



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

ADAR 5775 – NISSAN 5775

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

MARCH 2015



NURTURING OUR COMMUNITY

See what's happening around San Antonio!

PAGE 18



SHABBAT ON THE GO

Newly expanded program ensures seniors have access to vibrant Jewish life.

PAGE 14



PASSOVER 2015

Passover begins at sundown April 3. Community events.

PAGE 24

Grants Distribution Committee awards local programs

By Sophia Cathcart

Every fall the Grants Distribution Committee of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, a vital part of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, meets to review applications requesting grants for programs and services that are designed to ensure and promote the vitality of the Jewish community. The Grants Distribution Committee endeavors to promote tzedakah

through supporting new initiatives in San Antonio. The guidelines for the grants allow for project funding, up to two years maximum, to allow for a diverse range of programming throughout the community.

Committee chair Marc Schnall said, "This year the Committee received more grant applications than in the last ten years and had to make difficult decisions about funding worthy

See **GRANTS**, page 29

PARTNERS TOGETHER THROUGH PARTNERSHIP2GETHER



The Galilee Medical Center, shown above, is located in the coastal city of Nahariya. It is the second largest hospital in northern Israel, serving more than half a million people in the region. The hospital, founded in 1956 in wooden huts, has grown into a state of the art medical facility with dozens of departments and specialty units.

Through the Jewish Agency for Israel's Partnership2Gether, the Jewish Federation and San Antonio community has developed a strong relationship with the hospital's medical professionals and the diverse community that it serves.

FOR FULL STORY, SEE PAGE 8

JOIN A COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL DATE WITH THE STATE:

CRC sponsors legislative mission to Austin

On Thursday, March 26, the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio will meet for a Day in Austin at the Texas Capitol. The day will be held in conjunction with Community

Relations Councils and Jewish Federations in Texas who are coming together to advocate for issues coming before the 84th Texas Legislative.

Representatives from the Jewish communities of San

Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, and others will join to discuss issues of mutual concern and to meet with state elected officials.

Issues to be discussed may include healthcare, immigration,

funding of social services and education, regulation of pay day loan abuse, and texting while driving. Delegates from each community will have the

See **CRC**, page 23

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



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OF SAN ANTONIO

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EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS

The submission deadline for the APRIL 2015 issue of the Jewish Journal is MARCH 12, 2015 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 APRIL 2015 ISSUE:

- Ad space reservations due no later than March 12, 2015 by noon;
- Press ready ads due by March 16, 2015.

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.

JEWISH JOURNAL EDITORIAL POLICY

The Jewish Journal of San Antonio is a monthly publication created and paid for by the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. The Journal's primary focus is creating awareness and engagement within the local Jewish community about activities, programs and issues with which the Jewish Federation is involved.

As a service to the broader Jewish community, area synagogues and organizations are invited to submit content relevant to the Jewish community at large for publication consideration.

Items selected for publication are done so solely at the discretion of the Journal Editor and the Jewish Federation. Submissions may be edited and/or re-written for content and length.

We aim to fairly reflect the breadth and depth of activities and Jewish life taking place in the San Antonio Jewish community.

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IN LOVING MEMORY

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Teresa Gatica	Sophie "Sonny"
Irwin Glazier	Aron Stokes
Emma Irene Haines	Harold Vexler
Mary Holliday	Edward Wilk
Philip Kushner	

Embrace the season with joy and life

The Talmud states, "When Adar comes, joy is increased!" Adar refers to the Hebrew month in which we celebrate the Jewish holiday of Purim. During Purim, we read the Megillat Esther and we retell the miraculous and somewhat ridiculous story of how the Jews were victorious over the evil Haman who tried to eliminate the Jews. It is a holiday of great joy and merriment, masking the darkness of what could have been if Haman were successful.

Joy cannot come often enough in our world. Last month, our Jewish community experienced the loss of many individuals. It



**Letter from
our CEO**

**RONIT
SHERWIN**

seemed that I was receiving at least one bereavement notice about a death in our community just about every day. While we all understand that death is a part of the cycle of life, we are never fully prepared to deal with the death of those we love and hold dear.

Our community also has life! And I am fortunate enough to feel the daily reminder of young life when I bring my own children to their classroom at the JCC

each weekday morning, where happy, little faces are learning and playing. Walking to my office, I see clients visiting the JFS offices each day, receiving help and hope. I watch parents engaged in a meeting of the PJ Library Committee, actively planning activities for Jewish families across the community. These experiences are life in action.

As we celebrate Purim this month, I encourage you to fully engage in the life-affirming nature of the holiday. Read the Megillat Esther. Give gifts of food to not only your family and friends, but also to those in need. Eat a hamentaschen. And be joyful!



Israeli Physicians Panel Discussion *Treatment of Syrian Casualties in Israel*

featuring

**Dr. Avi Benov, Dr. Arie Eisenman,
and Dr. Ohad Ronen**

Tuesday, March 10

7:30 pm

Holzman Auditorium

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CRC Israel Task Force

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MARCH SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday, March 6

6:18 p.m. Candle Lighting

Saturday, March 7

7:27 p.m. Havdalah

Friday, March 13

7:23 p.m. Candle Lighting

Saturday, March 14

8:31 p.m. Havdalah

Friday, March 20

7:27 p.m. Candle Lighting

Saturday, March 21

8:36 p.m. Havdalah

Friday, March 27

7:31 p.m. Candle Lighting

Saturday, March 28

8:40 p.m. Havdalah

Friday, April 3 – Erev Pesach

7:35 p.m. Candle Lighting

Saturday, April, 4 – Pesach

8:44 p.m. Havdalah

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: March 2015

March 1

- Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Anniversary Tea, 1 p.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
- Barshop JCC & PJ Library Purim Author Event with Author Tracy Newman, 2 p.m., at The Campus
- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents *Talley's Folly*, 2:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

March 4

- JNetSA First Wednesday Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Il Sogno
- Congregation Agudas Achim Purim Palooza, 4 p.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
- Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Sip & Schmooze, 5 p.m.

March 5

- Purim
- Barshop JCC Silver Cinema, 1 p.m., at The Campus
- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Purim Seudah, 6 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

March 7

- Congregation Agudas Achim Young Couples Club of Agudas (YCCA) Dinner, 7:30 p.m.

March 9

- Barshop JCC Spring J-Camp

March 10

- Barshop JCC Spring J-Camp
- Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Book Review, 10 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
- Maimonides Society of San Antonio panel discussion *Treatment of Syrian Casualties in Israel*, 7:30 p.m., Holzman Auditorium at The Campus

March 11

- Barshop JCC Spring J-Camp
- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Book Club, 7:30 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

March 12

- Barshop JCC Spring J-Camp

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

March 13

- Barshop JCC Spring J-Camp
- Temple Beth-El Machar After Hours, 8 p.m.

March 16

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

March 17

- Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Speaker Event & Luncheon, 10 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim

March 18

- Congregation Rodfei Sholom L'Chayim Club Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

March 19

- Barshop JCC Silver Cinema, 1 p.m., at The Campus
- Temple Beth-El Sisterhood & NCJW Program, 7 p.m.

March 20

- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Rosh Chodesh Nisan, 7:30 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

March 21

- Barshop JCC STARZ Troupe presents *Honk Jr.*, 7 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

March 22

- Jewish War Veterans Meeting, 9:30 a.m., at The Campus
- Barshop JCC STARZ Troupe presents *Honk Jr.*, 2 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater
- Leah Goot Hadassah Speaker Event, 3 p.m., Adante Senior Living
- Barshop JCC STARZ Troupe presents *Honk Jr.*, 4:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater
- Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning 30th Anniversary Dinner, 5 p.m.

March 24

- Barshop JCC Camp Open House, 3:30 p.m., at The Campus
- Temple Beth-El Women's Seder, 6 p.m., Temple Beth-El
- Jewish Federation Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus

March 25

- Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Book Club, 10 a.m., Temple Beth-El
- Barshop JCC Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus

March 27

- Congregation Agudas Achim

- Family Friendly Friday Night Service & Shabbat Potluck Dinner, 6:15 p.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
- Temple Beth-El Machar After Hours, 8 p.m.

March 29

- Barshop JCC J-Serve, 9 a.m.

March 31

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

April 1

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

April 2

- Barshop JCC Silver Cinema,

- 1 p.m., at The Campus
- Congregation Agudas Achim Pre-Passover Pizza Party, 5:30 p.m., Congregation Agudas Achim

April 3

- Barshop JCC DayTripper Youth Day Camp, 9 a.m., Barshop JCC
- Community First Night Seder, 7 p.m., at The Campus

April 4

- JCC Closed

April 7

- Jewish Family Service/ AACOG Volunteer Recognition Event, 8 a.m., Holzman Auditorium at The Campus



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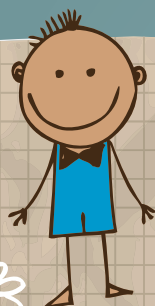
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Tu B'Shvat at the Japanese Tea Garden

By Lauren Abraham

On Sunday, Jan. 25, children from PJ Library's Pajama Library group met at the Japanese Tea Garden in Brackenridge Park.

PJ Library budding readers gathered to celebrate the Jewish Arbor Day, Tu B'Shvat (the 15th Day of Shevat in Hebrew). The children decorated their own tree booklets, made leaf rubbings, explored acorns, flowers, and nature in sensory tubs. Thanks to donations from Home Depot and Jewish Federation, the children got to decorate and take home their own PJ Library watering cans. Guest reader, librarian Shannon Seglin, explained to the children that Tu B'Shvat is the holiday where we are reminded to take care of the earth. Watering and maintaining the flowers is our chance to help each and every day.

During the event, chaired by Darcy Hoberman and Debbie Denker, participating families each donated their



Librarian Shannon Seglin captured the attention of PJ Library readers as she kicked off her session with a PJ favorite large board book. *It's Tu B'Shvat*. Using props and animals, the stories came to life, and the children enjoyed hearing them in the natural environment of the Japanese Tea Garden.

coins to purchase a tree in Israel through the Jewish National Fund. "Helping to maintain the forests in Israel was just one small deed we could do to help show our kids that we live in a larger Jewish world!" said Hoberman.

PJ Library families took photos on the beautiful grounds, and enjoyed spending a delightful day learning about nature, Judaism, and showcasing



Event Chair Darcy Doberman (far left) led the PJ Library's monthly raffle.

the strength of Jewish San Antonio in a public space.

We look forward to more events like this one.



ABOVE: PJ Library Advisory Committee Member Michelle Vizurraga, her husband David, son Rennix, and daughter Eve attended and helped set up the watering can station. Michelle's vinyl business donated the PJ Library name letters on all of the watering cans.

Panel Discussion: Israeli Physicians on the front lines treating Syrian casualties

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio will host a panel discussion on Tuesday, March 10, led by Israeli physicians who have been involved in the treatment of Syrian refugees.

The program will take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Campus for the San Antonio Jewish Community, 12500 N.W.

Military Hwy.

Two of the doctors will be visiting San Antonio as part of the Partnership between the Western Galilee and the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

The program is open to the public at no charge. For more information and to RSVP, call (210) 302-6960.



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SPOTLIGHT ON:

The Maimonides Society of San Antonio

■ The Maimonides Society is a division of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio focused on enhancing Jewish physicians' knowledge of Judaism and strengthening commitment to the local and global Jewish community through education and cultural activities.

■ The Maimonides Society is connected to a national organization of Jewish physicians, dentists and other medical practitioners set up to strengthen the bond among themselves, the Jewish community and Israel through educational and social activities.

■ Maimonides Society programs are supported by the Federation Annual



Maimonides leadership includes Drs. Marvin Forland, Mike Ozer, Mike Stern, Elliot Weser, Susan Noorily, Steve Rosenblatt, Stephen Shanfield (not pictured: Newest member Habib Nathan)

Campaign. In order to be a Maimonides sponsor, a minimum gift of \$1500 to the Jewish Federation annual campaign is required. (\$750 for members under 40). The programs feature speakers on medical subjects and Jewish

medical ethics.

■ In 2004 the Maimonides Society Leadership helped establish The Myron B. Zinn, M.D. Memorial Lectureship fund with the help of Zinn's family, professional colleagues,

patients, and friends. Zinn was an adjunct clinical professor of Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio for more than thirty years. He was also in private practice. He had a deep

continuing interest in the quality of medical education and medical ethics.

The 10th Annual Myron B. Zinn Lecture will be held Thursday, April 16 with Dr. Joel Rutman, formerly of San Antonio, now living in Israel. Rutman will be discussing his recently released book *Does Evolution Matter: A Jewish View*.

The Maimonides Society leadership includes: Drs. Marvin Forland, Habib Nathan, Susan Noorily, Mike Ozer, Steve Rosenblatt, Stephen Shanfield, Mike Stern, and Elliot Weser.

For more information on getting involved, email Judy Lackritz at lackritzj@jfsatx.org.

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SPOTLIGHT ON:

A Living Bridge: San Antonio, Partnership2Gether and the Galilee Medical Center

by Aya Kipershlak and Michael Ozer

Partnership2Gether (P2G), formerly Partnership 2000, has, over the past 15 years, become the Jewish Agency for Israel's most successful and effective model for building direct, enduring, and meaningful partnerships between global Jewish communities and communities in Israel. It is now the central platform for the promotion, empowerment, and development of deep connections among Jewish communities.

One of the most successful ways San Antonio connected to Partnership was through the Medical Task Force and the Galilee Medical Center.

With the goal of creating fraternity, camaraderie and professional enrichment that strengthen shared interests, the Galilee Medical Center established, via the Medical Task Force, programs for sharing knowledge, experience and interaction. Focusing on bringing medical professionals together, the MEDPEP (Medical Professional Exchange Program) enabled physicians and medical professionals from Israel and the partnership communities to build personal and professional relationships around shared interests.

Over the years, doctors from San Antonio from various fields such as radiology, plastic surgery, and pediatrics visited the Galilee Medical Center, and their Israeli colleagues have had the opportunity to visit the University of Texas



The Galilee Medical Center's new Woman's Health Wing.

Health Science Center and other physicians and medical facilities here in San Antonio.

The Galilee Medical Center is located some 6 miles from the border with Lebanon. Since it is the closest hospital to any border Israel shares with its surrounding countries, the staff has developed advanced knowledge and experience in dealing with mass casualty events and emergency situations.

For years the Galilee Medical Center has been conducting practice drills with the Israel Defense Forces to carefully refine techniques for receiving and treating patients in a mass casualty event. Unfortunately, it has become more relevant for medical professionals from all over the world to educate themselves in mass casualty events. The Galilee

Medical Center, together with P2G, established the ERG (Emergency Response Group), a weeklong course designed to familiarize physicians and hospital administrators from abroad with both emergency preparedness procedures practices in Israel and with techniques and procedures involved in transforming a general hospital to function as a field hospital that can absorb and treat large quantity of casualties of all degrees.

Each participant of the course was paired with an Israeli colleague in his/her specialty who was also his/her professional host for the week. The 40-hour course included lectures, hands-on workshops, scripted mini mass-casualty drills with actor-patients, on-site instruction with IDF border medical units, and allocated



The Galilee Medical Center's new and protected Heart Center.

hours in specialty units/departments.

This program was repeated for 12 years. Physicians from San Antonio who took part in this training remember it as being a very special experience both professionally and personally.

The Galilee Medical Center has been blessed with many friends and supporters from San Antonio, as the relationship between the hospital and San Antonio community grew stronger over the years.

In recent years CUFI (Christians United for Israel) has become one of

the leading organizations supporting the GMC. With the graceful support of Pastor John Hagee, the Galilee Medical Center has participated in three Night to Honor Israel celebrations at Cornerstone Church in San Antonio. Grants received on these occasions from the John Hagee Ministries have helped in the construction of the new protected Woman's Health Wing and a new protected Heart Center.

The Galilee Medical Center serves a diverse population of some 600,000 people in the Western Galilee of which half

See **PARTNERSHIP**, page 9

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BELDON LIBRARY NEWS

Looking for Wi-Fi at the Jewish Campus? Thanks to the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Learning Academy, Wi-Fi is now available in the Beldon Library during regular library hours.

While there, be sure to check out and “check out” the many new Judaica books for children.

Mark your calendars, too. The Beldon Library’s next Used Book Sale will take place on Sunday, April 26 – Tuesday, April 28 in the Holzman Auditorium at the Jewish Campus. Donations of gently used books, CD’s, and DVD’s are being accepted.

Beldon Library Hours:

Monday, 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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

Perspective

Local Hillel leader visits Western Galilee Partnership Region in Israel

By Lauren Abraham,
Israel Partnership Coordinator

A true Zionist and former Tel Aviv resident, Samantha Mazuz, the San Antonio Hillel Director was thrilled to be selected to be a part of the Hillel International Senior Staff trip, to Israel in February. Upon arrival in Israel the Shabbat before the trip to be with family, Samantha reached out to our San Antonio partnership region in the Western Galilee asking if she could come for a visit. They immediately said yes and drafted her a full day itinerary to meet with all of the key players in the region. She rented a car and drove the hour and

half to take an adventure to see and meet our colleagues in Israel.

The day began as the Director of Israel Education, Miri Johnson and lay leader Avia Zimran gave her a tour of their school, Sulam Tzor High School, which is located on a kibbutz in the region. This beautiful school has won numerous awards for being “green” and encouraging its students to recycle and use materials.

They have a collection center for the entire area in which people can bring old computers, VCR tapes, bottles, and metal to the school. The gardens and outdoor areas are made up of recycled materials and the students worked together to create

these spaces.

Next, Samantha met with Sports Director of the Community Center, Gal Masur, and she received a personal tour of the area, met colleagues and visited many of his sports classes that took place in the afternoon. Masur oversees thousands of participants and hires trainers and coaches for sports teams who have won national awards and received recognition for their greatness.

The final meeting of the day was with the newly formed Young Adult Forum. They have selected a group of great leaders from the region to

See **HILLEL**, page 10

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PARTNERSHIP

continued from page 8

are Jewish and the other half Muslim, Christian, Druze and Circassian.

This ethnic mosaic is also reflected in the diversity of the 24,000 employees and 300 volunteers. As its vision

is “To stand at the forefront of medicine, providing humane and professional medical care”, the Galilee Medical Center cherishes the support of its friends, as it continues its mission of rendering cutting edge medical care to the people of Israel’s northern periphery.

Aya Kipershlak is the Director of the Department of International Affairs, Galilee Medical Center, Nahariya, Israel. Michael Ozer is a San Antonio physician who attended the Galilee Medical Center’s ERG course in 2004.

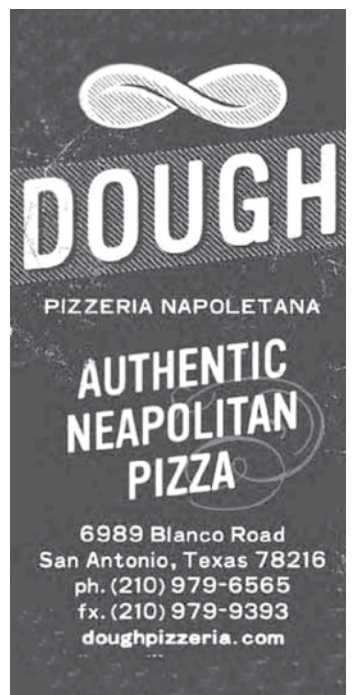


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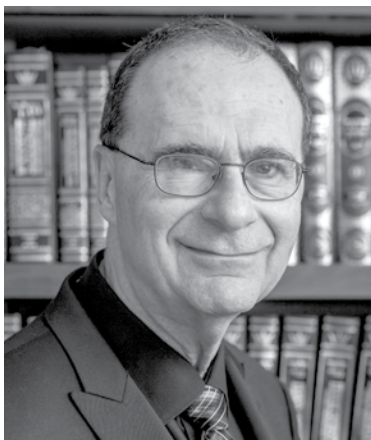
IN THE COMMUNITY

Stahl scholar to speak at Temple Beth-El March 20-22

Temple Beth-El will welcome Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman, PhD, on March 20-22 as its inaugural scholar, sponsored by the Temple's newly formed Rabbi Samuel Stahl Lectureship Fund. The fund, established by Rabbi Stahl's family in honor of his 75th birthday, sponsors an annual lecture or lecture series.

Rabbi Hoffman is a pre-eminent scholar of Jewish liturgy, ritual, spirituality, theology, and synagogue leadership. In 1994, he co-founded *Synagogue 2000*, a trans-denominational project to envision the ideal synagogue "as moral and spiritual center" for the 21st century. As *Synagogue 3000*, it has launched *Next Dor*, a national initiative to engage the next generation through a relational approach featuring strong communities with transformed synagogues at their center.

Rabbi Hoffman will speak briefly during Shabbat services, which begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 20. Following Shabbat morning services, he will lead a lunch n' learn program entitled *Spirituality in Public*:



Looking for God in San Antonio. Both opportunities are open to the community. More details are available at www.beth-elsa.org.

Saturday's lunch n' learn is made possible by the Temple's Jean and Jesse Wulfe Religious Enhancement Fund.

Rabbi Hoffman was ordained as a rabbi in 1969, received his Ph.D. in 1973, and has taught since then at the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, in New York. All of Temple Beth-El's current clergy were his students at HUC-JIR. From 1984 to 1987, he directed its School of Sacred Music as well. In 2003, he was named the

first Barbara and Stephen Friedman Professor of Liturgy, Worship and Ritual. For almost forty years, he has combined research, teaching and a passion for the spiritual renewal of North American Judaism.

Rabbi Hoffman has written or edited over forty books, including *My People's Prayer Book*, a ten-volume edition of the Siddur with modern commentaries, which was named a National Jewish Book Award winner for 2007. His *Rethinking Synagogues: A New Vocabulary for Congregational Life* and his *Art of Public Prayer* are widely used by churches and synagogues as guides to organizational visioning and liturgical renewal. In 2011, he received a second National Jewish Book Award for co-authoring *Sacred Strategies: Transforming Synagogues from Functional to Visionary*.

His articles, both popular and scholarly, have appeared in eight languages and four continents.

Hadassah groups to discuss elder law and Hardberger Park

The Rose Treiman Group will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 11, at Sarita's Restaurant, 2235 Lockhill Selma Rd. Paul Premack, an attorney who specializes in elder law, will discuss new laws regarding wills, advanced directives, and other matters of importance. Reservations for lunch are required and may be made by sending a check for \$15 made out to Hadassah to Sandra Shaenfield, 11614 Whisper Valley (78230). For further information, call Sandra, (210) 492-5962, or Ruth Toback, (210) 694-7552.

The Leah Goot Group will feature the vice-president of the Hardberger Park Conservancy, Chuck Saxer, on Sunday, March 22. The meeting will start at 3 p.m. at Adante Senior Living, 2702 Cembalo Blvd. There is no charge, but reservations should be made by calling Marge Present at (210) 492-5153.

As there will be no international convention for Hadassah this year, San Antonio members are being encouraged to take part in "Fab Five," a gathering of the five western regions, April 24-26, in Los Angeles. For more information, please call Kathy O'Neill at (210) 823-8603.

HILLEL

continued from page 9

come together to be the minds behind the project. Everyone is so energetic, optimistic and has a strong willingness for collaboration, new relationships and open minds. Everyone was extremely welcoming.

After this warmth to our fellow partnership region leaders, Samantha recommends a visit to our partnership region, Israel, and looks forward to getting involved with partnership events and projects in the future.



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San Antonio women participate in Hadassah's Date with the State

Five women from San Antonio participated in the recent Hadassah advocacy effort in Austin on February 8 and 9. They were part of a group of 40 women who learned about issues important to women, Jews and Zionists, and met with their state legislators to discuss their common concerns.

Kathy O'Neill, president of the San Antonio Chapter of Hadassah, was one of the three women planning the "Date with the State," along with Debby Rice of Fort Worth and Susie Avnery of Dallas. The other San Antonians who took part were Judy Lackritz, director of the Community Relations Council of the



(l to r:) Marion Bernstein, Kathy O'Neill, Judy Lackritz, Tevia Friedman and Jean Schlesinger in the Old Supreme Court Room at the Texas Capitol

Jewish Federation of San Antonio, Marion Bernstein, Tevia Friedman, and Jean Schlesinger.

The night before the visit to the State Capitol, the women heard from Rep. Craig Goldman (R, Ft. Worth), one of three Jewish representatives in the Texas

House, who answered questions and explained the high-pressure atmosphere during the 140 days the Legislature is in session.

Before visiting State Senators, the Hadassah women heard from Senators Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa from the Valley and Rodney

Ellis from Houston, both Democrats. Some of the San Antonio women visited with an aide to Sen. Donna Campbell; others went to the office of Sen. Leticia Van de Putte. Later they met with legislative aides to Rep. Joe Straus, Speaker of the House.

The Speaker and Rep. Goldman each brought the Hadassah delegation to the floor of the House, where they had a group photograph taken.

Among the issues advocated by Hadassah members are gender equity in medical research, continued cooperation, trade and joint projects between Texas and Israel, opposition to human trafficking, and protecting the rights of pregnant workers.

A step back in time: A tour of former Agudas Achim synagogue

The community is invited to explore the rich history and preservation of the many artworks, stained glass, architectural elements and relics of the former Congregation Agudas Achim, now St. Paul's Community Center. The tour and reception will be held on Sunday, March 22 at 2 p.m.

The event is the result of a major discovery during renovation of an obscured mural painted nearly fifty years ago by artist Maurice Schmidt. The mural depicts the rescue of the prophet Jeremiah from the well by the Ethiopian king's servant, Ebed-melech. Schmidt, now retired as head of the Texas A&M-Kingsville Art Department, will be on hand to share his inspirations and experiences of creating the mural.

St. Paul's Community Center is located at 1201 Donaldson 78228. There is no charge for this program.

For more information call Linda Brown at (210) 479-0307 or RSVP to rsvp@agudas-achim.org.

Purim celebration for young couples

The Young Couples Club of Agudas will be hosting a Purim celebration with kosher wine tasting from Glazer's Wine, gourmet cheese and nibbles on Saturday,

March 7 at 8:00 pm at the home of Valerie and Yosef Fuller. The cost is \$36/couple. This event is open to all young couples in the San Antonio area. For

more information email Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham at rabbi.abraham@agudas-achim.org or RSVP on Congregation Agudas Achim's Facebook page.

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IN THE COMMUNITY

NEWS FROM SAN ANTONIO B'NAI B'RITH

FIESTA PARADE TICKETS NOW ON SALE

The Alamo Brandeis B'nai B'rith is selling parade tickets for the 2015 Battle of Flowers and Flambeau Parades to be held in April. Tickets are \$12 and can be ordered by calling Lydia at (210) 928-1188.

The ticket sales have been a major fundraiser for the local chapter for more than 40 years. Funds raised help support Jewish Federation's Literacy project, Hillel chapters in San Antonio, Austin and College Station, Federation's Passover Care package program, and a school supplies collection and distribution program to

help students in need in San Antonio and Cuba.

In years past the San Antonio B'nai B'rith has also supported the local BBYO, Salvation Army, Red Cross, USO and other important programs.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

SA B'nai Brith usually meets the second Sunday of the month at the Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community, 12500 N.W. Military Highway, Room 227 starting at 10:30 a.m.

For further information on lodge activities or membership, call Lodge President Irwin Barath at (210) 341-4502.

Congregation Agudas Achim welcomes new Executive Director



Linda Moad has been hired as the new Executive Director of Congregation Agudas Achim.

Prior to joining the Agudas Achim professional staff, Moad spent 8 years as COO of a local family business. Prior to that, she was the Executive Assistant

to the Publisher and CEO of the San Antonio Express-News. Linda and her family moved to San Antonio in 1997 from San Jose, California, where she worked in public accounting for many years with Ernst & Young.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sunday, March 22
Post meeting, 9:30 a.m.
at the JCC- Room 277

Thursday, March 5
Post Deputies to Audie Murphy
VA Hospital quarterly Meeting,
1 p.m. at the Recreation Room

Audie Murphy VA Hospital.

Tuesday March 31
Bingo/Social at Audie Murphy
VA Hospital- CTC Building
from 7 to 8 p.m.

To volunteer or for more
information, call Ken Ashworth
at (210) 647-0330.



TBE Sisterhood and NCJW sponsor program on gender equality in Israel

Temple Beth-El Sisterhood and the San Antonio section of the National Council of Jewish Women have joined together to present a program on gender equality in Israel on Thursday, March 19 at 7 p.m. Guest speaker will be Sharon Lipton, who is an NCJW board member and co-chair of the organization's Israel programs, will speak on such issues as civil marriage, sex trafficking, domestic violence and economic and social justice.

Lipton has held a variety of positions in both the national and local NCJW organization. She served as chair of the Michigan Week Alliance for Jewish Education, the School Site Visit Task Force and the Jewish Identity and Education Committee of Congregation Shaarey Zedek.

The program at Temple Beth-El, 211 Belknap Place, is free and open to the public. There will be time for questions and comments.

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Rabbi and Rebbetzin Block to be honored at Chabad L'Chaim event

Rabbi and Rebbetzin Chaim and Rivkie Block will be honored for their 30 years of service to the San Antonio Jewish Community at Chabad's Annual L'Chaim Event to be held on Sunday, March 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning, 14535 Blanco Road.

"Over the past three decades, the Blocks have founded and developed a flourishing community and Chabad Center, initiated many new and innovative programs and touched thousands of lives with their warmth, love and special concern for every individual they have met. We are honored and humbled to celebrate them this evening for 30 years of dedicated service to our community," said Faryl Greller, Event Chair along with her husband Dr. Drew Greller.

Internationally acclaimed artist



Rabbi Chaim and Rebbetzin Rivkie Block

and violinist, Daniel Ahaviel, will headline the event with a full length concert.

"Daniel's unique style and his

undisputed control of every aspect of his instrument have brought him to collaborate and share the stage with many of the currently most renowned Jewish singers and performers. His unique Chassidic appearance combined with his exciting performing style give an atmosphere of a true Jewish Simcha," said Rabbi Yossi Marrus, administrator of Chabad and Event Coordinator.

Event Committee includes Dr. Andrew and Faryl Greller, Rabbi Yossi and Malkie Marrus, Steven and Michele Coben, Brian and Lizette Feld, Peter and Darcy Hoberman, Dr. Jason and Simone Kboudi, and Adam and Stacey Schwartz.

For more information and for ticket and sponsorship prices, visit www.chabadsa.com/30years or call Chabad at (210) 764-0300.

JNET – get connected

The Jewish Young Professional Network, JNET, will host the following speakers at the group's upcoming First Wednesday breakfasts:

March 4, 2015

Ian Fisher

President/Co-founder SUPA Doors Inc.

April 1, 2015

Reuben Bar Yadin

B-Y Properties Melrose Family Fashions Co-Founder

May 6, 2015

Jason Mittman

Adventure Racing expert and enthusiast

JNET meets every First Wednesday of the month, at 7:30 am, at Il Sogno (at the Pearl). For ticket information, visit www.jnetsa.org.



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Saturday, April 4, 2015, 6:30 pm

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Kindly RSVP by Tuesday, March 31

Please send your reservation and check/credit card payable to:
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pay online at www.agudas-achim.org, or call Linda Brown at 210.479.0307



Community invited on Yom Hashoah trip to Houston Holocaust Museum

The second annual Senior Yom Hashoah trip to the Houston Holocaust Museum is now open for reservations. Open to all adults, this year the program has expanded to include two buses and can accommodate up to ninety participants. The group will depart

Congregation Agudas Achim at 8 a.m. on Thursday, April 16, and enjoy a kosher lunch at Laykie's Gourmet Café at the Evelyn Rubenstein JCC in Houston before proceeding to private docent tours at the museum. A kosher box dinner will be provided on the way back to

San Antonio.

Hosted by Congregation Agudas Achim, the program is co-sponsored by Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning, Congregation Agudas Achim, Congregation Rodfei Sholom and Temple Beth El with underwriting by Golden Manor

Jewish Senior Services.

The cost is \$10/person and you must reserve your place; please visit the website at www.agudas-achim.org or call Linda Brown at (210) 479-0307. Reservations are on a first come basis and seating is limited.

L'Chayim Club gets ready for Passover

Rodfei Sholom's L'Chayim Club for community seniors will have their next monthly event on Wednesday, March 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The program, presented by Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg, will be *Four Questions and Beyond*. It will be an opportunity to learn about Passover and ask questions, as well as socialize over lunch. There is no charge for seniors, thanks to co-sponsorship of Rodfei Sholom and a grant from Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services. Others are welcome and encouraged to attend at \$5 per person. RSVP by Wednesday, March 11, to Rodfei Sholom at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

Shabbat with Seniors program expands

"L'Chayim! Shabbat Shalom!" several Golden Estates residents said in unison as they lifted their cups of respective wine or grape juice together at the end of Shabbat services on Friday, Feb. 6. Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham of Agudas Achim led the service for the residents at Golden Estates, kicking off an expansion of *Shabbat with Seniors*, a program that takes services to seniors in their places of residence.

Services in February were also held at Adante Senior Living with Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg of Rodfei Sholom officiating and at Madison Estates, officiated by Rabbi Mara Nathan of Temple Beth-El.

Rabbi Abraham, who spearheaded the initiative, reached out to other congregations and community organizations after recently being contacted by a community member



Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham pours wine for residents at Golden Estates to conclude a *Shabbat with Seniors* service on February 6.

whose parents live at Madison Estates, and wished that they could participate in Shabbat services without leaving their home.

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services was vital in helping to expand the program it has long sponsored at Golden Estates.

"I love watching others connect with the prayers through the beautiful melodies," said Rabbi Abraham. "My goal is that each person has their own spiritual experience in

different ways and my hope is that each prayer can connect with people in the way that will be most meaningful to that individual."

Area Rabbis plan to lead

services at least once each month at the residences, giving Jewish seniors the opportunity to be involved and experience the celebration of Shabbat.

Shabbat with Seniors is a community-wide collaboration sponsored by Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.

Volunteers are needed to lead services for seniors when rabbis are not available. If interested, please contact Lety at the GMJSS office at (210) 302-6946.

GMJSS also provides transportation for Jewish Seniors who wish to attend services at their synagogue.

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Camp Gan Israel registration underway

Camp Gan Israel will host an open house informational day on Sunday, March 8 from 12 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the camp grounds, 14535 Blanco Road. There will be activities for the children and snacks. Register for camp with the Early Bird special before March 30 and save \$75.

Camp Gan Israel's 28th season of summer camp will take place during the months of June and July. CGI's first session will be from Monday, June 15 to Friday, July 3. The second session will be from Monday, July 6 to Friday, July 17. The third session will be from Monday, July 20 to Friday, Aug. 7.

CGI camp has two divisions, Mini Gan for ages 18M-4Y and Gan



Izzy for ages 5Y-12Y. Many sign-up options are available including full-day, half-day as well as full-week, three-days weekly or two-day weekly options. Extended care is available from 7:30 a.m. and until 6 p.m.

For registration and more information visit www.ganisraela.com or call Rochel at (210) 764-0300.

Camp Gan Israel announces new director

Rochel Teldon has been named the new director of Camp Gan Israel. Teldon will be taking over from Rabbi Yossi Marrus who has held this position for the past 17 years. "We

are grateful to Rabbi Marrus for raising the quality and professionalism of our program over the past 17 years and we look forward to many years of exciting growth under the leadership

of Mrs. Teldon," said Rabbi Block. Rabbi Marrus will continue to advise and supervise the program and Mrs. Malkie Marrus will return as the director of the Mini Gan program.

Hebrew and cooking lead Heintz Summer Camp line up

Heintz Preschool is currently registering preschool and elementary school children for HPS Summer which begins the week of June 15 and continues through August 14. HPS Camps for children ages 2 to 8 include cooking, Hebrew, art exploration, reading and writing fun, splashy water days, and even Maccabi games. Older students will gain valuable experience working with adults and children as Counselors in Training (CITS) and Camp Assistants in an enriching educational setting.

HPS creative camps include: *Junior Chef Camp* for healthy cooking excitement; *Dr. Seuss Campity Camp* for writing, reading and lots of painting; *Hebrew Happiness* for expanding our world and languages; *Mini Maccabi Camp* for fun and games that build our healthy bodies; *Amazing Animals*-for immersion in the world of animals with visits from very special guests; and *Artsy Camp* for dancing, painting and sculpting.

Fourth and Fifth graders are encouraged to apply for the HPS



CIT (Counselor in Training) camp course that will allow them time to be campers while preparing to become Camper Assistants.

Responsible Middle and High School students needing volunteer hours are invited to apply to be Camper Assistants, a position that allows them to directly work with camp staff and campers while earning service hours. A letter detailing involvement is presented to students at the end of their session.

To register your child, e-mail preschool@agudas-achim.org or call Heintz Preschool at (210) 479-0429. All camps are held at Congregation Agudas Achim in the Heintz Preschool/IPRS wing. A typical day runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and early and late stay options are available.

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IN THE COMMUNITY:
YOUTH NEWS



Karen Heintz, Director Aliza Cantu, Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Hazzan Jeremy Lipton and Vicki Adelstein at ribbon cutting for “new” playground.

Heintz celebrates new
playground improvements

The Heintz Preschool Parent Teacher Organization celebrated a landmark ribbon cutting on Sunday, Feb. 8. In celebration of a successful playground improvement campaign that included new turf and gross motor development toys, the PTO

threw a Tu B’Shevat Snowy Fun Celebration. Karen Heintz did the honors of cutting the ribbon to the newest school play area while volunteers and staff hosted a party complete with dinner, story time, snow, and the *Lorax* movie.



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Girl Scouts come together to celebrate Girl Scout Month

Each year in March, Girl Scouts of all faiths join together to celebrate the spiritual side of Girl Scouting.

The Jewish Committee of Girl Scouting will host a Girl Scout Shabbat on Friday evening, March 20th during the 6:15 p.m. *One Friday Night with Friends* Shabbat service at Congregation Agudas Achim, 16550 Huebner Road.

All current and alumni Girl Scouts are invited to attend this lively musical service.

Girls are requested to wear their current vest or sash to the service. Family members or troop leaders are asked to attend with their Girl Scouts.

This service will count toward the religious awards requirement to attend a religious service of a different faith than their own.

This is the perfect occasion for Girl Scouts of other faiths to attend a Jewish service while in the comfort of other sister Girl Scouts.

For more information, contact Risa



Weinberger at risajbw@gmail.com, chairman of the Jewish Committee of Girl Scouting, or the Girl Scout

office at (210) 349-2404. Check-in will begin at 6 p.m. for all Girl Scout Daisies through Girl Scout alumni.




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Gan Gani offers Montessori inspired Pre-K classroom for the 2015-16 academic school year

Gan Gani has opened registration for the 2015 – 2016 academic school year. Now in its 27th year, Gan Gani is a Jewish preschool for children ages 18 months to 4 years old.

Gan Gani offers specialty enrichment classes such as literacy, music and Spanish, to enhance and round off the children's learning experience.

This past year, Gan Gani added a Montessori inspired Pre-K classroom under the direction of Dalia Rosenberg, a Montessori certified preschool teacher.

"Jewish values are the core of the classroom and together with the designed environment, the classroom fosters independence and a caring community of children and teachers that embrace a thought provoking

learning," Rosenberg said.

The preschool offers small classes and low student-teacher ratios ensure each child receives individual and caring attention. In addition, Gan Gani provides interactive opportunities for parent and family involvement.

Gan Gani is located on the Chabad Lubavitch Center grounds and includes an outdoor playground and bicycle track.

Gan Gani is staffed with trained and certified early childhood educators with a strong commitment to offering a quality Jewish education.

For more information or to set up an appointment to visit the school, call Rivkie Block at (210) 492-1085 or visit www.GanGani.org.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FINANCIAL TIPS SHARED WITH L'CHAYIM CLUB

Community seniors and friends gathered for the L'Chayim Club's monthly program on January 14 at Congregation Rodfei Sholom. IBC Bank presented *Money Buzz and Money Smart*, a program to educate people in basic money management as well as how to be alert to fraud schemes.



(l to r) Margo Hoenig and Frances Vogel



(L-R): Paola Kisel, Sara Kisel, Susan Furman, Marcia Schwartz with son Jeremy in front, Rochel & David Kisel, a friend, and Linda Bazaman engaged with residents at Golden Estates.

TIKKUN OLAM DAY

More than 150 Rodfei members and friends participated in doing mitzvot for the San Antonio community as part of the congregation's 2015 Tikkun Olam Day. Participants worked at the San Antonio Food Bank, Golden Estates, Ronald McDonald House, and Walker Ranch Park.



(L-R): Talia Contie, Hannah Feld, and Maya Contie help pick up trash at Walk Ranch Park.

AGUDAS ACHIM WORLD WIDE WRAP

The students of Inda Posner Religious School of Congregation Agudas Achim (CAA) learned the secrets behind the mitzvah of tefillin (pictured with Steve Cole) as part of the 2015 World Wide Wrap hosted by CAA Men's Club on Sunday, Feb. 8.



PJ LIBRARY FORMS NEW COMMUNITY INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

The PJ Library Committee has selected Chair Lisa Abramson and a committee of 10 area women to lead the Jewish Federation's community initiatives. This committee is still forming and bringing energy to the community. Beginning in 2015, look to see more synagogue and community organization collaborations for events, new creative ways to share PJ Library books together, and ways to welcome and greet new families to the area.



The newly formed PJ Library Committee includes: Left to right: Suzanne Patrick, Rachel Tawil, Lauren Abraham (PJ Library Coordinator), Deborah Bar Yadin, Darcy Hoberman, Lisa Abramson (Committee Chair), Michelle Vizarraga, Elyssa Kane, Micah Beall. Not pictured: Melissa Baumholtz, Tania Lubetzy, and Deborah Denker

WHAT'S HAPPENING

TU B'SHEVAT CELEBRATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

CELEBRATING NOURISHMENT OF TREES AND FOODS

More than 40 community seniors enjoyed an afternoon filled with food and friends at the Tu B'Shevat Sunshine Club Luncheon. The Sunshine Club is a joint program of the Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning and Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.



Participants explored the benefits of good nutrition and how it relates to the Jewish holiday of Tu B'Shevat, the New Year for Trees, with Nutritionist Jenny Hagendorf.

CHABAD YOUTH ZONE TU B'SHEVAT



On Sunday, Jan. 25, more than 30 children gathered at Home Depot for a DIY Youth Zone Wood-working Workshop for the New Year for Trees. For more information visit www.ChabadSA.com/YouthZone.

EXPLORING NATURE FOR TU B'SHEVAT



ABOVE LEFT: Texas Master Naturalists Morah Wendy Drezek and Stan Drezek led a Nature Walk in the Savanna Restoration area, sharing interesting tree information.



ABOVE: Texas Forest Service Regional Urban Forester Mark Kroeze and Alamo Area Master Naturalist Lissa Martinez plant a compact pomegranate tree on the front lawn at Gan Gani Preschool.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TREES!

Children and parents enjoy making birthday cards for the trees on Tu B'Shevat at an after school party at Congregation Rodfei Sholom.

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...

Ada Meira Scheinberg makes her first challah at Congregation Rodfei Sholom's Mother - Daughter Challah Baking day on January 25.



IN THE COMMUNITY: YOUTH NEWS

BLESS THIS CLASSROOM



Rabbi Mara Nathan from Temple Beth El performed a Hanukat Ha'Bayit, as a new mezuzah was hung on the pre-kindergarten classroom at the Block and Dreeben School for Young Children.

JCC to hold Summer Camp open house

The JCC Summer Camp open house is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24 from 3:30-6:30 p.m. During the free event, parents can obtain information about the JCC's summer camp program and register their children. Inflatables and an outdoor petting zoo will keep the children engaged.

JCC's summer camp program, accredited by the American Camping Association, provides children with an environment that promotes self esteem, building skills, discovering hidden talents, exploring new

places, meeting new friends and much more.

JCC members enjoy exclusive priority registration and early bird discounts through March 27.

Registration opens to the community on April 1.

This summer's theme is "TEXAS" and will be packed with tons of individual and all-camp activities throughout the summer beginning June 1 and running through August 21. The camp day runs 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. with extended early and late stay options.

"Feel free to invite friends and family who may be looking for summer camp opportunities for their children to attend the open house," said Lisa Guerrero, JCC Youth & Camping Director. The JCC will also offer a special 1-day-only membership promotion for anyone who joins and registers for summer camp at the Open House.

For complete information about JCC Summer Camp, visit www.jccsanantonio.org/camp or call the camp office at (210) 302-6859.

Yad B'Yad performing a mock Jewish wedding, of sorts

On Wednesday, March 18 at 10 a.m., Yad B'Yad Intergenerational Program will conduct a mock Jewish wedding to marry the letters Q and U. Seniors in the community are invited to witness the unique event.

According to Heintz Preschool Director, Aliza Cantu, "Teaching the concept that the letter Q cannot work in words without its 'sidekick' U is not always an easy concept for children to remember. By 'marrying' the two letters in a special ceremony, it is our hope that this concept will stick with all of the preschool children, not just the Pre-K students."

The mock wedding is also a time to teach the preschool students some wedding etiquette and help children understand the many rituals associated with a Jewish wedding.

The Pre-K class will serve as the wedding party while the other classes, grandparents, grandpals, and parents serve as invited wedding guests. Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham's puppets will serve as clergy for this special event.

Instead of using a tallit to wrap the "bride" and "groom" together at the end of the ceremony, a special photo quilt has been designed with a variety of photos of the Pre-K class. This quilt will be auctioned off during the reception portion of the Yad B'Yad program that day.

For more information about this Yad B'Yad program, or any of the Yad B'Yad Intergenerational programs, contact the Heintz Preschool office (210) 479-0429 or email yadbyad.heintz@gmail.com.



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Yom Hashoah 2015

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**Join us for a
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THURSDAY, APRIL 16

8 AM - 9 PM

- ◆ Lunch at Houston JCC at Noon
- ◆ Museum Tour at 2:30 pm

 We will depart Congregation Agudas Achim at 8 am (sharp) by luxury charter bus and stop for catered kosher lunch before arriving at the Houston Holocaust Museum for our private docent tours. A kosher box dinner will be provided on the way back to San Antonio.

 The trip will cost \$10 per person. You must reserve your place by email to m.stern@agudas-achim.org or calling Mindi at 479.0307. Reservations are on a first come basis and seating is VERY LIMITED.

 Please note that the museum tour is 2 hours with extended periods of standing and walking.



This community-wide event is hosted by Agudas Achim's Simcha Senior Club and sponsored in part by: Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services, Temple Beth-El, Chabad Lubavitch and Rodfei Sholom.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS - KICK OFF EVENT



A special Caregiver Support Group event hosted at the Jewish Campus on February 18 provided information and resources for people in the community who care directly or indirectly for an aging or disabled loved one. The event was organized by Jewish Family Service and Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services. Sponsors included the Barshop JCC, Bexar Area Agency on Aging and Harbor Hospice.

MUSIC TO YOUNG EARS



Members of the San Antonio Symphony performed at the JCC Block and Dreeben School for Young Children. Children enjoyed several Jewish songs as they learned about what makes up a solo, duet, trio, and quartet.



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Local Hillel Students celebrate the new semester

San Antonio Hillel began this spring semester by hosting a Shabbat *Challah Back* dinner. Students from all over San Antonio gathered for a fun filled Shabbat evening, meeting new friends, eating great food, and singing Shabbat songs.

On both the Trinity University and UTSA Campuses, students participated in involvement fairs where they were able to share Hillel information and the semester calendar with the general student population, recruit for Birthright Israel trips, and allow new and interested students to meet them. Students also participated in the Martin Luther King March in San Antonio, held lunches on campus and enjoyed a movie night. Students continue to plan for



ABOVE: Trinity University students at an involvement fair, sharing information about Hillel

a semester filled with great events and programs.

For more information on how to get involved, or if you know of a young adult between the ages of 18-26 that would like to travel

to Israel this summer on a FREE Birthright Israel trip, contact Samantha Mazuz at samantha@sahillel.org.

J-Serve offers community service opportunity for Jewish teens

J-Serve, the annual day of community service for Jewish teens, will be held March 29.

Teens will meet at the JCC at 9 a.m. and return at 3 p.m. Jewish teenagers in grades 7-12 are encouraged to attend.

Attendees will receive lunch and community service hours for school. T-shirts will also be available for the first 100 teens to arrive.

Participants will register for their service site beginning at 9 a.m. Service opportunities will include sites such as the San Antonio Food Bank, San Antonio Furniture Bank, and other local non-profits. Transportation to service sites will be provided.

For more information or to register, please contact Rachel Rustin at (210) 302-6969 or rustinr@jcc-sa.org.

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- Scott Pullen & Rachel Stern
San Antonio, TX

www.cyjtexas.org • Register your child today! • 713.723.8354

IN THE COMMUNITY: COLLEGE

College events with Chabad on Campus

Purim Bash

Chabad on Campus will be hosting a citywide Purim party for students Wednesday, March 4 at 7 p.m.

There will be mask decorating, disco lights, hamatashen and more.

The Purim Bash will take place at the Jewish Student Center at 13210 Hopkins Glade. Students are encouraged to come in costume and participate in a grand costume contest.

All students who come in costume will receive a door prize. Registration is on [facebook.com/jewishUTSA.com](https://www.facebook.com/jewishUTSA.com).



Chef Daniel Barshop, a member of the Chabad on Campus student group, shares his professional sushi making expertise with the students of San Antonio during a recent "Sushi Shabbat." During the event, area college students socialized, enjoyed a sushi buffet along with traditional matzo ball soup, challah and other Shabbat foods.

Passover Seder

The Chabad on Campus Student group will prepare and host a Passover Seder for area college students. Organizers say they are

working hard to prepare an interactive, enjoyable and informative evening open to all students of San Antonio.

The Seder is free of

charge. To reserve a seat for the Passover Seder email RabbiAri@ChabadonCampusSA.com or go to www.facebook.com/jewishUTSA.com.

FROM THE COVER

CRC

continued from page 1

opportunity to meet with their local and state elected officials at the Capitol.

Invited speakers include Texas Governor Greg Abbott and Speaker of the House Joe Straus III.

Each city's Community Relations Council will coordinate the conference for their local constituents. The Dallas JCRC is helping to coordinate the overall conference.

The tentative agenda calls for the meetings to start in the Old Texas Supreme Court Room in the Texas Capitol at 9 a.m. and to end around 3:30 p.m.

The cost to participate in the mission will be \$36, all inclusive, per person. For more information and to register go to the Jewish Federation website www.jfsatx.org or call (210) 302-6960.

Scholarship Applications NOW AVAILABLE

For Camperships, Jewish High Schools, Undergraduate and Graduate Studies, and Study in Israel

Jewish Sleep-Away Camp

Scholarships are available to students entering grades 2-12. Eligibility for scholarship is based primarily on financial need.

Jewish High Schools

Scholarships are available to students attending a Jewish High School outside of San Antonio. Eligibility for scholarship is based primarily on financial need.

Undergraduate Studies

Scholarships are available to individuals seeking to further their undergraduate education. Eligibility for scholarship is based primarily on financial need.

Graduate Studies

Scholarships are available to individuals seeking a postgraduate degree in Jewish education, Rabbinical, or Cantorial studies. Eligibility for scholarship is based primarily on financial need.

Elmer and Sally Cooper Scholarship

Scholarships are available to Jewish students whose university studies are in pre-med in the United States. Eligibility for scholarship is based primarily on financial need.

Beady Berler Scholarship for Study in Israel

One scholarship is awarded annually to a student enrolled in a college or university within the state of Texas. This is a merit-based scholarship for an academic course of study in Israel as part of a degree program.



Applications must be received no later than Thursday, April 9 2015

Applications are available online at www.jfsatx.org or by contacting Amy Levine-Reagin at:

The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio
210.302.6960 * 210.408.2332 (Fax) * regina@jfsatx.org



PASSOVER

Pre-Passover pizza party for children

The burning of hamatz (leavened products) is a Jewish ritual before Passover. San Antonio children can safely participate in the ritual during a pre-Passover pizza party at Congregation Agudas Achim.

A SAFD fire truck will be on site for the event. This dinner is free and open to all. RSVP for catering purposes to rsvp@agudas-achim.org.

Passover storytime

Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham will host a holiday storytime at Barnes and Noble La Cantera on Tuesday, March 31 at 4:30 p.m. The event is open to all at no charge. Children and their families will hear fascinating stories about Passover and then walk over to Grimaldi's Pizza for a no-host dinner.

Chabad hosts community Passover Seder

The Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning will host a communal Passover Seder on Friday, April 3 at the Chabad Center, 14535 Blanco Road.

Services begin at 7:30 p.m. followed by the Seder at 8:30 p.m.

Relive the Exodus, discover the eternal message of the Haggadah, and enjoy a Seder complete with hand-made Shmurah Matzo, Israeli wines, and a dinner spiced with singing and explanations of the unique traditional customs of this special night.

Handmade Shmurah Matzo will be available for purchase from the Chabad Center for \$25 a pound.

For Seder or Matzo reservations, call Chabad at (210) 764-0300.

Out with the hamatz!

Congregation Agudas Achim will host a Pre-Passover Potluck on Friday, March 27 at 7:15 p.m.

The dinner will be preceded by a Friday Night With Friends Simcha Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Family Friendly Friday Night Service at 6:15 p.m.

This potluck is *not* Kosher for Passover, but is a fun way to use up the last of your hamatz. Bring a dairy/vegetarian dish to share and please remember to use ingredients with hechshers (rabbinical product certification). No RSVP is necessary. Agudas Achim will provide tableware, drinks and dessert.

HAPPY PASSOVER, Y'ALL

Charoset, Braised Brisket, Cornish Game Hens, Matzo, and everything you need to create a traditional Seder plate.

Whether you want to cook or just take the credit, we can help with your traditional Passover meal. Pick up the full feast by calling our Catering department.

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Advanced registration is required by calling (210) 302-6820 or online at www.jccsanantonio.org/seasons. Because space is limited, early registration is strongly encouraged. Seating preferences will be accommodated if possible, but are not guaranteed.

Temple Beth-El hosts Women's Seder

Babysitting is available for this event. For reservations, call Dollie Closna at (210) 733-9135.

Agudas Achim Second Night Community Seder

The cost of attending is \$36/adults, \$10/youth (6-11) and children (5 and under) are free. To rsvp and for more information visit the website at www.agudas-achim.org or call Linda Brown at (210) 479-0307. The deadline for reservations is Tuesday, March 31.

Sunday Funday Pesach workshop

Rodfei Sholom will have its monthly Sunday Funday on Sunday, March 22, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Synagogue, 3003 Sholom Drive. Following breakfast, there will be arts and crafts as well as an opportunity to learn - through hands-on activities - how to help get ready for Passover. Everyone is welcome, and encouraged to bring an apron. RSVP by Tuesday, March 17 by contacting the synagogue at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

HAPPY PASSOVER!

From the staff of the Jewish Journal



Science and Faith: Can you be a fan of both?

A friend who I have known for thirty years just moved back to San Antonio. When she popped in to say hello, her first request was that we begin a weekly book club as she had picked up a fascinating book at Barnes & Noble.

Little did I know that I would soon be reading a new release called *Would You Baptize an Extraterrestrial?* Once I had the book in my hands, I saw it was written by two Jesuits – Brother Guy Consolmagno and Father Paul Mueller. For sure, this would not be a book I would choose on my own.

But, having committed to a book club that would begin in less than a week, I set about opening this volume with the strange title.

In a lively dialogue between two highly educated astronomers who are scientists at the Vatican Observatory, these two men tackle some of the common questions at the intersection of faith and science.

It seems the title is an adaptation of Pope Francis's recent remark, "Imagine if a Martian showed up, all big ears and big nose like a child's drawing, and he asked to be baptized. How would you react?"

Of course, this is not a question that would come up in Jewish circles, but the seeming conflict between faith and science has produced many a Jewish agnostic or atheist. I happen to be living with one right now.

For many contemporary people it is an either/or decision. Science and faith are seen as opposites, two opposing idea systems that cannot be accepted at the



Mishugas:

LINDA KAUFMAN

same time.

But Paul and Guy, my two new Jesuit friends, lightheartedly convince their readers that there doesn't have to be any problem with believing in both.

They shared Pope John Paul II's restoration of an ancient teaching: the idea of the ultimate "unity of truth."

It states that God is revealed in two different ways: first, in the events of human history as found in the writings of the Bible and second, through the beauty and structure of nature. These two "books," the Book of Scripture and the Book of Nature, cannot disagree with each other as they are both "written" by the same author, God.

What this means is that if there seem to be differences between science and the Bible on such matters as the creation of the universe and of life on Earth, it merely reveals that we haven't yet learned to interpret the Two Books correctly.

One strong possibility is that we don't yet know how to read the Book of Nature accurately. The other is that we haven't yet interpreted the Bible correctly. Possibly we are reading it too literally rather than figuratively.

Or the third likelihood is that we have them both incorrectly understood. The authors' propose that the problem is with the interpreters not the Author of these two books.

How refreshing it was to read their conclusion that

if the Bible seems to be in conflict with science, we need to activate our belief in the ultimate "unity of truth."

They suggest that we need to keep on doing good scientific work and try to understand nature and the world better while studying the Bible and trying to understand God's work more clearly, all the while believing that they are totally compatible.

Brother Guy contends that it is the religious fundamentalists who seem to be lacking in faith as they insist that science and faith must be in agreement right now rather than believing that God has made us with the

capacity to read and pursue the ultimate meaning of the Two Books which will one day be in complete agreement.

Father Paul jumps right in to add that scientific fundamentalists who dismiss the Bible are also missing the point. The Big Bang theory and the scriptural stories of Creation are both trying to answer the question of how and why we are here. However, that question means something very different to a scientist than to a philosopher.

The book is a lively repartee between two very intelligent, educated and thoughtful men of God whose professional life

is totally immersed in the world of science. Listening to their dialogue is an eye opener and a privilege.

When I visited Colorado this past fall, I didn't need to know the history of the Rocky Mountains or have a geological explanation of their existence.

As I stood on a quiet spot in the middle of this magnificent mountain range what came to mind is the passage from Psalm 121: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

That's enough "unity of truth" for me.



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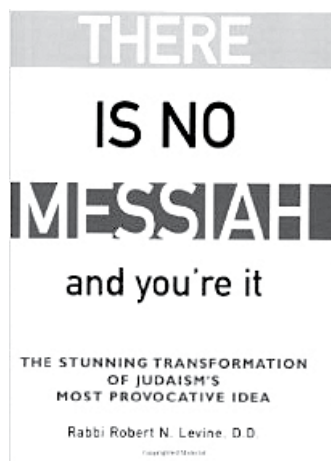
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Exploring the history and meaning of the messiah

Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham will review *There is No Messiah - and you're it* by Rabbi Robert N. Levine D.D. at Agudas Achim's March Book Review on Tuesday, March 10. The event at 10 a.m. will take place in the Gurinsky Family Social Hall. Light refreshments will be served. For more information contact Suzan Mendlovitz at (210) 344-1108.



Rodfei Sholom Book Club

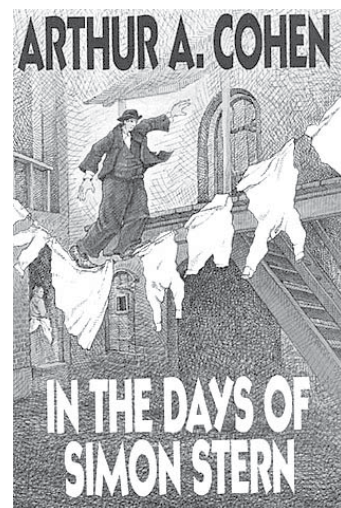
Rodfei Sholom Book Club's upcoming discussions include:

March 11, 2015: *The Lion Seekers* by Kenneth Bonert (historical/literary fiction). These are the years of the Great Depression when Isaac Heller--with his mother and sister--arrives in South Africa from Lithuania to reunite with their father who had made the journey years before. This epic novel tells the story of how the Jews came to South Africa and what they had to do to make it home.

April 8, 2015: *In the*

Days of Simon Stern by Arthur Cohen (fiction). Nathan, a Jewish scribe, tells the story of the coming of the Messiah in the person of one Simon Stern, from his birth on the Lower East Side through his career as a millionaire dealer in real estate, to the building of a refuge for Jewish remnants of the Second World War. "...and American novel despite its Jewish peculiarity..."

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



In the Days of Simon Stern by Arthur Cohen is among the books featured in upcoming discussions with the Rodfei Sholom Book Club.

Rumors returns to The Vex

During the Sheldon Vexler Theatre's inaugural season in 1999, Artistic Director Ken Frazier directed Neil Simon's hilarious play

Rumors. The farce will make a triumphant return, closing out the 2014-15 season with an all new cast, director, and vision.

Tickets on sale Thursday, April 2. Production dates May 2 - 31, 2015.

Visit www.vexler.org for more information.

JCC's STARZ performs award-winning show

Actors in STARZ, the JCC youth performance troupe for students in fifth grade and up, have been rehearsing and preparing for their spring production of *Honk!* The show, a musical adaptation of Hans Christian Anderson's *The Ugly Duckling*, tells the story of *Ugly*, who takes an adventurous journey and winds up learning about true beauty teaching the audience about acceptance along the way.

"This is a fantastic musical that tackles sensitive issues

with humor, love and song," said Rachel Rustin, who produces STARZ at the JCC.

Honk! won the Olivier Award (the British equivalent of the Tony Award) for Best New Musical in 2000 and has been entertaining families and winning-over audiences ever since.

Honk!, Jr. will be performed March 21 at 7 p.m. and March 22 at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. in the Vexler Theatre at the JCC. Tickets are \$7 and may be purchased by calling (210) 302-6859.

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waghalterl@jfsatx.org

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

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

Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community
12500 NW Military Hwy, Suite 100, San Antonio Texas 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6801 **Fax:** (210) 408-2322
Director of Operations: Mike Griffin
President: Alice Viroslav **Website:** www.thecampustx.org
The Campus features a variety of unique spaces available to rent for small or large meetings, conferences, seminars, bar & bat mitzvahs, weddings, quinceañeras, birthday parties and more.

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

Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Antonio
P.O. Box 780264 San Antonio, TX 78278 **Phone:** (210) 736-4352
Non-profit organization offering interest-free loans to members of the San Antonio Jewish community in need of temporary assistance

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

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

After School Judaics (JAS @ The J)
12500 NW Military Hwy., 78231 / **Phone:** (210) 302-6969

Gan Gani Preschool
14535 Blanco Rd. 78216 / **Phone:** (210) 764-0300

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

JCC Block & Dreeben School for Young Children
12500 NW Military Hwy., 78231 / **Phone:** (210) 302-6846

Torah Academy of San Antonio
3003 Sholom Drive, Suite #200, 78230 / **Phone:** (210) 607-7261

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
Hazzan Jeremy Lipton

Congregation Beth Am (Reconstructionist)
7150 IH 10 West, 78213
Phone: (210) 492-2173 **Fax:** (210) 342-8935
website: www.bethamsatx.org
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

Jewish Community of the Hill Country
Kerrville, Texas
For information: (830) 367-2000

Temple Beth-El (Reform)
211 Belknap Place, 78212
Phone: (210) 733-9135 **Fax:** (210) 737-8946
E-mail address: Temple@beth-elsa.org
Website: www.beth-elsa.org
Rabbi Mara Nathan, Senior Rabbi,
Rabbi Elisa Koppel,
Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl, Emeritus
Cantor Julie Berlin

Temple Chai (Reform)
Meets at the Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community
12500 N.W. Military Hwy., 78231
Office: 7410 Blanco Road, Suite #340
San Antonio, TX 78216
Office phone: (210) 340-2090
website: www.templechaisa.org
Rabbi David Komerofsky

Chabad Lubavitch of South Texas
14535 Blanco Rd., 78216
Phone: (210) 492-1085 **Fax:** (210) 493-9460
website: www.chabadsa.com
Rabbi Chaim Block
Rabbi Yossi Marrus
Rabbi Levi Teldon

Congregation Israel of San Antonio (Conservative, Covenantal Judaism in Prayer and Practice)
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16320 Huebner Road at St. Andrew
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All Faiths Chapel:
5000 Fawn Meadow Drive at Floyd Curl
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Phone: (210) 387-2436
Hazzan David Silverstein, JD,
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Accompanist and Choral Director

FROM THE COVER

GRANTS

continued from page 1

projects and needs.”

The grant recipients for 2014-2015 vary in purpose but all contribute to the empowerment and benefit of the Jewish Community.

♦ The Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy was awarded funds to support the 8th grade student trip to Israel. The trip will allow the students to utilize the language they have learned and experience the country they study.

♦ Jewish Family Services received a grant for staff training and education to enhance the quality of services provided by JFS to the community.

♦ The final recipient of

this year's awards was Congregation Rodfei Sholom. Congregation Rodfei Sholom has maintained a community *mikvah* (ritual bath) that is the only one in the region and is used by members of every denomination and synagogue in San Antonio. The committee awarded \$7,000 for the refurbishment of the *mikvah*. Congregation Rodfei Sholom also received a grant to help provide scholarships for its summer camp program.

The Foundation would like to extend this funding opportunity to a wide variety of organizations. If you would like further information please contact the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.



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U.S. & WORLD NEWS

JWV honors all minority Medal of Honor recipients

For decades, minority military personnel, including Jews, were prevented from receiving the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military award, due to bias and prejudice.

The Jewish War Veterans of the USA acted to right

these wrongs, and on March 18, 2014, twenty-four new Medal of Honor recipients were enshrined including Jewish Americans, Hispanic Americans and African Americans.

In honor of these recipients, the Jewish War Veterans of America held a

Medal of Honor Celebration gala in Arlington, Virginia on February 14, 2015.

The gala featured Medal of Honor recipients Colonel Jack Jacobs, an NBC News military analyst, and Lieutenant General Robert Foley, the Director of Army Emergency Relief.

New State Dept. travel warning for Israel cites deaths of U.S. citizens

(JTA) — A new U.S. State Department travel warning for Israel cites recent injuries to and deaths of U.S. citizens.

The warning, updated

February 18 on the department's website, states, "a rise in political tensions and violence in Jerusalem and the West Bank has resulted in

injuries to and deaths of U.S. citizens."

"We have no indication that U.S. citizens have been specifically targeted based on their nationality, however U.S. citizens have been directly affected. Six U.S. citizen residents of Israel and the West Bank were killed and others injured in multiple attacks in 2014," according to the warning.

Among the U.S. citizens killed in recent months were Naftali Fraenkel, one of three teens kidnapped and killed by Palestinian terrorists in June; Chaya Zissel Braun, a 3-month-old killed in October when a Palestinian driver plowed into a crowd at a light rail station on Ammunition Hill in Jerusalem; and three rabbis killed in the terror attack in November on a synagogue in Jerusalem's Har Nof neighborhood.

The warning recommends that U.S. citizens stay away from all demonstrations and reminds them that there is potential for military conflict between Hamas and Israel.

The warning reiterates that "U.S. government employees are prohibited from using public buses throughout Israel and the West Bank."

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Remembering deceased Jewish military veterans

The *yahrzeit* (anniversary of the date of death) of these San Antonio veterans occurs in the month of March. Please take a moment of silence to remember them and their service to the United States of America. If you know of a name that is missing please contact Herschel Sheiness at (210) 494-8768, San Antonio Post 753 Jewish War Veterans of U.S.A.

Adelman, Jack	Litofsky, Jack
Adler, Harry	Marcus, Hyman
Berenson, Oscar	Meyer, Saul
Bernknopf, Samuel	Miller, Joseph
Bridges, James	Morgan, David
Britton, Howard	Myrell, Joseph
Brook, Bernard	Newman, Morris
Brook, Bob	O’Krent, Murray
Cohen, Harold	Panzer, Charles
Doman, Samuel	Pomerance, Harvey
Dorf, Jerome	Ptashkin, Norman
Dym, David	Riskind, Reuben
Ellner, Bernard	Rosenblatt, Julius
Feinberg, Raymond	Rubin, Harry
Finder, Rudolf	Rubin, Lester
Freedman, Lester	Sacks, Harris
Friedman, Ben	Sartor, Burt
Greenfield, Louis	Seeman, Norman
Hirsch, Louis	Solis, Jacob
Jacobson, Harry	Soskin, Marshall
Jarrow, Lyle	Strum, Jerome
Jasie, Max	Trodler, William
Kaplan, James	Uman, Bernard
Kaufman, Leslie	Usdane, David
Knittle Gerald	Weinberg, Jacob
Krauss, Solomon	Weinstein, Alice
Ladensohn, Samuel	Wood, Harold
Lane, Frank	Yourman, Hyman
Lawrence, Harry	

In the kitchen for Passover

MATZO BRIE

The following serves 3-4 people:

Break up 4 sheets plain matzo into a large bowl. (Pieces should be small, but the matzo should not be in crumbs. Pieces should range from the size of a large corn flake to a small snack cracker.)

Pour boiling water over the matzo until it is saturated,



but there is no standing water in the bowl. Add two eggs and salt, pepper, and onion powder (if desired) to taste.

Add a thin layer of vegetable oil to a heavy medium-sized skillet. Heat

until medium-hot. Pour matzo mixture into skillet and spread around like a thick omelet.

Brown 4-5 minutes, then turn. Brown other side for a few minutes.

Serving suggestion: top with low fat sour cream or fruit preserves .

Recipe from www.kosher4passover.com

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As 3,000 Jewish teens gather in Atlanta, funders urge more support for programs

ATLANTA (JTA) — More than 3,000 teenagers from multiple Jewish youth groups gathered in Atlanta for a series of events aimed at strengthening Jewish identity among teens and rallying philanthropic support for such programs.

The main attractions were the annual conventions of

BBYO and NFTY, which were held for several days in adjoining hotels and featured some joint programming. Prior to the start of the two conventions, dozens of teen leaders from BBYO, NFTY and several other youth groups met to resurrect the Coalition of Jewish Teens.

Prior to the conventions,

about 250 people took part in the Summit on Jewish Teens, a gathering of foundations, federations and individual funders.

In February, on the eve of the gatherings, four major supporters of BBYO — the Jim Joseph, Schusterman, and Marcus and Singer foundations — published

an opinion piece explaining their goals for the gathering and calling on other funders to join them in supporting youth groups and other teen initiatives.

“The good news is that study after study proves that when young people are involved in meaningful Jewish experiences during

their teenage years, they are much more likely to be active, lifelong members of the Jewish community,” the foundations wrote in their opinion piece, which was published by *eJewish Philanthropy*. “The bad news is that as far as we have come, we still have a long way to go before we fully address the disturbing fact that in most communities, an estimated 80 percent of Jewish teens drop out of Jewish life after their b’nai mitzvah.”

The four foundations urged funders to work together. Teen leaders, meanwhile, issued their own call for collaboration, playing up their desire to find ways for the various Jewish youth groups to work together on social action projects and other initiatives.

Organizers of the various events stressed the idea that the most effective way to attract teens is to offer them opportunities to design and run their own programs.

Several organizers also said that there was a strong need to instill teens with a deeper appreciation and understanding of Israel before they head to college and find themselves in the middle of highly charged debates about the Middle East.

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Polish Culture of Ministry rejects request to renovate historic synagogue

WARSAW, Poland (JTA) — Poland's Ministry of Culture and National Heritage turned down a request to help fund the renovation of an historic synagogue in Przysucha.

The total estimated cost to renovate the synagogue in southern Poland, about 60 miles from Warsaw, is \$52,000. The foundation had requested \$43,000.

The synagogue's titleholder, the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland, said it was trying to convince federal officials to change their minds.

"We do not understand why it is not in the interest of the Polish state to assist in caring for Jewish monuments," Monika Krawczyk, the foundation's director general, told JTA.

Between 2012 and 2014, the Ministry had provided financial assistance that had allowed the



Przysucha synagogue (Photo by Jacques Lahitte)

foundation to perform necessary rescue work on the Przysucha synagogue, including securing the foundation and restoring the roof. The poor condition of the synagogue, which was returned to the Jewish community at the beginning of the 21st century, is the result of decades of neglect following World War II.

The foundation began revitalizing the synagogue with support from the World Monuments Fund, the Taube

Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture and the Cahnman Foundation.

The synagogue is a monument to late Baroque architecture, the only such facility in the Mazovia region and one of the most important in Poland. At the end of the 18th century Przysucha was a vital center of Hasidism in Poland. After World War II, the building was used as stables and to store fertilizer.

IAEA: Iran limiting but also hiding nuclear activities

(JTA) — Iran is limiting its testing of its uranium refinement capacities yet failing to cooperate with international nuclear inspectors, the U.N. atomic watchdog said.

The International Atomic Energy Agency made the assertions in a report released February 20, the Deutsche Welle newspaper reported.

"The agency remains concerned about the possible existence in Iran of undisclosed nuclear-related activities involving military-related organizations, including activities related to the development of a nuclear payload for a missile," the IAEA report said.

While failing to cooperate with inspectors, Iran has refrained from expanding tests of more efficient models of a machine used to refine uranium, complying with a nuclear agreement with six world powers, Reuters reported.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the IAEA's report proved Tehran is hiding its nuclear weapons ambitions.

The IAEA "once again notes that Iran is refusing to reveal to the world its preparations for the production of nuclear weapons," Netanyahu said in a statement. "Iran insists on hiding this from the international community at a time when the major powers are continuing to try and allow Iran to produce the core of such weapons, enriched uranium.

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Dozens of Wisconsin homes hit with anti-Semitic graffiti

(JTA) — Anti-Semitic and racial slurs and swastikas were spray-painted on at least 30 homes in Madison, Wisconsin.

The graffiti attack occurred overnight on February 20, Madison police [told](#) local media. The graffiti was found on homes, cars, garage doors, mailboxes and driveways. The total damage was estimated at more than \$10,000.

One of the properties vandalized belongs to Jim



One of the homes defaced in Wisconsin.

Stein, the president of the Jewish Federation of Madison, WSAU-Wheeler

News reported.

Police have not called the attack a hate crime.

Jewish groups join call on Obama to stop marginalizing American Muslims

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Three Jewish organizations joined 15 other interfaith groups to express concern that the White House is marginalizing American Muslims.

Bend the Arc: a Jewish Partnership for Justice, the National Council of Jewish Women and T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call to Justice signed a February 12 letter to President Barack Obama ahead of the White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism, which

criticized the publicity for the summit as focusing only on Islamic extremists.

"As you know, studies by the FBI and the Southern Poverty Law Center have shown that the overwhelming majority of terrorist incidents in the United States were committed by non-Muslims," the letter said. The groups said that they were concerned about "focusing exclusively on Islamic extremists, which risks contributing to the marginalization of American Muslims."

The letter was spearheaded by the Interfaith Alliance, whose executive director is Rabbi Jack Moline, the former head of the National Jewish Democratic Council.

"Unfortunately, no single religion has a monopoly on extremist violence," Moline said. "The White House must make sure not to unfairly single out American Muslims as it seeks to confront violent extremism perpetrated in the name of any faith or ideology."

EYE ON U.S. CAMPUSES

UC Davis student court overturns divestment resolution

(JTA) - An Israel divestment resolution passed at the University of California Davis in January by the student senate was overturned on February 19 by the university's Court of Associated Students.

The court ruled 5-0 with one abstention in favor of Jonathan Mitchell, who had filed a case with the court contending that the Associated Students U.C. Davis had failed to adhere to its own constitution in passing the Israel divestment resolution 8-2 with two abstentions.

The court ruling found that any legislation passed by the senate, even those on politically related issues, "can and must be primarily concerning student welfare."

U. of Toledo student gov't nixes Israel divestment resolution

The University of Toledo student government declared that an Israel divestment resolution violated the group's constitution and tabled the measure.

In a closed-door meeting February 17, the Student Judicial Council ruled the resolution unconstitutional by a vote of 5-4 after hearing debate.

The resolution called on the university

to divest from any companies that "provide direct support for and directly profit from Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian territories."

The council voted to have a closed-door debate on the proposal out of concern for student safety, the campus student newspaper, The Independent Collegian, reported.

Stanford student senate passes divestment resolution

The Stanford University student senate passed an Israel divestment resolution that it narrowly defeated previously.

In the February 17 revote by the Undergraduate Senate, the revamped measure passed with 10 votes in favor, four against and one abstention, the Stanford Daily student newspaper reported..

The resolution calls on the Palo Alto, Calif., university to "divest from companies that violate international humanitarian law."

Divestment resolution narrowly approved at Northwestern University

(JNS.org) The student government at Northwestern University in the Chicago area narrowly passed a resolution to

divest from companies that do business in Israel.

The Associated Student Government Senate passed the resolution in a 24-22 vote with three abstentions, the *Daily Northwestern* reported.

The measure—which is a recommendation to Northwestern school officials and not a change in university policy—calls on the school to divest from Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Hewlett-Packard, G4S, Caterpillar, and Elbit Systems. Divestment proponents say those companies' products are used by Israel "in human rights violations in Palestine."

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B'NAI MITZVAH:

Jonathan Wade Kressbach Benjamin Alexander Kressbach

On Saturday, March 28, Jonathan and Benjamin Kressbach will be called to the Torah as B'nai Mitzvah at Temple Beth-El. Jonathan and Benjamin are seventh graders at Stinson Middle School where they are on the A Honor Roll and play in the symphonic band. Jonathan plays trombone while Benjamin is a percussionist.

They have dedicated their B'nai Mitzvah project to collecting needed supplies for and volunteering at the Animal Defense League, the original no-kill animal shelter in Bexar County. Donations for the ADL will be collected at Temple Beth-El during



their celebratory weekend.

Jonathan and Benjamin are the sons of Robin and Gary Kressbach and big brothers to Michael Kressbach. They

are the grandsons of Gail Motelson and Richard Berchin and of Howard and Dorothy Kressbach, of blessed memory.

BAR MITZVAH:

Joshua Michael Teplitz



Joshua Michael Teplitz will celebrate with his family and friends as he is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, Feb. 28 at Congregation Agudas Achim. Joshua is the son of Craig and Julie Teplitz and the brother of Jakob. His Grandparents are Bob and Carol Teplitz of El Paso, Texas and Judy Cover of San Antonio, Texas.

Joshua is a 7th grade honor student at Tejada Middle School. He enjoys all sports and spending time with his family, friends and especially, his dog Lego.

As Joshua's Bar Mitzvah project, he has chosen to raise awareness and funds to support MOJI - The Mobile Museum of Jewish Ideas. MOJI is the first museum devoted wholly to Jewish ideas. The content and reach of MOJI will be unique and will add a fresh perspective to the current museum and educational landscape. For more information, visit: <http://www.moji.museum>.

As recognition for his volunteer efforts, Joshua has been acknowledged with The President's Volunteer Service Award since 2010.

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