



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

KISLEV - TEVET, 5779

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

DECEMBER 2018



HAPPY HANUKKAH, Y'ALL!

Enjoy festivities galore for the holiday season.

PAGE 10

HEBREW FOR ALL AGES

Join the community in honoring area Hebrew teachers who've been preparing children for their Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations for decades.

PAGE 19



FALL FUN & MORE!

See what's been happening in your Jewish community,

PAGE 13-18

SHOW OF SUPPORT FROM SAN ANTONIO FOR PITTSBURGH'S JEWISH COMMUNITY

Congregation Agudas Achim's Inda Posner Religious School students created a banner to send to Religious School students in Pittsburgh to show solidarity after the horrible tragedy that occurred at the Tree of Life Synagogue there a few weeks ago.



HMMSA partners with the SA Public Library for Learn and Remember 2019

For the past seven years, the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio (HMMSA) has partnered with the San Antonio Public Library, and the SA Public Library Foundation, to honor and commemorate Yom HaShoah during the month of January and

into February with *Learn and Remember*, a series of events hosted around San Antonio to educate the public about the atrocities of the Holocaust through exhibits of what the Jewish people and many others had

See **LEARN**, page 24

Let there be goodness and light for the holiday season

There has been much "light" in the world lately, and not much of it good. The fires in California have destroyed human lives, plants and other wildlife, as well as caused the destruction of homes for thousands of individuals and animals. The rockets fired from Gaza into Israel in November also took lives and created terror. Unlike the fires in California, the rockets were the work of human beings, intending



Letter from our CEO

RONIT SHERWIN

to cause more death and devastation. After so much "fire," how do we enter into the season of Hanukkah, celebrated by light, with hope and optimism?

We will begin the celebration of Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, on the evening of Sunday

December 2nd, with our collective strength and resilience. We love to teach our children the highlights of the Maccabee story as our ancestors (the underdogs) that defeated the mighty Assyrians. It is a wonderful lesson in the forces of righteousness overshadowing the forces of evil, against all odds. What we leave out of the story (at least the one we tell our

See **CEO**, page 2

Temple Beth-El to host Active Shooter training

Temple Beth-El will host a Civilian Response to Active Shooter Event (CRASE) Training session on Monday, December 10, at 7 pm.

All are encouraged to attend. This two-hour evening, led by the Bexar County Sheriff's office, consists of a lecture, demonstrations, and practice. It is meant to prepare the congregation and members of the public for surviving active shooter events.

For further information call Temple Beth-El at (210) 733-9135, ext. 126.

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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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Jewish Federation
OF SAN ANTONIO

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EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS:

The submission deadline for the January 2019 issue of the Jewish Journal is December 10, 2018 at noon. All materials submitted after this date will be considered for the following issue.

How to submit: Email submissions to [jewish@jfsatx.org](mailto: jewish@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 Leslie Komet Ausburn at [jewish@jfsatx.org](mailto: jewish@jfsatx.org).

Ad deadlines for January 2019 ISSUE:

- Ad space reservations due no later than December 10, 2018 by noon
- Press ready ads due by December 16, 2018.

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.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Dr. Sheldon Braverman

Stuart Kutler

CANDLE LIGHTING

FRIDAY, NOV. 30

Light Candles at: 5:17 p.m.

SHABBAT, DEC. 1

Shabbat Ends: 6:13 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 7

Light Candles at: 5:17 p.m.

SHABBAT, DEC. 8

Shabbat Ends: 6:14 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 14

Light Candles at: 5:19 p.m.

SHABBAT, DEC. 15

Shabbat Ends: 6:16 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 21

Light Candles at: 5:21 p.m.

SHABBAT, DEC. 22

Shabbat Ends: 6:19 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 28

Light Candles at: 5:25 p.m.

SHABBAT, DEC. 29

Shabbat Ends: 6:23 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 4, 2019

Light Candles at: 5:30 p.m.

SHABBAT, JAN. 5, 2019

Shabbat Ends: 6:28 p.m.

CEO

from page 1

younger children) is that it was more complicated. There was great destruction on both sides and even in-fighting within our own people. Lives were lost and souls were deflated. We, the grown-ups, understand that while we "won" the battle, there was also much to grieve in the process. And yet, the spirit we embrace during the holiday of Hanukkah is one of hope.

I am certain we have all heard the old Jewish joke many times that goes as follows.

How do you summarize Jewish holidays? They tried to kill us, we survived, let's eat! While I do not love this joke, there is a key Jewish trait this joke reveals: resiliency. We are a strong people. And because we value life above all else, we recognize the need to continue living, even after destruction.

May we all enter the season of Hanukkah with much "light" of goodness and peace, embracing gratitude for all we have and hold in our lives.



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We are happy to share a rate card, with ads as low as \$36/month. Frequency discounts for recurring ads are available.

For more information, please call or email Editor Leslie Komet Ausburn today at (210) 326-8992 or jewishj@jfsatx.org.

Note the deadline for the January 2019 issue is December 10. Don't miss out!



Hormone expert featured at JCC Author & Speaker Series

The Barshop Jewish Community Center and Jewish Federation of San Antonio partnered to bring author Randi Hutter Epstein (pictured at book signing) to San Antonio as part of the JCC's Author & Speaker Series. Guests from Women's Philanthropy, the Maimonides Society, and the community gathered to meet Dr. Epstein on November 1. The evening, which was made possible through the JCC's membership to the Jewish Book Council, included a lively discussion about Epstein's book, *Aroused: The History of Hormones and How They Control Just About Everything*. Copies are still available to purchase by calling (210) 302-6828.

CITY-WIDE INTERFAITH WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2019 AT 4PM SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH | 3310 E COMMERCE STREET



On Sunday, January 20th, the Second Baptist Church will host the 32nd Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Service.

The service will be led by area clergy, choirs, dancers, and this year's Guest Speaker, Dr. Mateen Diop. Dr. Diop is an educator, author, publisher and activist and a product of our nation's inner-city schools. As the current principal of Sam Houston High School, Dr. Diop exemplifies to our youth the power of leading boldly and embracing change toward positive ends. Join us for this uplifting service that gathers various faiths standing together in unity for a just and peaceful future. Reception to follow.



YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK



PJ Library Moms and Hadassah Aviva women gear up for Hanukkah

“I Love You A Latke” and “Shalom Ya’ll” were just two of the popular boards that Hadassah Aviva Young Women and PJ Library Moms painted, hammered, and decorated. Eighteen women came together to welcome Hanukkah and learn about upcoming events and themes from Hadassah young women’s group, Aviva, as well as PJ Library and the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. The ladies enjoyed snacks and camaraderie, as well as all of the resources of the new DIY Studio San Antonio in Alamo Heights. To learn more about Hadassah Aviva and PJ Library events, check out Facebook or email: AbrahamL@jfsatx.org or Lcarsman@hotmail.com.



ABOVE: Participants show off their crafty creations after a night of bonding at DIY Studio.

Rose Berg created a nail art weave of Magen David (Jewish Star).

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YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

New Cohort of Emerging Leaders begins to meet

The Emerging Leadership Course (ELC), a program of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio (JSFA), has accepted ten young Jewish professionals into the 2018-19 cohort: Stephanie Finger, Lindsay Free, Adriene Goodwin, Jill Jacobs, Jake Jopling, Jared Mendeloff, Cory Palmer, Adam Quigley, Jeffry Sukloff, and Julie Tzucker-Nikolas. Riley Greenberg serves a second year as Chair of the ELC and Jason Miller-Goodman serves as the Vice-chair for the program.

The ELC is a program of the Young Adult Division, Jewish leaders in their 20s and 30s, and has three objectives: to develop an understanding of our Jewish Federation and Jewish communal agencies, to expand knowledge of current issues facing the local, national, and global Jewish



communities, and to grow leadership skills for success in future lay leadership roles. The Jewish Federation of San Antonio is motivated to foster this new generation of community leaders

who will build a deeper attachment to their Jewish community through the program.

The cohort met for their first in-depth session on Sunday, November 4th. They took an in-depth tour

of the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the Jewish Community, learning about the key Jewish agencies on campus, and met with Holocaust survivor Anna Rado in the Federation's Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio. Participants then met Idan Zaccai through a web call to Israel. Idan is the young adult co-chair of Partnership2Gether, a program of JFSA that connects our community to a consortium of cities in the United States as well as Budapest and the Western Galilee.

The ELC meets monthly for five sessions and culminates in a certificate awarded at the JFSA Annual Meeting in June 2019. To learn more about the Emerging Leadership Course or YAD, contact Eva Laporte, JFSA's Director of Community Engagement at LaporteE@jfsatx.org.

THE HOLOCAUST
LEARN & REMEMBER
JANUARY 7TH- FEBRUARY 10TH

RESISTANCE

GUESTS & PERFORMANCES INCLUDE

Standing Up: German Resistance to Nazism, Trinity University's Dr. Jason Johnson

The Warsaw Uprising, UIW's Dr. Roger Barnes

Interviews with San Antonio's Hidden Children of the Holocaust, Rob Dial
Recovered Voices a journey through some of the forgotten vocal music by composers whose voices were needlessly suppressed or eliminated by the Nazi regime, featuring soprano Kristina Bachrach.

Brundibar an opera written for children, premiered on 23 September 1943, in the Theresienstadt concentration camp.

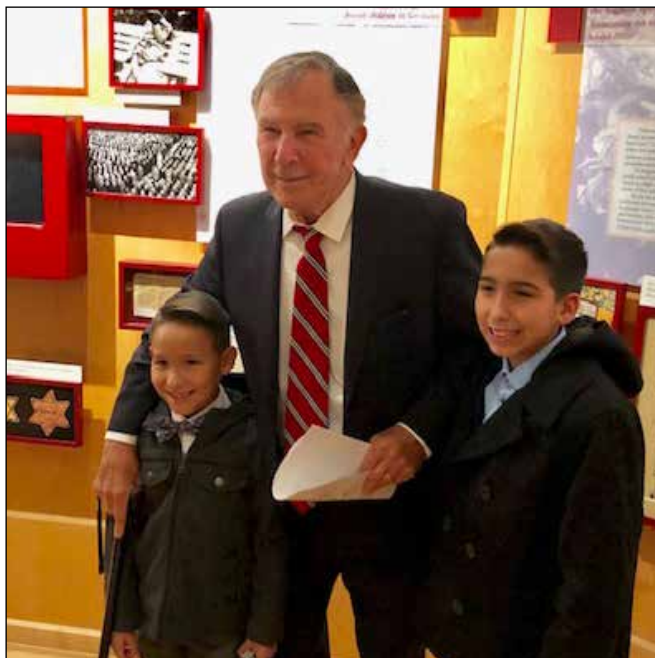
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HMMSA explores persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses during WWII

Robert Buckley, foremost scholar of the Jehovah's Witness' experience during the Holocaust, was the featured speaker at a sold-out event the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio on November 12. Buckley collected the testimonies and artifacts from members of the Jehovah's Witness community who survived the Holocaust and from those testimonies and artifacts, a featured part of the permanent exhibit at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum was established. In his presentation, Buckley shared details about the religious persecution Jehovah's Witnesses in Nazi Germany after they refused to perform military service, join Nazi organizations or give allegiance to the Hitler regime. One of Buckley's important messages; people and communities must find the courage to stand for their convictions. Unlike Jews, Witnesses were given the option to renounce their faith and integrate back into Aryan society. But many Witnesses courageously denounced the regime, and suffered the consequences rather than abandon their faith.



Robert Buckley, takes a moment to greet young people in the Museum and impart the importance of learning from history.



Robert Buckley, HMMSA Chair, Mark Ingram, local Jehovah's Witness elder, Danny Rodriguez, and HMMSA Distinguished Scholar in Residence, Dr. Jason Johnson

New Chabad adult education class announced

The Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning has announced a new, 3-part adult education series called *Journeys Through Jewish History*, which will explore the pivotal era of three biblical personalities, Deborah, Gideon and Samson.

Led by Rabbi Yossi Marrus, the classes will be held on 3 Thursdays, January 10, 17, 24 from 7:30 p.m. -8:30 p.m. at the Chabad Center, 14535 Blanco Rd. The course is free and all are welcome.

"When you explore these stories, you will identify with characters who grapple with the feelings and dilemmas that are at the heart of the human experience," said Rabbi Marrus. "You will see how their stories are also the stories of your life, reflecting your joy and your pain, your struggles and your victories. And you will learn how the Torah's eternal values provide insight that helps you



Rabbi Yossi Marrus

respond more thoughtfully as you face critical moments of your own."

Interested students may call (210) 764-0300 or email rabbimarrus@chabadsa.com.

For a full lineup of adult education classes at Chabad, visit www.chabadsa.com/AdultEd.

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Congregation Agudas Achim building Habitat for Humanity home

Congregation Agudas Achim is partnering with Habitat for Humanity to help build a home during Winter Break on Friday, Jan. 4. Volunteers will work from 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day to help build a home for a family in need.

Anyone interested in participating in the Habitat for Humanity project should contact the Agudas Achim office by e-mail info@agudas-achim.org or calling (210) 479-0307.

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Save the date for the HFLA-SA Community Picnic – May 5, 2019

Since 1924, Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Antonio (HFLA-SA) has provided need and opportunity-based interest-free loans, offering a financial hand-up, ensuring self-sufficiency and strengthening individuals, families and the community. Chances are you know someone who has benefitted from this important community program.

For over five decades, beginning in the 1930s, HFLA-SA hosted a popular community picnic each year to raise funds and provide a fun day for the

entire Jewish community. The popular picnics ended in the 1980s, but now the HFLA-SA board has decided to bring back this much-loved event.

"We couldn't be more excited about re-establishing this special gathering, as it epitomizes HFLA-SA values of family, community and tzedakah," said Board President Tim Grossman.

The revived HFLA-SA Community Picnic will be held Sunday, May 5, 2019, from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Eisenhower Park pavilion, pavilion at Eisenhower Park, located at

19399 N.W. Military Hwy. just south of Camp Bullis. This inter-generational event is open to all, and will feature live music, games, activities and kosher food.

Devra Hardy, this year's picnic chair claims, "You won't want to miss this incredible, affordable event. We're taking a wonderful concept and throwing in enough surprises to create an experience and new memories for everyone."

Call (210) 736-4352 with questions, to volunteer or to take advantage of sponsorship opportunities. Follow the event on Facebook or hfla-sa.org.

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SA Community mission to Israel takes off in April

There are a few spots left on a trip to Israel in April 1-9 of 2019. Jewish Federation would love for you to join. Chaired by Rhonda and Charlie Gurinsky and Lew and Laurie Greenberg, the mission trip will include stops in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, the Western Galilee, and the mystical city of Tsfat. For more information contact Lauren Abraham at AbrahamL@jfsatx.org or check out the itinerary at <https://daattravel.com/Package/36246>.



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Temple Chai moving to new facility in January

Temple Chai, a Reform Congregation in the Heart of Jewish San Antonio, is moving to a new facility in January 2019. The congregation will be at 15316 Huebner Rd., between NW Military Hwy and Churchill Estates.

The new facility, which is three times the size of Temple Chai's current space, is a stand-alone building which can accommodate the growing congregation's needs for religious worship and community gatherings. The new building will include space for cooking and meal preparation, multiple meeting spaces, along with dedicated classroom space for the congregation's youth education programs, along with ample parking for members and their guests.

Temple Chai was founded thirteen years ago and has been sustained from its beginnings by members who've been inspired by being part of a Reform congregation that is big enough to meet their needs, but small enough to know all of their names," said Temple Chai Rabbi David Komerofsky. "Mirroring the wanderings that developed a nomadic group of tribes into the People of Israel, Temple Chai has been housed in different facilities over the years. For the last few years the congregation has enjoyed a home of its own on Lockhill Selma, the first space dedicated

specifically and exclusively for its purposes. It has served Temple Chai well, but limits what can be done to connect with people whose Jewish lives are rooted in Temple Chai.

"Synagogues are an ancient and ever-renewing part of Jewish life. Temple Chai looks forward to welcoming the entire community to the celebrations that will accompany the move."

Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood hosts Annual Games Day

Congregation Agudas Achim's Sisterhood is hosting its Annual Games Day on Tuesday, Dec. 18 from 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. The charge is \$13, which covers lunch, drinks, snacks, and door prizes. This event is open to both women and men are welcome to join for the day.

"I am excited that we are hosting our annual Games Day again this year to bring fun and goodwill to everyone in our community through the camaraderie of playing all different types of games from card games to Mah Jongg and more," said



Sisterhood President Jody Reddy.

All players must sign up with their own group of players and bring their own

games. To RSVP or for more information, contact Sherie Trakhtenbrot at strakhten@aol.com or (210) 823-5466.

PJ Library invites you to...

PJ Library 5th Annual Winter Bash A Magical Family Night Out!

December 24 | 5:30 to 7pm
12500 NW Military Hwy

- Kosher 'Breakfast for Dinner' served!
- Enjoy a special kids magic show!
- PJ Our Way Kids Welcome for a movie night in!
- RSVP on Facebook: PJ Library San Antonio



Jewish Federation
OF SAN ANTONIO

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British Scholar Rabbi Yitzchak Schochet to be Schaffer Scholar-in-Residence at Chabad

World renowned scholar and lecturer Rabbi Yitzchak Schochet will be the Schaffer Scholar-in-Residence the weekend of Dec. 21-22 at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning, 14535 Blanco Rd. Hailed as one of the most sought-after speakers in the Jewish world, Rabbi Schochet has lectured across the globe.

On Friday, Dec. 21, services will begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by Shabbat dinner at 6:30 p.m. and lecture entitled *The Pursuit of Happiness: Prozac for the Soul*, a talk guaranteed to make you smile

exploring how to maintain a happy disposition in the face of life's challenges. A children's program during the lecture will be provided. Cost for Friday night dinner is \$25 adults, \$12 for children under 12.

On Saturday, Dec. 22, morning services will begin at 9:30 a.m., with Torah reading at 10:30 a.m. followed by a Kiddush luncheon at 12:15 p.m. During lunch, Rabbi Schochet will lecture on the topic *The Power of Positive Thinking*. The luncheon and address are free and open to the entire community.

On Saturday night at 8 p.m., an



informal Melva Malka will be held at the home of Rabbi Chaim & Rivkie Block to explore *The Faith Factor: Does Anyone Still Believe?* A light dinner will be served. Cost \$10 per person.

The weekend is generously sponsored by Dr. Eric & Adah Schaffer in loving memory of Dorothy & Alfred Schaffer. For reservations call (210) 764-0300 or visit www.ChabadSA.com/Schochet.

Jewish War Veterans Post 753 Corner

It is that time of the year, election of Jewish War Veterans Post 753 officers for 2019. The event will take place at the Jewish Campus on Sunday, Dec. 23 at 9 a.m. There will be a light breakfast prior to the business meeting and election. Installation of officers will take place on January 12 at the Barn Door Restaurant. For further information contact Jeff Hoffman at (210) 492-4980.

The TALO (Texas Arkansas Louisiana Oklahoma region) Mid-Winter Conclave will take place from January 18-20 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

A Bingo/Social is scheduled for Tuesday Jan. 29 at the CRTC Audie Murphy VA Hospital in San Antonio from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m.

HAPPY HANUKKAH

FROM YOUR JEWISH FEDERATION OF SAN ANTONIO

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Jewish Federation
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HANUKKAH

Chanukah celebrations with Chabad

Monday, Dec. 3, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.:
Chanukah Celebration and Menorah Lighting with YJSA at Pearl. Live music by local indie band Tera Ferna. Free and open to the community. After-party for Jewish young adults (20s-30s, couples/singles) with first drinks free at Southerleigh at 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.:
Gan Gani Chanukah Party & Family Spaghetti Dinner with children's activities and crafts, menorah lighting and more, hosted by Gan Gani Preschool at the Chabad Center, 14535 Blanco Rd. \$12/adults, \$5/children, \$45 max per family. For reservations: (210) 492-1085 or office@gangani.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.:
Latkes & Brisket Sunshine Club Luncheon for seniors at the Chabad Center. Call Nancy at Chabad: (210) 764-0300 or email info@chabadsa.com. For free transportation call Lety at SAJSS: (210) 616-4811.

Saturday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.:

CTeens Menorah Lighting at the Alamo and Car Menorah Parade. Assemble at Chabad at 7:30 p.m.; outfit car menorahs, 8 p.m. Car Menorah Parade departs for Alamo, 8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Rabbi Levi & Naomi Grossbaum of CTeen at cteen@chabadsa.com or (210) 764-0300.

Sunday, Dec. 9, 2:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.:
21st Annual Chanukah on the River
 A one-hour interactive entertainment Chanukah Cruise Experience departs from Arneson River Theater at 2:45 p.m. Cost of \$6 per person includes boat, live music, donuts, prizes, and more.

From 4 p.m. – 5:15 p.m., celebrate Jewish unity and pride at the Arneson River Theater with a menorah lighting and a free concert by Jewish music sensation Yoni Z. Koshier; concessions at a nominal fee.

For more info and reservations, www.ChanukahOnTheRiver.com or call Chabad at (210) 764-0300. Sponsored by IBC Bank, H-E-B, Holzman Family Foundation, SWBC, and Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

Rodfei Sholom to host 5th Annual December 25th Chinese Dinner

The community is invited for an evening of food and friends on Tuesday, Dec. 25 Congregation Rodfei Sholom will serve a kosher traditional Chinese dinner including egg drop soup, General Tzo chicken, sweet and sour chicken, lo mein, fried rice, veggie stir fry and fortune cookies. The annual Chinese dinner is prepared by dedicated volunteers from Rodfei Sholom's Bass Family. For more information contact the synagogue office at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3558.



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HANUKKAH

Shavano Park hosts 5th annual Hanukkah menorah lighting

The City of Shavano Park, for the fifth year, will place a Hanukkah menorah in front of the city hall offices, 900 Saddletree Court (near NW Military Hwy. and De Zavala Rd).

Beginning Sunday, Dec. 2, the community is invited to gather each evening at 6 p.m. for a half hour of holiday

songs and the lighting of the menorah. (The one exception is Shabbat evening, Friday, Dec. 7 when the menorah lighting and celebration will take place at 5 p.m.)

Often a community rabbi attends to offer a brief comment or words of wisdom, but the emphasis is fellowship, warmth and hope.

Congregation Agudas Achim invites community to holiday meals

Congregation Agudas Achim is again hosting its annual Christmas Eve Dinner at Max and Louie's as well as its annual New Year's Eve weekend potluck Shabbat dinner.

All are welcome to join Agudas Achim on Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. at Max and Louie's New York Diner for its annual dinner

together with the Jewish community. The dinner will be in the new private room at Max and Louie's. Please RSVP to the office at (210) 479-0307 or RSVP@agudas-achim.org so the restaurant can have a number count in advance.

All are also welcome on Friday, Dec. 28 for Agudas Achim's annual New Year's Eve weekend Shabbat potluck dinner. The evening will begin with musical

services as well as a Youth Experience at 6:15 p.m. followed by a dairy potluck dinner together at 7:15 p.m.

"It is important even during break times like winter break to bring the community together," said Senior Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham. "I am excited for our annual dinner as well as celebrating Shabbat together again this year. All are truly welcome to join in the communal festivities."



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Hadassah hosts Happy Rumakkeh: A Hanukkah Celebration

The Aviva Group of Hadassah San Antonio will host a unique Hanukkah celebration on Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Edward's Ridge Distillery, 16104 University Oak.

The evening offers an opportunity to taste some unique rums and rum drinks and spend an evening with friends. RSVP on the Facebook Event Page: [HadassahAvivaSA](https://www.facebook.com/HadassahAvivaSA). The cost for Hadassah members/couples who purchase their tickets in advance will be \$20/person and \$25/person at the door. Cost for non-members/couples is \$25/person, if purchased in advance, and \$30/person at the door. Each attendee will receive one drink coupon and a festive Hanukkah buffet. To prepay, pay Suzanne Patrick via Venmo (@Suzanne-Patrick-5) or PayPal <https://www.paypal.me/sbpatrik>.



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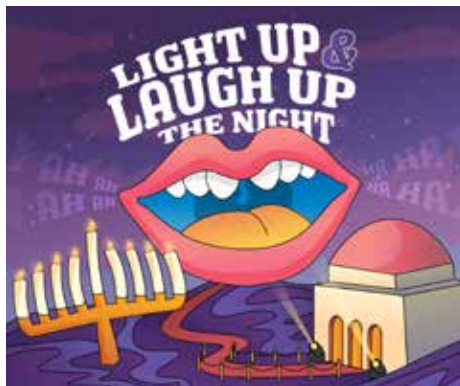
Due to the nature of live entertainment dates, times, prices, shows, actors, venues and sales are subject to change without notice. All tickets subject to convenience charges.

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HANUKKAH

Temple Beth-El to *Light Up and Laugh Up the Night* at annual Hanukkah Party

All are welcome on Thursday, Dec. 6, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in Temple Beth-El's Barshop Auditorium for a night of Comedy and a delicious Hanukkah dinner by Absolutely Delicious. It is a casual dress event for adults only. Table sponsorships (seating for 8): Gold \$1800, Silver \$1200, Bronze \$800; Single tickets \$72. Raffle tickets for a range of fabulous items can be purchased in advance or at the door for \$25 each or 5 for \$100. Tickets, tables, and raffle chances may be purchased online at http://bethelsa.formstack.com/forms/hanukkah_party.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

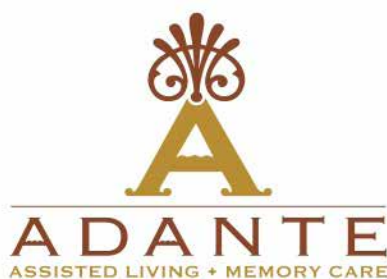


THANK A SENIOR PROVIDES MEALS FOR AREA SENIORS

Mindi Silver-Weiss (on left) of National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) presents a check for \$750 representing funds donated by NCJW members to Jewish Family Service (JFS) director of social services Kathie Jordan for the Thank a Senior program. NCJW partners with JFS each year on Thank a Senior to ensure that local seniors can enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

JLI DISCUSSES WRESTLING WITH FAITH

More than 40 students participated in JLI's fall course Wrestling with Faith offered by the Chabad Center at two San Antonio locations. The course tackled the "big issues" that keep people from experiencing a more meaningful relationship with Judaism.

For information on JLI's highly-anticipated winter course Crime and Consequence, exploring Judaism's take on crime, incarceration and rehabilitation, visit www.myJLI.com.



HEINTZ PRESCHOOL OF CONGREGATION AGUDAS ACHIM HOSTS ANNUAL GRANDPARENTS THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim hosted its annual Grandparents Day Thanksgiving Celebration. This inter-generational event brought everyone together for food, crafts, and fun. This event was made possible by a grant from San Antonio Jewish Senior Services.



FALL FUN FAIR AT GAN GANI

Fall was in the air for the children of Gan Gani Preschool who prepared their own Fall Fun Fair with the help of their morahs. The experience included creating a pumpkin geoboard, plucking corn kernels, making bird feeders, a corn husk and kernels sensory bin, pumpkin spice playdough fun, a spider workshop with Morah Margaret, and tasting classroom made pumpkin muffins and apple cider.

To schedule a tour and for more information, please call director Rivkie Block at (210) 492-1085 or email director@gangani.org.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



TEMPLE BETH-EL HOSTS ADVOCACY SHABBAT

Temple Beth-El members and friends turned out in number for an Advocacy Shabbat and potluck dinner in late October. The topic for the panel discussion was housing issues in San Antonio and featured Maria Berriozábal, Bob Comeaux, and Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl, with Ron Aaron as the moderator.



NEW PARTNERSHIP OFFERS PROGRAMMING FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED ADULTS

SA Life Academy, a day program that provides continuing education opportunities for adults who are differently abled, recently started a partnership with the Barshop JCC. Each month, SA Life Academy brings a group of young adults to the JCC to participate in a variety of programs. For November, students joined the JCC's Fit 4 Life, a class that focuses on strength, flexibility, and endurance from a seated position.



JWRP MEN'S TRIP TO ISRAEL

Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg of Congregation Rodfei Sholom led a group of San Antonio men through Israel on an exciting, physical and spiritual adventure. For more information on upcoming JWRP programs for men and women, contact Rodfei Sholom at (210) 493-3558.



SEEING THE SITES WITH TBE60S+SINGLES

Temple Beth-El's group TBE60s+Singles had a blast eating at Panchito's restaurant and then going to see the light show at San Fernando Cathedral. All are welcome to get on the mailing list for this group by contacting Geri Gregory at (210) 733-9135, ext. 120 or geri@beth-elsa.org.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



6TH ANNUAL TEXAS KOSHER BBQ CHAMPIONSHIP AT AGUDAS ACHIM

Congregation Agudas Achim hosted its 6th Annual Texas Kosher BBQ Championship on Sunday, Nov. 11. The event, attracting thousands of people, was yet again a huge success with the Shegetz Smorgerz team (pictured on left with their trophy) taking home the Grand Championship out of the 18 teams who competed. The Texas Kosher BBQ Championship is the largest Kosher BBQ competition in the United States.



L'CHAYIM CLUB FOCUSES ON BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Leigh Anne Goldstein joined the L'Chayim Club's November gathering to share her story of surviving breast cancer, and the effects of that journey on all the generations of her family. Leigh Anne was the perfect guest to commemorate Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



GIRLS ENJOY GOURMET GIVING CLUB ACTIVITIES

Gourmet Giving Club was created for Jewish girls ages 10-12 to experience a wholesome and healthy dose of Jewish fun. Participants bake, create art, work on Chessed projects and discuss all things Jewish while enjoying friendships and laughter. Upcoming events will be Mondays, Dec. 17, Jan. 14, and Jan. 28, 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. at the Chabad Center, 14535 Balnco Rd. 78216. Contact Dina Forer or Rivka Zalmanov at gourmet@chabadsa.com.



INTERGENERATIONAL THANKSGIVING LUNCH AT THE JCC

Students from the Block & Dreeben School for Young Children's pre-kindergarten classes joined members from the Barshop JCC's senior program for their annual Thanksgiving intergenerational lunch. Seniors and children shared, among other things, what they were thankful for as they enjoyed a kosher Thanksgiving feast. The intergenerational lunches, which also includes a Passover Seder, are an annual tradition bringing two of the JCC's populations together.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



AGUDAS ACHIM TEENS IN THE COMMUNITY

Congregation Agudas Achim's teenage youth group, USY (United Synagogue Youth) held a fun and successful fundraising event at Agudas Achim's monthly Brews and Schmooze program.



TBE50S+ OUT ON THE TOWN

Temple Beth-El's group TBE50s+ really "got their groove on" at DeeWillie's BBQ, where they enjoyed delicious BBQ and danced the night away to a great live band.

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YOUTH NEWS

JCC preschoolers learn about the gift of giving

At the Block and Dreeben School for Young Children, an important part of the program includes teaching children the skills, values, and concepts they will need to be successful adults. One specific value is how to share and the importance of taking care of oneself and others.

The Jewish value of giving, *tzedakah*, is about making sure that all of the world's resources – food, water, clothing, education, shelter – are shared justly. Engaging children with the idea of Tzedakah is a weekly part of the curriculum. Teachers discuss the concepts of Tzedakah as they collect coins, and the older kids vote on where the money is donated.

This quarter, the school donated over \$300 to the San Antonio Children's Shelter because the children wanted to help "other children." Other organizations who have received donations from the school include Haven for Hope, the Humane Society, and both the JCC of Houston and the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston after they were hit by hurricanes.

School director Lisa Guerrero says, "I love going into the classrooms and showing the children the paper check we send, videos of the places we donate to, and thank you letters we receive. This makes the concept tangible and the children can



see where their money goes."

Teaching children about *tzedakah* can help them understand that what they do matters and that, in small ways, they can make a difference in this world.

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JCC offers winter camp

The Barshop Jewish Community Center is offering Winter J-Camp from December 24 to January 7.

Campers will participate in crafts, cooking projects, games in the gym, and much more. In addition, Sports Camp will be offered December 31 – January 4 (no camp Monday, Jan. 1), and Tennis Camp will be offered December 26-28. Registration is available by the day, with discounts available for multi-day registrations.

Camps at the JCC are open to the community with discounted rates available to JCC members. Winter J-Camp offerings are open to children in kindergarten through sixth

grade.

Looking ahead, the JCC will also hold a Spring Break J-Camp March 11-15, as well as one-day Daytrippers programs when school is out of session January 21 (MLK Day), February 18 (Presidents Day), and April 19 (Good Friday).

To learn more about all the J-Camp offerings or register for Winter J-Camp, visit www.jccsanantonio.org/jcamp. Learn more about and sign up for Daytrippers at www.jccsanantonio.org/kidsclub. For additional information about these and other youth programs, call the Youth and Camping office at (210) 302-6859.



Heintz Preschool hosts annual Winter Wonderland Winter Camp

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim will host its annual Winter Break Camp during the last two weeks of December. This year, the camp is open for infants six weeks and older up to children 8 years old.

This year's *Winter Wonderland* camp will feature science experiments, games, arts and crafts, sports, cooking projects and more. Children will paint with frozen "Ice Pops", make shaving cream snowman, and pipe cleaner snowflakes, just to name a few of the fun activities. Heintz Preschool prides itself on its innovative academics with its motto of *Creating Creative Curiosity* in its students.

Camp will be held Wednesday to Friday from December 26 to December 28 and January 2 to January 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Early and late stay is available from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Registration is available by the day or for each week. For more information about Winter Camp or Heintz Preschool in general, including touring the school, contact the Heintz Preschool Director, Taryn Bretado at t.bretado@agudas-achim.org or (210) 479-0429.

Congregation Rodfei Sholom to honor San Antonio Hebrew language teachers

On January 20, 2019, Congregation Rodfei Sholom will host its annual fundraiser honoring our community's long-time Hebrew Language teachers, Ayelet Kboudi, Hagit Lifshitz, Barbara Weizer, Levana Kovo, Orah Abramoff, Daniella Ritter, Sara Purcell and Aviva Bass for their long-time work with all of San Antonio's Jewish children.

This group of women has fostered Jewish and Hebraic learning for San

Antonio's Jewish children for over thirty years. Anyone born and raised here in San Antonio surely studied for his or her Bar/Bat Mitzvah with one of these exceptional women.

The community is invited to purchase ads in the tribute book to be presented on the evening of the fundraiser or by purchasing tickets to attend the event. Contact the synagogue office at (210) 493-3558 to learn more about sponsorship and tribute book opportunities.

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Camp Rodfei in session during winter break

Camp Rodfei will be back again this winter from December 24-28, welcoming back SEED counselors for a fun filled winter break. Activities will include arts and crafts, cooking and singing, field trips and the ever popular Rodfei slushie machine. Camp will run from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. for all children, ages 4-12. Camp will also feature a special EMTZA-NCSY event, planned specifically for middle schoolers.

For more information on Camp Rodfei, contact Congregation Rodfei Sholom at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3558.

At Issue: Tsuris Over Soros

Last May, TV Marti, a Spanish-language broadcast financed by the United States and aimed at Cuba, aired a 15-minute program about George Soros. Claiming that he was “the architect of the financial collapse of 2008,” it described him as “the multimillionaire Jew of Hungarian origin” and “a non-believing Jew of flexible morals.” Arizona Senator Jeff Flake denounced the program as “tax-payer funded anti-Semitism.” Outcry over use of government media to defame the investor and philanthropist prompted the U.S. Agency for Global Media, which has oversight over TV Marti, to suspend and investigate the producers.

However, it has become open season on 88-year-old Soros. The homepage of the website for Stan Stanart, who was running for re-election as Harris County clerk, proclaimed: “Make NO mistake, George Soros wants to control Harris County Elections and Stan Stanart is in his way.” Anti-Soros canards have flown from the sewers of the alt-right internet – which regularly accuses Soros, a Holocaust survivor, of complicity in the murder of Hungarian Jews – into the Oval Office. President Donald Trump has repeatedly insinuated – without evidence – that Soros financed opposition to the Brett Kavanaugh nomination and bankrolled the migration of Central American refugees. The first of the pipe bombs sent in October to opponents of the president – allegedly by Trump supporter Cesar Sayoc – was addressed to Soros’s residence in Katonah, New York.

Anti-Semitism in the



Perspective:

STEVEN G. KELLMAN

United States has usually meant restrictions on housing, education, and employment. But the massacre at Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life Synagogue, just five days after a pipe bomb materialized in Soros’s mailbox, demonstrates that some anti-Semites feel emboldened toward violence. Soros is their Anti-Christ, the quintessential Jewish adversary (Judas Iscariot was Jewish, though, of course, so was Jesus). Said to be worth \$28 billion, he has succeeded

the Rothschilds as the vile embodiment of Jewish avarice and stealth. Soros is not usually accused of poisoning wells and abducting Gentile children, but many of the other tropes of classical Jew-hatred are applied to him. He said to be the CEO of a Jewish cabal intent on imposing a sinister New World Order. Many of the accusations could have been lifted from *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, the 1903 Russian forgery designed to incite pogroms.

Soros has in fact donated much of his considerable fortune to laudable causes. He was instrumental in Eastern Europe’s transition from Communism to democracy. He founded

the Central European University in Prague, as a counter to institutions that lacked genuine academic freedom. The Open Society Foundations, to which he has donated more than \$32 billion, promotes public health, education, and human rights.

The word *cabal* is derived from Kabbalah, the esoteric discipline of Jewish mysticism. In his devotion to *tikkun olam*, one of its key concepts, Soros

is a Kabbalist, not a cabalist. Neither he nor the people he is thought to represent deserve to be slandered or murdered.

Steven G. Kellman is a professor of comparative literature at UTSA. The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.



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JCC Author & Speaker Series continues in January

The Barshop JCC's 2018-19 Author & Speaker Series will continue next month with Juli Berwald, who will discuss her book *Spineless: The Science of Jellyfish and the Art of Growing a Backbone*. The event will be Sunday, Jan. 13 at the JCC at 5 p.m.

Spineless is about jellyfish, and yes, jellyfish are spineless. They are gross, gooey – and they sting. But jellyfish are also positioned for success in today's carbon-rich, polluted, overfished, and overdeveloped ocean. The message from jellyfish is that we haven't yet taken responsibility for our impacts on our planet. A gap exists between where we are and where we are still realizing we need to be. There's opportunity in that gap, but to cross it, we need to grow a spine.

In 2018, Betsy Cowan, JCC's Chief Program Officer, attended the Jewish Book Council's annual Network Conference in New York City. Hundreds of authors spoke for two minutes each to showcase their books. The JCC typically brings in 4 to 5 authors each season, so narrowing down from the pool can be a challenge. According to Betsy, what made Berwald, who is from Austin, stand out was the "interplay of personal memoir and science, and the compelling message of *Tikkun Olam* and caring for our oceans."

Tickets for the event are \$9.50 (online) or \$10 (in-person/phone), or \$30 for admission plus a copy of *Spineless* (plus tax). Visit www.jccsanantonio.org/authorspeakerseries or call (210) 302-6820 for more information.

Barshop JCC Jewish Film Festival kicks off in January

The JCC's 2019 Jewish Film Festival will kick off Saturday, Jan. 5 with a screening of the documentary *Itzhak*. The screening begins at 7:30 p.m. with a dessert reception starting at 7 p.m.

From Schubert to Strauss, Bach to Brahms, Mozart to...Billy Joel, Itzhak Perlman's violin playing transcends mere performance to evoke the celebrations and struggles of real life.

Alison Chernick's documentary looks beyond the sublime musician to see the polio survivor whose parents emigrated from Poland to Israel, and the young man who struggled to be taken seriously as a music student when schools saw only his disability. *Itzhak* himself is funny, irreverent and self-deprecating, and here his life story unspools in conversations with masterful musicians, family and friends, and most endearingly his devoted wife of 50 years, Toby.

Itzhak and Toby's lives are dedicated to their large, loving, Jewish family in NYC, and their continual support of young musicians.

As charming and entrancing as the famous violinist himself, *Itzhak* is a portrait of musical virtuosity seamlessly enclosed in warmth, humor, and above all, love.



Tickets are on sale Monday, Dec. 3; advanced reservations are strongly encouraged.

Patrons who purchase online will get the best deal at \$9.50 per ticket, including all service fees. Tickets purchased over the phone or in person are \$10, and tickets purchased at the door are \$15.

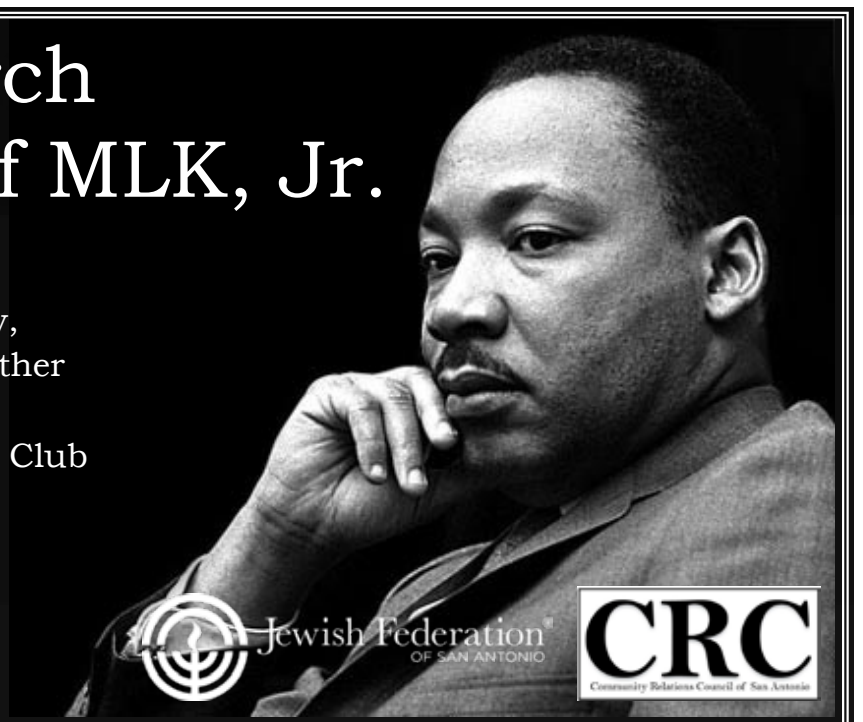
Visit www.jccsanantonio.org/filmfestivalkickoff or call (210) 302-6820 for additional information.

Tickets for the 18th Annual Jewish Film Festival will go on sale Monday, Jan. 7.

Community Unity March Honoring the Legacy of MLK, Jr. Monday, January 21, 2019

The CRC is organizing our ENTIRE Jewish community, regardless of congregational affiliation, to march together under a single banner. Park and ride available at the Freeman Coliseum. Meet at the Eastside Boys & Girls Club at 9am, march begins at 10am.

Community Hats are also available for purchase for \$8 at JFSATX.ORG or \$10 at congregations and the march. Proceeds will go towards funding the Unity March!



Temple Beth-El invites book lovers for TBE Book Chavurah

One of Temple Beth-El's newest Chavurot is the TBE Book Chavurah. It is intended for adults who love to read and then discuss books together. It is open to everyone in the community.

The dates and books for future meetings (Tuesdays at 7 p.m.) every other month at Temple Beth-El are:

December 18: *Rules of Civility*, by Amor Towles
February 26: *The Coffee Trader*, by David Liss

April 23: *Lincoln in the Bardo*, by George Saunders

June 25: *The Museum of Extraordinary Things*, by Alice Hoffman

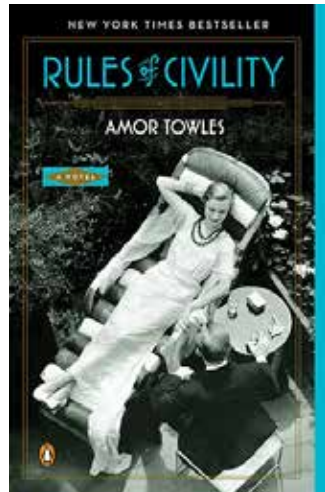
In addition, the Bendiner Library will offer the following books to be discussed:

Sunday, Jan. 27 at 10 a.m.: Dr. Victoria Aarons, Professor of English at Trinity University, will lead a discussion of Phillips Roth's last novel, *Nemesis*.

Thursday, March 7 at 7 p.m.: *Semitism: Being Jewish in America in the Age of Trump*, by Jonathan Weisman. The discussion will be held at a private residence.

Thursday, May 16 at 7 p.m.: *The Magnificent Esme Wells*, by Adrienne Sharp. Mark Ingram will lead the discussion at a private residence.

If you are interested in being on the notification list for this group, or just would like further information, contact Geri Gregory at (210) 733-9135, ext. 120, or geri@beth-elsa.org.



Remembering deceased Jewish military veterans

Jewish War Veterans of America Post 753 asks you to remember these Jewish military veterans whose yahrzeit (anniversary of individual's death) occurs in the month of December 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	Duff, John	Michaels, Drew	Scherr, Hyman
Aaronson, Alvin	Esserick, Ben	Miller, Bernard	Schwarzkopf, Sidney
Alberts, William	Fein, Walter	Moretsky, Harold	Seidman, Jacob
Appelstein, Rose	Frank, Melvin	Narter, Sidney	Seligmann, Irving
Barshop, Sam	Garcia, Brunetta	Nault, Wendy	Semegran, Michael
Benson, Esteban	Gensberg, Frank	Nemerow, Steven	Silberman, Samuel
Blum, Carl	Gitzes, Joseph	Nossof, Gabriel	Smith, Zavell
Chosed, Albert	Gottlieb, A.	Oppenheimer, Daniel	Stepner, Paul
Cohan, David	Grunfeld, Albert	Palm, Joseph	Stockman, Lily
Cohen, Jerome	Half, Harry	Patterson, James	Suarez, Cecilio
Cohen, Solomon	Kaplan, Jonathan	Pfieffer, John	Tebelle, Isadore
Cole, Stephen	Kimmelman, Abraham	Phillips, Henry	Weintraub, Michael
Copeland, Anthony	Levine, Samuel	Pomerantz, Mark	Weissberg, Samuel
Davis, Donald	Lewis, Charles	Recktor, Morris	Wolff, Richard
Davis, Michael	Lowell, Walford	Reisfield, Harold	Wolfson, Sidney
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City of Beverly Hills condemns Airbnb decision to drop rentals in West Bank settlements

(JTA) — The Beverly Hills, California City Council unanimously passed a resolution condemning Airbnb's decision to remove listings of rentals in Israeli settlements in the West Bank and is encouraging a boycott of the web service.

The resolution passed in late November states Airbnb's decision demonstrates "hatred, prejudice, ignorance and hypocrisy." It also said Airbnb's actions "are antithetical to the values that we hold dear in Beverly Hills," adding "prejudice and discrimination based on religion have no place in our community, country and



Nati Rom, the founder of Israel's Lev Haolam organization, which is active against the Palestinian-led boycott movement against Israel, walks next to an Airbnb apartment located in the Esh Kodesh outpost near the Jewish settlement of Shilo in the occupied West Bank, Nov. 20, 2018. (Menahem Kahana/AFP/Getty Images)

world."

The resolution noted that the City of Beverly Hills opposes Airbnb's "discriminatory decision

to remove all listings in Jewish settlements in the West Bank," and calls on Airbnb to "correct this act of disrespect to the land of

Israel and restore its original services immediately"

The resolution concludes that if Airbnb does not change its decision "we call upon all civilized people across the globe to boycott Airbnb until such time as they desist from these despicable anti-Semitic actions."

Airbnb on Nov. 19 announced it would remove the listings of some 200 rooms and homes for rent in West Bank Jewish settlements. At least one Israeli settler has already filed suit, claiming Airbnb operates under discriminatory business practices.

"We find the actions of Airbnb deplorable," said Beverly Hills Mayor Julian Gold in a statement. "On behalf of our residents, this unanimous resolution reflects the City Council's ongoing commitment to Israel and to exposing hatred anywhere it exists."

"Airbnb is not welcome in Beverly Hills as long as its policies are based on anti-Jewish double standards," Vice Mayor John Mirisch said in the statement issued by the city. "Jew hatred is a disease. We can try to inoculate others against this malady but we also must protect ourselves against its effects."

Palestinian to be buried in Jewish cemetery

(JTA) -- A chief rabbi of Jerusalem allowed a Palestinian man to be buried in a Jewish cemetery following his body's exclusion by imams over his sale of real estate to Jews.

Aryeh Stern, the Ashkenazi chief rabbi of Israel's capital, ruled as a rabbinical judge that Alah Kirsh may be buried at a Jewish cemetery as an exception because he was a "righteous gentile," Ynet reported.

Kirsh and five others were killed in a traffic accident on Nov. 4. His family sought to bury his body at their Muslim cemetery in eastern Jerusalem, but the imams turned them away because he had been accused of selling real estate in that part of the capital to Jews several years ago.

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House unanimously condemns anti-Semitic attack on Pittsburgh synagogue

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously approved a bipartisan resolution condemning the “anti-Semitic attack” on a synagogue in Pittsburgh that left 11 worshippers dead.

The November 14 resolution honors “the memory of the victims of the attack, and offering condolences to and expressing support for their families, friends, and community.” A gunman shouting anti-Semitic epithets

raided a synagogue complex and killed the worshippers on Oct. 27 before police subdued and arrested him.

Rep. Mike Doyle, the Pennsylvania Democrat who represents the Squirrel Hill neighborhood that is home to the Tree of Life synagogue complex, introduced the resolution. He was joined by the co-chairs of the House of Representatives Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Anti-Semitism: Reps

Nita Lowey and Eliot Engel, both D-N.Y.; Chris Smith, R-N.J.; Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla.; Ted Deutch, D-Fla.; Kay Granger, R-Texas; Marc Veasey, D-Texas; and Peter Roskam, R-Ill.

“We will carry the memory of those lost in the Tree of Life synagogue building attack, the deadliest anti-Semitic incident in U.S. history, and work to ensure that all Americans are free to worship in peace and security,” the task force said in a statement.

The resolution, which says it “stands with the Jewish community in Pittsburgh, the United States, and across the world,” also “condemns rising anti-Semitism in the United States and around the world”; “reaffirms the commitment of the United States and its allies to defeat anti-Semitism in all its forms throughout the world”; and “supports the right of Americans to freely exercise their religious beliefs and rejects all forms of terror and hate.”

LEARN

continued from page 1

suffered at the hands of the Nazi regime.

Each year, a central theme is placed around Learn and Remember. This year’s theme is Resistance.

This year, two exhibits from Yad Vashem, the official memorial center in Israel dedicated to the victims of the Holocaust, will be showcased to highlight the theme:

“Shoah” exhibits the historical aspects of the Holocaust through the lives of the survivors. Spanning life before, during, and after the Holocaust, the exhibit ends with the remarkable return of the survivors to life after atrocity. This exhibit will showcase artifacts, texts, photographs, and personal stories from the survivors.

“Besa” exhibits the lives of those on the other side of the Holocaust, the rescuers. The exhibit features photos by American photographer Norman Gershman and the personal stories of Muslim-Albanian families who helped save Jews from the Holocaust. In Albania, the word “besa” is an honorific

word meaning “Pledge of honor”, and still holds the place of the highest ethical code in Albania today.

Both Yad Vashem exhibits will be on display at San Antonio Central Library, 600 Soledad St.

The Holocaust Memorial Museum will also be displaying an exhibit on the Lodz Ghetto, located in Lodz,

Poland. The Lodz Ghetto imprisoned over 245,000 Jewish and Roma within a meager 4.3 square miles in the city of Lodz. The ghetto operated from December 1940 until the fall of 1944, but would not be liberated until January 19, 1945 by the Soviet Red Army. Out of the 245,000 people imprisoned there, only 877 Jews survived

in the ghetto until liberation. In total, only 10,000 of the Jewish residents of Lodz would survive the Holocaust across Europe. The exhibit will feature artifacts such as paper money and coins specifically made for use in the Lodz Ghetto, and photographs from Ghetto survivor Henryk Ross, who buried thousands of

photograph negatives during the ghetto’s operation, and later survived the liquidation of the ghetto and returned to dig up his negatives.

Events will be held all across San Antonio at various branches of the San Antonio Public Library. For more information please call (210) 302-6807 or visit our website at hmmmsa.org.





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US votes 'No' on UN resolution about Israel's control of Golan

(JTA) -- The United States voted "No" on a U.N. resolution criticizing Israel's control of the Golan Heights rather than abstain as it has in previous years.

Nikki Haley, the outgoing U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, announced the decision in a statement prior to the General Assembly vote on November 23.

"In previous years, the United States has abstained from voting on

this resolution," she wrote about the annual passing of a draft resolution titled The Occupied Syrian Golan. However, "given the resolution's anti-Israel bias, as well as the militarization of the Syrian Golan border, and a worsening humanitarian crisis, this year the United States has decided to vote no.

"If this resolution ever made sense, it surely does not today. The resolution is plainly biased against Israel.

Further, the atrocities the Syrian regime continues to commit prove its lack of fitness to govern anyone."

Israel annexed the Golan Heights in 1981 after capturing them from Syria in the 1967 war. Syrian troops had used the volcanic plateau frequently as an elevated position to fire on Israeli troops and settlements.

In 2011, Syrian President Bashar Assad saw the eruption of a civil war, stoked by

sectarian hatred between his country's Sunni majority and his ruling Alawite minority -- a group with Shiite affiliations -- and its Druze allies. He had lost control of most of Syria's territory until regaining much of it thanks to Russian military intervention and Iranian support.

Nearly half a million people have died in the war, and millions have been injured and displaced.

"The destructive influence of the Iranian regime inside Syria presents major threats to international security," Haley said. "ISIS and other terrorist groups remain in Syria. And

this resolution does nothing to bring any parties closer to a peace agreement."

The United States has voted previously against U.N. resolutions singling out Israel over its control of the Golan.

In 2016, under then-President Barack Obama, the United States voted "No" with Canada, Israel and three Pacific nations that called for peace talks between Syria and Israel and Lebanon and Israel to be restarted immediately, and for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The resolution passed by a large majority.

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Please send corrections and additions to the Journal editor at [jewishj@jfsatx.org](mailto: jewishj@jfsatx.org).

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Board Chair: Danna Half Website: www.jccsanantonio.org

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America
Website: www.hadassah.org www.facebook.com/hadassah
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Contact: Roberta Abelman. rabelmanesatx.rr.com

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National Council Of Jewish Women (NCJW)
Website: www.ncjwsa.org For Membership Information: Cathy Pottorf - catpot52@gmail.com

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MAZAL TOV



Anna Victoria Chester Bat Mitzvah

Anna Victoria Chester will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, Dec. 1 at Congregation Agudas Achim. She is the daughter of Adam and Keng Chester, and the older sister of Amanda. Anna is the granddaughter of Rabbi Steven and Leona Chester of Oakland, California and Weera (of blessed memory) and Linjee Sintrakool of Bangkok, Thailand.

Anna is currently in the 8th grade at the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy (EKHLA), where she has taken a daily Hebrew class throughout elementary school and middle school. She is a member of the National Junior Honor Society, and enjoys reading, tumbling, and riding roller coasters.

For her mitzvah project, Anna is collecting food for and volunteering at the San Antonio Food Bank.

Anna is very much looking forward to visiting Israel for the first time in February 2019, as part of her school's annual 8th grade trip to Israel.



Joseph Louis Kempler Bar Mitzvah

Joseph Louis Kempler, son of Ben and Claudia Kempler of Berlin, Germany, was called to the Torah on October 20 at the Oranienburger Strasse Synagogue in Berlin.

The family connection to this historic synagogue goes back nearly 100 years when Joe's great-grandfather, Sidney Kempler, z'l, became a Bar Mitzvah in 1924. In addition, Sidney and Margo Kempler, also of blessed memory, were married here in 1938. It was the site of his brother Moritz' Bar Mitzvah in 2016.

Joe is the grandson of Herbert and Hilde Sperling of Angemunde, Germany and Les and Debbie Kempler of San Antonio, and the great-grandson of Ivy Brook and Bob Brook, z'l.

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