

A PUBLICATION OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF SAN ANTONIO

THE JEWISH JOURNAL

ADAR I - ADAR II, 5779 | APRIL 2019

A still life photograph featuring a glass of red wine, a stack of matzah, and walnuts. The glass is filled with a dark red liquid and has a faceted design. To its right is a stack of matzah, tied with a piece of twine. In the foreground, two walnuts are visible. The background is a textured, light-colored surface.

CELEBRATE **PASSOVER**

↓ SPOTLIGHT - PG 12 ↓ ARTS & CULTURE - PG 17

Overcoming hatred and violence in today's world

FROM THE CEO



RONIT
SHERWIN

The news of the horrific shootings in Christchurch, New Zealand last month made me sick.

While I am not naive to the evils in the world, it is still impossible for me to understand what drives such hatred and violence in an individual.

Some years ago, a friend of mine shared with me that she was not certain she wanted to bring children into this world. At that time, she had recently lost her mother to ovarian cancer, and she could not imagine bringing a child into a world in which the pain of illness and the pain of loss was a possibility. It was not until years later that I understood my friend's statement. Pain and agony are a reality of life, and at some point, we all experience various degrees of hurt

and challenge.

Life is equally filled with joy and hope, and the upcoming celebration of Passover embodies that aspect of life. Passover celebrates not only

our liberation from slavery to freedom as a nation of Israel, but also the hope that deliverance and freedom from pain and suffering is also possible. Jewish tradition shares this spring season of optimism with Christian tradition, as Easter embodies some similar elements.

Hope springs eternal! Those are not my original words, of course, and I recognize the cliché in its usage. But, I certainly will continue to rely on the expectation that life brings goodness and spring brings the witnessing of life anew.

Chag sameach — happy holiday!

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PUBLISHED BY
The Jewish Federation
of San Antonio
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San Antonio, TX 78231

(210) 302-6960
www.jfsatx.org

SUPPORTED BY

Grants from the Helen
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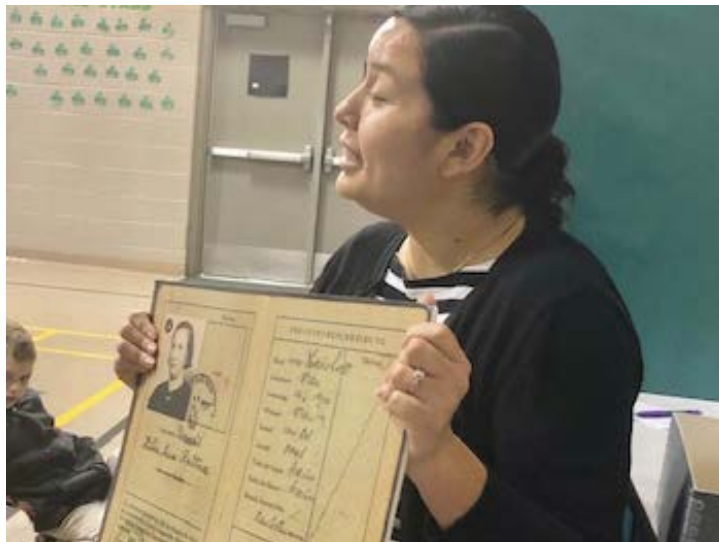
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HMMSA OUT IN COMMUNITY



Holocaust Memorial Museum staff member Kristin Hernandez participated in Career and College day at Cotton Academy in SAISD. Students learned about the tools of the historian by examining primary source documents from the museum's collection.

Gary S. Gossen, M.D., F.A.C.G.*Diplomate of the Board of Internal Medicine**Diplomate of the Board of Gastroenterology**Fellow of The American College of Gastroenterology***Gastroenterology Clinic of San Antonio, P.A.**

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Get ready for new JewishSA website

You've been asking for easier access to local, regional and national Jewish community news and information, and we listened!

This June, Jewish Federation of San Antonio will officially launch an exciting new Jewish Journal website, designed to serve the entire Jewish community of San Antonio, regardless of affiliation. The website — JewishSA.org — will include the most up to date news and information on important community events and resources, plus access to national and international news through the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA). New features will be rolled out throughout the year. Your input will help us provide the content YOU are looking for.

To be notified when the new JewishSA website is live and/or to inquire about special "new launch" advertising opportunities for your business or organization, please email Editor Leslie Komet Ausburn at jewishj@jfsatx.org.

'Bagels Over Berlin' honors Jewish war veterans



Program sponsors (l to r) Retired USAF Col. Hannah Margolis, and Retired Army LTC Jody Reddy, greet *Bagels Over Berlin* filmmaker, Alan Feinberg.

On March 4, filmmaker Alan Feinberg presented his documentary film, *Bagels Over Berlin*. Feinberg prefaced the film by describing the rampant antisemitism that existed in the United States and the impetus for Jews to enlist in the armed forces during WWII. The evening was sponsored by Alamo Brandeis B'nai B'rith Lodge, Retired Col. Hannah Margolis, Dr. Michael Piesman and Dr. Elizabeth Glazier, Retired LTC Jody Reddy and Paul W. Reddy.

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April 14

Documentary film features Ben-Gurion in his own words

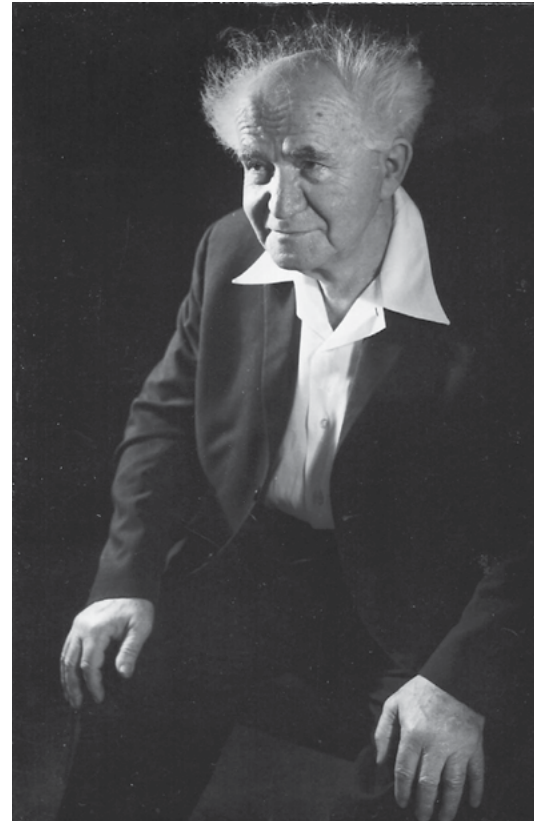
American Associates, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and several San Antonio Jewish community organizations will host a free screening of the fascinating documentary Ben-Gurion, Epilogue on Sunday, April 14 at 7 p.m. at Congregation Rodfei Sholom, 3003 Sholom Drive.

The documentary utilizes historic footage and audio excerpts from six hours of interviews with David Ben-Gurion, Israel's primary founder and first prime minister. Organizers say, "The 70-minute documentary

brings to life Ben-Gurion's introspective soul-searching that provides a surprising vision for today's crucial decisions and the future of Israel."

Co-sponsors include Congregation Agudas Achim, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, The Barshop JCC, Temple Beth-El and Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

Admission is free, but space is limited. To RSVP or for more information, please email dbergeron@aabgu.org or call (713) 522-8284.



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HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WORKSHOP

FOR K-12 EDUCATORS FEATURING:

- Women in Holocaust Resistance
- Holocaust Pedagogy
- Literature study including *Night* by Elie Wiesel
- Docent-led tour and Holocaust survivor testimonies

Workshop will be taught by *Echoes & Reflections* and museum staff. **Teachers will earn 7 State of Texas CPEs upon completion of the workshop.** Light snacks and water will be provided.



JULY 24TH 2019 | 8AM - 3PM

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ECHOES & REFLECTIONS

TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST. INSPIRING THE CLASSROOM



CRC Chair Kevin Epstein, guest speaker Dr. Doshie Piper, and SAJSS Representative Danielle Roberts.

Criminal justice reform on tap at CRC

On March 6, the Community Relations Council hosted University of Incarnate Word professor, Dr. Doshie Piper. Piper detailed the provisions of the FIRST STEP Act, introduced by Sen. Whitehouse (D-RI) and John Cornyn (R-TX) which addresses federal prison system reforms that seek to reduce recidivism (the tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend). Measures include a focus on rehabilitation, reentry, and reintegration and include partnerships with the faith-based communities coordinating with the Federal Bureau of Prisons to provide services.

For more information about criminal justice reform in Texas, visit the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition website at www.texascjc.org.



CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday, April 5	Light Candles at: 7:37 p.m.
Shabbat, April 6	Shabbat Ends: 8:31 p.m.
Friday, April 12	Light Candles at: 7:41 p.m.
Shabbat, April 13	Shabbat Ends: 8:36 p.m.
Friday, April 19	Eve of First day Passover
	Light Shabbat Candles at: 7:45 p.m.
Shabbat, April 20	Eve of Second day Passover
	Light Holiday Candles after: 8:40 p.m.
Sunday, April 21	Holiday Ends: 8:41 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Eve of Seventh day Passover
	Light Holiday Candles at: 7:49 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Eve of Eighth day Passover
	Light Shabbat / Holiday Candles at: 7:50 p.m.
Shabbat, April 27	Shabbat / Holiday Ends: 8:46 p.m.
Friday, May 3	Light Candles at: 7:54 p.m.
Shabbat, May 4	Shabbat Ends: 8:51 p.m.

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April 15

4th Annual Shower the Community with Love

Women's Philanthropy of JFSA will host the 4th Annual Shower the Community with Love on Monday, April 15 from

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Tickets (\$18 each) include kosher bites and wines. Each year, the Women's Philanthropy board selects a cause that is important to Jewish women in San Antonio, and hosts an event to learn about the cause and give back together.

This year's focus is on supporting Jewish women as they face cancer diagnoses. The program will be delivered by Melissa K. Rosen, Director of National Outreach for Sharsheret, the national support organization for Jewish women facing breast and ovarian cancers.

At the event, Rosen will lead a discussion on what is Jewish about a community supporting women facing these diagnoses. Margaret Gofman-Klein, the Shower co-chair in years past and member of the Women's Philanthropy board, expressed how important this year's Shower focus is. "I think that it will



be impossible to find one person in the room who has not been affected by this disease. Unfortunately, cancer does not discriminate. We are affected directly as patients, as family members and friends. It is imperative for us to know the different resources available, so that we can help our loved ones. As a Jewish community, we consider ourselves to be one family, and as such, we need to have

all possible information at our disposal to be able to assist our family members fighting this battle."

Before the event, women can shop a wish list of items online that go to women locally, through the cancer support organization Thrive Well, and to young Jewish women nationally through Sharsheret.

To learn more about this year's Shower or to get involved, contact Eva Laporte, Director of Community Engagement at laportee@jfsatx.org or (210) 302-6965.

To purchase a ticket and shop the wish list, visit www.jfsatx.org/shower.

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JFSA hosts evening with survivors at Holocaust Memorial Museum

On February 19, PJ Library parents, Pearl Society donors, and guests joined together for an evening of inspiration at the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio (HMMSA).

San Antonio lawyer and PJ Library mom Sasha Begum shared stories about her own father who was a Holocaust survivor. She told the full room, "I thought I knew all of his stories and sometimes, though I truly regret it now, as younger, I would give an eye roll when I had to hear another story the umpteenth time. But these stories need to be told and they need to be heard and seen in places like this (the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio)."

Survivor Hannah Pankowsky shared her own story and invited her daughter and granddaughter to the podium to showcase her spirit of family legacy here in San Antonio and abroad (grand-daughter Shirit made Aliyah to Israel).

For more information about the Holocaust Museum's hours and events visit www.hmmsa.org or contact Amber Garcia at GarciaA@jfsatx.org.



TOP: Second generation survivor Sasha Begum (2nd from right) with HMMSA staff

LEFT: Hannah, Helen and Shirit Pankowsky

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SEEKING MUSEUM DOCENTS

Are you passionate about the "never again" message and have a few hours a month to volunteer? We are seeking **people of all backgrounds** with an enthusiasm for education. Create a more tolerant and empathetic society by beginning a rewarding volunteer experience at the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio!

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TUESDAY, APRIL 9
7-9PM

CONTACT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
EVA LAPORTE FOR MORE DETAILS - LAPORTEE@JFSATX.ORG



Trip co-chair Rhonda Gurinsky and her daughter Rachel prepared an Israeli style appetizer platter for trip members to enjoy before departure.

San Antonio Community Israel Experience embarks on April 1

Israel trip co-chairs Rhonda and Charlie Gurinsky and Laurie and Lew Greenberg, along with a Jewish Federation of San Antonio delegation, are headed to Tel Aviv and the Western Galilee Partnership region the first week in April. Travelers will experience modern day Kibbutz life and dine at the homes of Partnership region leaders. The group will also explore the mystical city of Tsfat, observe Shabbat in Jerusalem, visit the Machane Yehuda market after dark, enjoy culinary delights, and have a special screening in the Ma'aleh School of Film and Television.

YOU CAN FOLLOW THE TRIP EXPLORATIONS ON THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF SAN ANTONIO FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND TWITTER SITES, AS WELL AS THE JFSATX.ORG WEBSITE.

LIFE & LEGACY



Creating a Jewish legacy confirms our commitment to support the Jewish organizations that have been important in our lives and will enable them to endure and thrive for future generations.

You too can leave a legacy to provide for future generations to assure continuity of Jewish services and programs in San Antonio. Call Beth Keough, Director of LIFE & LEGACY™, at (210) 302.6813 or keoughb@jfsatx.org.

For additional information or to download a Letter of Intent, visit <https://www.jfsatx.org/life-legacy>.



Lee Markman, Jimmy Toubin and Rabbi David Komerofsky are recognized as the first to sign Letters of Intent for Temple Chai



Anaelle Nuñez and Rabbi Chaim Block have designed Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning in their Letters of Intent



Judy and Mike Kelne, pictured with Rabbi Jeffery Abraham, Stacey Klein Schwartz and Linda Moad, as they sign their Letter of Intent for Congregation Agudas Achim and San Antonio Jewish Senior Services



Richard Goldsmith, Steve Sherman and Richard Planto, JFSA Legacy Team Members have designated JFSA in their Letters of Intent. Richard Planto has included the Barshop Jewish Community Center, and Steve Sherman has also designated Temple Chai in their Letters of Intent



Rabbi David Komerofsky, and Ronit Sherwin, pictured with Harry Levy, President of Jewish Federation of San Antonio, have designated JFSA in their Letters of Intent



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Holocaust Resistance



MAY 1ST AT 7PM
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Teen pre-program begins at 6pm
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SPOTLIGHT



DANA GORELIK

■ What brought you to San Antonio?

We moved to San Antonio almost 4 years ago, when my husband was offered a job at the Children's Hospital of San Antonio. I never thought we would live in Texas, but it has become a wonderful home.

■ What is your strongest Jewish memory?

Passover Seder with our extended family and friends.

■ What volunteer activities do you find the most rewarding and why?

I was recently asked to join the City's interfaith initiative, as a representative of the Jewish community. I have really enjoyed getting out in the larger community and sharing what amazing things the San Antonio Jewish community is doing. I

See **SPOTLIGHT** - PG 13

THIS PASSOVER, CONSIDER FOUR MORE QUESTIONS...



Do you value San Antonio's Jewish organizations?
Do you support these organizations on an annual basis?
Do you want them to exist for future generations?
How will you assure your Jewish tomorrow?

Barshoj JCC of San Antonio | Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning
| Congregation Agudas Achim | Congregation Rodfei Sholom | Hebrew
Free Loan Association of San Antonio | Jewish Family Service of San
Antonio | Jewish Federation of San Antonio | San Antonio Jewish
Senior Services | Temple Beth-El | Temple Chai | The Harry
and Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the San Antonio Jewish
Community | Affiliated Organization: Hillel San Antonio

Beth Keough
Director of Life & Legacy
KeoughB@jfsatx.org
www.jfsatx.org/life-legacy



SPOTLIGHT from PG 12

am excited to try and drive involvement so that our community, which is so tight knit, can show the City what we do!

■ **What is your favorite Jewish holiday?**

I love Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, thinking about your sins, asking for forgiveness, and the idea of getting a blank slate. It's a great time for reflection and self-improvement. I'm certainly not perfect and the reminder to think about that and work on it, is important.

■ **What is your hope for the San Antonio Jewish community?**

I love that the San Antonio Jewish community is so warm and welcoming—and close knit. I hope that continues as we grow in size.

One Happy Camper Gift Grants distributed for Summer 2019

One Happy Camper grants from Jewish Federation of San Antonio and the Foundation for Jewish Camping will help more than 16 new campers attend Jewish overnight camps in the Summer of 2019. Recipients of the non-needs-based gift grants will attend URJ Greene Family Camp, Camp Young Judea — Texas, and other JCC and URJ Camps.

The goal of the One Happy Camper gifts is to encourage San Antonio families to choose Jewish camps for their children and build Jewish leaders for the future.

Although funding has been distributed for Summer 2019, there is a wait-



ing list in case some campers change their mind about attending overnight camp.

To add your child's name to the waiting list, or for more information on the One Happy Camper program, contact Lauren Abraham at AbrahamL@jfsatx.org.



Jewish Federation
OF SAN ANTONIO

SAVE-THE-DATE!

3RD ANNUAL

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SUNDAY, JULY 7TH | 10AM - 12PM

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CONTACT EVA LAPORTE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AT LAPORTEE@JFSATX.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!

CHILDREN NEWS

CONGREGATION AGUDAS ACHIM TO HOST WEEKEND FOR TEENS

Congregation Agudas Achim is hosting a regional weekend April 12-14 for all 5th through 8th graders in the Southwest Region including all of Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. During Kadima Konvention, pre-teens will spend time together praying, learning, and getting to know one another to build Jewish relationships throughout the region.

"The more positive Jewish experience our children and teens can have, the better foundation they will build for their Jewish identities later in life," said Senior Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham.

REGISTRATION UNDERWAY FOR CAMP RODFEI SUMMER 2019

Registration for Camp Rodfei 2019 is in full swing. Camp will take place from June 17 through July 12, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Camp Director, Rabbi Moshe Rosenwasser will lead campers and SEED counselors in activities that include weekly field trips, arts and crafts, cooking and baking, swimming and water play, and of course everyone's favorite a daily treat from the Camp Rodfei slush machine.

For more information or to register for Camp Rodfei, contact Rabbi Moshe at rabbimoshe@rodfeisholom.com

HEINTZ PRESCHOOL OPENS 2019-2020 REGISTRATION

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim is registering children for the 2019-2020 school year.

The core hours of Heintz Preschool are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with early and late stay available from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Extra-curricular activities include Tumblebus, Soccer Shots, Basketball Tots, Dance, Cooking, Piano.

For more information about Heintz Preschool, contact Preschool Director Taryn Bretado at t.bretado@agudas-achim.org or (210) 479-0429.



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Join Melissa K. Rosen, Director of National Outreach of Sharsheret, the national Jewish breast and ovarian cancer support organization, to explore what we can do as individuals and as a community to support loved ones facing difficult diagnoses.

To purchase your tickets, visit

JFSATX.ORG/SHOWER

Questions? Contact Eva Laporte at LaporteE@jfsatx.org

Women's Philanthropy Chair: Lauren Stanley

Women's Philanthropy Board: Vicki Adelstein, Amy Benedikt, MD, Sherry Braslau, Margaret Gofman-Klein, Darcy Hoberman, Michelle Kaufman, Samantha Mazuz, Jordana Pazin, Lynn Stahl



TASA students collecting bandages for national tolerance building project

Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of San Antonio's National Junior Honor Society has joined efforts to help the Tolerance Kids Bandage Project reach its goal. The Bandage Project was started by a teacher from Woodlake Elementary School in Sacramento, California, to help teach her students about tolerance. In one of her tolerance lessons she focused on how the Holocaust affected millions of people. A motivated group of students wanted to do more to spread awareness, and so "The Tolerance Kids" were created.

In 2008, the Tolerance Kids began their Bandage Project, with a goal of collecting 1.5 million bandages -- to represent the 1.5 million children murdered during the Holocaust. The students chose bandages to represent children because they come in all shapes, sizes, colors, and most of all, heal pain. A different name of a child who was killed during the Holocaust is written on each bandage wrapper. By May of 2018, they reached their One Millionth bandage. This year, which is the eleventh and final year of the project, The Tolerance Kids hope to complete the 1.5 million bandage collection. They aim to complete it by June 12, 2019 (which would have been Anne Frank's 90th birthday, had she survived the Holocaust.)

TASA's NJHS is working to help The Tolerance Kids reach their goal of 1.5 Million Bandages. TASA's NJHS students are collecting boxes of adhesive bandages and have committed to collecting and writing the names of child victims of the Holocaust on a minimum of 10,000 bandages. They will then send these bandages with names to The Tolerance Kids at Woodlake Elementary. When the project is complete, there will be a display at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, California.

To support this project, contact TASA at (210) 607-7261.

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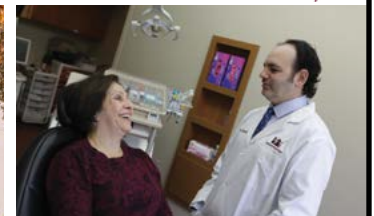
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JFS introduces Mission Road location

Jewish Family Service of San Antonio, established in 1973, has called The Jewish Campus home since 1999. But did you know JFS has a second location?

Located at 1151 Mission Road, JFS's second office — recently rebranded as Mission Reach Wellness & Counseling Center — has been providing mental health, human, and legal services for the past 14 years. As part of the southside community, JFS is a member of the Mission Road Collaborative—a group of organizations found on Mission Road whose mission is to provide the best 'corridor of care' to the area's neighbors. These organizations include Blessed Sacrament Academy, Parent's Academy, Seton Home, and St. PJ's.

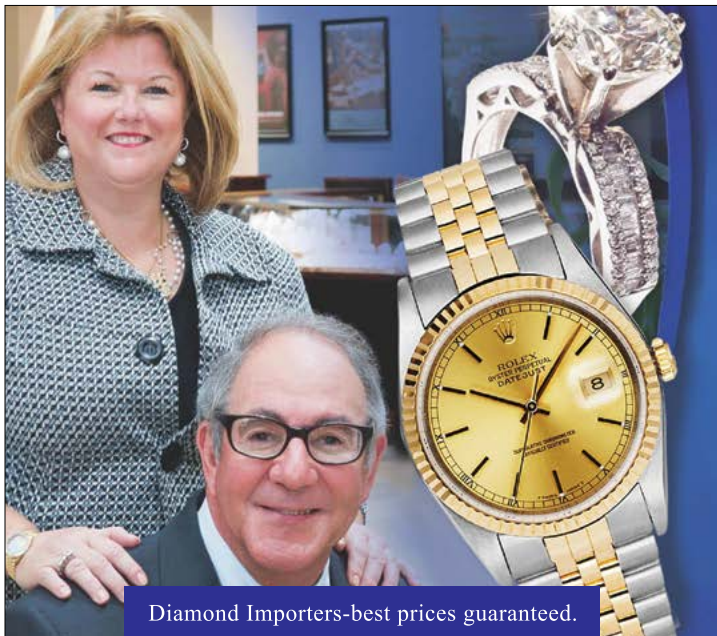
Recently, JFS received a generous grant from Valero Energy Foundation. The grant has allowed JFS to expand its hours of operation from three to four days a week, and plans are underway additional services. A bilingual therapist has been added to the JFS staff, youth will be able to engage in Play or Music Therapy, and adult group therapy classes will be offered in Spanish.

To contact JFS's Mission Reach Wellness & Counseling Center directly, call (210) 533-1112.

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM OF SAN ANTONIO IS PROUD TO PARTNER WITH CONGREGATION AGUDAS ACHIM FOR THE ANNUAL YOM HASHOAH MEMORIAL SERVICE. THIS YEAR'S THEME IS RESISTANCE. LOCAL JEWISH TEENS WILL SPEAK THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE AND DR. ROGER BARNES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD WILL BE OUR GUEST SPEAKER, ON THE TOPIC OF THE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING. THE EVENT WILL FEATURE A SPECIAL TOKEN OF HONOR FOR OUR SURVIVORS, PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS, AND THE AGUDAS ACHIM YOUTH CHOIR.

PLEASE JOIN US AT 7PM ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 1ST FOR THIS SPECIAL CELEBRATION. JEWISH TEENS ARE INVITED TO AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM BEFORE THE SERVICE AT 6PM.



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May 19

Jewish Family Service Annual Fundraiser

Jewish Family Service (JFS) presents an Inspiration Brunch on Sunday, May 19 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Holzman Auditorium at the Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community. This year's honorees, Ilene & Stephen Kramer and Barbara & Lew* Richmond and Family (*of blessed memory), are members of the community who, through their contributions of time and treasure, inspire others to support JFS and the vital services provided to the residents of San Antonio, Bexar and surrounding counties.

The JFS Inspiration Brunch will also include a raffle as an additional way to raise funds. Businesses interested in donating services or items for the raffle may contact Tracy Hungate at hungatet@jfs-sa.org.

Sponsorships and tickets may be purchased online at www.jfs-sa.org/inspiration or by calling (210) 302-6954.

ARTS & CULTURE

CABARET

Sheldon Vexler Theatre presents CABARET

The Sheldon Vexler Theatre's twentieth season concludes with the Masteroff, Kander, & Ebb musical Cabaret, on stage May 4 through June 2.

As the 1920s draw to a close, locals forget their troubles in the seedy Kit Kat nightclub. The wry commentary of the bawdy songs explores the dark, heady, and tumultuous life of Berlin while Germany slowly yields to the emerging Third Reich. Written in the 1960s, Cabaret was adapted from the short novel Goodbye to Berlin by Christopher Isherwood.

The musical is directed by Vex Artistic Director Ken Frazier and featuring music direction by Jaime Ramirez and choreography by Desiree Lambert.

Tickets (\$19-\$23) may be purchased beginning April 4 online or by calling The Vex Box Office at (210) 302-6828. Cabaret contains adult themes and language. Learn more about the show online at www.vexler.org/cabaret.

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ON THE COVER

CELEBRATE PASSOVER

COMMUNITY SEDERS

CONGREGATION AGUDAS ACHIM HOSTS 2ND NIGHT COMMUNITY SEDER

Congregation Agudas Achim will host a Community Second Night Seder on Saturday, April 20 at 6 p.m. Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham and Rabbi Ben Richards will lead an interactive Seder designed for the whole family with a traditional meal, songs, Haggadah readings and spiritual insight.

Reservations required by Friday, April 12. Cost is \$25 per adult, \$10 for youth, 6-11 years old and children under 5 are free. For reservations, visit www.agudas-achim.org, call (210) 479-0307 to pay by phone and or mail a check to Congregation Agudas Achim, 16550 Huebner Road, San Antonio, TX 78248.

CHABAD COMMUNITY SEDER

The Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning will be hosting a communal Passover Seder on Friday, April 19 at the Chabad Center, 14535 Blanco Rd. Services begin at 8 p.m. followed by the Seders at 8:30 p.m. Couvert: \$45 adult, \$25 child (no one will be turned away due to lack of funds).

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

In addition, handmade Shmurah Matzah will be available for purchase from the Chabad Center: One pound Matzah - \$20, and 3 Matzah pkg. for Seder - only \$10. For reservations and/or order Matzah please call Chabad at (210) 764-0300.

BARSHOP JCC FIRST NIGHT SEDER

The Barshop Jewish Community Center will present a First Night Community Seder Friday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Holzman Auditorium. The event is open to the entire Jewish community.

Once again, this year's Seder will be led by Hazzan David Silverstein of Congregation Israel with piano accompaniment. The Seder will be family friendly, participatory, lively, and feature food from Irene's Kosher Catering. Vegetarian entrées are available with advanced notice. Ceremonial Manischewitz and Kosher for Passover grape juice will be provided at each table; attendees are welcome to bring a bottle of Kosher for Passover wine.

Tickets are \$25 for ages 12 and up,

See **PASSOVER SEDER** - PG 19



The sign of getting the best



PASSOVER SEDERS from PG 12

\$15 for ages 6-11, and children ages 5 and under are free. Families should bring their own high chair or booster seat, as needed. Space is limited, and reservations are a must.

Reservations may be made online at www.jccsanantonio.org/seasons or by calling Allison Cornwell at (210) 302-6828. Registration will close when the seating limit has been reached.

TEMPLE BETH-EL TO HOST 2ND NIGHT COMMUNITY SEDER

Temple Beth-El's Second Night Community Seder will be held on Saturday, April 20 at 6 p.m. in the Temple's Barshop Auditorium. This is a fun, interactive Seder for all ages featuring adult and kid-friendly Passover food, plus prizes for the afikomen.

The seder is open to the community. Tickets are \$30 for member adults; \$36 for non-member adults; \$15 for children ages 3-12; free for children 2 and under.

Reservations are required by Monday, April 15, at noon. To register and pay online, visit <http://tinyurl.com/tbe-community-seder> or call Dollie Closna in the Temple office at (210) 733-9135, ext. 126.

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OTHER PASSOVER EVENTS

CONGREGATION AGUDAS ACHIM HOSTS PRE-PASSOVER EVENTS

Congregation Agudas Achim will host a free Women's Chocolate Seder on Sunday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m. open to all women throughout the Jewish community.

On Friday, April 12, the congregation will host a Pre-Passover Potluck Dinner preceded by a Friday Night with Friends Musical Service and Family Friendly Friday Night Youth Experience starting at 6:15 p.m.

Passover preparation continues at Agudas Achim with a free Pre-Passover Pizza Party on Wednesday, April 17 at 5:30 p.m. Bring your hametz to burn. Family fun will include a hametz scavenger hunt and a real fire truck to explore. San Antonio Firefighters will invite

youngsters to try out the water hose as they watch over the hametz burning together.

PASSOVER AT TEMPLE BETH-EL

YOUTH CHOCOLATE SEDER

Sunday, April 7, noon to 1:30 p.m. for Kindergarten — 7th grade.

Contact Joel Swedlove at (210) 733-9135 ext. 151 or joel@beth-elsa.org.

WOMEN'S SEDER

Wednesday, April 10, 6:15 p.m. Shalom, 6:30 pm Seder. Members: \$32, non-Members: \$36. RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/sederw> or call Dollie (210) 733-9135 ext. 126.

MEN'S SEDER

Wednesday, April 17, 6 p.m. at The Barn Door Restaurant, \$25 per person. RSVP at http://www.formstack.com/forms/bethelsa-mens_seder.

FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER SERVICES

Friday, April 19, brief Shabbat and Erev Passover Worship Service at 5 p.m.; Saturday, April 20, Shabbat Morning and First Day of Passover Festival Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY SEDER

Saturday, April 20, 6 p.m. \$18-\$30 for members; \$18-\$40 for non-members; free for children under 6. RSVP at http://www.formstack.com/forms/bethelsa-community_seder or call Dollie at (210) 733-9135 ext. 126.

@TBE20S30S SEDER

Sunday, April 21, 6:30 p.m., for those in their 20s and 30s, \$15 per person. For location and RSVP, <https://bethelsa.formstack.com/forms/2030passover>. Limited to the first 40 respondents.

LAST DAY OF PASSOVER SERVICES

Friday, April 26, Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. Yizkor-Memorial prayers will be offered.

The Temple offices are closed.



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CELEBRATE PASSOVER IN THE KITCHEN

PASSOVER CHOCOLATE COCONUT CAKE

INGREDIENTS:

7 egg whites
1 cup sugar
1 cup shredded unsweetened coconut
8 oz. chocolate
3 T. butter
7 egg yolks
2 half-pint containers of whipping cream
¼ cup sugar
1 tsp kosher-for-Passover instant vanilla pudding

INSTRUCTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350°.

Beat egg whites till they begin to get stiff. Gradually add sugar, continuing to beat until the meringue is firm. Stir in the coconut by hand. Pour mixture into greased 10" baking pan. Bake for around 30 minutes. Remove from oven and refrigerate.

Melt chocolate and butter in a microwave or over a double boiler. Add the 7 egg yolks, continually mixing until a smooth texture is reached. Combine whipping cream, sugar and vanilla pudding and beat. Remove torte from the refrigerator, spread chocolate sauce on top, and return cake to the refrigerator for around 10 minutes. Remove from fridge, add whipped topping, and refrigerate till serving.

From kitchen of Chef Avi Chamal, Boys Town Jerusalem

Dr. Joyce Schwartz to discuss her novel, 'The Pearl Harbor Conspiracy,' at NCJW reception

The San Antonio section of National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) will host local author J.G. Schwartz (Dr. Joyce Schwartz) at a dessert reception on Monday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Louise Sagor. Dr. Schwartz will discuss her new book, *The Pearl Harbor Conspiracy*.

The book poses the question: Was Ethel Rosenberg executed for the wrong crime? Spanning eight decades, from the 1920s to the 1990s, the novel probes the role Ethel Rosenberg, along with other members of the Young Communist League, played in trying to draw isolationist America into the European war to stop the genocide occurring in Nazi Germany and beyond. Just before World War II, a plan is set in place to infiltrate the highest offices of the War Department. *The Pearl Harbor Conspiracy* is full of intrigue, with numerous plot twists, including blackmail and murder. It is a harrowing tale of female resistance and camaraderie.

To RSVP for this event, please contact Mindi Silver-Weiss at Mindisw@gmail.com or (210) 497-2333.

COMMUNITY

Congregation Rodfei Sholom hosts Ruchi Koval

Congregation Rodfei Sholom's Jewish Women's experience will welcome Ruchi Koval on April 9 at 7:30 p.m. for a talk on *Living an Inspired Life*. Koval, an Orthodox wife and mother of seven, is the co-founder and director of the Jewish Family Experience, a congregation and Sunday school in Cleveland, Ohio. She is a certified parenting coach, motivational speaker, musician, and author. Koval will engage participants with an interactive program that touches on all aspects of women's lives — Judaism, social issues and motherhood.

Led by Congregation Rodfei Sholom's Michal Scheinberg, the Jewish Women's experience aims to bring social and spiritual connection to the Jewish women of San Antonio. For more information about upcoming events, contact the Rodfei office at (210) 493-3558.

PERSPECTIVE

At Issue: A Light Unto the Nations

Steven G. Kellman

In one of his most famous comedy routines, Lenny Bruce distinguished between Jewish and Gentile cultures by invoking character rather than halakha: "Chocolate is Jewish and fudge is goyish," he insisted. "Fruit salad is Jewish. Lime Jell-O is goyish. Lime soda is very goyish...Pumpnickel is Jewish and, as you know, white bread is very goyish." Other phenomena that Bruce considered "goyish" included trailer parks, baton twirling, and mayonnaise. For him, Ray Charles and Count Basie were Jewish, but he would probably have classified Lawrence Welk and Doris Day as irredeemably goyish.

In the United States, middle-class Ashkenazic Jews aspire to be doctors, lawyers, bankers, scientists, teachers, sometimes even rabbis. But there are certain occupations — bus driver, hockey player, sanitation worker, dental hygienist, prostitute, fire fighter — that seem unmistakably goyish. In Israel, however, Jews — amazingly — fill the full gamut of human occupations found in any other society.

From its beginnings in the 19th century, the modern Zionist movement was propelled by two competing visions. Theodor Herzl worked to create a normal state that would be for the Jews what Norway is for Norwegians and Greece is for Greeks. By contrast, Asher Ginsberg, who wrote under the pen name Ahad Ha'am, envisioned a Jewish

"IN LITTLE MORE THAN 70 YEARS, ISRAEL HAS, THROUGH BRILLIANT ACHIEVEMENTS IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, THE ARTS, AND THE HUMANITIES, FULFILLED AHAD HA'AM'S MISSION. ISRAELI POETS, NOVELISTS, FILMMAKERS, MUSICIANS, PAINTERS, ARCHITECTS, AND THEOLOGIAN HAVE IMPRESSED THE WORLD."

state that would be not merely a state for the Jews. As in Isaiah 42:6, where God commands the Children of Israel to be Or La-Goyim, a light unto the nations, Ahad Ha'am and his followers hoped to create a spiritual center that would be a moral inspiration to the rest of the world. Pragmatic Zionists contend that it is unfair to impose higher standards on the Jewish state than on any other state. Nevertheless, at its inception in 1948, Israel adopted as its national emblem the Menorah, a source of light unto the nations.

In little more than 70 years, Israel has, through brilliant achievements in science, technology, the arts, and the humanities, fulfilled Ahad Ha'am's mission. Israeli poets, novelists, filmmakers, musicians, painters, architects, and theologians have impressed the world. Innovations such as solar turbines, flash drives, Intel chips, and desalination have positioned Israel as a leading center for research to enhance life on this

planet, and the lunar lander Beresheet, expected to touch down in April, looks beyond even that.

At the same time, Israel has become a "normal" state, suffering from imperfections it shares with other states. In its latest annual Corruption Perception Index, Transparency International, an independent non-governmental organization, ranks Israel 34 out of 180 countries, just below Qatar and just above Poland. It is true that Israel is not nearly as corrupt as Somalia, Syria, and South Sudan, the countries at the bottom of the list, but neither is it as ethical as Denmark, New Zealand, and Finland, at the top of the list. At merely #34 in corruption, Israel casts a dim light unto the nations.

To the nation's shame, Ehud Olmert, who served as Israel's prime minister from 2000-2007, also served 18 months

PERSPECTIVE from PG 12

in prison for bribery and breach of trust. Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit has recently announced that, following the recommendation of police, he will bring charges of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust against the current prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. Moshe Katsav, who served as president of Israel from 2000-2007, also served five years in prison for rape and obstruction of justice. Rabbis, especially chief rabbis, are expected to be a light at least unto their own nation. But one chief Sephardi rabbi of Israel, Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron, was convicted of fraud in forging false rabbinical ordinations. A chief Ashkenazi rabbi of Israel, Yona Metzger, was convicted of bribery, fraud, and money laundering.

Leaders of the people who produced Hillel, Maimonides, and other sages should be better than that. In addition to demanding "a light unto the nations," Isaiah railed against the crimes of King Hezekiah. Many of the other Biblical prophets also confronted the mighty over their misdeeds.

Abuse of power plagues many other countries, including the United States. So, by that criterion, Israel has attained the normalcy that Herzl cherished. Eager to seize on its flaws, enemies of Israel single out the Jewish state for criticism that they do not apply to countries with much more egregious records of injustice. Their demand for boycotts, divestment, and sanctions against only Israel is selective and hypocritical. If only for practical reasons, tiny Israel cannot afford to be normal. To avoid incurring the active enmity of others, it must be better than normal.

An Israel that is open, honest, and democratic is a true Jewish state as Ahad Ha'am imagined it, a bright light unto the nations. Crooked leaders are — like ham hocks, hunting, and Jesus fish — unequivocally goyish.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS**SUNDAY, APRIL 7****TEMPLE BETH-EL
HOSTS GOOD
DEEDS DAY**

All are welcome to join Temple Beth-El on Sunday, April 7 to participate in International Good Deeds Day. Volunteer opportunities include community service projects around San Antonio, including the Humane Society, Haven for Hope, Adante Senior Living, the DoSeum, and the San Antonio Food Bank.

Sign up and register at https://bethelsa.formstack.com/forms/tbe_gdd today - spaces are limited. The first 50 to sign up get a free Good Deeds Day T-shirt. For more information, contact Ross Halfant at ross@beth-elsa.org.

**CONGREGATION
RODFEI SHOLOM
JWRP TRIP
TO ISRAEL**

Congregation Rodfei Sholom's Michal Scheinberg will lead ten

women from the San Antonio Jewish community on a JWRP trip to Israel in May. The program, known as "Birthright for moms" is designed for women to reconnect with themselves and their Judaism with the intent of bringing renewed faith and vigor to their families' Jewish lives.

**DIRECTOR OF URJ'S
RAC, RABBI JONAH
PESNER, TO SPEAK
AT TEMPLE BETH-EL**

How have the Prophetic ideals of Tikkun Olam and social action evolved over time in the Reform Movement? What is our responsibility to partner in creating a just world in the 21st Century and beyond?

Rabbi Jonah Pesner, Director of the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ)'s Religious Action Center (RAC) will explore these questions during Shabbat services at Temple Beth-El on Friday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m. The community is welcome to learn about the work of the Religious Action Center and how our voices matter.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

POST MEETING - Sunday, April 28, 9 a.m. at the Jewish Campus. A light breakfast to be served, followed by business meeting.

BINGO/SOCIAL AT CTC AUDIE MURPHY HOSPITAL - Tuesday, April 30, 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Post members will assist patients in playing bingo and serve refreshments.

A JWV MEMBERSHIP DRIVE is in full swing. Meetings are usually the 4th Sunday of the month at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Herschel Sheiness at (210) 468-5598. Membership is open to any person who has served in any branch of the U.S. armed forces for 30 days or more and was discharged honorably. Those still on active duty do not pay dues.

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YOM HAZIKARON

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YOM HA'ATZMAUT

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY 6:30PM | GYM

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