milestone as it comes along.

Watching Robin in her stunning pearl-studded gown talk quietly to her three adorable flower girls made me realize that it wasn’t that long ago that she was a bright eyed toddler who would come over to swim in Bubbe and Grandpa’s pool. What a blessing for me to be able to watch her grow up and be part of her life from the very beginning.

I think back to my grandmother, Ida born Adela, who died at age 77, the same age I will be in December. At that age, she was an old woman whose only goal was to see me married and be here for the birth of my two daughters. After visiting us in Milwaukee shortly after Miriam was born, she died within a few months of respiratory complications.

My nanny was born in Romania and came to the United States at age 8. She was the oldest in a family of five children – two girls and three boys. They lived in Brooklyn and most never left the New York City area. Even moving to New Jersey was a big step for immigrants who wanted to live right near the rest of the family. Even though America was a safe place for Romanian immigrants, the old fear of being victims of anti Semitism lingered on.

As I starting reading

See **MISHUGAS**, page 28

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JCC presents free music and theatre event series

The JCC will be offering several free concert and performing arts events this summer in concurrence with the JCC's Summer JCamp. The events are open to the community.

Rick Recht will perform at the JCC for a family concert at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 26. Recht is well known for his appeal to youth and family audiences as a musician, singer/songwriter, entertainer and role model for involvement in Jewish life. Recht has become an icon for Jewish youth in the United States,

elevating the medium of Jewish music as a powerful and effective tool for developing Jewish pride and identity among the masses. Find more information about Rick Recht online at <http://www.rickrecht.com/resources/msnbcarticle.htm>.

JCamp's Performing Arts Campers will present a performance of the popular, family-fun musical *Schoolhouse Rock, Jr.* on Thursday, July 10 at 7 p.m. The performance is free and open to the community.

And the Israel Scouts Tzofim Friendship Caravan

returns to the JCC for a show on Friday, July 11 at 2 p.m. in the Holzman Auditorium. This free community event is uplifting and fun for the whole family.

"Whether or not your child attends our summer camp, community families are invited to attend our series of free summer concert and theatrical presentations. Just come on down; no rsvp required," said Lisa Guerrero, JCC Director of Youth and Camp Services.

Film depicts U.S. happenings during Holocaust

Congregation Rodfei Sholom will hold a special screening of *Against the Tide* on Sunday, July 13, at 6 p.m.

The compelling film documents what happened in the United States during the Holocaust, highlighting how a young activist, Peter Bergson, challenged Washington and the establishment Jewish organizations to demand that the rescue of Europe's Jews become a top priority for American Jews.

Through a never-before-seen 1977 interview, Bergson gives a first-hand account of what occurred. The more successful he became in attracting support from important non-Jewish members of Congress and Hollywood personalities such as Ben Hecht, Edward

G. Robinson, and Paul Muni, the more threatened and resentful Jewish establishment leaders became. Only the ultra-Orthodox Vaad Hatzala, led by Rabbis Aaron Kotler and Eliezer Silver worked with him.

Against the Tide addresses the attitudes of President Roosevelt and his senior advisors, who used the pretext of winning the war against the Nazis to block any Jewish

immigration to the U.S. and juxtaposes the events in America with heart-wrenching heroic stories of the doomed Jews of Europe and the leaders of Polish Jewry who had faith that their powerful brothers and sisters in the United States would somehow be able to save them.

For more information and to RSVP by Thursday, July 10, contact the synagogue at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

MISHUGAS

continued from page 27

about Romanian Jewish immigrants online, I learned they were the target of religious persecution and racism, especially at the end of the 19th century.

They were considered "objectionable aliens," though many had lived in Romania for generations. In 1893, legislation was passed that said that Jewish children were not allowed to be educated in public schools, and by 1898, Jewish children were not allowed to attend secondary schools or universities.

As anti-Semitic policies became more prevalent, over 70,000 Romanian Jews left the country between 1898-1904. The Gelberg family was among those who came to the United States during this time period while many others fled to what is now Israel.

Though my grandchildren never knew my grandmother or her family, the life they live today is a direct result of the choices she and her family made over 100 years ago. Our tradition teaches us that the way we live our lives will affect our families for

generations to come.

My friend Donna, whom I have known for thirty years, was a guest at Robin's wedding. She and I taught elementary school together in 1984, and she is the one who found the apartment complex where my daughter Debbie (Robin's mother) and I lived for several years. My mother and Randy, Debbie's husband, also lived at The Gables, a community that we drive by almost daily.

Donna jokingly claims that she is responsible for Debbie's meeting Randy and, it follows, for Robin and Eric being born. Though we smile when she says this, it is absolutely true. The choices we make truly do affect future generations.

Though the wedding celebration is over, I can go to both my daughters' Facebook pages and swoon over the incredible photos that permanently capture the wedding so we will never forget it.

May each of you have the blessing of being part of many family celebrations, and may you make choices in your lives that will bless your family for generations to come.



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Rodfei Sholom Book Club outlines Summer reading

The Rodfei Sholom Book Club, which meets at the synagogue the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m., has released its Book Club reading list:

June 11: *Odessa: Genius and Death in a City of Dreams* by Charles King. When Mark Twain stepped ashore in the Black Sea port city of Odessa in the summer of 1867, he found a cosmopolitan crossroads teeming with people from all over the Russian Empire and beyond. This was a city that was "...home to one of the largest and most famous Jewish communities in Europe and ended up destroying itself during the Second World War..."

July 2: *The Fortuneteller's Kiss* by Brenda Serotte. Despite everything to avoid the Evil Eye, Brenda Serotte comes down with polio just before her 8th birthday. The year is 1954. Her bout with

this disease is central to this "heartbreakingly hilarious" memoir of growing up a Sephardic Jew among Ashkenazi neighbors in the Bronx. This is a tribute to a disappearing culture and a cultural depiction of the Bronx 50 years ago.

August 6: *The Woman Who Defied Kings: The Life and Times of Dona Gracie Nasi* by Andree Aelion Brooks. Born in Lisbon in 1510, Dona Gracie Nasi sojourned in Antwerp and Venice and finally settled in Ferrara where, as a successful (and Jewish) international banker, she used her wealth and connections to operate an underground railroad that saved many of her fellow Spanish and Portuguese conversos from the Inquisition.

For more information about joining the Book Club, contact Congregation Rodfei Sholom.

JCC's Presents *Hunting Elephants* Film part of JCC Jewish Film Festival Sequel Series

The JCC Jewish Film Festival will host a screening the film *Hunting Elephants* on Sunday, June 22 in the Holzman Auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., the film will begin promptly at 7 p.m.

The film, mixing a criminal plot with comedy, is about three elderly men and a child who find themselves stuck together in a nursing home in Jerusalem: The child is a genius, but is socially challenged; his

grandfather, whom he had never met (played by Patrick Stewart), is a former member of the Lehi organization and a somewhat cold person; the grandfather's best friend, also from Lehi, is full of ambition and passion which will never materialize; and the boy's English uncle who is a depressed, in debt actor.

There's one thing keeping them together; they all want to rob a bank as vengeance for not paying

the boy compensation for his father's death, which occurred as a result of on-the-job testing of a new security system for the bank. The odd foursome wants the money to make their last wishes come true.

Tickets to the screening are \$5 per person and available at www.jccsanantonio.org along with links to the film trailer and reviews. Seating is limited; advanced ticket purchase is strongly encouraged.



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Symphony marks milestone anniversary with Joshua Bell concert

The San Antonio Symphony will celebrate its 75th anniversary with a special concert featuring Grammy award-winning violinist Joshua Bell on June 14 from 8 p.m.-10:30 p.m., Sebastian Lang-Lessing conducting. Tickets are available on the symphony website www.sasymphony.org or by calling the symphony box office.

Early beginnings: Jewish roots

The San Antonio Symphony was founded in 1939 by Max Reiter, a Jewish conductor from Italy, who came to America when the Italian government proclaimed an official anti-Semitic policy.

Reiter was forced to sign a release renouncing all professional contracts. Seeing no future for himself with European orchestras, Reiter boarded a ship for New York carrying only a briefcase of introductory letters, a few articles of clothing, and \$40 in cash. Reiter came to the U.S. and began a campaign to create a new American orchestra.

His travels brought him to San Antonio where he conducted a "demonstration concert" in the Sunken Garden Theater at Brackenridge Park on June 12, 1939.

The performance, before an audience of 2,500, was a resounding success, and Reiter's proposal for a full-time orchestra for San



Max Reiter, an Italian-born American conductor, founded the San Antonio Symphony Orchestra in 1939.

Antonio received the city's support.

Reiter's leadership and inspiration resulted in a November 24, 1939, inaugural concert presented by the newly incorporated Symphony Society of San Antonio, launching the first season.

The next 75 years

On June 14, Joshua Bell will help usher in the next chapter of the San Antonio Symphony with musical selections by composers Weber, Sibelius, Wagner, Strauss, and Ravel.

Bell, the son of a Scottish father and a Jewish mother, will perform on a 300-year-old Huberman Stradivarius violin (1713).

The violin was originally given to a young Polish Jewish prodigy, Bronislaw Huberman, who later became the founder of what is now the Israeli Philharmonic.

It was stolen twice during Huberman's ownership and later put up for sale as a museum piece before being purchased by Bell.

To learn more about the history of Bell's violin, visit www.JoshuaBell.com.



Violinist Joshua Bell will perform at the Majestic Theatre on June 14.



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U.S. & WORLD NEWS

MUSEUM

continued from page 1

leader of Belgium's small, centrist Parti Populaire.

"Sadly, however, the actual attack comes as no surprise to us after years of living in an atmosphere of rampant anti-Semitism that often leads to violence," he added.

Within hours of the attack, the local Jewish community and the European Jewish Congress' Brussels-based Security and Crisis Center were operating a crisis management room complete with a telephone hotline and website — testament to years of preparations for a terrorist attack on one of Europe's most at-risk communities.

The shooter, who fled the scene along with a driver, used what appeared to be an AK-47 to kill Israeli tourists Mira and Emanuel Riva and two of the museum's staff, a man in his 20s and a female volunteer, Belgian authorities said.

At press time, a manhunt was still underway to capture the perpetrators of the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in Europe since the

French Islamist Mohammed Merah killed four people at a Jewish school in Toulouse in 2012.

Indeed, the characteristics of the Brussels museum attack follow the pattern observed at Toulouse, according to Claude Moniquet, a Brussels-based counter-terrorism expert.

"It seems we are dealing with a small cell of operatives — Islamists or otherwise — with a low signature that minimizes their risk of being caught," he said.

Yet Belgium's Jews have experience with such violence that predates the Toulouse attack by more than 20 years. In 1989, a Moroccan terrorist assassinated the community's then president, Joseph Wybran. An armed attack on Brussels' largest synagogue — which is located 400 yards from the museum — left five wounded in 1982, three years after 13 people were wounded in a grenade attack on an El Al plane at Brussels' airport.

Some of the worst attacks on Belgian Jewry happened between the years 1979 and

1981, when Arab terrorists killed four people in a series of explosions, including a car bomb, and shootings directed at Jewish targets in Antwerp's Diamond Quarter.

"That track record means that no one thought this couldn't happen here," said Joel Rubinfeld, president of the Belgian League Against Anti-Semitism and former leader of French-speaking Belgian Jews. "In fact, most of us knew it could and would, especially in recent years. So I am shocked but not in the least surprised."

The level of threat increased after the second Palestinian intifada, when Belgium began seeing dozens of anti-Semitic attacks each year for the first time since World War II.

Recent years saw another development not only because of Merah — who inspired a slew of anti-Semitic attacks across the French-speaking world — but because "of the arrival to the scene of new patrons of anti-Semitism in the French-speaking world," Rubinfeld said, a reference to Dieudonne M'bala M'bala, a French comedian whose blatant anti-Semitism has emboldened anti-Semites.

Earlier last month, Belgian authorities banned a conference organized in Brussels by several individuals with a track-record of promoting anti-Semitism, including Dieudonne, French activist Alain Soral and Belgian lawmaker Laurent Louis.

Rubinfeld said that Belgian authorities have generally had "a more lax attitude" toward anti-Semitism than their French counterparts. The banning

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See **MUSEUM**, page 33

2,500 Jews make pilgrimage to ancient Tunisian synagogue despite instability

(JNS.org)

More than 2,500 Jews last weekend made the pilgrimage to Tunisia's ancient synagogue in Djerba, a tiny island that is home to Africa's oldest synagogue and a small Jewish community.

Tunisian Interior Minister Muhammed Ali Laroui said that the pilgrimage to the El Ghriba Synagogue "exceeded all expectations" and that Tunisia hopes the number

of participants will double to 5,000-6,000 next year, the website Tunisien.tn reported.

The three-day pilgrimage, which was promoted by Rene Trabelsi — a Tunisian-Jew who was considered for the country's tourism minister post last January—has been controversial in Tunisia, which is attempting to restore its moderate pro-Western image following its 2010 "Arab Spring"

uprising. Tourism Minister Amel Karboul and Deputy Interior Minister for Security Ridha Sfar were censured in April by Islamists and others in the Tunisian parliament for allowing Jewish tourists in with Israeli passports.

Additionally, Norwegian Cruise Line in March said it would no longer stop in Tunisia after the country refused to allow Israeli nationals the right to disembark.



The ancient El Ghriba Synagogue in Djerba. Credit: Wikimedia Commons.

Knesset to hold presidential election June 10

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The Knesset will vote for Israel's next president on June 10.

The winner will succeed Shimon Peres, whose seven-year term ends July 27. Israel's president, a largely ceremonial post,

serves as the nation's official head of state. Israeli citizens do not cast ballots for president.

Reports emerged that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wanted to abolish the presidency, limit its powers or postpone the

election. Israeli media have reported that Netanyahu opposes the candidacy of Reuven Rivlin, a fellow member of the Likud party who has feuded with Netanyahu in the past.

Candidates were required to obtain signatures of at

least 10 Knesset members by May 27 to run. Along with Rivlin, senior Labor Knesset member Binyamin Ben-Eliezer has obtained the necessary signatures.

Several other public figures declaring their intention to run include

Silvan Shalom, a Likud Knesset member; Dalia Itzik, a former Kadima lawmaker; Dalia Dorner, an ex-Supreme Court judge; Dan Shechtman, a Nobel Prize laureate; and Yosef Abramowitz, a solar energy entrepreneur.

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White House official: We will work with Palestinian unity government

TEL AVIV (JTA) — A senior official in the White House reportedly said the U.S. would cooperate with a soon-to-be-formed Palestinian unity government, despite Israeli opposition.

At press time, a unity government was set to be established in May by Fatah, which controls the West Bank's Palestinian areas, and Hamas, the terrorist group that governs Gaza. United States policy is not to work with Hamas unless it recognizes Israel, commits to nonviolence and abides by previous Israeli-Palestinian agreements.

Although it will have Hamas' support, the new government will be made up of technocrats, rather than representatives of Hamas or Fatah. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has said that the new government will abide by the conditions

mandated by the U.S.

An anonymous senior White House official told Haaretz that the U.S. will work with the new government as long as it abides by the conditions, even if it has Hamas' support. A meeting of 28 European Union foreign ministers last week took a similar position.

"We want a Palestinian government that upholds those principles," the White House official told Haaretz. "In terms of how they build this government, we are not able to orchestrate that for the Palestinians. We are not going to be able to engineer every member of this government."

When the Palestinian factions announced the unity agreement in April, the Israeli government announced that it would not negotiate with any government backed by Hamas.

Netanyahu: designated Indian PM wants to deepen ties with Israel

(JNS.org)

India's newly designated prime minister, Narendra Modi, has said he wants to "deepen and develop" ties with Israel, according to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who says he spoke with the prime minister-elect on May 16.

"There is a clear expression of the desire to tighten economic ties with the state of Israel," Netanyahu told his cabinet on May 18, according to *Israel National News*.

Modi is a pro-Hindu nationalist politician and the chief of the conservative Bharatiya Janata Party.

He has also been chief minister in the western Indian province of Gujarat for 13 years.

The *International Business Times* reported that Modi has been



India's newly designated Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Credit: Wikimedia Commons.

interested in greater political and economic ties with Israel, and called him "Israel's best friend in South Asia."

"Under Modi's leadership and encouragement, Israel has poured billions of dollars of investment into Gujarat. Officials from both Gujarat and Israel have visited each other over the past few years to deepen trade and economic links," the newspaper wrote.

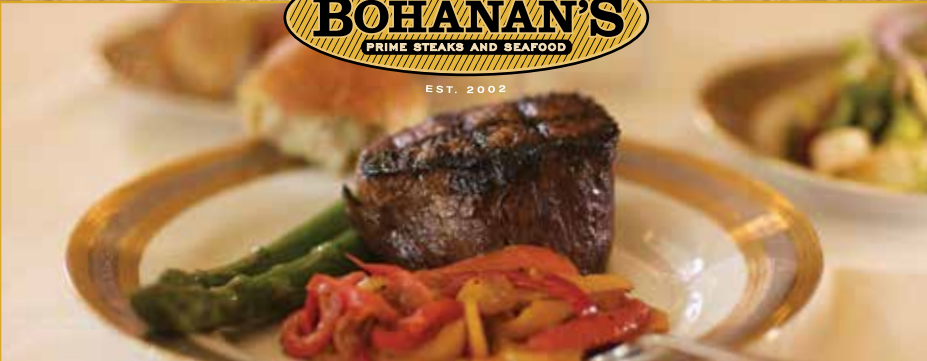
Additionally, 30 Indian

companies exhibited in a special pavilion at the Tel Aviv MIXiii 2014 technology conference in May.

"Israel and India already do a lot of business in several areas, including agriculture and diamonds, with the latter accounting for about half the current \$5 billion in trade between our countries," Vani Rao, deputy chief of mission in the Embassy of India, told the *Times of Israel*.



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MUSEUM

continued from page 31

of the conference earlier this month "was the first case of its kind in recent years where we saw a determined stance," he added.

Modrikamen noted that police maintained no permanent presence outside the Jewish Museum of Belgium. "Even when police do place protection, it means two cops in a car parked outside a building and nothing comparable to the security provided in France," he said.

But Arie Zuckerman, a European Jewish Congress executive who has spearheaded Jewish

communities' preparations for crises after Toulouse, says the problem is not local.

"When governments perceive a threat, they know how to cooperate tightly and devote enormous resources and we see this in the war on drugs, for example," he said. "Sadly, no such pan-European recognition has emerged on the need to protect Jewish institutions, which often have to carry the burden of security costs. We saw it Brussels, where the terrorists probably collected intelligence without being detected, but it could happen in many other places. The tragedy is in Belgium, but the problem is in Europe."

Survey: 74% of French Jews mulling emigration

(JTA) — Nearly 75 percent of thousands of French Jews who participated in a recent survey said they are considering emigrating.

The survey, whose results were released May 19 by the Paris-based Siona organization of Sephardic French Jews, encompassed 3,833 respondents from the Jewish community of France, Siona said.

Of the 74.2 percent of respondents who said they are considering leaving, 29.9 percent cited anti-Semitism. Another 24.4 cited their desire to “preserve their Judaism,” while 12.4 percent said they were attracted by other countries. “Economic considerations” was cited by 7.5 percent of the respondents.

In total, 95.2 percent of all respondents to the online survey conducted by Siona from April 17 to May 16 said they viewed anti-Semitism as “very worrisome” or “worrisome.”

Slightly more than half, or 57.5 percent, of respondents, said “Jews have no future in France,” while 30.6 percent said there is a future for Jews there.

New pluralistic military siddur designed to accommodate all

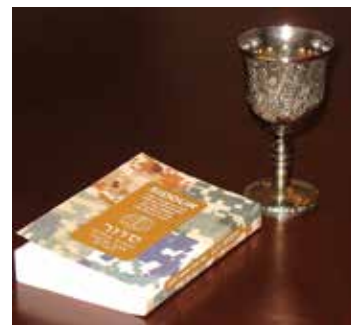
The Shabbat of Memorial Day weekend marked a first in American Jewish life: Three New York City congregations representing the three major U.S. Jewish movements davening from the same prayer book.

The siddur, produced by the Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) Jewish Chaplains Council for the military, in April entered distribution to U.S. military bases. JWB's last military prayer book, issued after World War II, bothered Orthodox chaplains due to its omissions and more liberal chaplains

due to gender-specific language. But the new siddur was vetted by all three major Jewish denominations.

While the copyright permissions allow the book to be distributed solely within the military, the Memorial Day weekend Shabbat was an exception, coinciding with Fleet Week, which brings thousands of members of the Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard to New York City.

To learn more about the new military siddur visit www.JNS.org, search words “military siddur.”



The new military siddur was vetted by the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox rabbinic associations.
Photo Credit: Debra Rubin.

Borscht Belt resort Kutsher's faces wrecking ball

NEW YORK (JTA) — Kutsher's, the fabled Catskills resort hotel, is now just a memory.

The 1,300-acre property near Monticello, N.Y., was sold last year for \$8.18 million to Veria Lifestyle Inc., which plans to turn it into a health and wellness resort.

Demolition on the buildings began in mid-May.

Built in 1907 by brothers Max and Louis Kutsher, and taken over by the latter's son, Milton, in 1946, Kutsher's was the last of the Borscht Belt hotels in the Catskills.

For decades it served up kosher food and (mostly kosher) entertainment to generations of Jewish New Yorkers. Legendary Celtics coach Red Auerbach summered there, and NBA star Wilt Chamberlain worked as a bellhop.

Veria, which is owned by the Indian media mogul Subhash Chandra, plans to build a spa and a 200-room hotel, according to the Herald-Record.

The other famed Jewish resort hotels in the Catskills have been sold off, demolished or, as in the case of Grossinger's,

abandoned and taken over by nature. Some of the smaller properties also have been repurposed

by haredi Orthodox groups that use them as schools, camps or summer colonies.



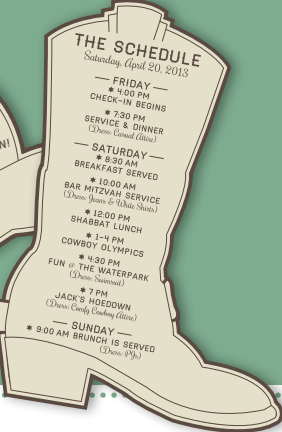
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BAR MITZVAH: Jeffrey Abe Michel



Jeffrey Abe Michel will be called to the Torah for his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, June 14, 2014, at Congregation Agudas Achim, celebrating with family and friends. Jeffrey is the son of Dr. Gregg and Rhonda Michel, and brother of Halle. He is grandson of Dr. Stephen and Barbara Michel of Boca Raton, Florida, and of Helen Katzman of blessed memory, and Mr. Irwin and Toby Katzman of San Jose, California.

Jeffrey is an Honor student at Hector P. Garcia Middle School in Helotes, Texas. He is a star player on the San Antonio Hooks 12U baseball team. For his Bar Mitzvah project, Jeffrey is serving as a coordinator for the San Antonio Food Bank's 2014 FeedSA Food and Fund Drive. His goal is to collect 250 pounds of food and \$250 in cash donations to help those in need. To make donations online in Jeffrey's honor, go to <http://vad.aidmatrix.org/vadxml.cfm?driveid=24470>.

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Hazzan Jeremy Lipton receives award

Hazzan Jeremy Lipton of Congregation Agudas Achim was recently honored by the Cantors Assembly at their May international convention in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, where he received the Moshe Nathanson Achievement Award for Musical Conducting Excellence.

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Sunday, October 26, 2014