



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

KISLEV 5777 - TEVET 5777

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

DECEMBER 2016



JOIN THE MOVEMENT

The new Pearl Society for young Jewish women in our community is growing.

PAGE 10

NEW! KIDDIE KORNER

A sneak peek to a new feature perfect for the kiddos, fully launching in the January issue.

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KABBALAT SHABBAT EN ESPANOL

Federation Innovation Grant helps bring new Spanish language Shabbat services to San Antonio.

PAGE 15



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Wondering what your Jewish community has been up to?

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Dr. Cunningham, Catholic-Jewish Relations Expert, to speak at Hanukkah Celebration

On Thursday, Dec. 15, at 11:30 a.m., members of the San Antonio-area Roman Catholic and Jewish communities will gather for an interfaith Hanukkah celebration. The event will be held at San Fernando Cathedral Hall, 231 West Commerce.

This marks the 15th year that San Antonio-area Catholics and Jews have jointly celebrated Hanukkah. The Jewish Federation of San Antonio and San Fernando

HANUKKAH LUNCHEON

Thursday, Dec. 15 at 11:30 a.m.
San Fernando Cathedral Hall,
231 West Commerce

Cathedral are the co-sponsors.

Featured speaker was scheduled to be Father John Pawlikowski, OSM, a leading figure in the Christian-Jewish dialogue. Because

See **LUNCHEON**, page 13

ADL leader: US anti-Semitism is at worst since 1930s

(JTA) — At the opening to the Anti-Defamation League's conference on anti-Semitism, the organization's national director said anti-Jewish hatred in America is worse than at any point since the 1930s.

Jonathan Greenblatt, speaking November 17 at the opening of the ADL's Never Is Now summit in New York, said currents on both the far right and far left have led to anti-Semitism's resurgence.



Jonathan Greenblatt (Courtesy of the ADL)

He mentioned the platform of the Movement for Black Lives published this year that accused Israel of genocide.

See **ADL**, page 13



Anti-Semitic graffiti left on a building near the University of Virginia Campus in Charlottesville, Va. (Courtesy Michaela Brown)

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



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

PUBLISHED BY
The Jewish Federation of San Antonio
12500 N. W. Military Highway, #200
San Antonio, TX 78231
(210)302-6960
www.jfsatx.org

SUPPORTED BY
Grants from the Helen Arrange Fund, the Eilenberg Family Memorial Endowment Fund, the Charles Atkin Memorial Trust Fund, the Freeman Education Fund and the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign.

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is a proud member of the Jewish Federations of North America.

EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS:

The submission deadline for the JANUARY 2017 issue of the Jewish Journal is DEC. 12, 2016 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 JANUARY 2017 ISSUE:

- Ad space reservations due no later than DEC. 12, 2016 by noon;
- Press ready ads due by DEC. 16, 2016.

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.



Now is a good time to have a heartfelt word.

The opportunity can pop up anywhere and anytime to have a heartfelt word with those you love – a parent, your spouse, a family member. They’ve shared so much with you in this life, but now’s the time to share how they want their lives to be remembered.

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IN MEMORY, CANDLE LIGHTING

Jewish community leader Vexler leaves lasting legacy



Though in more recent years she was known for her devotion to yoga, both practicing and teaching it, Esther Scharlack Vexler, who died in November at the age of 98, also leaves behind a legacy of service to the San Anto-

nio Jewish community and beyond. From helping to improve conditions in poor communities to teaching young women at the Healy-Murphy Center

See **VEXLER**, page 12

IN LOVING MEMORY

Yvette Levine Alterman Kalter

Shirley Betesh Kboundi

Fanya Rud

Albert Serfaty

Evelyn Stern

Esther Scharlack Vexler

CORRECTION:

In the November issue, we made an error. Edmund Serfaty was inadvertently listed on our In Memory page. Please note that he is, thankfully, alive and well. We extend our condolences to Edmund and his family on the passing of his father, Albert Serfaty.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday, Dec. 2, 2016

Light Candles at: 5:16 p.m.
Shabbat, Dec. 3, 2016
Shabbat Ends: 6:13 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 23, 2016

Light Candles at: 5:23 p.m.
Shabbat, Dec. 24, 2016
Shabbat Ends: 6:20 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 9, 2016

Light Candles at: 5:17 p.m.
Shabbat, Dec. 10, 2016
Shabbat Ends: 6:14 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016

Light Candles at: 5:27 p.m.
Shabbat, Dec. 31, 2016
Shabbat Ends: 6:24 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 16, 2016

Light Candles at: 5:19 p.m.
Shabbat, Dec. 17, 2016
Shabbat Ends: 6:17 p.m.

Friday, Jan 6, 2017

Light Candles at: 5:32 p.m.
Shabbat, Jan 7, 2017
Shabbat Ends: 6:29 p.m.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The monthly calendar for the San Antonio Jewish Community is now available online on the website of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. Keep up with the most up to date happenings at www.jfsatx.org.



Jewish Federation
OF SAN ANTONIO



The Jewish Federation of San Antonio will
“gift” \$1000 to first time Jewish overnight
campers through One Happy Camper grants.

Help your children build community while
being Jewish and having fun!

Contact Lauren Abraham for more information at
abrahaml@jfsatx.org or (210) 302-6834

**THEY SEE RECREATION,
WE SEE LEADERSHIP.**

YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

Story of endurance and fortitude

When I was in preschool, I made a *hanukkiyah* out of a piece of wood, painted in gold and adorned with screws to be used as candle holders. It was beautiful (through my eyes) and I loved using it during Hanukkah. By the time my younger sister was in preschool, our dining room table was aglow with four such *hanukkiyot*, each created by one of the Sherwin children. The room was overwhelmingly bright, particularly in contract to the darkest of the Cleveland winter nights.

We are now entering the season of darkness, when our days are short and the nights are longer. While it is a far stretch from an Ohio winter, the Texas air is cold and chilling. And yet we have the lights of Hanukkah, a



Letter from
our CEO

RONIT
SHERWIN

reminder that there is ultimately light through the darkness and goodness can prevail. The ironic thing about the story of the Maccabees is that while it is the easiest of Jewish narratives to relay as the Jewish superheroes tale, the reality of the history is nuanced and complex. The Maccabees fought the Assyrians and also fought amongst their own Jewish community – that's the dirty part I did not learn in Sunday school. The Maccabees rallied against those in the Jewish community who assimilated into the Greek culture.

One thing we can agree on is that we all like a happy ending, and the Maccabees ensured the sacredness of the Temple and the survival of their Jewish community. The narrative of the Maccabees is one of endurance and fortitude. Therefore, we celebrate Hanukkah with light (and oil) and the enduring symbol of the Hanukkah menorah.

Please join us on December 14 as we celebrate the close of our Federation 2016 annual campaign with the music of Israeli vocal artist David Broza. His voice and song will lighten our hearts and souls for the upcoming Hanukkah season. I hope to see many of you there!

L'shalom,
Ronit

SAVE THE DATE - January 15

Interfaith Service to Commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr.

The thirtieth annual Martin Luther King Interfaith Service will be held on January 15, 2017 at 4 p.m. at New Creation Christian Fellowship, 8700 Fourwinds Dr. The guest speaker will be Bishop Woodie W. White, Bishop in Residence at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

"The seven major faith groups will be represented during the program," said Dr. John Abdo, chairman of the MLK Interfaith Committee. Following the service there will be a reception featuring music, an art exhibit and foods prepared by the Baha'i, Turkish, and Jewish communities.

For more information, contact the Community Relations Office of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio at (210) 302-6962.

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PJ Library celebrates fall at pumpkin patch

PJ Library families came out to play, pick pumpkins, hear PJ Library stories, and create crafts at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church Pumpkin Patch. The day featured a large variety of PJ children of all ages (6 months to 8 years old), with great family social time and beautiful photo opportunities that included pumpkins and corn mazes.

The children heard the PJ Library story, *Tamar's Sukkah* and learned blessings for the fall and their sukkot. PJ Library Coordinator Lauren Abraham stated, "Although the weather was warm, the welcome from the St. Thomas Church and the excitement on the playground was second to none. The PJ kids could not get enough fun!"



PJ family Rina, Donovan, and Kevin Edens enjoyed decorating a pumpkin fall decoration with corn.



PJ Library Coordinator Lauren Abraham taught the young readers about the upcoming holiday of Sukkot, as they read the PJ book, *Tamar's Sukkah*.



PJ Readers Lauren Abramson and Nora Lerich enjoyed spending the afternoon in the corn maze, as they prepared for fall, picked pumpkins, and played with friends.

Celebrate with Friends and Help Temple Beth-El Shine

Light up the Night



Join us for the Temple Beth-El

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(for adults only)

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CRC works to combat impact of BDS movement against Israel

On Wednesday Nov. 9, guest speaker Rabbi David Komerofsky of Temple Chai addressed the Community Relations Council, a program of Jewish Federation, on the topic of *BDS: The Facts and Reality*. The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanction (BDS) movement organizes to delegitimize, demonize, defame, and isolate Israel and the Jewish people. Noting the strength of the movement at some U.S. universities, Komerofsky spoke of its impact upon campus culture and Jewish students.

He expressed the need for our community and children to build a strong, mature relationship with Israel and to develop our Jewish identity in our homes and communities to protect ourselves from this movement.

If you would like to learn more, contact Ellen Ollervidez at ollervidez@jfsatx.org.



From l-r Maxine Cohen, Susan Blumenthal, Anaelle Nunez, and Rabbi David Komerofsky.



From l-r: Raul Rodriguez, Philip Moss (CRC Chair), Henry Gonzalez, and Rabbi Samuel Stahl

Common Roots, Common Values

By Ellen Ollervidez,
Director of the Community
Relations Council

On Wednesday, Oct. 19, guests Rabbi Sam Stahl, Raul Rodriguez, and Henry Gonzalez spoke to the Community Relations Council (CRC) on the topic *Catholic-Jewish Relations: Past, Present, and Future*. Each

panelist offered their San Antonio and International experiences that segued into a discussion of how our communities can build upon our shared history to enhance our relationship and understanding.

Rabbi Stahl spoke of the complexity of forging relationships because of the

See **ROOTS**, page 9



For more information please contact Michal Scheinberg at mich12a@gmail.com or Julie Schack at schackj@jfsatx.org

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ROOTS

continued from page 8

view of the Church toward Jews and Judaism. He told how his Catholic friends needed to obtain a special dispensation in order to attend his Bar Mitzvah. But in San Antonio, efforts to unite Jews and Catholics began long before 1965's Vatican II. As early as 1961, St. Mary's University, under the guidance of President Father Louis Blume, asked Father John G. Leies to convene Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish clergy to discuss interfaith issues.

Raul Rodriguez, Chairman of the Board of the U.S.-Mexico Foundation, spoke of the ways in which we could dialogue by examining cultural links, religion, common origins, demographics, the Jewish/Hispanic link, philanthropy, and entrepreneurial spirit. He believes the Jewish community has much to say about and teach about the ways of *tzedakah* and the entrepreneurial spirit including "mindset, ethos, questioning, resilience, chutzpah, and of qualities of being a mensch".

Henry Gonzalez, partner with the law firm of Gonzalez Chiscano Angulo & Kasson and grandson of the late Henry B. Gonzalez, discussed his family's experience fleeing Mexico a century ago during the Revolution. His family established roots in San Antonio and became close friends with many members of the Jewish Community. He spoke of those relationships as being "an incredible blessing to our family." Mr. Gonzalez went on to talk about the many opportunities to make current connections with the Catholic community by sharing and celebrating our commonalities. He stated he hopes that lay leaders of both communities will lead initiatives to enrich the relationship.

Guest of the CRC, Father Tim Eden remarked, "I believe today gave many a perspective of relationship that can be built upon and enhanced. It was very uplifting."



Hazzan Jeremy Lipton, Rabbi Sam Stahl, and Henry Gonzalez



Council Members and invited guest, Father Tim Eden, discussing Catholic-Jewish relations in San Antonio



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IDF Colonel Marom headlines Federation's Campaign Educational Forum

Seventy community members gathered at the home of Shari and Randy Pulman on November 3, for the Federation's first Campaign Educational Forum, featuring Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Colonel Kobi Marom. Colonel Marom, former head of the Hermon Brigade, and an expert on Hamas, Hezbollah, and other radical movements operating in the Middle East, spoke about the situation that Israel is facing today along the Northern border and with Syria.

Federation Board Chairman, Jonathan Gurwitz, spoke about the impact of the dollars raised through the Federation's



Colonel Kobi Marom (2nd from left) with Randy and Shari Pulman, and Federation Board Chairman, Jonathan Gurwitz (far right)

Annual Campaign. He spoke about the various programs supported by Federation and thanked community members for their generosity. Gurwitz encouraged everyone to participate in the Campaign, as the dollars raised, support and "impact" Jews locally, in Israel and in 60 countries

around the world.

This Campaign Educational Forum was presented in partnership with the Community Relations Council, and all community synagogues.

To make your donation to the 2016 Annual Campaign, please visit jfsatx.org or call (210) 302-6960.

YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

The Pearl Society brings young, Jewish women together

On Thursday, Nov. 10, the Pearl Society hosted an event at the home of Darcy Hoberman. The Pearl Society, co-chaired by Hoberman and Amy Lerman, is a Jewish Federation program that provides an opportunity for women of intention to be part of a new movement of young women with strong Jewish values. The group is open to young Jewish women who share a desire to pass on Jewish traditions to their children, make lasting friendships and feel that they are making a greater impact together through their mitzvot.



For a dollar-a-day to the Jewish Federation of San Antonio's 2016 annual campaign, individually, Pearl Society women can make a difference in our community, in Israel and around the world together.

During the November

gathering, Rochel Teldon shared a Dvar Torah, relating the week's Torah portion with accepting that we are in our current situations because we are supposed to be. Dr. Amy Benedikt, Federation's Women's Philanthropy

Chair, shared why being involved in Federation has been so rewarding to her and her family.

The chairs have chosen a piece of jewelry to commemorate this special Pearl Society membership. Once a young woman makes

her pledge of \$365, she will have the opportunity to purchase a simple elegant necklace with a pearl hamsa hanging sideways for \$25.

The Pearl Society currently has 34 new Pearls, and that number is growing. The next Pearl Society event is scheduled for March 9. Watch for details in the Jewish Journal.

For questions about how to become a Pearl or to get involved, please contact Samantha Mazuz, the Young Adult Division Director, at mazuzss@jfsatx.org or Tracy Morris, the Women's Philanthropy Associate at morrist@jfsatx.org.

Celebrate Jewish Book Month at the Beldon Library

Jewish Book Month, an annual event celebrated the month before Hanukkah, is November 24 through December 25 this year.

The celebration began in 1925 when Fannie Goldstein, a librarian at the West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, set up an exhibit of Jewish books and created Jewish Book Week.

Two years later in 1927, the

event was adopted by other communities in the United States.

During the first fifteen years of the program, the event was celebrated during the holidays of either Lag B'Omer or Shavout since these holidays were considered to be scholars' festivals. By 1940, Jewish Book Week was moved to the holiday of Hanukkah to encourage the sale of Jewish

books as Hanukkah gifts.

Jewish Book Week became so popular that by 1943 the event was extended to a one-month period. Celebrate Jewish Book Month! Explore the diverse world of Jewish literature.

Discover the great books at the Beldon Library. Beldon Library hours are: Mondays, 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, 10 a.m. –

12:45 p.m.; and Wednesdays, 2 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

The Mitzvah Project that the Beldon Library has with the Vilna/Vilnius Jewish Public Library in Lithuania is ongoing.

Contact Beldon librarian, Lynn Waghalter, at waghalterl@jfsatx.org for more information on this humanitarian project.


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SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

Joel Swedlove



Joel Swedlove began his work at Temple Beth-El in June 2016, coming to San Antonio from Las Vegas where he worked at the Adelson Educational Campus as a Jewish music teacher, an athletics assistant and a coach. Joel has gained significant experience in informal education having spent his summers as a song leader, unit head and program director for Camps Alonim, Hess Kramer and JCC Maccabi Sports Camp, respectively. Joel grew up in the Reform movement

from his early summers at Camp Swig and Newman to serving as religious and cultural VP on NFTY Southern California's Regional Board. Upon graduating high school he served as youth group advisor and director for congregations throughout Southern California and Las Vegas. Joel studied film at Arizona State University and communications at the University of Phoenix. He has a deep love of movies, comic books and sports. Joel and his wife, Stephanie, are the proud

parents of a toddler, Ethan and 2-month old, Alexander.

What brought you to San Antonio?

The job. After working for so long in both the formal and informal education settings I realized that my true passion was the informal. I love being able to serve as a big brother, mentor, camp counselor for these kids.

What is your strongest Jewish memory?

The first time I lead Friday

night song session at Camp Alonim (Simi Valley, CA). At Alonim everyone wears white from head to toe. Singing and dancing with a room full of 300 kids and staff all dressed in white, it was an incredible, visceral experience of creating something holy.

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

I love to sing at senior facilities. I've done it by myself and with different aged children and it is always a wonderful experience. The residents are always so happy to see the children. When I go on my own I try to sing songs from their eras as well. It is important to find ways to turn your skills into a benefit for your community.

Please share your favorite Jewish holiday. Why?

Passover. Growing up it didn't matter where everyone lived you always made an effort to come together at my Aunt's house to have seder. It was a wonderful opportunity for our entire extended family to come together and celebrate. It always felt right to recall our freedom from bondage by celebrating with family.

Can you share a hope or aspiration you have for the San Antonio Jewish community?

I love how communal the San Antonio Jewish community feels. In other cities of similar size there may be twice as many congregations and divisions, but that's not the case here. I hope that as San Antonio continues to grow and the world continues to change we can hold on to this singular communal feel. It is our greatest strength.

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PJ OUR WAY Book Review

When a child age 9 through 11 years signs up for the new program, PJ Our Way, they are automatically sent the introductory book, *The Adventures of Rabbi Harvey*. During the next and subsequent month, the

PJ Our Way kids go on line and choose their own book to receive in the mail.

Our Jewish Journal will be sharing reviews of these books, and we thank reader Eve Vizurraga (9 years old- 4th grade at Blattman Elementary School and Inda Posner Religious School) for writing our first review:

In the book, *The*



Adventures of Rabbi Harvey, there are different stories about Rabbi Harvey. One of my favorite stories is about a boy who thinks he's a chicken, because it is so funny! Rabbi Harvey is a rabbi who helps lots of people in different cities and places. In this book we learn what Rabbis do to help people, and it can help us remember to help others too. This book is a graphic novel that I would highly recommend if you haven't read it yet.



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IN MEMORY



Esther visits with Jerry Silverman, president and CEO of Jewish Federations of North America.



Esther at Federation's 2016 Art and Sole event at Julian Gold.

VEXLER

continued from page 4

how to avoid unplanned pregnancy, Vexler never shied away from a challenge. As an active member of the San Antonio Jewish Community for decades, *Tikkun olam*, or “to repair the world,” is a Jewish concept Vexler took to heart. “She believed that the obligation of being a Jew was to recognize that there is an obligation to give to the world to help it be a better place,” daughter Jill Vexler said.

The youngest of nine children, Vexler grew up in a close-knit family. Her father, who established Southern Jewelry, a business on Alamo Plaza, died when she was 5, leaving her oldest brother to help her mother oversee the brood. With a strong sense of social justice, as a child Vexler was dismayed to notice the way people of color were treated. “I had to see our help go upstairs in the back elevator to go to the Majestic Theatre, and sit in the balcony,” Vexler said in a 2014 San Antonio Treasure oral interview. “And we, my brother and I and my sisters, would sit with our help.”

Vexler attended Mills College and the University of California Los Angeles, then graduated from UC-Berkeley before returning to San Antonio to marry her

husband Harold (of blessed memory) in 1941, starting a family a few years later. The couple became active and beloved members of the San Antonio Jewish community for more than 70 years.

As a member of the Na-

tional Council of Jewish Women, Vexler worked to increase awareness of mental illness in the 1960s. “She knew of mental illness in her own family, and knew the level of ignorance was very high, and that the access to

treatment was very low,” Jill Vexler said. Working with the council, Vexler also helped develop a program for educating blind children, arranging for them to attend classes at Agnes Cotton Elementary School and later in a building on the grounds of the Landa Library. In all her endeavors, Vexler was probably the most committed of volunteers. “When you obligate yourself to something like that, it’s really meaningful if you show up,” Vexler said in the oral interview.

“It’s no good if you’re there now and then.”

Returning to school to earn a master’s degree at 55, Vexler studied urban planning. “She thought she needed more training if she wanted to be more active in urban affairs” such as improving impoverished neighborhoods, Jill Vexler said. Her master’s project was to create the Community Housing Development Corp. to help poor home-

See **VEXLER**, page 13

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IN MEMORY

VEXLER

continued from page 12

owners obtain fair access to resources for house repairs.

Working “the crowd of bankers and wealthy people in San Antonio” for funding, Vexler recalled that one banker doubted her knowledge of how the system worked, asking her what she knew about housing. “Well, I’ve been studying it for two years,” Vexler replied. “I don’t know what I know, but I think I know a little bit.”

Maintaining a relationship that was “total romance” with her husband Harold over the years, it was while with him during an industry conference that Vexler discovered yoga. “They always had activities for wives, and there was a woman teaching yoga,” Jill Vexler said. “She took the class and said, ‘Well, this is it.’ She came back to San Antonio and found a yoga teacher.” “People used to come to our house and do yoga in the open area in our living room,” Jill Vexler recalled. “Then she began to teach at Healy-Murphy,”



Esther and Sally Halff



Harold and Esther Vexler with Dr. Amy Benedikt, Demi Dinner 2005. an alternative school for teenagers. As an instructor, Vexler became so beloved that a group of her former students who established the first yoga teacher train-

ing school in South Texas named it the Esther Vexler Yoga School in her honor. Vexler “was taken by surprise,” Jill Vexler said. “She had no idea.”

Esther Scharlack Vexler Born: Jan. 1, 1918, San Antonio Died: Nov. 1, 2016, San Antonio Preceded by: Husband Harold Vexler; parents Meyer and Mary Arbetter Scharlack; eight siblings. Survived by: Son Jack Vexler and daughter-in-law Bette, and Stuart Vexler and daughter-in-law Cari Kahn; daughter Jill Vexler; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

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FROM THE COVER

LUNCHEON

continued from page 1

of medical issues, he had to cancel.

Replacing him will be Dr. Philip A. Cunningham, Professor of Theology and Director of the Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia. His most recent book is: *Seeking Shalom: The Journey to Right Relationship between Catholics and Jews*.

The Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S., Archbishop of San Antonio, will be the presiding host for this unique interfaith observance this year. The Very

Rev. Victor Valdez, Rector of San Fernando Cathedral, and Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth-El, will lead the proceedings.

Included in the program will be a presentation by the choir of Providence High School and the kindling of Hanukkah lights by clergy and lay leaders of the Jewish and Catholic communities.

Reservations are required by December 9 to attend this program, which includes a catered lunch, at \$36 per person. Table sponsorships are also available for \$360. For further information, call San Fernando Cathedral, (210) 227-1297.

ADL

continued from page 1

Greenblatt also detailed the anti-Semitic attacks that rose during the 2016 presidential campaign, mentioning the appointment of Stephen Bannon as the chief strategist to President-elect Donald Trump. Bannon was the chairman of Breitbart News, a website Bannon called the “platform for the alt-right,” a loose movement of the far right whose followers traffic variously in white nationalism, anti-immigration sentiment, anti-Semitism and a disdain for “political correctness.”

“The American Jewish community, our community, has not seen this level of anti-Semitism in mainstream political and public discourse since the 1930s,” Greenblatt said. “Sadly, it is only being matched with escalating

levels of hate toward other minorities today.”

Addressing reports that Trump’s transition team is considering creating a registry of Muslims in the United States, Greenblatt pledged that he would sign up as a Muslim. He referred to the apocryphal story about the king of Denmark promising to wear a yellow star if it would be required of the Scandinavian country’s Jews.

“As Jews, we know what it means to be registered, or targeted, held out as different from our fellow citizens,” Greenblatt said. “We as Jews know the right and just response. I pledge to you right here and now, because I’m committed to the fight against anti-Semitism, if one day American Muslims will be forced to register their identity, that is the day this proud Jew will register as a Muslim.”



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IN THE COMMUNITY

Temple Chai to offer lunchtime introduction to Judaism mini-mester

Temple Chai, San Antonio's small Reform congregation, will offer an accelerated four-week *Introduction to Judaism* course beginning Jan. 9. The course will meet at Temple Chai's facility at 2121 Lockhill Selma (at the corner of NW Military Highway).

Taught by Rabbi David Komerofsky, this course introduces the basics of Jewish thought and practice. Interfaith couples, non-Jews considering conversion, and Jews looking for adult-level basics will find it meaningful. A mix of study, discussion and practical experiences, the course is designed for those interested in exploring a Jewish life. Topics include

Jewish holidays, life-cycle events, theology, prayer, Israel, and history.

"The only prerequisite is curiosity," said Rabbi Komerofsky. "This mini-mester will meet Mondays and Thursdays at lunchtime, and will also include a discussion component with Temple Chai member Gayle Kipp. Gayle is trained to facilitate conversations about Jewish life, helping them to navigate the kinds of questions spurred by the class topics."

Introduction to Judaism is open to the community. For more information or to register, call (210) 340-2090 or visit www.templechaisa.org/intro.

Stress release workshop hosted by Congregation Rodfei Sholom

Feeling stressed, anxious, or overwhelmed?

Manijeh Nathan will facilitate a stress release workshop at Congregation Rodfei Sholom on Wednesday, Dec. 7 from 10:30 a.m. until 12 noon.

The program is free and open to men and women. For more information or to RSVP, contact the synagogue office at (210) 493-3557.

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NCJW raises awareness of trafficked teens in our community through social action program

National Council of Jewish Women's TRAFFICKED TEENS Program has made presentations to 37 local groups since its launch in February 2016.

TRAFFICKED TEENS is NCJW's most current social action program to raise awareness about Human

Trafficking and its warning signs for young adults, parents and community groups in the San Antonio Area.

The Trafficked Teens program can be presented informally with young adults or presented as a power point for professional or educators. Both

contain the non-graphic 20 minute video *The Chose* as well as handouts about the warning signs of human trafficking.

If you are interested in having an NCJW volunteer present this educational program to your youth group, Girl or Boy Scout troop,

medical personnel, or after school programs contact Marcia Walgeir at mawalgeir@satx.rr.com or Ruthie Wurzburg at ruthiewurzburg@gmail.com.

You may also visit the NCJW website at trafficked@ncjwsa.org.

Adrienne Gold returning to Rodfei Sholom for Shabbat

Adrienne Gold, an inspirational international lecturer and teacher with the Jewish Renaissance Program, will join Rodfei Sholom for a Friday night Shabbat dinner on January 6. She will also speak on Shabbat day after services, and Sunday morning at Rodfei.

Gold was a fixture on Canadian Television for over 15 years, both as host of her own daily fashion and beauty program and as a regular contributor on



scores of other programs. Her direct, no holds barred approach and her disarming humor won her a large and

loyal viewership. About 16 years ago, Adrienne's family began the journey to reclaim their Jewish spiritual roots, and she found herself more interested in matters of substance than matters of style. She left television and today is an international lecturer and a popular teacher at The Village Shul in Toronto and for the Jewish Women's Renaissance Program (JWRP).

For more information, contact Rodfei Sholom at (210) 493-3557.

Agudas Achim to host Kabbalat Shabbat En Español

As a larger number of Spanish speaking Jews have moved into San Antonio, Congregation Agudas Achim has received an Innovation Grant from the Jewish Federation of San Antonio to offer regularly scheduled Shabbat services in Spanish. The first of the Kabbalat Shabbat services in Spanish will be on Friday, Dec. 9 at 7:45 p.m., followed by a complimentary Spanish

themed Shabbat dinner.

"We have seen a huge growth in the Spanish speaking Jewish community here in San Antonio and it is important that we meet this growing population's needs," said Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, senior rabbi at Congregation Agudas Achim. "We know that many people moving here from Spanish speaking countries have not become involved in the Jewish community because of the language barrier. I am so thrilled thanks to the Jewish Federation of San Antonio to host a traditional Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by a delicious dinner for the entire community at no charge in the hope of engaging this important part of our San Antonio Jewish community."

All families are invited to worship together and experience a traditional Shabbat service with songs and prayers in Spanish and Hebrew in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

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Temple Chai to hold class on Jewish self-defense

Temple Chai, San Antonio's small Reform congregation on the Northwest side, will offer a text study and conversation about Judaism's views of self-defense on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m.

Rabbi David Komerofsky will lead the discussion, with opportunities for additional training offered by Dr. Lewis Greenberg.

Dr. Greenberg is a member of Temple Chai, and notes that "We live in new type of world. On a daily basis we read and see worldwide episodes of inexplicable hatred and violence perpetrated on innocent victims. Ongoing events also potentially change the international and domestic dynamic. We all hope and pray

"We live in new type of world."

- Dr. Lewis Greenberg, Temple Chai member who will offer self-defense training

that our future is safe and prosperous. The reality is that not being prepared for the unexpected does not serve anyone well."

Proficient in self-defense

and self-awareness, Dr. Greenberg has achieved two distinctions in this arena: NRA Certified Pistol Instructor and Texas Concealed Handgun License

Instructor.

A healthcare educator by training, Dr. Greenberg will schedule group lessons with any interested students. More specific information will be available on Dec. 13 at Temple Chai.

For more information, visit www.templechaisa.org/self-defense or call (210) 340-2090.



Agudas Achim and Jew Boys Night Out team up for football and grilling

On Monday, Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m., Congregation Agudas Achim Men's Club will play host to the popular Jew Boys Night Out (JBNO) for a night of grilling and football watching. All Jewish men in San Antonio are invited for a free night of football, food, and drink. Participants will grill kosher hamburgers and hot dogs at Agudas Achim, enjoy the company of each other in addition to the Carolina versus Washington Monday Night Football game.

"Jew Boys Night Out is one of the most successful Jewish programs in San Antonio," said Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham,

Senior Rabbi at Congregation Agudas Achim. "We are thrilled to be hosting JBNO for a fun free night of grilling, football watching, and hanging out together."

"Jew Boys Night Out was created around 7 years ago as a monthly event for Jewish men of all ages to get together for dinner and drinks somewhere around the city," said Howie Nestel, founder of JBNO. "It's so great to have local Jewish organizations partner with us occasionally to expand the reach of JBNO and get Jewish guys more active in our Jewish community."



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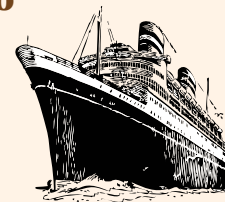
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Temple Beth-El welcomes volunteers for Mitzvah Month

Temple Beth-El provides many volunteer opportunities during the month of December, open to all in the community:

BFF Winter Day Camp –

For food insecure children in the Temple neighborhood, Temple Beth-El will offer Winter Camp December 26 to 30, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Volunteers needed for camp activities! Call 849-6082 or email BFFSummerDayCamp@gmail.com if you can help.

December 25th Dinner –

A volunteer-run Christmas Dinner will be held at the Temple for food insecure families in the neighborhood from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Many volunteers are needed

for food prep and cooking sessions the week before and help on the day. Specific food items are also needed for this event. To sign up or learn more, contact event chairman J.B. Sampson at (210) 489-0799 or coachjb25@gmail.com.

Ronald McDonald House –

Volunteers answer phones on December 25th for three Ronald McDonald House locations, so RMH staff can celebrate the holiday at home - 4803 Sid Katz, in the Medical Center area, 227 Lewis St., between San Pedro and McCullough, near the Temple, and Children's Hospital of San Antonio, 333 N. Santa Rosa. The three shifts for volunteers are 9 a.m. to 12 noon, 12

noon to 3 p.m., and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Volunteer duties include answering phones and assisting/checking-in families. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age. Contact Liz Medina at Ronald McDonald House directly to volunteer at (210) 614-2554 or e-mail liz.medina@rmhcsanantonio.org.

Hanukkah Parties –

Volunteers are needed for GMJSS Hanukkah Parties at Adante Senior Living on Sunday, December 11, at 2 p.m., and Madison House on Wednesday, December 28, at 2:30 p.m. Contact Geri Gregory at (210) 733-9135, ext. 120 or email geri@beth-elsa.org if you can help.

Save the date - Annual JFS Mah Jongg tournament

Back by popular demand, the Annual Jewish Family Service Mah Jongg Tournament is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017, at the Campus of the Jewish Community, 12500 N.W. Military Hwy.

Event check-in will begin at 12:30 p.m. and the tournament starts at 1 p.m. The entry fee is \$55 and includes an afternoon of sisterhood and the chance to win cash prizes for first, second and third place as well as various door prizes. The Grand Door Prize is a personalized Mah Jongg

set and bag! Beverages and finger foods will be served.

The funds raised at the event will help JFS provide services to seniors who may be having medical crises, financial difficulties, the loss of a loved one, or the need to relocate to another residence.

For reservations or more information on event sponsorship opportunities, please contact Cheryl Hayes at 210-302-6921 or go to www.jfs-sa.org to pay through our Pay Pal Account. Deadline to register is February 3, 2017.



**Co-Chairs: Greg Davis & Liz Rockstroh
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WHAT'S HAPPENING



AREA TEENS TRAVEL TO NCSY REGIONAL SHABBATON

Rodfei teens along with Rabbi Ashi Gluck and family traveled to the NCSY Regional Shabbaton in Denver, Colorado from November 11-13.



CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Students at Chabad Hebrew School experiencing the joy of learning Parsha, Jewish values and history as well as Aleph Champ Hebrew Reading. For more information, call (210) 764-0300 or visit www.ChabadSA.com/HebrewSchool.

The advertisement features a central image of a large, roasted brisket on a white plate. Surrounding this are several smaller images: a framed sign that reads "LIGHTS and BITES for ALL EIGHT NIGHTS", a plate of latkes, a plate of fried apples, a snowman in a circular frame, and a small sign that says "HOLIDAYS at Central Market".

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



Rhoda Rappaport celebrated her 90th with four generations of Rappaports.

SUNSHINE FOR SENIORS

The Sunshine Club, a joint program of the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning and Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services, enjoyed a pre-elections Thanksgiving Luncheon with Allan Smith on Tuesday, Nov. 1. GMJSS representatives talked about the new E.D.G.E. initiative and senior voting accessibility. Smith talked about the little known history of past U.S. presidents and American Jewry. Learn about future luncheons at www.ChabadSA.com/SunshineClub.



Seated front row, among many guests, Arthur Gurwitz and Jonathan Gurwitz, JFSA Board Chair.

HISTORY PROFESSOR SHARES A YIDDISH LIFE AT BELDON LIBRARY

On October 30, Dr. Bryan Edward Stone discussed the book *Memories of Two Generations, A Yiddish Life in Russia and Texas*, which he edited. The book was written in Yiddish by Alexander Z. Gurwitz who was the great-grandfather of Jonathan Gurwitz, JFSA Board Chair.



Dr. Bryan Edward Stone

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



SCHOLARS IN RESIDENCE SERIES AT AGUDAS ACHIM

Agudas Achim had three featured Scholars-in-Residence in November. On November 16, documentarian Jim Long, author of *Riddle of Exodus*, discussed the parallels between Ancient Jewish Sources and Egyptian Archaeological records. Professor Shani Tzoref, a specialist in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Naomi Graetz, author of the book, *Unlocking the Garden: A Feminist Jewish Look at the Bible, Midrash and God* spoke on November 18.



HOW SUCCESS THINKS: JEWISH SECRETS TO LIVING A PRODUCTIVE LIFE

Rabbi Levi Teldon leads a discussion on defining success during a new six-week JLI course offered by the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning launched at two San Antonio locations in early November with more than 60 students attending.

SENIORS JOINS PRE-KINDER KIDS FOR SPECIAL HOLIDAY FEASTS

The Barshop JCC seniors were treated to two extra special lunches in November. Tuesday, Nov. 8 was the Annual Pre-K/Senior Thanksgiving lunch, where the seniors enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast with pre-kindergarten-age children from the Block & Dreeben School for Young Children



Sari Maizel, left, and Sandy Bonilla, right). Thursday, Nov. 10, the JCC celebrated Veterans Day, honoring and thanking those who served in the Armed Forces. Veterans received a complimentary lunch.



(l to r) Karl Schrutka – US Navy, Violeta Cuenca, and Morton Greenberg – US Navy.



GOLDEN ESTATES CELEBRATES SUKKOT

In October, the residents of Golden Estates enjoyed a Sukkot luncheon in celebration of the holiday. The group discussed holiday traditions, waved a lulav and etrog, and sang and recited prayers. A sukkah was set up onsite and earlier in the month, residents participated in decorating the sukkah and shared the experience with their non-Jewish Golden Estates neighbors.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



AGUDAS ACHIM MEMBERS EXPLORE ANNE FRANK AT THE VEX

Members of Agudas Achim went together as a group to see the play *Anne Frank* at the Vexler Theater. After the moving performance the group met with Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham for a meaningful discussion about the play and the Holocaust.



SIMCHAT TORAH AT TEMPLE BETH-EL

Rebekah Sechrist and Amy Strickland, with Temple Beth-El President, David Adelman (photobombing) celebrate Simchat Torah in October.



ACCLAIMED ARTIST PRESENTS AT TEMPLE BETH-EL

Temple Beth-El welcomed renowned Jewish artist, Archie Rand, who spoke on his new book, *The 613*, November 3-4. He is pictured here with members of the Temple's Library Committee, who sponsored his visit – from left, Jennifer Bartlett, Miranda Sutin, Archie Rand, Mark Ingram, and Dr. Debra Morrow.



HEINTZ PRESCHOOL HOSTS NOAH'S ARK PETTING ZOO DAY

In honor of Noah's Ark week in the Torah, Heintz Preschool hosted a Petting Zoo Day. All children had a chance to meet dozens of different animals throughout the morning to pet and learn about together.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



RODFEI'S SUNDAY FUNDAY AT THE MAGIK THEATRE

Rodfei Sholom's Sunday Funday featured a fun performance of *Duck for President* at the Magik Theatre on November 6.



GAN GANI PRESCHOOL ENJOYS AUTUMN FUN & LEARNING

Gan Gani Preschool students enjoy a Thanksgiving Fall Fun Fair and their weekly hands on gardening experience with Gardener Margaret Bass.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



JNET EXPLORES PEARL DEVELOPMENT AND HOTEL EMMA

On Wednesday, Nov. 2, JNet SA held an event at Hotel Emma at the Pearl. Lisa Rosenzweig, who serves as Development Manager at Silver Ventures, a San Antonio based investment firm and owner of Pearl, spoke to the group of attendees. Rosenzweig is responsible for financial analysis, building and site design, and construction coordination at the Pearl redevelopment. Her primary focus from 2010 through 2015 was the oversight and development of Hotel Emma, a 146 key hotel within the 19th century original brewery structure.

JNet SA, San Antonio's Jewish young professional network, hosts events throughout the year. To be added to the email list, contact Samantha Mazuz at mazuzss@jfsatx.org.



Lori Smith and Kathy Moench plan their hanukkah designs.



The Davis family shows off their finished designs, before being sent off to be kiln fired.

GETTING CRAFTY FOR HANUKKAH

As part of their Ta'am Ha'Ona series of holiday events, the JCC partnered with The Painted Plate to paint menorahs (hanukkiah) at Paint for Chanukah on Sunday, Nov. 13.



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IN THE COMMUNITY

KESHER CHAI is delivering Jewish education in a new way

Temple Chai's first semester of its innovative education program for kids is engaging Jewish families in different ways. "What began as a monthly experiment for three families last year is now happening every week, for a longer time, and is serving nine families and eighteen children," said Rabbi David Komerofsky.

Komerofsky and Lisa Goldstein lead interactive discussions on Jewish values, related to the weekly Torah portion and upcoming holidays, with a variety of projects and activities to keep the students engaged. Goldstein notes that "the kids are wonderful together, with older students helping the younger on art projects and the creation of their own siddurim." They sing, dance, stretch, create, write, read, and reflect on Jewish ideas.

KESHER CHAI is not religious school. It is a different way for kids to help each other learn, and is supplemented by individual tutoring for Bar and Bat Mitzvah. The program meets Saturdays from 9:30 to noon, and visitors are welcome. Membership in Temple Chai is not required.

For more information or to register, call 210.340.2090 or visit www.templechaisa.org/KESHER-CHAI.



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SENIORS

Hadassah panel to focus on SA Senior Services

Leah Goot Group of Hadassah will host a panel discussion on resources and services available to the seniors of the Jewish community. The session will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017, at Adante Independent Living (2702 Cembalo Blvd.), in the movie theater on the 3rd floor.

The panelists are: M.H. Levine, executive director of Jewish Family Service; Daniel Laser, executive director of Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services; Margaret Gofman-Klein, executive director of the Ohr Lanu Foundation; and Saul Levenshus, president / CEO of the Barshop Jewish Community Center of San Antonio. Each will make a brief presentation, which will be followed by time for questions from the attendees. The discussion will be moderated by Pat Kalmans, a former president of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio and immediate past chair of the Community Relations Council.

The event is free and open to the Jewish community. Seating is limited.

Reservations should be made by emailing Debbie Linck at marketinglinck@yahoo.com prior to January 7. For further information, contact Debbie Linck at email address above.

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This year, as you set aside gelt for your own family, we ask that you think about setting aside a bit more for your Jewish community. Through the Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign, your gelt can make an impact in San Antonio, in Israel and around the globe; helping people who are truly in need of your gift.

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Judy Palans
Vice Chair, Development

IN THE COMMUNITY: SENIORS

E.D.G.E. programming for seniors in December

• **Frauds and Pitfalls of Computers and Phones**

On Sunday, Dec. 11, seniors are invited to learn about frauds and pitfalls of computers and phones during a free class at the Golden Manor Jewish Senior Service office, 13409 NW Military Hwy. The class, which begins at 3 p.m., will be led by Tim Grossman; a strategic I/T professional with more than 24 years of experience with a record of developing, integrating and managing complex systems for multinational clients in diverse industries.

Tim is currently an I/T Architect with IBM providing technical leadership on projects for data center migrations, relocations

and consolidations while defining enterprise-wide infrastructure strategies and architectures. Tim also currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Antonio. To RSVP, call GMJSS at (210) 616-4811.

• **Tour San Antonio Gourmet Olive Oils**

On Tuesday, Dec. 13, the E.D.G.E. Program of Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) will tour San Antonio's Gourmet Olive Oils. The tour of the facility will include learning about the chemistry of these products and will include experiencing a wall to wall tasting room that has over 60 high-end oils and aged Italian balsamics. The group is

invited to taste Kosher oils and check out balsamics. At the end of the tour, a full line of gourmet oils, vinegars, salts and jams are available for purchase.

The group will meet at 9 a.m. at the GMJSS office and carpool to the downtown location on S. Hackberry St. There is no charge for the tour of the facility. Lunch together at a nearby restaurant is in the works for those who want to join.

An RSVP is required by calling the GMJSS office at (210) 616-4811.

E.D.G.E. is a new program sponsored by GMJSS, and was developed to help seniors to continue to engage, develop, grow and explore as they age.

L'Chayim Club presents self-defense tips for seniors

The L'Chayim Club will have their monthly get-together on Wednesday, Dec. 14 from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. The program will be *Modern Day Macabees – Self-Defense for Seniors*, an introduction to situational awareness and self-defense for use at home or while traveling abroad, presented within the theme of Hanukkah.

This timely and informative program will be conducted by Winslow Swart, who is a 7th Dan Kenseido master, and the highest ranking teacher of this art form outside Japan. There will be a D'Var Torah given by Rabbi A. Scheinberg, followed by a traditional meal highlighted with homemade latkes.

Seniors are invited to attend at no charge, thanks to a generous grant from

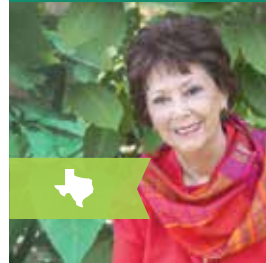


Winslow Swart will teach self-defense tactics for seniors on December 14.

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services and co-sponsorship by Rodfei Sholom, and the cost for all others is \$5 per person. If attending, an RSVP would be appreciated by Monday, Dec. 12 to the synagogue office at (210) 493-3557 or rodfeisa@gmail.com.

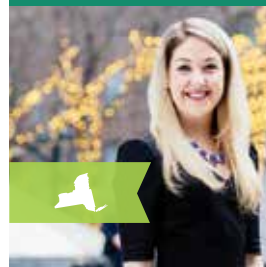
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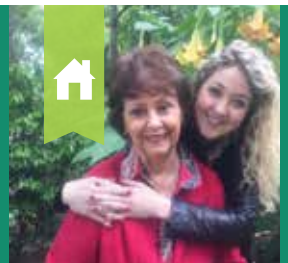
Texas living is the life for me.
Land spreading out,
so far and wide.

*Ali, keep Manhattan,
just give me that countryside.*



New York is where
I'd rather stay.
I get allergic smelling hay.

*I just adore a penthouse view.
Joyce, I love you, but
give me Park Avenue.*



Joyce with her
granddaughter, Ali

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210.827.0249

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210.355.6772



SPECIAL TO THE JEWISH JOURNAL

EKHLA achieves highest marks among elementary charter schools



EKHLA students Benny Abraham, Shayna Lauterstein, Nora Lerich, and Max Nestel.

by Vicki Adelstein
and Raphael Sonsino

San Antonio is fortunate to have one of the few Hebrew Language Charter Schools in the United States, the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy (EKHLA), located at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community. This article provides both general information and updates on EKHLA -- including their recent outstanding results in state standardized testing.

EKHLA is a free, open

enrollment K-8 public charter school with a daily Hebrew language class at all grade levels. Students from throughout San Antonio and nearby areas are eligible to attend.

The charter school provides an advanced curriculum, daily Hebrew language classes for all grades, passionate teachers, and a nurturing environment.

Of the approximately 20 charter school districts in the San Antonio area that have elementary schools, the EKHLA charter school district was the top

performing charter school district in standardized state student testing (STAAR testing) at the elementary school level in 2016.

Additionally, EKHLA's average STAAR test score and percentage of students passing each STAAR test surpassed the State averages on every elementary school and middle school STAAR test in 2016. Their students achieved these commendable results while at the same time devoting 45-60 minutes per day of class time to learning a second language, Hebrew.

At EKHLA, students not only learn the Hebrew language, but they also learn about Israel and Israeli culture. According to the article *The Cognitive Benefits of Being Bilingual*, published in the journal *Cerebrum* in 2012, "Researchers have shown that the bilingual brain can have better attention and task-switching capacities than the monolingual brain, thanks to its developed ability to inhibit one language while using another." EKHLA students can receive high school language credit and the possibility of college language credit for their study of Hebrew.

EKHLA will begin accepting applications for the 2017-18 school year on February 1, 2017. Additional information can be obtained at www.ekhla.org or by calling (210) 302-6900.

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www.ekhla.org



Missing your summer friends and fun? Reconnect with them at Winter Camp

The JCC offers Exploration Celebration-themed Winter J-Camp

The Barshop Jewish Community Center will offer a fourteen-day Winter J-Camp, from December 19 to January 4, in an effort to cover all of the varied winter school breaks. Camp activities will include games in the gym, outdoor time on the playground (weather-permitting), arts and crafts, and more. Some camps will also include a field trip or cooking activities.

Winter J-Camp is open to children ages five to twelve years. Families are welcome to sign up for camp by the day or week, and discounts are available for those who sign up for ten days.

More information is available online at www.jccsanantonio.org/wintercamp, or call the Youth and Camping office at (210) 302-6859 to request a paper brochure.

Camp Rodfei - Winter 2016

Rodfei Sholom's Winter Camp and SEED Counselors are back. The camp will run from December 19 through December 30. All community children, age 3 through 6th Grade, are welcome to participate. The hours will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more details, contact the synagogue office at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557 or e-mail Rabbi Ashi Gluck directly at agluck87@gmail.com.

Heintz Preschool readies for Winter Camp

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim is enhancing its Winter Camp with brand new winter and Hanukkah activities for children 2-8 years old.

The camp will feature science experiments, games, arts and crafts, sports, Hanukkah activities and more. Winter camp runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every day with extended day options available both before and after camp during the hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Session One will be from

December 19-23 and session two will be from December 27-30.

In addition to enhancing its Winter Camp, Heintz Preschool has grown its current school program as well.

For more information on Heintz Preschool's Winter Camp or for a tour of Heintz Preschool, contact Preschool Director Taryn Bretado for this information or a tour of the school, (210) 479-0429 or t.bretado@agudas-achim.org.

One of the best ways to fight terrorism in Israel is to help save its victims.



With Israelis grappling with nearly daily acts of terrorism, you can help ensure that those injured don't join the list of those killed. Your support of Magen David Adom, Israel's national EMS service, provides the equipment, supplies, and on-going training to keep MDA the preeminent mass-casualty medical response organization in the world.

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IN THE COMMUNITY: COLLEGE



Hillel San Antonio at UTSA BestFest



Hillel San Antonio Superhero Shabbat Dinner

Hillel San Antonio

Hillel hosted a Superhero Shabbat at the end of October where students connected Judaism to their favorite superheroes. Jasper Klein and Moshe Krumholz led the prayers and discussion while we ate a delicious Shabbat meal. It was a huge success with about 30 students in attendance.

Hillel also participated at UTSA's BestFest, where students sold Falafel! BestFest is an annual celebration held at UTSA in October, that serves as a special salute to five of the state's outstanding festivals. All proceeds raised will be going to Hillel's Philanthropy project

this year, raising money for the Tikkun Olam Primary Jewish School in Uganda.

At Hillel's Lunch & Learn on campus, in concordance with our Philanthropy project students learned about the importance of tzedekah lead by Rabbi Ashi Gluck at the UTSA campus and Rabbi Marina Yergin at the Trinity campus.

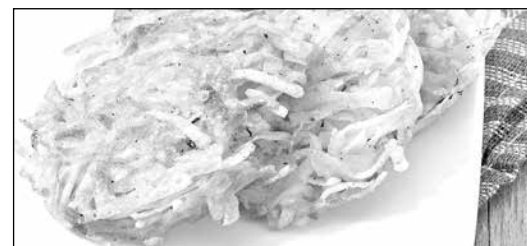
Every week Hillel has a hotspot on the UTSA and Trinity campus where Jewish students can socialize with their friends in between classes. At UTSA the hotspot is located in the BSE building from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Wednesday, and

in the Coates building every Thursday at Trinity University.

If you know of any Jewish students in town, please contact Natalie Steiner, our Jewish Student Life Coordinator, at (713) 628-9555 or e-mail her at Natalie@HillelSA.org. Find us on Facebook at Hillel San Antonio, and visit the website at HillelSA.org.

Please consider donating at gofundme.com/hillelsanantonio to help fund Hillel San Antonio's programs and to find a space for meetings and events. For more information, contact Alan Yancelson, the Community Coordinator, at (210) 201-5397 or at AYancelson@HillelSA.org.

IN THE KITCHEN



Hanukkah Potato Latkes

(makes 8 servings)

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 yellow onion
- 1 pound Idaho potatoes, peeled
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 cup olive oil

PREPARATION

1. Place the onion in the freezer. Coarsely grate the potatoes using the largest setting on a box grater. Transfer the shredded potatoes to a large bowl of cold water as you grate them to prevent them from discoloring.
2. Place a medium mixing bowl under a fine mesh sieve and place the grated potatoes in the sieve. Use a large wooden spoon or spatula to press out as much of the moisture as possible. Transfer the potatoes to a large mixing bowl.
3. Remove the onion from the freezer and grate it. Squeeze out the excess water, and add the onion to the potatoes. Combine the beaten egg with the salt and pepper and add to the potato mixture. Mix well.
4. Heat the oil in a 12-inch nonstick skillet over high heat until shimmering, but not smoking. Working in batches, spoon 1/4 cup of the potato mixture into the skillet, squeezing out any additional liquid before adding to the pan. Flatten the tops of the latkes slightly with a spatula. Reduce heat to medium-high and cook until the bottoms are browned, about 5 minutes. Flip latkes and cook an additional 4 minutes. Transfer latkes to a paper towel-lined plate. Repeat until all of the mixture is gone.
5. Serve latkes while hot with applesauce and Greek yogurt or sour cream.

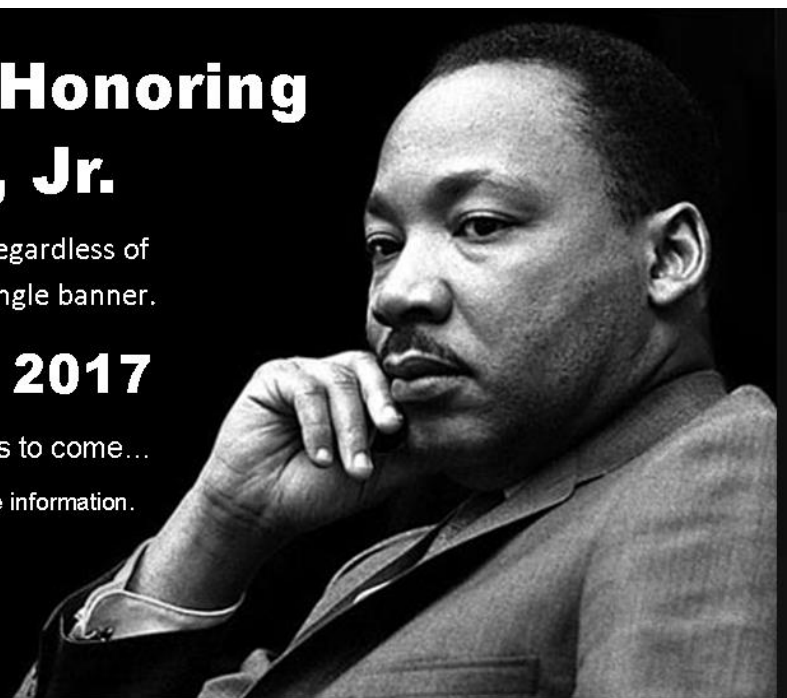
Community Unity March Honoring the Legacy of MLK, Jr.

The CRC is organizing our ENTIRE Jewish community, regardless of congregational affiliation, to march together under a single banner.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2017

Details and logistics will be provided to each congregation in the days to come...

Please contact Ellen Ollervidez at 210.302.6962 or ollervidez@jfsatx.org for more information.



HANUKKAH

Hanukkah 2016 begins in the evening of Saturday, December 24 and ends in the evening of Sunday, January 1



Temple Beth-El hosts Hanukkah celebration for adults

Temple Beth-El will host an Adults Only Hanukkah Celebration, *Light Up the Night*, beginning at 7 p.m. on December 15. The evening will feature Dinner by the RK Group, a DJ, and Dancing.

"You won't want to miss out on this fabulous, fun-filled event where you can dress casual, eat delicious holiday food that you don't have to cook, and celebrate Hanukkah," said co-chairs, Tory Richmond and Miranda Sutin.

The evening also includes a raffle (\$50 per ticket; \$200 for 5) with raffle items including: a bracelet and earrings from Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry, retail value \$1190; an original painting

by Local Artist Heather Gauthier, retail value \$750; an Apple watch Series 2, retail value \$599; Julian Gold \$300 gift certificate and Josephs Men's Store \$250 gift certificate; restaurant gift certificates to Il Songo, Moshe's Golden Falafel, and The Luxury, retail value \$350; and a private class for up to 35 people, water bottle and tank top from Joyride, retail value \$325.

Event sponsorships are available for \$800, \$1200, and \$1800 for tables of 8, individual tickets are \$72. For reservations and to buy raffle tickets, log onto www.beth-elsa.org or call (210) 733-9135.

19th Annual *Chanukah on the River* on December 28 with all new cruise experience

The nineteenth annual *Chanukah on the River* festival will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 28 at the Arneson River Theater. An all new interactive entertainment cruise experience will begin at 4 p.m. departing from the river theater. The boat ride will include a donut, prizes, music, Chanukah Challenges, surprises and more. The cost is \$6/person. The grand menorah lighting will take place at 5 p.m. Following the menorah lighting ceremony, the Soul Farm band will perform live in concert. Show and concert are free and open to the public.



Soul Farm band will perform live during the 19th annual Chanukah on the River.

Chanukah on the River is coordinated by the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning in cooperation with area synagogues and organizations. It is sponsored by International Bank of Commerce, H.E.B., Holzman Family Foundation, SWBC and

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

Concession stands by Aroma Grill will be open for holiday treats and light dinner. Please allow sufficient time for parking. For more information, visit www.ChanukahOnTheRiver.com or call (210) 764-0300.

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Agudas Achim Hanukkah celebrations

• **Simcha Social Club's Hanukkah Musical Show** with Hazzan Lipton will include songs, stories latkes and laughter on Thursday, Dec. 8 at 11:30 a.m. in the Gurinsky Family Social Hall.

• **Lots of Latkes dinner** will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 5:30 p.m. \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members; children ages 6-12, \$5; children 5 and under are free. Reservations are required at (210) 479-0307.

• **Hands on Hanukkah**, a free program open to the community, will be held at Whole Foods in the Vineyard, on Sunday, Dec. 18 from 12-2 p.m. The event will include latkes, Hanukkah games and arts and crafts, and a visit from Danny the Dreidel.

• **Hanukkah Storytime** with Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham will take place at Barnes & Noble La Cantera on Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 4:30 p.m. followed by a no-host dinner at Grimaldi's, also at



La Cantera.

• **Donuts and Dreidels** will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 27 at 4:30 p.m. at Shipley Donuts on Bitters Road off of Blanco Road. Guests will enjoy sufganiyot (donuts), play dreidel, and light their personal Hanukkah menorahs together. Donuts and Dreidels is generously underwritten by Linda and Marvin Aboloff.

• **Family Hanukkah Potluck Dinner** following services on December 30 at 6:15 p.m. Participants are asked to bring a dairy or parve dish to share. Kosher main dish and latkes will be provided. For more information, call the Agudas Achim office.

Jewish Family Service hosts 9th Annual Latke Party

Hanukkah is almost here, and JFS will be hosting its annual Latke Party on Sunday, December 18th from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the home of Ron and Alice Perloff. This relaxed and food-filled event is the perfect chance to celebrate the Macabees' victory over the forces of Antiochus and the rededication of the Temple while recognizing members of the Jewish community who support the mission of JFS. But mostly, it's a time to see old friends, make new ones, and have incredibly delicious brisket, salads, donuts, and of course, LATKES.



BUTLER



LASER



LEVY



MICHELSON

This year's honorees are the unsung heroes of the Latke Parties. They slave over hot frying pans, spatulas in hand, to create succulent potato pancakes for our guests to savor. Harry Levy, Mitch Michelson, Steve Butler, and Daniel Laser have cooked more than 5000 latkes in the past eight years, and deserve to be

recognized for their efforts!

The Latke Party raises funds for JFS to be able to provide case management to seniors and the disabled, as well as mental health services to all. Tickets to the event are \$36. Call Cheryl Hayes at (210) 302-6921 to make reservations and purchase your tickets, or go to www.jfs-sa.org to buy your tickets using PayPal.

Chabad hosts special family Hanukkah celebration on December 25

Chabad will host a family Hanukkah celebration and buffet

Chinese dinner on Sunday, Dec. 25 from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at

the Chabad Center, 14535 Blanco Rd.

The event will feature a bounce house, obstacle course and bungee run inflatables and more, as well as a sing along family Menorah lighting and Hanukkah treats. Admission is \$10 per person. This program is generously sponsored by Dr. Salvador Garcia.

For more information, call (210) 764-0300 or visit www.ChabadSA.com/bounce.

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Kristin Rubio and family enjoy activities at the 2015 Hands on Chanukah event.

Celebrate Hanukkah at the JCC

The Barshop Jewish Community Center will hold its annual Hands on Hanukkah event Tuesday, Dec. 13 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the JCC.

There will be crafts, story time, and latkes, plus special deals in the JCC's Fogiel Gift Shop, which will also have extended hours that day. Families and children of all ages will have the opportunity to make Hanukkah cards, play games, and make decorations for Hanukkah.

Hands on Hanukkah is free and open to the community; no RSVP is needed. For more information, please contact

Rachel Rustin at rustinr@jcc-sa.org or (210) 302-6969.

Rodfei Sholom Sunday Funday Pre-Hanukkah event

Get ready for Hanukkah on Sunday, Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Congregation Rodfei Sholom's Sunday Funday Pre-Hanukkah Event. There will be something for everyone

- a hearty breakfast, *The Why's and How's of Hanukkah* for teens and adults with Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg, arts & crafts, decorating Hanukkah cookies to be given to seniors, Bouncy-House,

Hanukkah Marketplace and playground fun.

Admission: \$5 (ages 2 & up). If attending please RSVP by Wednesday, Dec. 7 to (210) 493-3557 or rodfeisa@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome.

Pearl to host Hanukkah celebration and menorah lighting with YJSA - December 29

Pearl will host the second annual Hanukkah menorah lighting and celebration in partnership with Young & Jewish San Antonio (YJSA) on Thursday, Dec. 29. The festivities, which are open to the entire community, will run from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Guests will have the opportunity to experience kosher food from Green Vegetarian Cuisine, along

with live music from indie-folk-rock band Tera Ferna and singer/songwriter Cooper Greenberg throughout the evening.

"The menorah stands as a symbol of the power of light, liberty, religious freedom and tolerance," said Rabbi Levi Teldon, Co-Director at YJSA. "Pearl continuously opens its arms to every individual of the San Antonio community

and we are very much looking forward to the Hanukkah celebration." The menorah at Pearl will be lit each successive evening of Hanukkah as well.

For more information, please visit www.atpearl.com and to keep up with upcoming events and happenings, "like" Pearl on Facebook at [facebook.com/historicpearl](https://www.facebook.com/historicpearl).

Catholic & Jews Celebrate

Hanukkah Luncheon

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016

SAN FERNANDO CATHEDRAL HALL

231 W. COMMERCE

LUNCHEON AT 11:30AM

Guest Speaker: John T. Pawilkowski, OSM

Professor of Social Ethics and Director of Catholic-Jewish Studies Program

Ph.D. at the University of Chicago

Tickets: \$36

Table of 10: \$360



SAN FERNANDO CATHEDRAL

To reserve your seat, purchase tickets or for sponsorship information, please contact Louis Sanchez at (210) 227-1297 ext. 129 or by email at lsanchez@sfcathedral.org



New date for Temple Chai Kugel Cook-Off

Temple Chai has changed the date of the Doris Toubin Memorial Kugel Cook-Off. The event, originally scheduled for November, has been moved to Sunday, Jan. 29 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. It will be held at the congregation's building, 2121 Lockhill Selma.

Named in memory of one of its creators and a founder of Temple Chai, the Kugel Cook-Off is a fun get-together centered on a classic Ashkenazi Jewish dish and its many varieties.

All are welcome to submit their entries, which will be judged by culinary experts in competition for prizes.

The Kugel Cook-Off includes a light brunch, \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids, as well as a cookbook with tribute ads. Registration for all parts of the event is available online.

For more information, visit www.templechaisa.org/kugel-cook-off or call (210) 340-2090.



Very Semi-Serious, an offbeat documentary about humor, art and the genius of the New Yorker cartoon, will be among the films shown at the JCC on January 7.

Comedy takes center stage at the JCC Jewish Film Festival kick-off

The 2017 Barshop JCC Jewish Film Festival presents *The Prequel* on Saturday, Jan. 7. This year's kick-off event features two films: *Ave Maria*, a 15 minute short directed by Basil Khalil, and *Very Semi-Serious*, a feature-length documentary directed by Leah Wolchok.

Ave Maria is an Oscar-nominated comedic short that asks the question, "What happens when the silent routine of five nuns living in the West Bank is disturbed by an Israeli settler family whose

car breaks down outside their convent right before Shabbat?" *Very Semi-Serious* takes a behind-the-scenes look at *The New Yorker* magazine and introduces the cartooning legends and hopefuls behind their most iconic images.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. for a dessert reception and the films begin at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by calling (210) 302-6820 or online at www.jccsanantonio.org/filmfestival.



- ✓ Visit interesting locations
- ✓ Meet the Change Makers
- ✓ Hear inspiring stories



For more information visit us online at jnetsa.com or facebook.com/jnetsa

Contact Samantha Mazuz for inquiries or to sign up for the email list at mazuzss@jfsatx.org or call 210.302.6970

JNet SA is sponsored by:
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Liberal Jewish groups to Trump: Condemn anti-Semitism, back two-state solution, dump Bannon

(JTA) — A dozen liberal Jewish organizations signed a letter criticizing key policy proposals of President-elect Donald Trump, and demanding that he rescind the appointment of Stephen Bannon as his chief strategist.

The letter, published November 18, calls on Trump to disavow campaign pledges regarding the expulsion of undocumented immigrants and a ban on Muslim immigration, and to maintain the United States' commitment to a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The letter was signed by groups including J Street, the dovish pro-Israel lobby; the National Council of Jewish Women; T'ruah, the rabbinic human rights group, and Uri L'Tzedek, the Orthodox social justice organization. Recalling persecution of Jews as a minority, the letter criticizes Trump's statements targeting minorities during the campaign. It also condemns "the many instances of anti-Semitism — both subtle and overt — that appeared around your Presidential campaign."

"As President, we expect that you will make it absolutely clear that you emphatically reject anti-Semitism in all forms, and that you are committed to ensuring the religious freedom that is at the heart of America's identity," the letter reads. "Further, we call on you to forcefully

and consistently reiterate our nation's commitment to respect the rights of all citizens and to fight discrimination in all of its ugly and un-American forms."

Trump's campaign denied any responsibility for anti-Semitism among his supporters, and said its policies would benefit racial and ethnic minorities.

The letter criticizes statements of Trump advisers, and changes to the Republican Party platform, that "eliminate the goals of the two-state solution and creation of a Palestinian state living at peace with Israel."

The letter says Bannon's appointment runs counter to American values. Bannon is the former chairman of Breitbart News, a website that Bannon himself called "the platform for the alt-right," a loose movement of the far right whose followers traffic

variously in white nationalism, anti-immigration sentiment, anti-Semitism and a disdain for "political correctness."

A handful of Jewish groups, including the Anti-Defamation League, have condemned his appointment. Some, including the AJC, Rabbinical Council of America and Jewish Federations of North America, have not commented on it directly, and two, the Republican Jewish Coalition and Zionist Organization of America, have endorsed Bannon based in part on his and Breitbart's pro-Israel stance.

Other signers of the liberal groups' letter were the heads of Ameinu, Americans for Peace Now, Jewish Labor Committee, Hashomer Hatzair, Habonim Dror North America, New Israel Fund, Partners for Progressive Israel and The Workmen's Circle.

ARTS & CULTURE



Temple Beth-El enjoyed a visit by Rabbi Edward Feinstein, the Rabbi Samuel Stahl Lecturer, who spoke on "A Brief History of Chutzpah."

A brief history of Chutzpah

Temple Beth-El welcomed a visit by Rabbi Edward Feinstein, the Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl Lecturer, who spoke on November 15 about *A Brief History of Chutzpah: The Jewish Tradition's Conception of the Human Being and the Purposes of Human Life*.

Temple Beth-El Concert series - 2017

Performance dates for Temple Beth-El's Concert series will continue in the new year. On February 5, 2017 at 4 p.m. musically gifted adult Temple members will perform, and March 19, 2017, at 4 p.m. will feature Temple member David Pinansky, a prolific composer who has written many pieces for soloist, choir, or orchestra.

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JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

Coming Events:
For the first time in many years, the post will have 2 veterans applying for the Commander position for 2017. The two are current Senior Vice-Commander Herschel Sheiness and owner of Train a Dog and Save a Warrior, Bart Sherwood. Other officers will also be elected.

The Election meeting will be held on Sunday Dec. 18 starting at 9 a.m. at the Jewish Community Center, room 277. A light breakfast will be served followed by a business meeting and election of officers. All post members are urged to attend the meeting and election of officers.

On Sunday, Dec. 25, post members will gather at 1 p.m. at Audie Murphy VA Hospital's main recreation room to start the post semi-annual Ice Cream Social for patients

unable to leave the hospital for the holidays and the staff who attend to the patients. Post members will walk the wards of the hospital distributing ice cream and cookies. For further information on how you can volunteer for this project, contact Ken Ashworth at (210) 723-9766.

At the Honoring Veterans event sponsored by Agudas Achim Sisterhood, Herschel Sheiness, Sean Sandlin and Irwin Barath represented Post 753 and opened the ceremonies as color guards posting the American and Israeli flags.

As a veteran and of the Jewish faith, you are eligible to join Jewish War Veterans. For further information, contact Herschel at (210) 494-8768.

Remembering deceased Jewish military veterans

Jewish War Veterans of America Post 753 asks you to remember these Jewish military veterans whose yahrzeit (anniversary of thdividual's death) occurs in the month of September and who are buried in a local cemetery. (If you know of a name that is missing please contact Herschel at 210-468-5598).

Aaron, Bernard	Halff, Harry	Reisfield, Harold
Arronson, Albin	Kimmelman, Abraham	Ribakowski, Marvin
Alberts, William	Levine, Samuel	Rippstine, Edward
Applestein, Rose	Lewis, Charles	Scherr, Hyman
Barshop, Sam	Lowell, Walford	Schwarzkopf, Sidney
Blum, Carl	Makrow, David	Seidman, Jacob
Cohan, David	M'Carver,Mitchell	Seligmann, Irving
Cohen, Solomon	Michaels, Drew	Semegran, Michael
Davis, Donald	Miller, Beernard	Silberman, Samuel
Deutsch, Raphael	Moretsky, Harold	Smith, Zavell
Dorman, Robert	Narter, Sidney	Stepner, Paul
Duff, John	Nault, Wendy	Tebelle, Isadore
Esserick, Ben	Memerow, Steven	Weintraub, Michael
Fein, Walter	Palm, Joseph	Weissberg, Samuel
Frank, Melvin	Patterson, James	Wolff, Richard
Garcia, Brunetta	Pfeiffer, John	Wolfson, Sidney
Gensberg, Frank	Phillips, Henry	Wulfe, Leon
Gitzes, Joseph	Pomerantz, Mark	Zalman, Leonard
Gottlieb, A	Recktor, Morris	

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Mayors from around the world visit Israel, focus on innovation

(JTA) — Two American Jewish groups are hosting mayors from around the world in Israel as part of a conference highlighting Israeli innovation.

Twenty-six mayors from North and South America, Europe and Africa are visiting the Jewish state through Friday as part of a forum organized by the American Jewish Congress

and the American Council for World Jewry.

The mayors will meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, local municipalities and Israeli technology entrepreneurs in the fields of health, security, water and the environment. They will also visit the telecommunications group Bezeq Telecom and a Tel

Aviv start-up.

“We expect that as a result of this visit, we will create a better understanding of the political environment and greater longer term cooperation between Israel and the mayors’ home countries,” Jack Rosen, the AJC’s president and ACWJ’s chairman, said in a statement.

On November 17, 20 of the mayors signed a

statement criticizing the recent adoption by two UNESCO committees of resolutions that deny Jewish connections to Jerusalem, the Temple Mount and other holy sites in Israel. The statement was to be presented to Netanyahu at their meeting that afternoon.

The mayors resolved “to work to end politically inspired falsehood and

distortions, and to speak the truth about all relevant history.”

The statement also called on UNESCO to “cease repeatedly exacerbating tensions, as evidenced by the most recent news of disputing Israeli heritage of the Dead Sea Scrolls, one of the major archaeological discoveries of the 20th century that sheds light on the biblical era.”

Wiesenthal Center condemns use of proposed new Polish law being used against Holocaust researchers

The Simon Wiesenthal Center issued a press release on November 1 strongly condemning an attempt by Polish prosecutors to use a proposed new law to threaten an eminent historian with three years imprisonment. Mark Weitzman, the Director of Government Affairs of the Center said “Reports that Polish prosecutors in Katowice have rejected an initial opinion dismissing charges brought against renowned Princeton historian Jan Gross for ‘defaming the Polish nation’ and are continuing the case are highly alarming. Professor Gross, whose highly acclaimed groundbreaking book on the killings of Jews in Jedwabne by their Polish neighbors was a finalist for the National Book Award in 2001, now faces a renewed investigation that bears all the hallmarks of a political witch-hunt.”

Weitzman, who also chairs the Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial of the thirty-one nation International

Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), of which Poland is a member, added, “This action is all the more disturbing because Poland, as a member of the IHRA, has committed itself to the Stockholm Declaration of 2000, which includes a ‘commitment to encourage the study of the Holocaust in all its dimensions’. By taking this drastic step, the government of Poland is apparently attempting to intimidate researchers and to rewrite history through a political lens. While this had been customary under Communist rule, it is a clear departure from the vigorous and healthy debate that had been occurring in Poland since independence.”

“Any attempt by the Polish government to stifle or distort historical research on the Holocaust through legal or other means must be rejected, and the right to pursue historical research free from government interference must be clearly affirmed,” Weitzman concluded

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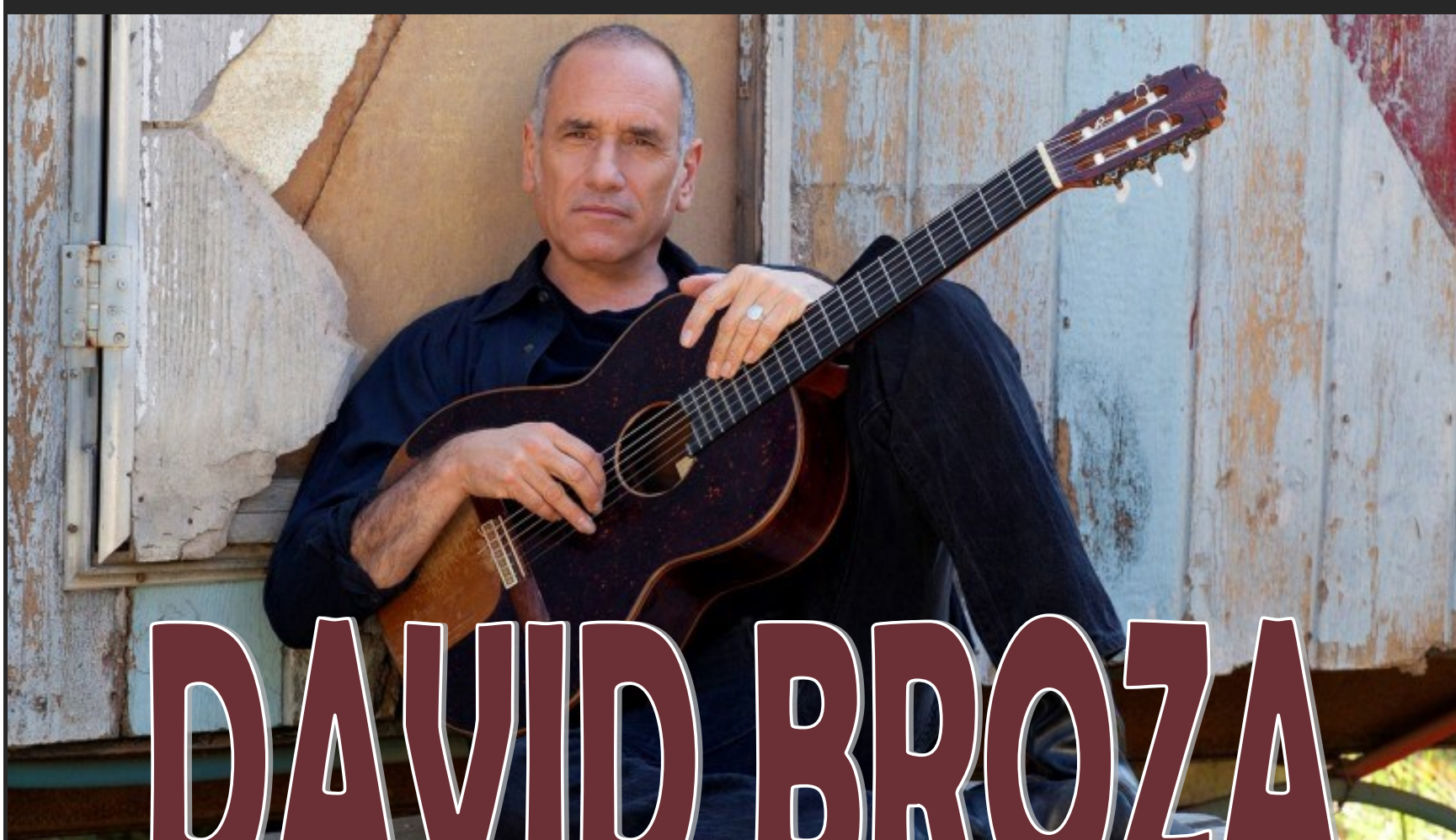


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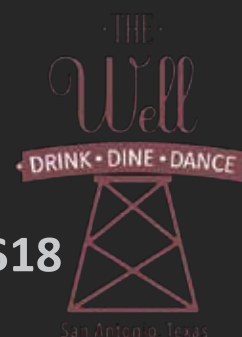
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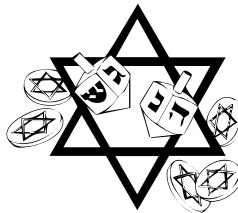
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MAZAL TOV

Friedman releases new comic book

Local retired teacher, artist and Agudas Achim member Joel Friedman has published his latest comic book *Sparring Statesmen*. A humorous introduction to the 2016 USA Presidential Election, Friedman's latest release consists of bold political humor with a no holds barred attitude - both parties fair game with funny bipartisan insults and wacky illustrations. For more information on purchasing a book, contact Friedman at friedmancartoons@gmail.com.



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MAZAL TOV

Bat Mitzvah: Danielle Lara Peck



Danielle Lara Peck will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on December 17, 2016 at Congregation Agudas Achim. She is the daughter of Michael and Davora Peck and sister of Marci and Matthew. Danielle is the granddaughter of Irv and Andrea Cohen of San Antonio and Tom and Flo (of blessed memory) Peck of Pine Brook, NJ.

Danielle is an A honor roll student at Omar N. Bradley Middle School and plays on the 7th grade basketball, tennis and track teams. Outside of school, Danielle enjoys playing center defense for Lonestar Soccer Club and swimming year round for the Northeast Alamo Area Aquatics Swim Team. Her favorite stroke is breaststroke.

In her free time, Danielle loves running and tracking her fantasy football team's statistics. She hopes to continue running in high school and beyond.

Danielle's mitzvah project is to collect gently used or new shoes for Soles 4 Souls. This non-profit organization distributes shoes to those in need throughout the world. Shoes are an important part of Danielle's daily activities and she wants to provide good quality shoes to those in need.

Bat Mitzvah: Bailey Rhianne Eichelbaum

Bailey Rhianne Eichelbaum will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, December 31, 2016 at Temple Beth-El. Bailey is the daughter of Jennifer and Mark Eichelbaum, and big sister to Maegan. She is the granddaughter of Marlene and Mel Eichelbaum and

Nancy and Jerry Gerson.

Bailey is an A honor student at Rawlinson Middle School. She enjoys dancing, reading, tennis, and being with family and friends. For her Mitzvah project, Bailey has chosen to help support the Make-A-Wish Foundation by collecting monetary donations and

small toys and games.

Donations can be made at <http://site.wish.org/goto/baileyeichelbaum>.



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