



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

AV-ELUL 5774

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

AUGUST 2014



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
Federation's mission to build "community" across the world.

PAGE 3



FIRE IT UP!
Competition heats up at 2nd annual Kosher BBQ event.

PAGE 19



WHAT'S HAPPENING
Catch up on what's been happening in the community!

PAGES 14-18

Israel under fire: Stop the sirens

Ronit Sherwin, CEO of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, expresses her gratitude to all the members of the San Antonio community who have contributed to help those Israelis who were impacted by the recent barrage of rocket fire. Thank you for your support of Israel. We are stronger together. The funds collected have been sent immediately to care for homebound elderly and disabled adults during this

time of terror, respite for tens of thousands of children fleeing rocket attacks, crisis counseling for Israelis who are overwhelmed by anxiety and in need of relief, and needs that have developed.

To contribute to the Campaign send a donation to the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, 12500 N.W. Military Highway, Suite 200, San Antonio, Texas 78231 or online at www.jfsatx.org.

AT RIGHT:
Kindergartners take cover in Israel.



The Presbyterians and the Jews

Recent votes and actions of a national Presbyterian body, PC-USA, have revealed a distinctly anti-Jewish strain among some factions of the Presbyterian Church.

By a narrow margin, PC-USA voted at its recent meeting in Detroit to divest from three companies whose equipment is used by Israel in the West Bank. (Although PC-USA purports to not support the BDS [Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions] Movement, by

CRC COMMENTARY

JUDY LACKRITZ

selecting divestment they have followed a central plank of the BDS movement.)

Of equal concern has been the publication and sale of *Zionism Unsettled* by a committee of PC-USA. It contains quotes such as Zionism is "a false theology... a doctrine that fosters both political and theological

"Zionism is the belief that the Jewish people should have a national existence in our homeland."

Steve Gutow, JCPA President Rabbi

injustice."

JCPA President Rabbi Steve Gutow, has stated that the document is "worthy of a hate group, not a prominent American church." Additionally, he described the Presbyterian congregational resource, *Zionism Unsettled*, as "an affront to Jews,

Israel, peacemaking, and

truth-telling."

"Zionism is the belief that the Jewish people should have a national existence in our homeland," added Gutow. "Like me, most Jews are Zionists and embrace a two-state solution, a Jewish state of Israel and a Palestinian

See **CRC**, page 12

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



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EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS:

The submission deadline for the SEPTEMBER 2014 issue of the Jewish Journal is AUGUST 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.

ADVERTISING:

To place an advertisement or request ad rates, contact Sandy Leigh at (240) 498-8999 or advertising@jfsatx.org.
Ad deadlines for SEPTEMBER 2014 ISSUE:
• Ad space reservations due no later than August 12, 2014 by noon;
• Press ready ads due by August 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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THE SECOND ANNUAL

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FOCUS ON FEDERATION

From Athens to Israel: Bound by destiny

by Ronit Sherwin

In early July, Lauren Stanley, Susan Kariv and I represented San Antonio on a Jewish Federations of North America mission to Greece and Israel. Lauren is a co-chair of our Israel and Overseas Committee and Susan is our new Chief Development Officer. The mission planners could not have imagined the matzav (the Hebrew word for “situation” which has come to embody the ongoing struggle in Israel against terrorism) we would encounter. I invite you to visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/JFSATX) to see photos of the

mission. Though far from a spontaneous visit, we were in Israel while it was under full attack from Hamas.

Our group included one-hundred-and-twenty professionals and volunteers who are doing through their Federations just what we’re trying to do through ours - connecting local communities with the global Jewish people.

These are a few of the experiences of the mission that Jewish San Antonians should note:

Greece is still reeling from the economic crisis of 2011. High unemployment and the rise of extremist parties on the right and left have stretched the already overburdened organized Jewish community.



Lauren Stanley, Susan Kariv and Ronit in Athens, Greece.

They are vulnerable and fearful of the too-familiar trends they’re witnessing. We met with Minos Moises,



A home visit with a Jewish family in Athens.

the president of the Athens Jewish community. His message to North American Jews was simple: “With your help, we feel more protected.” We visited the Athens Jewish Community School, with approximately one-hundred-and-fifty students, whose board chair told us “We firmly believe that our existence is directly linked to the future of the Jewish community. Thank you (JFNA and local Federations) for treating this proud community with dignity.”

We met with other Athenian Jewish volunteers whose work is being supported directly by our collective gifts through Federation to the Joint Distribution Committee. I was part of a six-person delegation that met with the prime minister of Greece for a briefing on the country’s experience of anti-Semitism. Prime Minister Antonis C. Samaras is a close ally of

Israel, recognizing that both countries are Mediterranean democracies dependent on each other.

From Athens we traveled to Thessaloniki, which was once fifty-percent Jewish, but saw 87% of its Jewish population murdered in the Holocaust. Today Thessaloniki is a city of one million, with approximately one-thousand Jews. We visited the Jewish summer camp, described by the local Jewish leader David Saltio as “the pride of the Jewish community,” and Thessaloniki’s mayor, Iannis Boutaris, who told our group that “the city has remorse” in reference to the tragic impact of the Holocaust.

From a once-thriving and now-struggling Jewish community in Greece, we flew to the largest Jewish city in the world: Tel Aviv. There we visited participants and staff from the Center for Independent Living, one of six such centers in Israel to assist individuals with physical, mental and emotional disabilities. (By comparison, the US has one-thousand centers). We were in Tel Aviv amidst rockets and air raid sirens, at moments when the centers



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See **MISSION**, page 6

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: August 2014

AUGUST 1

• JCC Summer Concert Series presents Opera San Antonio Fantastic Mr. Fox, 10 a.m., at The Campus

• Chabad Center YJSA Shabbat Dinner, 8:30 p.m.

AUGUST 3

• Leah Goot Hadassah Community Rabbi Meet & Greet, 3 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus

AUGUST 4

• Congregation Rodfei Sholom Tisha B'Av Services, 7:45 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

AUGUST 5

• Congregation Rodfei Sholom Tisha B'Av Services, 6:15 a.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

• Holocaust Memorial Museum Echoes & Reflections Workshop, 8:45 a.m., Room 277 at The Campus

• Congregation Rodfei Sholom Tisha B'Av Services, 7:45 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

AUGUST 6

• JNetSA 1st Wednesday Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Il Sogno

• Temple Beth-El Sip & Schmooze, 5 p.m.

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

AUGUST 7

• JCC Silver Cinema, 1 p.m., at The Campus

• JCC Summer J-Camp Family Night, 6 p.m., at The Campus

AUGUST 8

• Beldon Library Visiting Author Sigal Ratner-Arias

AUGUST 10

• Congregation Agudas Achim Step-Up for Israel, 10 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim

AUGUST 12

• Jewish Federation Board of Directors Meeting, 7 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus

AUGUST 14

• Temple Beth-El Machar Torah on Tap, 8 p.m.

AUGUST 17

• Chabad Center YJSA Girl's

Pool Party, 2 p.m., Chabad Center Pool

• PJ Library Family Pool Party, 3 p.m., at The Campus Pool

AUGUST 18

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

AUGUST 20

• Jewish Federation hosted Community Visioning Forum, 8:30 a.m., Holman Auditorium at The Campus

• JCC Green Vegetarian Cooking Class, 7 p.m., at The Campus

AUGUST 22

• Temple Beth-El Machar After Hours, 8 p.m.

AUGUST 23

• The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, 8 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

AUGUST 24

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

• Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood New Member Brunch, 10 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim

• Congregation Rodfei Sholom Painted Plate Event, 10 a.m., the Painted Plate

• The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, 2:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

AUGUST 26

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

AUGUST 28

• Congregation Rodfei Sholom Women's Rosh Chodesh Group, 7:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

AUGUST 30

• The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, 8 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

SEPTEMBER 1

• All Campus Offices Closed

SEPTEMBER 3

• JNetSA 1st Wednesday Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Il Sogno

SEPTEMBER 4

• Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Sip & Schmooze, 5 p.m.

• Congregation Rodfei Sholom Tisha B'Av Services, 7:45 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

AUGUST 28

• Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Member Dinner, 6 p.m., Temple Beth-El

• The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, 7:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

AUGUST 30

• The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, 8 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

SEPTEMBER 1

• All Campus Offices Closed

SEPTEMBER 3

• JNetSA 1st Wednesday Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Il Sogno

SEPTEMBER 4

• Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Sip & Schmooze, 5 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 4

• The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, 7:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

SEPTEMBER 5

• Temple Beth-El Machar After Hours 8 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 6

• The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, 8 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

SEPTEMBER 7

CANDLE LIGHTING

AUGUST 1

8:08 p.m. Candle lighting

AUGUST 2

Parashat Devarim

Shabbat Chazon

9:37 p.m. Havdalah

AUGUST 8

8:02 p.m. Candle lighting

AUGUST 9

Parashat Vaetchanan

Shabbat Nachamu

9:31p.m. Havdalah

AUGUST 15

7:56 p.m. Candle lighting

AUGUST 16

Parashat Eikev

9:25 p.m. Havdalah

AUGUST 22

7:48 p.m. Candle lighting

AUGUST 23

Parashat Re'eh

9:17 p.m. Havdalah

AUGUST 29

7:41 p.m. Candle lighting

AUGUST 30

Parashat Shoftim

9:09 p.m. Havdalah

SEPTEMBER 5

7:32 p.m. Candle lighting

SEPTEMBER 6

Parashat Ki Teitzei

9:01 p.m. Havdalah

IN TRIBUTE

Celebrate, Honor, Dedicate.

Dear friends,

The Jewish Journal of San Antonio, Federation's free monthly Jewish newspaper, is now offering readers the opportunity to honor or memorialize friends and loved ones with tribute donations to JFSA. Tribute donations may be made in honor of a bar/bat mitzvah, the birth of a baby, a graduation or a wedding; in memory of loved ones; or as thoughtful way to say "thank you."

Donations of \$36 or more will be acknowledged with a two line tribute in the Jewish Journal unless the donor requests otherwise.

To request a High Holiday greeting or tribute ad, contact Sandy Leigh at advertising@jewishj.org. The deadline for the September issue is August 12.

Thank you!

Thank you to Alice Viroslov for your excellent leadership as Chair of JFSA the past two years.

- JFSA Board

Welcome Lauren Abraham, Tiffany Bockerstette and Susan Kariv to the Jewish Federation family! We are excited to have you join our professional family.

- Ronit Sherwin

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Peyton Elizabeth Ausburn

- Leslie and Adam Ausburn

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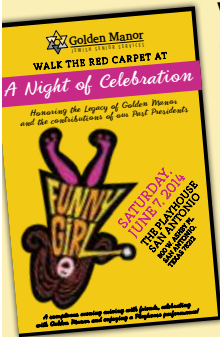
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A Night of Celebration

PROGRAM BOOK



Want a copy of the Celebration program book? The 36 page program book, filled with history and fun facts about

Golden Manor, community insights and reflections, and more. To get a copy, call the office at (210) 302-6946.



EVENT PHOTOS

Want to check out photos from the event? See the album on our website - www.GoldenManor.net

Want a copy of a picture you see? Call the GMJSS office to request an emailable file.

GMJSS celebrates past, looks to future

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services is so proud and thankful for the support we received on June 7 for our Celebration event. The evening was quite a success - filled with some great conversations and an amazing show that had the sold out theater all in laughter.

Guests were treated to a red carpet experience - with beautifully laid carpets courtesy of Alan Petlin Gourmet Floors. Before entering the house, pictures were taken and printed on the spot.

Other photographers mingled with the crowd and snapped pictures of guests as they shmoozed. Photos are available for viewing on our website - www.GoldenManor.net.

An array of delicious hors d'oeuvres were served prior to the show, and desserts were available during intermission.

The wonderful performance of *Funny Girl* starring Carlye Gossen as Fanny Brice highlighted the evening and captured the audience with beautiful songs, intricate set designs, and costumes that made the show just right.

Guests were given an exquisite 36 page program book, filled with history and fun facts about Golden Manor, community insights and reflections, and more. To see a copy of the book, call the GMJSS office at (210) 302-6946.

We can't seem to say enough how thankful we are for the sponsorships, volunteers, support, and everything down to the very last



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smile, hug, or hand shake that made the evening one that will go down in GMJSS history.

The money raised from the event allows GMJSS to expand our efforts as we continue to serve Jewish seniors in San Antonio. Through transportation, partnerships and direct programming, GMJSS touches the lives of seniors in the area.



**A VERY SPECIAL
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Ode to Summer's End

A COLLABORATIVE MUSICAL EXPERIENCE:

San Antonio musicians come together to perform a concert for our Jewish Community

Sunday, August 17, 2014 at 3pm - Temple Beth-El

Enjoy a free concert & refreshments during this inter-generational and inter-congregational event!

RSVPS APPRECIATED to Lety Vargas at LetyV@GoldenManor.net or 210-302-6946 by Wednesday, August 12.

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FOCUS ON FEDERATION

MISSION

continued from page 3

need even more help to assist people with disabilities as they cope with the sad realities of Israel's years in the sights of Hamas rockets from Gaza. While in Tel Aviv we visited Neve Michael, a boarding school for children ages five to eighteen who are severely at-risk and have been removed from their homes. Nearby we met with the director of a new program through the Jewish Agency called Young Communities Doing Social Businesses, which empowers young people to move to economically challenged communities in Israel to develop social business models. The goal is to develop businesses in these areas that are on the periphery and to bring young talent to these areas.

Tel Aviv's name is a play on the old and the new (a tel is an archaeological mound with layers of history, and aviv means spring and renewal). That is what we saw in our brief time there. Tel Aviv is a bustling center of activity, innovation and entrepreneurship. But at its heart is the Jewish sense of responsibility for each other. Our global Jewish philanthropy supports the kind of creativity we saw firsthand. Not even Hamas rockets could interrupt the spirit of Tel Aviv and its residents' willingness to do more to help each other and the world.

Like Israelis, though, our group was never far from the reality of the matzav. From Tel Aviv we drove up the Judean Hills into Jerusalem, the eternal capital of the Jewish people. There we met the parents of Gil-ad Shaar (z"l), one of the three young men kidnapped and murdered by terrorists

in June. These brave and grieving parents told us "Am Yisrael (the Jewish people) discovered their inner strength (through this tragedy)." A national tragedy was made personal through our conversation with Gil-ad's parents. In their time of sorrow they were comforted by the presence of Jews from North America.

To get a better sense of how the matzav plays out with Israel's most vulnerable populations, we heard a panel discussion of "Life Under Fire" with people



Ronit with counselors at the Jewish summer camp in Thessaloniki, Greece

working and living in the south of Israel. We met a

social worker from an absorption center working



Antonis Samaras, Prime Minister of Greece, and Ronit Sherwin

See **MISSION**, page 7



Jewish Federation
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Calling all Jewish Teens!!! (7th – 12th Grade)

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Promoting Unity: Standing as one as a Jewish people

Hinei ma'tov u'ma nayim shevet achim gam yachad – how good it is for all of us to be together.

On July 2, hundreds of San Antonio's Jewish community gathered to mourn the deaths of Naftali Fraenkel, Gil-ad Sha'ar and Eyal Yifrach (z'l), the Israeli teens who were kidnapped and murdered in June. The sense of unity and solidarity was tangible in our sorrow. We do that



**Letter from
our CEO**

**RONIT
SHERWIN**

well. We are here for each other at moments of sadness, lifting others and being uplifted, surrounded by others who value the power of community.

We are one when tragedy strikes. So, why is it so

challenging to come together on a typical day? Why is it so hard for us to check our baggage, set aside our politics and personal agendas and come together as one Jewish community without catastrophe?

There are problems enough for the Jewish people without creating more. The organized Jewish community must be in the business of promoting unity, solving problems and

inspiring positive motives for connection.

Our San Antonio Jewish community stands as one with our people worldwide. And we ought to pledge ourselves this year to come together more often locally for the purposes of addressing critical issues of learning, affiliation, resource allocation and identity. We can and will do more for the global Jewish people by standing as one every day.

Hinei ma'tov u'ma nayim shevet achim gam yachad – how good it is for all of us to be together.

Please join me and the volunteer and professional leadership of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio in this challenge. Take a seat at the table with everyone in our community and let's come together for the good of our people today and for generations to come.

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MISSION

continued from page 6

with new *olim* (immigrants to Israel) and the director of a center for adult independent living in Beersheva. She reminded us that while Israelis have ninety seconds to get to a bomb shelter when the siren sounds in Tel Aviv,

those in Beersheva have only fifteen seconds. Imagine how difficult that is without physical limitations, let alone for Israel's aged and the infirm.

Our mission concluded with Shabbat in Jerusalem. We enjoyed an Israeli musical group called the

Fountainheads, with its vision of a new Israel for twenty-and-thirty-somethings. The ancient and timeless city is always being renewed.

Our brief trip took us through thousands of years of Jewish history, highlighting the variety of Jewish experiences from Athens to Thessaloniki to Israel itself. We met people who seem to have nothing in common, but are bound by their destiny as Jews to support and care for each other. That is Jewish philanthropy - love of people - at its very best.

In the coming months, as our local campaign continues, Lauren, Susan and I will be uplifted in our work by what we experienced. San Antonio's Jewish community is an integral part of the global Jewish people and we look forward to sharing these stories, and hearing your stories, through our shared work. *Am Yisrael Chai.*

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

Diplomate of the Board of Internal Medicine

Diplomate of the Board of Gastroenterology

Fellow of The American College of Gastroenterology

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Step up for Israel

Congregation Agudas Achim will be hosting a two-part program to help create a broad awareness of the growing movement to de-legitimize Israel and help educate and motivate people of all ages to step up on Israel's behalf. A free preview event on Saturday, Aug. 9, 2014, at 8:30 p.m. includes Havdallah, the film *Israel Inside*, and dessert.

The following day, Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014,



will feature an in-depth program of four short films with facilitated discussion (lunch included), from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The films are *Creation of the State of Israel*, *Israel & the West* and *Israel and the Media*, *Crossing the Line: The Intifada Comes to Campus*, and *Speak Up for Israel*. Sunday's program is free

if RSVP is received by Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2014. There will be a \$10 charge at the door.

This program is underwritten by the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation and Jon and Susan Blumenthal. All are welcome to attend. For more information and to RSVP contact Karen Katims or Sami Burgess at asst.iprs@agudas-achim.org or (210) 479-2689.

Federation welcomes new CFO



Tiffany Bockerstette, the Jewish Federation of San Antonio's new Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

Tiffany Bockerstette has joined the Jewish Federation of San Antonio as the organization's new Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

Before joining the Federation team, Bockerstette served for more than five years as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts.

She brings more than

13 years of accounting and finance experience with 11 years in non-profit management.

"Tiffany will bring a high level of professionalism, dedication and enthusiasm to the JFSA staff," said Federation CEO Ronit Sherwin. "She has a passion for serving in a mission driven environment and is excited to get started."

Holocaust Memorial Museum hosts free community workshop

For the third year, the Holocaust Memorial Museum of the San Antonio will welcome world-renowned Holocaust scholar Ephraim Kaye, Director of International Seminars for Educators at Yad Vashem, to San Antonio for a free community workshop.

Held on Tuesday, August 5 from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m., *Echoes and Reflections* will cover life in the ghettos, the role of bystanders during the Holocaust, and the Jewish Resistance among other topics. Participating teachers will receive 6 hours of continuing professional education (CPE), and a complimentary multimedia classroom resource valued at \$100.

The workshop is open



to the general public by reservation, and door prizes will be offered. To RSVP or for more information, contact Education Director Juana Rubalcava at rubalcavaj@jfsatx.org or (210) 302-6812.



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Temple Chai**

**Rabbi Mara Nathan
Temple Beth-El**

**Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg
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Holocaust Museum
Special Programs Manager**

Butterflies have long been used to symbolize the innocence and faith of the 1.6 million Jewish children who perished during the Holocaust. But in recent years, this delicate creature has also come to represent hope, resilience, and remembrance to many across the country. It is with this enduring spirit that the Holocaust Memorial Museum of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio announces its inaugural Butterfly Painting Fundraiser on Sunday, September 21st from 5 to 7:30 PM.

Hosted at Pinot's Palette in Alamo Heights, the evening will include an instructor-led painting of the *Butterfly of Hope*, a piece commissioned for the Museum and to bites and beverages sponsored by Francine Garza-Vale, a member of the Museum's

Commission. Tickets, available for \$40, include their canvas and painting supplies. There will also be a raffle for a gift card to Pinot's Palette and a stunning piece from the Brave Collection, a line of jewelry hand carved by survivors of the Cambodian genocide.

Proceeds from the ticket sales will go to funding the restoration and preservation of pieces recently acquired from Harry Mazal's collection. Seating is limited; please call the Museum at (210) 302-6807 or Pinot's Palette at (210) 832-8004 to reserve your seat! For more information on registration please visit bit.ly/pintospalette.



**Jewish Federation
OF SAN ANTONIO**

The Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio is a program of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

Perspective: The March

Each spring, thousands of people from around the world join together for the March of the Living, an educational program which includes the history of the Holocaust and the examination of the roots of prejudice, intolerance and hate. The March of the Living itself, a silent walk from Auschwitz to Birkenau, is a tribute to all victims of the Holocaust. San Antonio teen Jacob Schwartz was awarded a grant from Federation's Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies to participate in the 2014 March of the Living. The essay below is the first of a two-part series about his experience.

15,000 strong, we marched for a mile from Auschwitz to Birkenau. 70 years ago, our ancestors marched along the same path, but they were walking to their deaths; we were walking full of life, joy and spirit. We left right after Pesach, celebrating the exodus from Egypt, which was interesting because we were embarking on a journey that was an exodus of our own: from the ashes of Poland to the peak of Israel. I embarked



on the March of the Living with Jewish teens from over 40 countries. Over 7 days, we visited various camps and ghettos throughout Poland to pay tribute to the 6 million who died in the Holocaust and to learn about the atrocities to prevent them from happening again. Standing in what was left of the Warsaw Ghetto, we were told stories of the

uprising that took place in that very ghetto, a true testament to the Jewish spirit. After an hour-long bus ride, we arrived at the Radagast train station, a platform used to ship hundreds of thousands of Jews to extermination and work camps. Standing in the back of a preserved cattle car, surrounded by 150 other people, I felt very claustrophobic. I couldn't help but imagine that the doors would close and we would begin to move, as the Jews of 70 years ago did. Standing next to me was a survivor from Boca, who had spent 5 days in a car similar to the one we were standing in. She was in hysterics. I could not imagine the horrors she had experienced and how difficult it must be to be back in one of those cars.

We visited one of the countless mass graves in Poland. While most headstones have elaborate carvings, dates, tributes, and a list of surviving family,

See **MARCH**, page 10



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FOCUS ON FEDERATION

MARCH

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these graves had numbers, which was more still than so many other Jews were given, millions who were denied a proper Jewish burial.

Birkenau was truly unbelievable. No textbook can adequately prepare you for the sheer size of the facility, or the fact that in this single place, over one million people were herded in as less than animals and systematically, brutally murdered. Whole families rode over those railroad tracks, families that would never be whole again. When the Nazis gassed the Jews, they had nowhere to dispose of the ashes, so they dug pits. Some of the pits were filled with water. In these lakes lie the remains of nearly one million innocent human beings. If you look closely enough, you can see bone fragments or little bits of teeth. As we stood around the pond, tears flowing out of our eyes, our leader, Rabbi Meir Tannenbaum of Dallas, opened his mouth to share a story, but no words came out. He simply mouthed, "I can't" and turned away, sobbing. As he and the rest of us cried, a light rain began to fall. The rain fell not over the whole camp, but simply over the pond. Never have I experienced a more divine presence; it was as if God was shedding a tear with the rest of us. I have never been at a loss to explain my emotions, but this harrowing experience left me literally speechless.

In Auschwitz, the barracks have all been turned into museums. One part of the museum is a book of names, filled with the names of the three million Jews killed in Auschwitz and Birkenau. The pages are about three feet tall, two feet wide and full of name after name after name, front and back. The book is about fifteen feet long



on both sides. Never have I seen a better depiction of the number, 6 million. In the book, I found my name. Although I am not related to the "Jacob Schwartz" in that book, it signified to me the fact that all Jews were victims and it truly could have been me. In the gas chambers and crematoriums of Auschwitz, you can see scratch marks on the walls, marks from people trying to claw their way to freedom.

In the forest, 3,000 Jews were rounded up and shot. This number seems minute compared to the six million, but the same drill happened time and time again, city by city. One woman attempted to run from the Nazis, her infant child in her arms. The Nazis caught her and made her watch as they grabbed her child by the foot and smashed his head into a tree repeatedly until he was dead. She was then shot. The brutality and total disregard for human life is inconceivable.



Jews were unloaded from trains many times per day in Treblinka. "Welcome to hell!" the Nazis screamed as the families were taken out of the cattle cars. They were told to undress and march a few hundred feet to the gas chambers where they were all murdered. There are only a few documented survivors of the camp. In that pit lies the ashes of around one million Jews, many of whom were just like us: kids. We received letters from our parents at that moment, telling us how proud they were of us and how much they loved us. Those letters made me cry, not because they were sad, but because there were so many other children just like me who had parents who loved them, who had ambitions, who had hope, but who had all of that taken from them.

His name is Max and he is a survivor. His family was taken to Majdanek where he watched them being taken to the gas

chambers. How he continues to go back year after year to the very spot where his family was murdered is beyond me, but he represents everything good in the world: hope, life, joy (he never ceased to have grin on his face, even as the rest of us were in tears). He explained a day at Majdanek to us: beatings, selections, tireless work, and death.

When the camps were liberated, the Jewish community began to ponder how to create a monument to commemorate the people who had perished in Majdanek. In the mean time, the ashes from their bodies were being dug up by soldiers. It was decided that they would build a dome and inside it would be the ashes that were recovered: 7 tons! There was 7 tons of human ash recovered. It's truly baffling to think that the dust is actually what's left

of human beings. Some are given funeral processions and periods of mourning, but they were given a pit.

Standing outside of one of the countless crematoriums, I stared at the chimney. From that chimney rose the smoke from 800,000 bodies, innocent bodies. Standing in the gas chamber, looking up at the hole in the roof, I could not shake the frightening feeling that I would see a canister fall down and we would all stop breathing, like the millions of people from 70 years ago.

To be continued in Sept. issue.



For more information on scholarships for the 2015 March of the Living, contact the Jewish Federation office at (210) 302-6960



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Beldon Library News

The Beldon Library is now accredited by the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL). The Basic Accreditation was awarded on June 23rd at the 49th annual AJL conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The accreditation is in effect for 5 years. The AJL accreditation process entails a comprehensive evaluation of a synagogue, school or center library measured against the highest standards of excellence. Eligibility for accreditation is determined after a thorough review of documentation showing that the library and its staff adhere to the professional

standards promoted by AJL.

Summer hours for The Beldon Library are 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. Stop by, get a library card, and enjoy the library's great selection of books for all ages.



Jewish Federation
OF SAN ANTONIO

The Beldon Library is a program of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.



Beldon Librarian Lynn Waghalter with the library's official AJL Accreditation certificate

Literacy Coalition celebrates volunteers

The San Antonio Jewish Coalition for Literacy held an appreciation lunch for its volunteers on June 26 at the home of Dr. Habib and Manijeh Nathan. Nineteen volunteers attended the lunch, and gifts were given to them for their service to San Antonio students during the 2013/2014 school year. Michele Leverant, Chair of the SAJCL, was recognized for her support of the program.

Coalition volunteers tutor and mentor students in both public and private San Antonio area schools. They are currently working in elementary and middle school grades.

According to the Coalition's Coordinator, Nathan Ratner, "Just become a Coalition volunteer for the upcoming 2014/2013 school year and you too can be an honoree at next year's appreciation lunch! It only takes one hour per week during the regular school year. Adults of all ages can be Coalition volunteers. Currently there are many retirees and seniors who are volunteering at schools through the Coalition, and this has been a very rewarding and enjoyable experience for them. Volunteers are

See **LITERACY**, page 13



Jewish Federation
OF SAN ANTONIO

The Young Leadership Program of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio

Are you in your 20s – 40s? Do you want to get involved in the Jewish community?

Do you want to learn leadership skills? Do you want to meet others for social and/or networking opportunities?

Do you want to learn from leaders in the Jewish community?

Do you want to make a difference?

If so, the Young Leadership Program is for you!

Meets one Monday a month from 7:00pm – 8:30pm at the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community (October through May)

Topics include:

- Leadership
- History of the San Antonio Jewish community
- Our connection to Israel
- Tzedakah
- Advocacy
- And more

Class is forming now and space is limited.

For more information, email Rachel Stern at rpstern@gmail.com

FROM THE COVER

CRC

continued from page 1

state living side-by-side. However, the Presbyterian publication makes a uni-dimensional straw man of Zionism, distorting history, often quoting individuals and groups out of context, branding Zionism as a ‘false’ and ‘oppressive’ theology. It is not enough for the authors of this document to traffic in the odious libel that Zionism is racism - they compare Zionism to Nazism. We hope and expect the leadership of the church will repudiate this document.”

The document was pulled from sale on the PC-USA website, but it has not been repudiated. Its supporters do not seem to recognize that it is a sloppy and highly inaccurate document.

According to Katherine Henderson, President of Auburn Theological Seminary, it is an ideologically driven document “which purports to be about love, but it actually expresses demonization, distortion and imbalance. Sadly, its sweeping allegations, blanket condemnations and troubling omissions are not likely to foster productive conversations, but rather to prevent them. It creates walls not just between Presbyterians and Jews, Israelis and Palestinians, but also with the Presbyterian body itself.”

The document and the divestment vote have been extolled by former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke. One church leader, Sid Batts, a teaching elder for the Presbytery of Salem, North Carolina, has noted that the commissioners who voted for divestment do not see Jewish self-determination as legitimate and therefore do not see the Jewish people as

legitimate.

Many Presbyterians sitting in the pews of local churches seem to be unaware or in disagreement with the actions of their national body, which has seen a steady decrease of its membership over recent years due to defections of its members.

Those Presbyterians who do support divestment and the lies in “Zionism Unsettled” are going to have to come to face the deep contradictions in their own

positions before they can purport to be in support of peace. To truly make peace in the Middle East requires knowledge and respect for all the parties involved. To create peace demands of peace brokers that they not demonize one side of a conflict.

The Jewish community of San Antonio is bolstered by those Presbyterians who have spoken up against divestment and Zionism Unsettled and for peace.

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Manijeh Nathan and Dr. Mary Strang visit at the Literacy Coalition luncheon .

LITERACY

continued from page 11

always needed to provide that helping hand for regular students who need just a little boost to improve their academic performance. This is a volunteer activity where you can actually see how you are making a positive

difference.”

Those interested in becoming a volunteer for the upcoming school year, should contact Nathan Ratner, the Coalition’s coordinator. Nathan’s office telephone number is (210) 302-6972, and his e-mail address is ratnern@jfsatx.org.



Coalition volunteers tutor and mentor students in both public and private San Antonio area schools.

The San Antonio Jewish Coalition for Literacy is a program of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.



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and the Barshop JCC

WHAT'S HAPPENING

TEMPLE BETH-EL BROTHERHOOD PREPARES A FATHER'S DAY MEAL



Jonquil and Marc Feldman were first time volunteers in memory of Marc's Father who was a veteran.

On Father's Day, volunteers for the Temple Beth-El Brotherhood, under the leadership of President Andy Kabbe, prepared a meatloaf and mashed potato dinner and served it at the Wounded Warrior and Family Support Center for the wounded military personnel and their families. Andy Kabbe's meatloaf recipe was a big success with the families. The S.A. GIVEBACK program of the Community Relations Council helps to organize dinners with S.A. GIVEBACK volunteers and with various Jewish organizations. For more information about supporting the dinners, contact the Community Relations Council at (210) 203-6960.



Herschel Sheiness, Fred Kanter, Sally Kanter, Geri Miller and Hannah Margolis take a break from serving pie and desserts.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

2014 JCC SUMMER CAMP ROCKS



ABOVE: Jewish “Rocker” Rick Recht leading song session for JCC campers.

AT RIGHT: JCC Summer Camp Shaliach Lital Raz and camper Tory Wadiche dressed up for Rock Star Day.



SENIOR'S SUNSHINE CLUB



Left to right: Hinda K. Greenberg, Aaron Horning

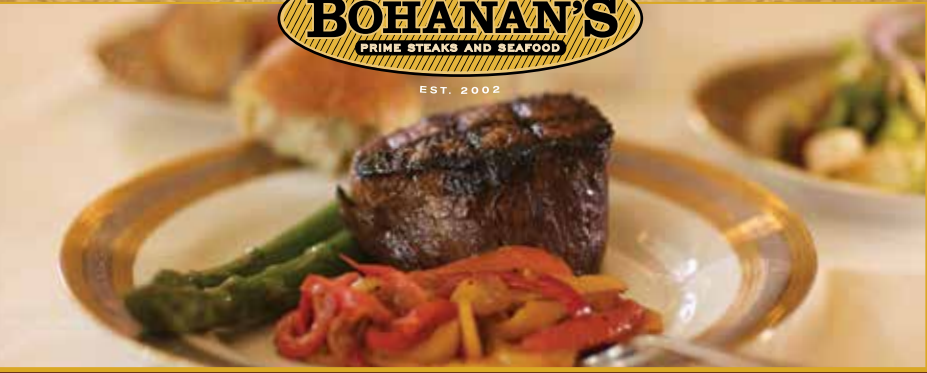
On, June 29, the young adults of YJSA (Young & Jewish San Antonio) together with the seniors of Chabad's Sunshine Club, enjoyed lunch and making Tzedaka charity boxes. Sunshine Club a monthly senior's luncheon co-sponsored by Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.



Left to right: Natalia Canahuati, Marge Present



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

JFSA ANNUAL MEETING



Stephen Kramer, Shari Pulman, Ronit Sherwin, Ilene Kramer



Raquel Holzman, Millie Ehrenberg, Laura Ehrenberg Chesler, Melvin O'Banion



Leslie Komet Ausburn, David Komet



Sergio and Alice Viroslav

The Annual Meeting and election of officers and directors of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio was held in the Holzman Auditorium on the Jewish Campus of San Antonio on Sunday, June 1. Outgoing Chair, Dr. Alice Viroslav, presided and incoming Chair Richard Planto was elected.

Photos by: Allan F Smith



Kelly Kremer, Talia Pim, Nicole Porterfield, Sam Klein, Scott Lefton, Rachel Rosenfield, Francesca Garrett, Todd Schwartz



Ronit Sherwin, Richard Planto



Mary Sue Kern, Rebecca Helterbrand, Gerard Migeon



Kelly Kremer, Georgiana Kremer, Nicole Porterfield



Jason Kboudi, Olivia Kboudi, David Kboudi

WHAT'S HAPPENING

COMMUNITY MARKS THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSING OF THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE



Photos by: Allan F Smith

On June 24, close to 200 people attended an *Evening of Thought & Melody* at Chabad, The Center for Jewish Life and Learning, marking the 20th anniversary of the passing of The Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson o.b.m. Keynote speaker was Dr. David Luchins who spoke on the Rebbe's relationship with world leaders and his impact on global affairs.



UPCOMING HOLIDAYS:

Rosh Hashanah

Begins sundown Wednesday, Sept. 24

Yom Kippur

Begins sundown Friday, Oct. 3

Watch for schedule of High Holiday services in the September *Jewish Journal*.

CAMP RODFEI SEED CAMP



Camp Rodfei Seed Camp counselors Avigail Garber, Ayelet Elefant, Elisheva Reyhanin, Shana Gross are joined by Counselors-in-training Sylvia Geller and Rachel Widman with camp Rodfei campers.



Seed Counselor Avigail Garber and CITS Rachel Widman and Tamara Weiss enjoy the bounce house at Camp Rodfei.

SCIENCE WIZARDS AT WORK



Young children enjoyed a variety of hands-on science projects that allowed them to explore different concepts and ideas at the Heintz Preschool's Science Wizards at Work summer camp.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

SUPER SUPPER!



Rodfei Sholom hosted a Mexican dinner for the congregation's Summer Supper Club Event on June 18.

RODFEI ON ICE



Samuel Widen and Alex Geller joined in the fun at an ice skating social hosted by Congregation Rodfei Sholom on June 8.

IN THE COMMUNITY

JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

Calendar of Events:

Sunday, Aug. 24

9:30 a.m., Jewish Campus Room 277

Rose Williams, a survivor of a Nazi Concentration Camp during World War II, will speak on her experiences at Post meeting. Program includes light breakfast; open to the public RSVP to Post Commander Norton Shectman (210) 493-6660.

August 17-24

119th annual Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. national convention in Charleston,

South Carolina.

For further information, contact Post Commander Norton Shectman at (210) 493-6660.

Tuesday, Sept. 30

7 p.m.- 8 p.m., CTC section of the Audie Murphy VA Hospital Post 753 Bingo/Social with patients.

For more information, contact Ken Ashworth at (210) 647-0330.

Thursday, Nov. 13

Post members will be serving supper to the wounded

warriors and their families at the Wounded Warriors pavilion Ft Sam.

For more information, contact Ken Ashworth (210) 647-0330.

Membership Drive underway

If you are a Veteran who has an honorable discharge

from a branch of the United States armed forces, you are eligible to join JWV. Any current active member of any branch of the US Armed Forces is eligible to join. For further information and application contact Irwin Barath, (210) 341-4502.

San Antonio Post will host

the winter meeting of the Department of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma the latter part of January 2015. The meeting is a gathering of post members within the 4 states of the department for discussions of veteran affairs as well as for department business. More on this event forthcoming.

WORLD EVENTS ARE CHANGING BY THE MINUTE.

For the latest news updates, visit
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For news in our community, visit www.jfsatx.org



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Chabad to launch 3rd Annual Mezuzah Awareness Campaign

For the third year, Chabad will be sponsoring a Mezuzah Awareness Campaign in San Antonio.

The affixing of a Mezuzah on the front door has been widely practiced within the Jewish community. However, unbeknownst to many people, often beautiful Mezuzah cases on front doors do not contain kosher parchment scrolls.

From Sunday, Aug. 10 through Friday, Aug. 22, Chabad will send someone to check the Mezuzah scroll on your front door, and

replace it free of charge if it is not kosher (a \$35 value). In addition, if you do not yet own a Mezuzah and would like one, Chabad will give you a brand new Mezuzah for the front door of your home.

For more information and to make an appointment, please call Chabad at (210) 764-0300.

The program is sponsored by Dr. Eric and Adah Schaffer in loving memory of Dorothy and Alfred Schaffer.

Kosher BBQ Competition returns to Agudas Achim

Congregation Agudas Achim will host the 2nd annual Kosher BBQ Championship on the synagogue grounds at 16550 Huebner Road, on Sunday Oct. 26 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. The event, sponsored by HEB, will benefit the San Antonio Food Bank.

Thirty (30) grill teams will compete for the Kosher BBQ Champ title and a custom designed grand champion belt buckle.

The winner will be chosen by a panel of celebrity judges. A People's Choice selection will also be awarded.



Biblical references in last year's team names reflect the fun, casual atmosphere of the Kosher BBQ: The Lost Tribe, Jew C Que, The Golden Calf Grillers, The Kosher Smokers, and the Smoke 'N' Hot Red

Heifers. Think you have skills? Teams are still being accepted.

A fun family event, the Texas Kosher BBQ Championship will include (to date) live music by Los #3 Dinners and Cool Like Roy.

Event attendees will be able to sample BBQ served from the team pits; and sides and other fixings from the Kowsher Café.

There will also be a Kiddie Korral with games and activities for children; hot dog and pickle eating Contests; Bubbe's Bazaar with twenty-five (25) vendors selling everything from nuts to jewelry, trinkets and treasures in between; raffles and prizes.

The barbecue honors the memory and legacy of Texas and Southwest philanthropists and ranchers Emma Freeman and her sons Joe and Harry.

The Freeman family were long-time members of Congregation Agudas Achim and longtime lovers of great barbecue.

For more information on team registration, ticket and advance purchase options, visit www.TheTexasKosherBBQChampionship.com.

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Fundraiser supports families of children with severe disabilities

A special fundraising event this month will benefit a local foundation that provides resources to families with children whose medical conditions prevent them from walking or speaking.

The Michelle Kuri Foundation was founded by Dr. Elishiva Nawrocik in memory of her daughter who suffered from severe cerebral palsy until her death at age 37

in 2008.

The fundraising event will be held at Medlar's Fine Jewelry, 7115 Blanco Road, on September 11 from 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. The event will include kosher refreshments as well as musical entertainment and a live auction.

For more information on the event or the Michelle Kuri Foundation, call (210) 601-5973.

In the (luggage) bag

NCJW is collecting serviceable used luggage to benefit children in foster care whose belonging are currently being transported in garbage bags.

NCJW learned of this situation as a result of participating in a subcommittee of a statewide Task Force on Foster Care. All of this is an outgrowth of the section's new Transitions initiative, a program to assist and support young adults aging out of foster care. NCJW will be providing one on one mentoring along with group cultural and educational programs.

"It was at the invitation of BCFS, our partner in the project, that we joined the task force," said NCJW's Ruth Wurzburg. When we heard that garbage bags... was the current answer to the packing problem, we knew that our members and supporters could do better."

If you have luggage that you no longer need and that is still in good condition, take it to the next NCJW Trashy Book Club Meeting on Aug. 21 at the home of Sheryd Jackson or to the NCJW Opening meeting

in September. If you will not be at either of these meetings or are not an NCJW member, contact Lee Markman at (210) 525-8785 to arrange for pick up.

Hadassah hosts Meet & Greet with new rabbis

The San Antonio Chapter of Hadassah will host an afternoon event to meet and greet many of the new Jewish clergy in our community.

The get-together will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 3, in the Holzman Auditorium on the Jewish campus, 12500 NW Military Hwy.

Four new rabbis will be

serving area congregations in 5775: Rabbi Mara Nathan at Temple Beth-El (Reform), Rabbi David Komerofsky at Temple Chai (Reform), Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham at Congregation Agudas Achim (Conservative), and Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg at Congregation Rodfei Sholom (Orthodox). All except Rabbi Nathan

will be at the Hadassah gathering.

The rabbis will each have a chance to speak about what drew them to San Antonio and their plans for the future. Refreshments will be served. The event is open to the community, but RSVP are requested. Contact Marge Present at (210) 492-5153.

Rodfei begins preparing for the High Holidays

The month of Elul is a time of repentance in preparation for the High Holidays.

This mood of repentance builds throughout the month of Elul to the period of Selichot, Rosh Hashanah, and finally to Yom Kippur.

Elul is also a time to begin the process of asking forgiveness for wrongs done to other people.

Congregation Rodfei Sholom invites the Jewish community to join together to welcome the month of Elul and prepare for the

upcoming High Holidays on Tuesday, Aug. 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Daniella Ritter.

For more information and to RSVP (by Friday, Aug. 22), contact the synagogue at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.



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GMJSS AND JCS-SA ANNUAL MEETING



Photo by: Allan F Smith

Daniel Laser, Bernard Rabinowitz, Warren Lieberman, Harold Berg, Mike Kelne, Robi Jalnos, Mindy Spigel, Suzanne Huber, Alice Troy, Shari Pulman, Nancy Gerson.

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) and Jewish Care System of San Antonio (JCS-SA) held a combined annual meeting on Sunday, July 20 at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the Jewish Community.

The meeting marked a number of achievements during the past year, and also talked about growth – discussing some new ideas, partnerships and direction future work of the organization. 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. GMJSS strives to combat two of the biggest obstacles seniors face today – isolation and transportation.

To schedule a ride to a Jewish community event or religious service, call Lety at (210) 302-6946.

Beldon Library to
host Venezuela author

Sigal Ratner-Arias will be at the Beldon Library on Thurs. Aug. 7 at 7 p.m. to talk about her book *64:Una Novela*. Copies of the book will be available for

sale. There is no charge for the program, which is a sponsored by the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. The program will be in Spanish.



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Registration open for Chabad Hebrew School

Registration is now open for Chabad Hebrew School, which is open to every Jewish child, regardless of their affiliation or level of religious observance.

Chabad says the Hebrew School staff is carefully selected for their extensive knowledge of Judaism and their dedication to Jewish education. "They are as enthusiastic about teaching as our students are about learning," said Rabbi Levi Teldon.

The curriculum, taught using discussion-based and hands-on methods, covers a wide range of topics, including Jewish history, prayer, Israel, weekly Torah portion and Jewish holidays. The Hebrew reading curriculum called Aleph Champ is based on the martial arts motivational philosophy of color-coded reading levels and testing, leading to a winning cycle of learning.

"We create an environment that brings Judaism to life,

fosters creativity and supports your child's personal style of learning," said Rabbi Teldon. "Our curriculum has been designed to make lasting positive impact on the life of your child through drama, song, art and stories."

To register or learn more, call Chabad at (210) 764-0300.

JCC Judaics After School (JAS) begins second year

The Jewish Community Center Judaics After School (JAS) program for Jewish children attending the charter school, Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy, at the Campus is accepting registration forms for this fall.

This supplemental Jewish studies program will provide students education in the areas of Jewish life

and ritual, Torah, values, and culture.

JAS runs Monday through Friday from school dismissal until 3:50 p.m. Tuition is \$1100 per year and may be paid in monthly installments. Classes begin on Monday, Aug. 18.

Learn more about JAS and view the 2014-15 calendar at www.jccsanantonio.org/jas.

JAS students also have the opportunity to enroll in Kids Club, the JCC after school care program, and a wide variety of JCC enrichment programs and sports opportunities that take place after class.

To register or for more information about JAS, contact JAS Director Rachel Rustin at rustinr@jcc-sa.org or (210) 302-6969.



Jewish Federation
OF SAN ANTONIO

SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday, November 16th

for the 2014 Global Day of Jewish Learning.



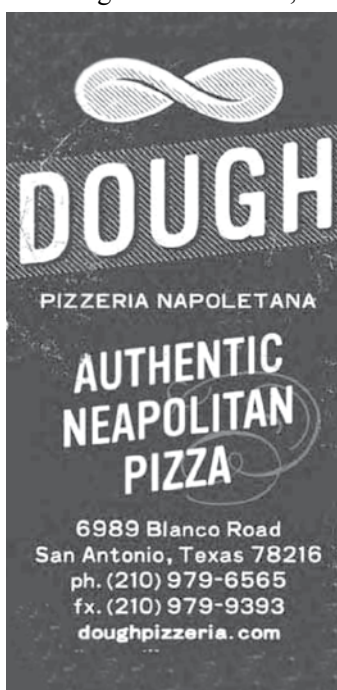
San Antonio will join over 400 communities worldwide, joining together to celebrate community based learning.

This year's theme is:

Heroes, Villains, Saints and Fools: The People in the Book

The Global Day of Jewish Learning brings the Jewish people together once a year to celebrate our shared Jewish texts through community based learning. The guiding values of the Global Day of Jewish Learning are: fostering Jewish unity, empowering individuals through increased Jewish knowledge, and creating meaningful shared experiences.

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW SOON



JCC welcomes new staff member

Samantha Mazuz has joined the staff of the JCC as Teen/Young Adult Services Coordinator and Hillel Director. Samantha recently moved to the area from New Jersey with her husband Idan, whom she met while living in Israel.

Samantha's relationship with Israel began over three years ago upon graduating from Rutgers University when she received a phone call from Birthright to go on a trip that January. She quickly packed her bags for a life changing experience to Israel which subsequently became her home for two years where she participated on a Masa internship



Samantha Mazuz, the JCC's new Teen/Young Adult Services Coordinator and Hillel Director. Samantha taught Hebrew school and Sunday Judaica class to 5th graders, 9th grade Hebrew High School,

program, completed a NYU Masters program, and got married.

Upon moving back to the states with the vision of making a difference in her Jewish Community and passing on her love for her homeland,

worked as an adjunct professor at the Richard Stockton College of NJ in the Jewish Studies Department, and was involved in Young Leadership throughout the Jewish Community. Samantha has also lead and organized Birthright trips and has spoken at the annual Birthright Gala this past spring in New York City. Samantha and Idan moved to San Antonio this past July.

Samantha's primary responsibilities at the JCC will be directing Hillel San Antonio as well as developing and implementing programming for teens and young adults in our community.

Rachel Rustin, previous director of Hillel, is transitioning into a new exciting roll at the JCC – Director of Jewish Journeys – where she will continue to direct JAS (Judaics After School) at the J as well as work with all JCC departments to create and implement a variety of new Jewish experience initiatives.

"We are looking forward to the new programming options that we will be able to offer as both Rachel and Samantha transition into their new roles at the J, sharing their experiences and love for Judaism and Israel with our community," said Lauren Ross, JCC COO/Vice President.

Agudas Achim launches new family Shabbat programs

Congregation Agudas Achim has introduced two new "family style" Shabbat programs led by Lauren Abraham, the synagogue's new rebbetzin.

Bim Bam Shabbat! is an interactive Shabbat program for parents and children age

6 and under. The weekly program is held every Shabbat morning at 11 a.m.

The program concludes by joining the congregation for Adon Olam, grape juice, challah and Kiddush lunch.

Family Friendly Friday Night Service, for children in

3rd grade and under includes music, fun and Torah stories.

This monthly program begins at 6:15 p.m. and will be held on the following Fridays: August 1, September 5, October 10, November 7, December 5, January 9, February 6, March 6, April 10, and May 1.

For more information, please call (210) 479-0307.

BBYO recruiting new members

The local chapters of BBYO, the largest Jewish youth organization in the world, have opened fall recruiting for new members. Jewish high school students interested in meeting other Jewish teens or gaining leadership experience are encouraged to join.

San Antonio BBYO has two chapters: Erich Weiss (boys) and Sababa (girls). BBYO teen leaders help plan and lead events and form friendships with

Jewish teens in Houston and Austin. Members participate in monthly chapter meetings, variety of local events, and attend three Regional conventions during the year.

"At the end of the four year experience, seniors reflect that BBYO had a positive impact on their Jewish identity and helped give them the skills to be a better leader and friendships that will last a lifetime," said Dylan Ashworth, BBYO city director.

A new parent information meeting and new member event will be held on Sunday, August 24 at 1:00pm at the JCC. For more information about events or membership, contact Dylan Ashworth, San Antonio BBYO city director at (210) 302-6869 or ashworthd@jcc-sa.org. The cost to join is \$75 for a year or \$149 for all four years.



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GMJSS expands grants to benefit Jewish seniors

As it begins its fourth year of awarding grants to support area Jewish seniors, Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) has expanded its grant program – more than 16% in the current fiscal year that runs July 2014-June 2015.

- Grant dollars awarded increased to \$142,000 for transportation and direct program grants.

- 14 programs are receiving grants this year, six of them new.

- Through transportation and grants, GMJSS will support the senior-focused programs of more than a dozen Jewish community

organizations.

GMJSS supports seniors in the community through grants to nonprofit groups or organizations who directly serve Jewish seniors in the San Antonio area. GMJSS expects to serve more than 700 Jewish seniors this year through transportation, grant recipients' programs, partnerships and direct programming.

Recipients of grants for programs that enrich the lives of local Jewish seniors are:

- Jewish Family Service
- Barshof JCC

- Congregation Agudas Achim
- Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning
- Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim
- Morningside Ministries / mmLearn.org
- Northeast Senior Assistance
- The Patient Institute
- Congregation Rodfei Sholom
- Temple Beth-El
- The Playhouse San Antonio.

In addition to the grants awarded to these local agencies and congregations, GMJSS will continue or expand transportation efforts and

direct programs that offer kosher meals to seniors, host Jewish Living programs in senior centers such as Adante Senior Living and Madison Estates, and religious services and respite programs at Golden Estates Rehabilitation Center.

GMJSS is always looking to partner with groups and organizations that share its mission of addressing the needs and enriching the lives of Jewish seniors in San Antonio. For more information, call Daniel Laser, Executive Director, at (210) 302-6946.

Seniors a growing target for financial exploitation

By Ian S. Lovestock

According to the National Conference for State Legislatures, financial crime and exploitation of the elderly can involve the illegal or improper use of a senior citizen's funds, property or assets, as well as fraud or identity theft perpetrated against aging Americans.

Exact statistics on how frequently financial crimes against the elderly occur are not available as it is widely believed to be underreported by victims. A recent study by a major insurance company estimates the financial loss by victims of elder financial crimes and exploitation in excess of \$2.9 billion, annually. Actually, about one in 44 cases of financial abuse is ever reported, almost one in ten financial abuse victims will turn to Medicaid as a direct result of their own monies being stolen from them. Cognitive impairment and the need for help with activities of daily living make victims more vulnerable to financial abuse. Crime prevention specialists agree that the reason these

crimes go unreported is that the victim is frequently embarrassed to report it or they feel a family member may try to assume control of their finances or a fear they will lose their independence.

There are two general categories of financial crimes against the elderly; fraud committed by strangers and financial exploitation by relatives and caregivers. Seniors may be easily targeted because of stereotyping that they are poorly informed, living alone, or potentially suffering from mental deterioration.

The best way to decrease elderly fraud is to educate seniors on the warning signs and indicators of financial crimes. Crime prevention efforts have identified several warning signs and indicators

of consumer fraud and financial exploitation. Those with aging parents should discuss the following warnings with them.

Some warning signs of consumer fraud:

- Excessive number of magazine subscriptions
- Checks and bank withdrawals that the elder cannot explain
- Unsolicited phone calls from marketing companies offering "fantastic" opportunities
- Lottery and sweepstakes scams
- Home repair/traveling con artists
- Grandparent scam: someone claiming to be a friend of your grandchild tells you're their grandchild is in jail and needs you to send money immediately

- Charity scams
- People claiming they are from a utility or a telephone company needing access to your home
- Roof repair, driveway repair, lawn service: the senior is offered a discount rate or claiming they have left over materials from another job
- Predatory lending

- Annuity sales
 - Investment or security schemes
 - Internet "phishing"
 - Identity theft
 - Medicare scams
- Some indicators of financial exploitation:
- An acquaintance recently

See **EXPLOITATION**, page 25



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Want to get involved in what's happening in the local Jewish community?
We can help! Call Federation at (210) 302-6960.

IN THE COMMUNITY: SENIORS

All things Jewish course now registering seniors

The Academy of Learning in Retirement (ALIF), a school open to anyone over 50, will offer a film class this fall called *Yiddishkiet*.

The 6-week class will be held on Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. beginning in mid-October.

Course instructor Marsha Surad is searching for two DVD's to use during the

class: *Hava Negila*, the story of how the song became the anthem for Israel, and *American Jerusalem*, which tells the story of the Jewish immigrants who immigrated to San Francisco, and their contributions to the growth of that city (the film aired on KLRN-TV several months ago).

If you have either of

these DVDs (or others you think are well suited for the course) and are willing to loan them to the class, please contact Surad at masgatos@satx.rr.com or (210) 273-9516.

To learn more about the ALIF or to receive a fall course catalog, contact Rhonda Roberts at (210) 407-0167.

EXPLOITATION

continued from page 24

expressed interest in a senior's finances

- Phone calls or e-mails from a bank, credit card company or a government agency asking for your personal information or soliciting help in a criminal investigation.

- A caregiver or relative has no means of support and is overly interested in the elder's financial arrangements

- Checking account and credit card statement are sent to a relative or caregiver and are unexplained or not accessible to the elder.

- Using a Power of Attorney inappropriately
- Taking advantage of joint bank accounts or credit card accounts

- Using ATM cards or stealing checks

- Unscrupulous in-home care providers charging for their services

If you or believe you or your parents or grandparents have been a victim of financial crimes, contact banking representatives first to close or change accounts immediately. Then, notify local law enforcement authorities. Crime prevention officers working with the San Antonio Fear Free Environment (SAFFE) units at each sub-station are available to address these issues. Remember, if it is too good to be true – it usually is.

Ian S. Lovestock is a Texas certified crime prevention specialist advocating against crimes against the elderly, a retired Texas peace officer and an adjunct professor of criminal justice at the University of the Incarnate Word.



Tisha B'Av is known as the "saddest day in Jewish history." While the day recalls general tragedies which 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 twelve 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 ends 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 night, Aug. 4.

Mincha Services at Rodfei Sholom will be at 7:45 p.m. followed by Maariv at 9 p.m. *Eicha* (Lamentations) is read during the evening service. Following services there will be a DVD presented by the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation.

On Tuesday morning, Aug. 5, services will be at 6:15 a.m. followed by reading *kinot*, tragedies that have occurred throughout Jewish history. Each one will be preceded by an explanation. Mincha (services) will be at 7:45 p.m. followed by Maariv (services). The actual fast will end at 9:14 p.m.

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Sweet sounds of summer to fill the air

San Antonio musicians will join together at 3 p.m. on August 17 for an “Ode to Summer’s End” musical event at Temple Beth-El, 211 Belknap.

This first ever inter-generational and inter-congregational event, presented by a number of area congregations and organizations, is free and refreshments will be provided. Jewish families from all congregations are invited to join together and enjoy the art of music.

The event is sponsored by Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) in conjunction with Temple Beth-El, Congregation Agudas Achim, Chabad Lubavitch of San Antonio, Jewish Federation of San Antonio, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, and Temple Chai.

RSVP by August 12 by contacting Lety Vargas at LetyV@GoldenManor.net or (210) 302-6946.

Transportation to the event, for those who need it, will be provided by GMJSS. Please note any transportation needs within your RSVP. For more information, call the GMJSS office.

The Sheldon Vexler Theatre season kicks off 16th season

The Sheldon Vexler Theatre’s 2014-15 season presents four productions this year including *One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest* (Aug. 23 – Sept. 20), *The Trojan Women* (Oct. 25 – Nov. 15), *Talley’s Folly* (Feb. 5 – Mar. 1) and *Rumors* (May 2 – 31).

Most are familiar with the 1975 film version of Dale Wasserman’s *One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest* featuring Jack Nicholson as McMurphy. The Vex production will feature Artistic Director Ken Frazier in Nicholson’s role, with Tami Kai, Ken’s wife

and frequent collaborator, as Nurse Ratched, and their son, Kailyr, as Billy.

Based on Ken Kesey’s novel, the story follows a rebel – McMurphy – who feigns insanity in order to finish his prison sentence in a mental ward rather than on a work farm. There, he discovers the patients of the asylum make a lot more sense than the restrictive and conformist establishment.

Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased by calling 210-302-6835 or at any JCC courtesy desk during regular JCC hours. Season passes

are also available for purchase now through Sept. 20 providing patrons with a savings of up to \$17 for the complete season. Season packages are \$68 for general admission, \$65 for seniors (65+) and military and \$60 for JCC members. Individual tickets are \$21 for general admission, \$18 for JCC members/military/seniors (65+) and \$15 for students/SATCO members/groups of 10+. Call The Vex Box Office at (210) 302-6835 for more information and to purchase your passes and tickets.

JCC Summer Concert Series asks, “What does the Fox Sing?”

OPERA San Antonio and the San Antonio Symphony will offer a free presentation about Opera music and their upcoming production, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, at the JCC on Friday, Aug. 1 at

10 a.m. in the Holzman Auditorium.

In conjunction with JCamp’s summer concert series, this event provides an exclusive sneak preview of the production that will later

be shown in its entirety at the new Tobin Center for the Performing Arts in the fall.

All ages are welcome at this free community event, including a visit with the “instrument petting zoo”

with members of the San Antonio Symphony.

RSVP online at www.jccsanantonio.org/artandmusic or by calling (210) 302-6820.

Rodfei Sholom painting party

Congregation Rodfei Sholom will host its next Sunday Funday on Sunday, Aug. 24, from 10 a.m. to noon at The Painted Plate, located at Huebner Road and Vance Jackson. The intergenerational coming-together is open to the community, including Rodfei Sholom’s Sunday Funday kids, L’Chayim Club members and NCSYers. Everyone will have the opportunity to make something special to be used for Rosh Hashanah, mingle

with friends, and enjoy light refreshments.

RSVP by Thursday, Aug. 21 by contacting the synagogue at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

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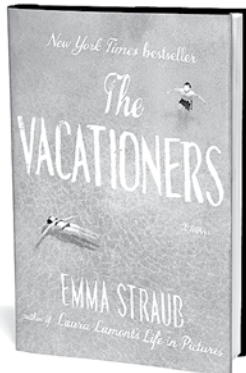
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NCJW Trashy Book Club to get together on Aug. 21



The next National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) Trashy Book Club meeting will take place on Monday, Aug. 21 at 7 p.m. at the home of Sheryd Jackson. Discussion around the summer reading selection, *The Vacationers*, will be paired with ice cream and wine.

Participants are asked to email Sheryd at sherydsheryd@sbcglobal.net.

net to let her know what topping or wine you will be sharing with the group.

NCJW is a faith-based grassroots organization that advocates for women, children and family issues both on a local level as well as nationally.

For more information on becoming an NCJW member, visit www.ncjwsa.org or contact Cathy Pottorf at Catpot52@gmail.com.

Rodfei Book Club to meet Aug. 6

The Rodfei Book Club will meet at Congregation Rodfei Sholom at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 6, to discuss *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, from the Inquisition, many of her fellow Spanish and Portuguese conversos,



people who were living secretly as Jews, but who adopted the Catholic church for appearances' sake.



The Officers, Board of Trustees, Congregation, Auxiliaries, Hazzan Jeremy Lipton and Staff extend a warm welcome to

Rabbi Jeffrey and Lauren Abraham, Benny & Henry

Your arrival marks a truly joyous milestone in our congregation's 125 year history, and we look forward to an exciting and bright future. May we all go from strength to strength in the months and years ahead!

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Lynn Waghalter, Librarian Beldon Library
waghalterl@jfsatx.org

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)

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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)

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E-mail address: Temple@beth-elsa.org
Website: www.beth-elsa.org
Rabbi Mara Nathan, Senior Rabbi
(July 1, 2014), Rabbi Elisa Koppel,
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BAT MITZVAH:

Peyton Elizabeth Ausburn



Peyton Elizabeth Ausburn will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, August 9 at Temple Beth-El.

Peyton is the daughter of Leslie and Adam Ausburn, and the sister of Ethan and Madeleine Ausburn. Peyton is the granddaughter of Dr. Eleanor Komet, Mary Ausburn, Mack and Edith Ausburn, Mickey Komet, and Dr. Harvey Komet (of blessed memory). She is the great granddaughter of Ann and Morry Beldon, both of blessed memory.

Peyton is an honor student at Jose M. Lopez Middle School and plays competitive tennis.

For her mitzvah project, Peyton is collecting new and gently used children's books for the SAREads Book Bank located at the San Antonio Food Bank. If you have children's books that you would like to donate, please email lausburn@gmail.com.

BAR MITZVAH:

Shane Riley Goldberg



Shane Riley Goldberg will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, August 23 at Temple Beth-El. Shane is the son of Marnie and Michael Goldberg and the younger brother of Jake. He is the grandson of Lana and Gordon Friedman of Wilmette, Illinois and Susan and Sherman Goldberg, both of blessed memory.

Shane is an honor student and member of the NJHS at Jose M. Lopez Middle School where he plays football and runs track. He also plays the clarinet in the Lopez Honors Band.

For his Bar Mitzvah project, Shane is collecting school supplies for local elementary and middle school students who are in need.

Sherwin-Komerofsky wedding

Ronit Sherwin and David Komerofsky were married on June 8 in Cleveland, Ohio. Ronit is a native of Cleveland and holds degrees from The Ohio State University and Harvard Divinity School. She is the CEO of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. David is a native of Akron, is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati, and was ordained a rabbi at Hebrew Union College. He is the Associate Vice President for Advancement for Hillel International.

Ronit is the mother of four-year-old twins Natan and Batya. David is the father of fourteen-year-old twins Elaina and Gabriel. Ronit is the daughter of Nora Sherwin and Allan Sherwin, and the granddaughter of Marion Sherwin. David is



the son of Phyllis and the late Ralph Komerofsky.

The couple and their family happily reside in San Antonio, Texas.

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Brian Feld wins the Sugerman Award



Mindi Alterman and Kelly Kremer present Brian Feld with the Sugerman Award

At the 92nd annual meeting of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, Brian Feld was awarded the Sylvia F. and Harry Sugerman Young Leadership Award, which is given to a young adult in our community who has shown outstanding leadership in one or more aspects of the Federation program, including membership beneficiary agencies and effective participation in the annual fundraising campaign of the Federation. The recipient of this award receives travel expenses to the Annual General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America.

Feld has been on the Jewish Federation San Antonio Board

of Directors for the past 7 years. During that time he has served in a number of roles, including Secretary, Super Sunday Co-Chair, a member of the community Planning and Allocations Committee, and a member of the Holocaust Memorial Museum Commission.

In the larger San Antonio community, Brian has served on the Board of Directors of the United Communities of San Antonio, where he is the current President. Additionally, Brian serves on the board of Texas Lyceum as Chair of Recruitment and on the Chancellor's Council of the

University of Texas System. Brian also was in the Leadership San Antonio class 34.

Prior to moving to San Antonio in 2007, Brian held a number of leadership positions in the Jewish Federation of Austin, including Chair of the Annual Campaign, Chair of Young Adult Division and Vice Chair of Financial Resource Development.

Professionally, Brian is a partner with Rosenthal Pauerstein Sandoloski Agather LLP practicing corporate transactional law.

Brian is married to Lizette Feld, and they have 3 children: Hannah, David and Adam.

Duke-Mohl Engagement

Rachel G. Mohl and Michael C. Duke have announced their wedding engagement.

The couple met in Houston where they taught Hebrew school together. Their students believed they were just "good friends."

Rachel is the daughter of Barbara and Dr. Paul Mohl of Dallas. She is the granddaughter of Maxine and Donald (of blessed memory) Cohen of San Antonio, and Ethel and Emanuel Mohl (both of blessed memory) of Toms River, N.J.



Michael is the son of Vicki and Lawrence Levy, and Leigh and Charles Duke, all of Houston. He is

the grandson of Jeanne and Joseph (of blessed memory) Samuels of Houston, and Irene and Louis (of blessed memory) Duke of Houston and Chicago.

Rachel is curatorial assistant for Latin American & Latino Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. She begins a Ph.D. program in her field this fall at Rice University.

Michael is associate editor of Houston's Jewish Herald-Voice newspaper.

A March 2015 wedding is planned.

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At Issue: One Tribe One Chief

From 1378-1417, there were two rival popes – one in Rome and one in Avignon – each claiming to be the legitimate pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church.

And from 1921, under the British Mandate, to the present, there have been two chief rabbis of Israel. They are not exactly adversaries, though in the 1970s relations between Rabbi Shlomo Goren and Rabbi Ovadia Yosef became so tense that they did not speak to each other. One chief rabbi represents the Ashkenazi community, whose origins are in eastern and central Europe, and the other represents the Sephardi community, whose origins are in Spain. The differences between Ashkenazi and Sephardi Judaism are a matter of custom and style rather than theology. The siddurim of Ashkenazim and Sephardim phrase and order prayers differently; they sing the liturgy to different nigunim; and Sephardim consume beans, corn, peanuts, and rice during Passover, whereas Ashkenazim consider them chametz. The existence



Perspective:

STEVEN G. KELLMAN

of two chief rabbis in Israel testifies not to a schism in Judaism but rather to a demographic divergence.

The Jewish world is not binary. The categories of Ashkenazi and Sephardi do not exhaust the variety of practicing Jews. If Israel were to assign a chief rabbi to each Diasporic division, there would have to be many more than two. Bukharin, Ethiopian (Beta Israel), and Persian Jews are, strictly speaking, neither Ashkenazi nor Sephardi, and each has its own distinctive ways of enacting Jewish identity. And why not a separate chief rabbi, also, for the Bene Israel – the Jews whose ancestors settled in western India many centuries ago? If there is any truth to the old joke that every Jew requires two synagogues, one to attend and one to refuse to attend, then there ought to be 12 million chief rabbis for the

6 million Jews of Israel.

Both the Ashkenazi and Sephardi chief rabbis of Israel are guided by halakha, the body of religious laws embodied in the Torah and its rabbinical commentaries. Both are, in that respect, Orthodox – a flexible term that can apply to Modern Orthodox, Haredim, Hasidim, and others who generally observe the Torah's 613 mitzvot. Indeed, there is less distance between the categories of Ashkenazi and Sephardi than between Orthodox Ashkenazim and Sephardim and all other versions of Jewish observance – Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, etc. Though most affiliated Jews in the United States identify with the Reform movement, the only version of Judaism recognized by the state of Israel is Orthodox. It would be inconceivable at present for a chief rabbi of Israel – Ashkenazi or Sephardi – to be anything else (Since Orthodox seminaries do not ordain women, a female chief rabbi would also be inconceivable).

However, the chief rabbis

have been granted jurisdiction over important civil matters affecting every Jew in the Jewish State. The Ashkenazi and Sephardi rabbis determine details of marriage, divorce, kashrut, burial, inheritance, and citizenship not only for observant but non-Orthodox Jews, but also for secular and even non-believing Jews as well. Unlike the Catholic Church, Judaism – divided and strengthened by separate denominations – is not hierarchical, and its rabbis are not infallible. The fallibility of even the most exalted rabbis became clear when, shortly after becoming chief Ashkenazi rabbi last year, David Lau chided yeshiva students for wasting their time watching basketball and soccer. Noting that Israeli teams as well as the Europeans they compete against recruit African Americans, he asked: "What does it matter if the Kushites paid by Tel Aviv beat the Kushites paid by Greece?" Kushite, an ancient Hebrew term for black, has come to have pejorative connotations somewhat like the n-word in

American slang.

Insisting that Israel recognize the pluralistic reality of the Jewish people, Donniel Hoffman, a Modern Orthodox rabbi and president of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, has called for an end to the stranglehold that the dual chief rabbis exert over Judaism. His prescription is to multiply chief rabbis. "Since the Jewish people don't agree about Judaism," he wrote, "the notion of one rabbinate for all Jews ranges between insane and nonsensical and consequently counter to religious pluralism. Five or six chief rabbinates sounds just about right."

A change seems imminent, but instead of expanding the roster of chief rabbis, Israel is poised to reduce their number by 50 percent. "We don't have two States of Israel," observed Justice Minister Tzipi Livni. "We're one nation." Livni therefore put aside her usual political differences with Religious Affairs Minister Naftali Bennett and Deputy

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Federation mourns the loss of Israeli soldiers

Jewish Federations across North America express our deepest sympathies to the families of Israeli soldiers killed fighting the Iranian-backed Hamas in Gaza over the past few weeks. Along with all of Israel, and the entire Jewish People, we mourn their loss as if they were our own. Among these brave young men were 13 from the Golani Brigade, two of them U.S. citizens: Nissim Sean Carmeli (z"l) from South Padre Island, Texas and

Max Steinberg (z"l) from Woodland Hills, California.

Israel's military operation in Gaza was launched in response to Hamas' launching of more than 1,800 missile attacks against Israel. It has a singular goal—to eradicate the Iranian-backed terrorist organization's military infrastructure.

Our deepest sympathies go out to the families of these brave heroes, to all Israelis and to all the mourners of Zion.

Fleeing 'place full of death,' Jews from eastern Ukraine weep for homeland

By Cnaan Liphshiz

DNEPROPETROVSK, Ukraine (JTA) — Anatoly Lazarenko's face betrays no emotion as he watches footage of an old woman he used to know lying in the rubble of what once was his home in the war-torn city of Slavyansk.

Oblivious to her mangled face, Anatoly, 8, points to a corner of the computer screen to indicate the bombed-out apartment in eastern Ukraine that his family fled in June as a tense standoff between pro-Russian separatists and Ukrainian government

forces escalated into urban warfare.

Like many Ukrainians, the boy has become inured to disturbing sights after months of violent conflict in his country. Even after watching the video, Anatoly says he would rather be home — under fire, but with his friends and classmates. But his mother insists they are staying with relatives near Dnepropetrovsk, far from the battle zone, as long as the fighting persists.

"Every day Anatoly asks me in tears if we can go back yet," says his mother, Ludmila.

The Lazarenkos are

among hundreds of Jews made refugees by the fighting in eastern Ukraine, part of a larger movement of tens of thousands of people who have fled since pro-Russian militias — some toting heavy caliber machine guns and mortars — took up arms against government troops in March.

Hundreds already have died in the fighting, including all passengers and crew aboard a Malaysia Airlines jet shot down over eastern Ukraine in July by what American and Ukrainian officials say was

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UKRAINE

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a Russian anti-aircraft missile fired from rebel-controlled territory.

On July 18, two Jews — Svetlana Sitnikov and her daughter, Anna — were killed in an explosion in the eastern city of Lugansk.

The Jewish refugees are surviving on assistance from local and foreign Jewish groups that in recent weeks have launched major rescue and relief operations. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and community officials are helping to provide housing, monthly stipends, food and medicine in what they describe as one of largest mobilizations in the history of Ukrainian Jewry. “We’re talking about



Ludmila Lazarenko, right, with her son Anatoly and mother Nadezhda Belovol at their temporary housing near Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, July 14, 2014. (Cnaan Liphshiz)

a multi-element package designed to improve the situation of each and every person who left the battle zone,” said Yoni Leifer, the head of operations in the Dnepropetrovsk region for JDC. A separate relief

operation is being carried out by the Chabad-led Jewish community of Dnepropetrovsk.

The Lazarenkos decided to leave Slavyansk in June after government forces began engaging

the separatists. But Ludmila Lazarenko does not blame Ukrainian troops, who launched their offensive following the standoff with the rebels.

“We were pro-Russian,” Lazarenko said of herself and her parents, Nadezhda and Alexander Belovol, who fled with her and Anatoly. “But that changed after we saw how they fought from inside the houses of civilians, with no regard for their lives. There is no excuse for that.”

Two weeks after the family left, they learned from a television news broadcast that their house had been blown up.

“We started crying when we saw that nothing was left,” Lazarenko said.

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AT ISSUE

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Religious Affairs Minister Eli Ben-Dahan to co-sponsor a bill that would create a single chief rabbi for Israel, beginning in 2023, after the current ten-year terms of Lau and Sephardi Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef expire. After easily passing a first reading before the Knesset, the bill seems likely to become law. It remains to be seen whether competition to fill the single position of chief rabbi will unify the nation or merely exacerbate tensions between Ashkenazi and Sephardi Jews.

According to a familiar Hebrew song, “Am echad, lev echad/ Kol yisrael arevim zeh lazeh” — One nation, one heart/ All of Israel is responsible for one another. How many chief rabbis does one nation with one heart require? According to Rabbi Gilad Kirav, director of the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism, one chief rabbi is one too many. “The State of Israel is not Iran and Judaism in Israel and in the Diaspora don’t need a Vatican,” Kariv observed. “In a reality in which the Orthodox community doesn’t listen to the chief rabbis’ decisions anyway, the job is just a symbol of the Orthodox monopoly and the undemocratic and un-Zionist idea that there is only one right way to be Jewish.”

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

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UKRAINE

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“We have nothing now.”

For those without relatives to take them in, JDC and the Jewish community of Dnepropetrovsk have arranged rooms in the community’s various institutions. The Beit Baruch old age home recently reached its capacity after 28 people were given spots in vacant rooms.

Among them are Rosa Dvoskina and Sofia Sanina, two women in their 80’s who fled Slavyansk and Lugansk, respectively, in early July.

“I made it out, but I can’t stop thinking about my poor friends and neighbors who are still trapped there without water or medicines in a place full of death,” said a weeping Dvoskina, who had lived in her apartment building for 40 years before having to leave.

Like most refugees, Dvoskina and Sanina say they fled out of a general concern for safety unrelated to the fact that they are Jewish. But their neighbors at Beit Baruch, an Orthodox family of seven from Donetsk who requested not to be named, said anti-Jewish graffiti began to appear in the city as the rule of law weakened.

“We started seeing swastikas painted on park benches, buildings,” the family’s grandfather said.

Amid lingering uncertainty about the future of Ukraine’s embattled eastern border cities, Dvoskina and Sanina are thinking about immigrating to Israel, though they would prefer to return to their homes. Other refugees, including Elena Libina from Donetsk, are determined to leave permanently for Israel.

Libina is staying in a community facility in Dnepropetrovsk only until her immigration application is approved. Meanwhile, the Jewish community is arranging for the rescue of her 91-year-old aunt,

who remains trapped in Lugansk.

“We felt the tension rising and noticed that bus tickets out of the city were increasingly becoming more expensive,” Libina told JTA. “When they bombed the administration building, I left.”

Dnepropetrovsk is one of Ukraine’s largest Jewish communities, with 50,000 members. Several oligarchs, including the banking magnate Igor Kolomoisky, have poured millions into the community’s institutions, including several Jewish schools and the \$100 million Menorah Jewish Community Center, a 450,000 square-foot facility that includes luxury mikvah baths, kosher restaurants, a Holocaust museum and a day care center.

Zelig Brez, the community’s director general and right hand of the city’s influential chief rabbi, Shmuel Kamenetsky, said organizing the rescue and relief operation isn’t merely a religious duty but part of his responsibility toward Ukraine’s smaller Jewish communities.

“It comes with the territory of being an engine of Jewish life in Ukraine,” Brez said.

The community has made wide use of its facilities to help house the refugees. Elena Konigina and her 12-year-old daughter, Ksenia, have stayed at a scenic countryside resort near the Dnepropetrovsk suburb of Pavlograd since they fled Lugansk in May.

Konigina would like to immigrate to Israel, but Ksenia is a minor and cannot exit the country without the consent of both parents. Konigina says she does not know how to reach Ksenia’s father, whom she divorced several years ago.

Even if she could go, Konigina worries that the situation in the Jewish state won’t be much better.

“I don’t know what good that will do,” Konigina said. “They are shooting there, too.”

Israeli concerns about Turkey and Qatar fuel dispute with Kerry

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Behind the feud between John Kerry and Israel over the secretary of state’s efforts to broker a Gaza cease-fire is a larger tension concerning the role of Turkey and Qatar in Palestinian affairs.

Israeli officials rejected the proposal for a cease-fire advanced by Kerry in part because of what they see as the outsize influence on his diplomatic efforts of these two regional powers with agendas increasingly seen as inimical to Israeli interests. While both countries are traditional U.S. allies, they are also supportive of Hamas.

“Qatar, financially and politically, diplomatically and through Al Jazeera, is supporting a terrorist group,” an Israeli official told JTA. “Instead of contributing to the development of the area, they are contributing to terror in the region.”

Israeli officials point to the anti-Israel rhetoric of Turkey’s Islamist prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, which has reached new heights during the current conflict, with his suggestion that Israel is worse than the Nazis.

Israel prefers to have Egypt as the main interlocutor because the country’s current military-backed

See **KERRY**, page 35



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KERRY

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government has a deep antipathy toward the Islamist Hamas movement.

Israel had previously embraced an Egyptian cease-fire proposal that was rejected by Hamas, which saw its terms as decidedly unfriendly.

Tamara Cofman Wittes, a deputy assistant secretary of state for the Middle East in Obama's first term, said that Turkey and Qatar are necessary interlocutors because Hamas needs credible representatives of its interests in the negotiating process and because the two countries are not tempted to sabotage cease-fire efforts.

"I understand why Israel and Egypt are uncomfortable seeing regional actors friendly to Hamas involved in these talks. If they are not

involved, they could spoil a cease-fire," said Wittes, who is now the director of the Brookings Institution's Center for Middle East Policy. "You have to get them engaged so they have reason not to act in an unconstructive manner."

Tensions between Israel and the Obama administration over Kerry's cease-fire efforts escalated over the weekend.

In comments to the Israeli press by unnamed Israeli officials, Kerry was depicted as a hapless bumbler who, however unwittingly, seemed to be negotiating on behalf of Hamas.

U.S. officials told Israeli and U.S. media that they are offended by the Israeli backlash.

Abraham Foxman, the national director of the Anti-Defamation League, called on

Israeli leaders to tone down the attacks on Kerry, saying such broadsides undermined Israel's ability to face down its true enemy, Hamas.

"I understand there are disagreements between the United States and Israel, and maybe the secretary of state and Israel," he said. "But those disagreements do not justify the ugly name calling. It undermines the relationship of the only true ally Israel has. In times of disagreement, one needs to embrace our friends."

The exact nature of Kerry's cease-fire proposal and how it came to be rejected by Israel's Security Cabinet is not clear. But it is clear that the Security Cabinet's eight ministers believed that it was tilted toward Hamas.

In a briefing for Israeli reporters, a senior American official is said to have argued that the document the Cabinet reviewed was simply one including the latest ideas for consideration and not a final draft.

Israeli officials, speaking anonymously to the Israeli media, have said they understood it as a final draft and that, in any case, even

being asked to consider such a document was deeply unsettling.

Israelis say they were offended by the document's detailed emphasis on what would be seen as wins for Hamas: Talks on opening borders and transfer of emergency funds to pay the salaries of employees in Gaza who had worked for the Hamas-led government and now are supposed to be incorporated into the Palestinian Authority under the recent Palestinian unity agreement.

Israel's concerns, including the removal of rockets and missiles from Gaza and the destruction of a tunnel network that reaches inside Israel, were confined in the document to three words: "address security issues."

There were also concerns, shared by Egypt, the Palestinian Authority and Western European countries, that the proposal would strengthen Hamas at the expense of the P.A.

On July 27, President Obama called for an "immediate, unconditional humanitarian ceasefire" in a phone call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu, according to a White House readout describing the phone call.

The readout nodded to Israeli concerns by reaffirming U.S. support for Egypt's cease-fire efforts, while also stressing that Obama's cease-fire call was building on Kerry's efforts.

The readout also emphasized the importance of addressing Gaza's economic plight, something that Hamas has made into a key precondition for a cease-fire.

"The President underscored the enduring importance of ensuring Israel's security, protecting civilians, alleviating Gaza's humanitarian crisis, and enacting a sustainable ceasefire that both allows Palestinians in Gaza to lead normal lives and addresses Gaza's long-term development and economic needs, while strengthening the Palestinian Authority," the readout said. "The President stressed the U.S. view that, ultimately, any lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must ensure the disarmament of terrorist groups and the demilitarization of Gaza."

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France bans pro-Palestinian demonstrations after violence

(JNS.org)

France is banning pro-Palestinian demonstrations in some parts of the country, after anti-Israel rioters attacked two Paris synagogues as part of a larger violent protest in the city's Bastille Square against Israel's ongoing Operation Protective Edge.

A group of the rioters tried to break into the Don Isaac Abravanel synagogue in east-

ern Paris wielding chairs and bats on July 13. Another synagogue on Rue de la Roquette in Paris was attacked by rioters hurling stones.

"I cannot accept a repetition [of these incidents] and I cannot take the risk of seeing French citizens, whatever their religious affiliations, exposed to violence," said French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve, reported France 24.

"The Jewish population

is worried because they are finding themselves cornered on the one hand by the right (the extreme right) which is gaining electoral support, and is still anti-Semitic in its ideology and in its ranks; and on the other hand, by pro-Palestinian forces, the extreme left, disaffected youth from suburban housing projects, and the Muslim population in general," renowned Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld said, according to ABC News.

Congregation Agudas Achim Events Welcoming Rabbi Jeffrey and Lauren Abraham, Benny & Henry



Please Join Us As Agudas Achim Welcomes
The Abraham Family To Our Community!

All Are Welcome - Pick & Choose The Events That Fit Your Schedule!

Sunday, August 3 ~ 9:30am

Popsicle Play Date at Hardberger Park — Blanco Entrance
Join our young families for swings, slides and schmoozing!



Friday, August 8 ~ 6:15pm
One Friday Night With Friends
Kabbalat Shabbat & Potluck

Bring your ruach and a dairy/parve entrée to welcome Shabbat!

Sunday August 17 ~ 11:30am - 1:30pm

Main Event Fun & Pizza Party with the Rabbi & Lauren
Tweens & teens get to know our new Rabbi!
RSVP requested



Sunday, August 24 ~ 5:00-7:00pm

Men's Beer & BBQ at the Pulmans

Okay gentlemen, here's your opportunity to spend
"Quality Time" with the Rabbi! - RSVP requested

Wednesday, August 27 ~ 9:30am

Morning Meet and Greet

All are invited to grab a cup of coffee and spend
some time with Rabbi Abraham and Lauren!



For more information and to RSVP for the
Main Event Fun & Pizza Party and Men's Beer & BBQ
email Mindi at m.stern@agudas-achim.org

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