

Happy Hanukkah! Let the celebration begin at sundown December 6, 2015.



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

KISLEV – TEVET 5776

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

DECEMBER 2015



WINTER BREAK FUN!

Missing summer friends and fun? Sign-up for a winter camp!

PAGE 26-27



WHAT'S HAPPENING

As a community, we are stronger together. See what everyone's been up to!

PAGE 18-19



MAKE IT A MITZVAH MONTH

Volunteer opportunities abound this month. Looking to get involved?

PAGE 34



PJ Library Goes to School unifies San Antonio Jewish preschools

San Antonio's three Jewish early childhood centers the Barshop Jewish Community Center's Block and Dreeben School for Young Children, Gan Gani Preschool of Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning, and Heintz Preschool at Agudas Achim gathered on November 11 for a collaborative, enriching day of learning for their faculty.

See **PJ LIBRARY**, page 12

(l to r) Celina Geidesman, Heintz Preschool director; Lauren Abraham, PJ Library San Antonio Coordinator; Lisa Litman, National PJ Library Goes To School director; Rivkie Block, Gan Gani director; and Alissa Levey Baugh JCC Block and Dreeben School director.



How can we collectively bring light into the world in 2016?

Join Federation's campaign to serve those in need near and far.

Details on pages 5 & 7

Updated *Chanukah on the River* schedule

The *Chanukah on the River* Cruise on Sunday, Dec. 13 will leave from the Arneson River Theatre landing at 1 p.m. NOT at 3 p.m. as previously announced. Chanukah Wonderland will begin at 1:30 p.m. at Maverick Plaza in La Villita and go until 3:30 p.m. The Menorah Lighting ceremony and concert will begin at 3:30 p.m. and end at 4:30 p.m.

"This new schedule will

minimize the amount of walking between venues and will shorten the duration of the program. This will allow families to make it home at a decent hour for their own menorah lighting and Chanukah celebrations" said Rabbi Levi Teldon, Program Director at Chabad.

For more information and reservations please contact Chabad or visit www.chanukahontheriver.com.

Torahs rescued following the Holocaust on display

This Hanukkah Congregation Rodfei Sholom will celebrate the miracle of the small cruse of oil discovered in the ruins of the Temple, with three Torahs rescued from the ruins of the Holocaust. They will be displayed at the synagogue Thursday, Dec. 10 through Sunday, Dec. 13. The Torahs will give light to our community.



For over 75 years, thousands of Torahs

See **TORAHs**, page 37

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



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EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS:

The submission deadline for the JANUARY 2016 issue of the Jewish Journal is **DECEMBER 11, 2015** at noon.
All materials submitted after this date will be considered for the following issue.
How to submit: Email submissions to jewishj@jfsatx.org
• Articles & Announcements - Email as word documents. Articles submitted for consideration are subject to editing.
• Photos - Email high resolution images (300 dpi) in jpg attachments only.

ADVERTISING:

To place an advertisement or request ad rates, contact Sandy Leigh at (240) 498-8999 or advertising@jfsatx.org.
Ad deadlines for JANUARY 2016 ISSUE:
• Ad space reservations due no later than DECEMBER 11, 2015 noon;
• Press ready ads due by DECEMBER 14, 2015.
Please include a contact name and phone number with all submissions.
The Jewish Journal is a free publication of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, and is published in print and online 11 times a year as a public service to the community. Donations to offset production and mailing costs are always welcome.

JEWISH JOURNAL EDITORIAL POLICY

The Jewish Journal of San Antonio is a monthly publication created and paid for by the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. The Journal's primary focus is creating awareness and engagement within the local Jewish community about activities, programs and issues with which the Jewish Federation is involved.
As a service to the broader Jewish community, area synagogues and organizations are invited to submit content relevant to the Jewish community at large for publication consideration.
Items selected for publication are done so solely at the discretion of the Journal Editor and the Jewish Federation. Submissions may be edited and/or re-written for content and length.
We aim to fairly reflect the breadth and depth of activities and Jewish life taking place in the San Antonio Jewish community.

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SECOND ANNUAL

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Presented by Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning in cooperation with our community synagogues & Jewish organizations.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: December 2015

December 1

- JCC: Hands on Chanukah, The Campus, 3:30 p.m.
- Yud tes Kislev Community Dinner, Chabad Center, 6 p.m.
- Informational Meeting for Upcoming December 2016 Trip to Israel, Temple Beth-El, 6:15p.m.
- JFSA, "SUPER SWEEPS" Phone-a-thon, 7 p.m.
- Temple Beth-El Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

December 2

- JCC Board Meeting, The Campus, 7:30 p.m.
- Rodfei Sholom Book Club, 7:30 p.m.

December 3

- Agudas Achim Simcha Social Club with Hazzan Lipton, 11:30 a.m.
- Agudas Hanukkah Storytime with Rabbi Abraham, Barnes & Noble, 4:30 p.m.
- GMJSS Meet-Up at the McNay, 6 p.m.
- *Shower the Community with Love*, JFSA Women's Philanthropy Event, The Campus, 7 p.m.
- TBE30s40s, 7 p.m.

December 4

- Temple Beth-El, Class Retreat (Dec 4-6)

- Scholar in Residence: Rabbi Tokayer, Chabad Center (Dec 4-5)

- First Friday Shabbat & Dinner, Temple Beth-El, 5:30 p.m.

December 5

- STARZ Presents *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, 7 p.m.

December 6

- **Erev Hanukkah**
- Hanukkah Party at Rodfei, 6:30 p.m.
- Agudas Achim Hands on Hanukkah, Vineyard-Whole Foods, 12 p.m.
- Sisterhood Program, Temple Beth-El, 12 p.m.
- STARZ Presents *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, 2 p.m. & 4:30 p.m.

December 7

- **Hanukkah (Dec 7-14)**
- Torah Academy of San Antonio Chanukah Party, Rodfei Sholom, 6 p.m.

December 8

- Chabad/Gan Gani Chanukah Dinner, Chabad Center, 5 p.m.
- NCJW Trashy Book Club at the home of Cathy Pottorf, 6:30 p.m.
- JFSA Board Meeting, The Campus, 7 p.m.
- NCJW, *Bye-Bye Rabbi* at the IBC, 7:30 p.m.

December 9

- L'Chayim Club for Seniors, Rodfei, 11:30 a.m.
- Lots of Latkes Dinner & Program, Agudas Achim, 6 p.m.
- Chabad Chanukah at the Pearl, 6 p.m.

December 10

- Jewish & Catholic Hanukkah Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.
- Hanukkah Party, Temple Beth-El, 7 p.m.
- Recovered Torahs on Display with Speaker Explanation, Rodfei Sholom, 7 p.m.

December 12

- Nova Presents, *Cinderella Kids*, 7 p.m.
- Recovered Torahs on Display, Speaker at Shabbat Services, Rodfei Sholom, 11:15 a.m.

December 13

- Recovered Torahs on Display, Learn Their History at Rodfei Sholom, All Day
- Cycle for Good, The Campus, 9 a.m.

- Alamo-Brandeis B'nai B'rith Business Meeting, 10:30 a.m.

- Chabad Chanukah on the River & Chanukah Wonderland, Arneson River Theater, 1 p.m.

- JCC Dance Showcase, 3 p.m.

- Jewish Family Services: Latke Event, The Campus, 4:30 p.m.

- Nova Presents, *Cinderella Kids*, The Campus, 7 p.m.

December 15

- Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Games Day, 10 a.m.

December 16

- Great Big San Antonio Challah Bake, Rodfei Sholom, All Day

December 17

- Author Lecture: The Return of the Jewish Nation to its Land, Rodfei Sholom, 12 p.m.
- Agudas Achim Moonlight Supper Club, 7 p.m.
- Campaign Closing, Jewish Federation of San Antonio, 7 p.m.

- Author Lecture: The Land of Israel –The Real Story, 7 p.m.

December 19

- Family Shabbat, Temple Beth-El, 9 a.m.
- Club Agudas Achim, 7 p.m.
- Young Couples Club of Agudas at Hacienda De Los Barrios, 7 p.m.

December 21

- Winter J-Camp (Dec. 21-31 with no camp on Dec 25), 9:30 a.m.
- Rodfei Winter Camp (Dec. 21 – 31) 9 a.m.
- GMJSS Board Meeting, The Campus, 7 p.m.

December 24

- PJ Pizza Pajama Party, The Campus, 5:30 p.m.
- Family Movie Night & Dinner, Agudas Achim, 6 p.m.

December 25

- Rodfei Annual Trip to the Zoo, 10 a.m.
- Shabbat Dinner with Chinese Food, Rodfei Sholom, 6:30 p.m.



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YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday, Dec 4, 2015 Shabbat, Dec 5, 2015	Light Candles at: 5:17 P.M. Shabbat Ends: 6:13 P.M.
Friday, Dec 11, 2015 Shabbat, Dec 12, 2015	Light Candles at: 5:18 P.M. Shabbat Ends: 6:15 P.M.
Friday, Dec 18, 2015 Shabbat, Dec 19, 2015	Light Candles at: 5:20 P.M. Shabbat Ends: 6:17 P.M.
Friday, Dec 25, 2015 Shabbat, Dec 26, 2015	Light Candles at: 5:23 P.M. Shabbat Ends: 6:21 P.M.
Friday, Jan 1, 2016 Shabbat, Jan 2, 2016	Light Candles at: 5:28 P.M. Shabbat Ends: 6:25 P.M.

December 27

- Jewish War Veterans Post 753 Business Meeting & Election, The Campus, 9:30 a.m.
- Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner, Honoring the Veterans, Agudas Achim, 6:15 p.m.

January 1

- New Years Day
- First Friday Family Shabbat & Dinner, Temple Beth-El, 5:30 p.m.

January 5

- Sisterhood Book Review, Agudas Achim, 10 a.m.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Helene Fitell
Trudy Harris
Edwin Henkin
Audrey Slotter

- Temple Beth-El Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

January 7

- AIPAC Club Event, 6:30 p.m.

Make a difference in the world around you

I am not a fan of the month of December. I do not care for the shorter days and the longer nights, nor do I like the cold of winter (growing up in Cleveland I know what that can really mean). But what I most dislike about December is the focus on “things” and the receiving of material objects. We live in a culture of consumption, and there is no month of the year that better embodies this culture of consumption than the month of December.

Fortunately, we also live our lives by the Hebrew calendar, and December typically corresponds with *Kislev*. While it is still dark and cold, the month of *Kislev* brings us the lights of Hanukkah and the warmth of family (and latkes and sufganiyot). I also love the simplicity of the Hanukkah rituals. A hanukkah and a window



Letter from our CEO

RONIT SHERWIN

for display are all you need to complete the mitzvah of the holiday. Adding some dreidels, chocolate gelt and a sack of potatoes for latkes seem minimalist relative to the overabundance of accessories and tchachkes around the rest of our city this month. Hanukkah is about a great miracle of survival and perseverance and our celebration of pride as a people of strength.

Last month, I attended the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) General Assembly. With 3,000 Jewish leaders, professionals and community volunteers I learned and was inspired over three days in

Washington, DC. There were many fantastic speakers – David Gregory, Debra Messing and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, to name a few. While I was moved to tears by many of these famous individuals of our Jewish family, I was particularly inspired by the remarks of Harold Gernsbacher.

Harold is the new National Campaign Chair for the Jewish Federation movement, which is a significant leadership position with great responsibility. Harold is not just a macher, as my grandfather would say, he is also a mensch. Harold impressed me not by the fact that he contributes a significant amount of financial resources to his local Jewish Federation

See **LETTER**, page 7

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But while you're doing them, why not do good things for your global family as well?
Like nurturing and strengthening Jewish life. Helping the vulnerable. Inspiring the young. And
safeguarding our people.

This Hanukkah, change Jewish lives for the better Everywhere. — in San Antonio, Israel and 60
countries around the world. You can do it from ANYWHERE— **even your own kitchen.**

Your gift to the Federation's 2015 Annual Community Campaign enables us to accomplish all this
and more. You are an integral part of all we do.

Visit us at www.jfsatx.org to donate and make a difference today.

Jonathan Gurwitz, Chair, 2015 Annual Campaign ★ Richard Planto, Chair, Board of Directors



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Message of Condolences and Support for the People of France

The Jewish Community of San Antonio is saddened and outraged by the terrorists attacks in Paris this past weekend. We wish to extend condolences to the people of France, and we stand in solidarity with France in their efforts to fight against such terrorism and murder of innocent lives.

Please see below the letter to the leadership of the French Jewish community on behalf of the Jewish Federations of North America.

L'shalom,

Richard Planto, Chair of the Board of Directors
Ronit Sherwin, CEO

November 16, 2015

M. Roger Cukierman, President, CRIF
M. Joel Mergi, President, Consistoire
M. Ariel Goldmann, President, FSJU

Dear Friends,

We are writing to you on behalf of Jewish Federations across North America to express our solidarity and concern, to you and the entire French Jewish community over the horrific attacks that took place in Paris over Shabbat.

While it does not seem that the attacks specifically targeted the Jewish community, we are well aware of how these outrageous acts of terror have shaken the people of France, and how vulnerable the Jewish community is also feeling.

Of course, free people across the globe stand shoulder to shoulder with all of France today. But at this time, you should also know that millions of Jewish people throughout North America, and indeed around the world, are thinking of the French Jewish community and are standing by your side, sending messages of unity and support.

We are deeply troubled by the unsettling climate across all of Europe and when innocent people are targeted as occurred last Friday, the pain is felt by us all.

Please convey our support to the entire Jewish community and indeed to all the people of France.

Nos coeurs sont unis avec la communauté juive de France.

Sincerely,

Richard V. Sandler
Chair, Board of Trustees

Susan K. Stern
Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

Jerry Silverman
President & CEO

Stronger together as Campaign giving increases

The miracle of Hanukkah is that a small amount of oil sufficient for only a single day lasted eight full days, even as the oil diminished. Yet Hillel instructed that the Hanukkah menorah should be lit in ascending order, with one candle on the first day growing to eight rather than eight decreasing to one. Among the explanations offered by the Talmud is that we should strive to increase our holiness, or to perform even greater mitzvot, including bringing light to the world.

Just as there are eight ascending Hanukkah candles, Maimonides taught that there are eight levels of the mitzvah of tzedakah. Maimonides'



Campaign Commentary

JONATHAN GURWITZ,
Annual Campaign Chair

"golden ladder" ascends from the person who gives but does so grudgingly, to the highest level of one who "strengthens the hands of an Israelite who faces poverty, giving him a gift or a loan, entering into a business partnership with him, or giving him a job in order to strengthen his hand and to prevent him from becoming an object of tzedakah."

Just as the first candle

See **CAMPAIGN**, page 12

LETTER

continued from page 5

of Dallas, but because Harold describes himself as a "community worker," a Fort Worth boy from modest beginnings. Harold stated, "The more I have, the more I give. And the more I give, the more I have."

Giving. Tzedakah - justice. Gemulut chasadim - acts of lovingkindness.

These are our Jewish values that serve as our foundation and motivate our actions. Like Harold Gernsbacher, I too feel fuller when I give of myself, my time and my resources, and I know that by doing so, I can make a difference in the world.

This month let's not be consumed by receiving. Let's focus on giving to make a difference.

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The role of truth in Holocaust history

The importance of accuracy in Holocaust Historiography recently emerged in statements by the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu regarding the role of Hajj Muhammad Amin Al-Husseini. Netanyahu referred to Al-Husseini as having a prominent role in the extermination of the Jews under the Nazi regime. The Prime Minister later backed away from the comment placing it in a wider context, stating that he did not intend to absolve Hitler.

Al Hussein became the Mufti of Jerusalem under the British Mandate prior to World War II. When he became a leader of the Arab revolt in the 1930's



**CRC
Commentary**

**JUDY
LACKRITZ**

he had to flee to Lebanon in 1937 to escape the British authorities. In November of 1941 he ended up in Berlin where he proposed to bring about Arab and Muslim support for the Axis powers in return for recognition of his leadership in the Arab World. It should be noted that he represented neither a political entity nor a clear constituency.

Though it is well documented that the Mufti was a fervent supporter of the Nazis and their

extermination plans, according to Michael Sells, professor of Islamic History and Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Chicago, there is not definitive evidence that he was actually close to Adolf Eichmann, that he made multiple visits to the concentration camps, or that he had influence over the plans for the Final Solution of the Jews.

The concern is that placing the Mufti in a more prominent role in the genocide of the Jews can be a misuse of Holocaust history for political purposes in the Israeli Arab conflict.

What emerges as paramount in the story therefore is that Holocaust

history has to be very carefully documented and based on fact, especially in the face of the continuing onslaught of Holocaust denial. Harry Mazal, who lived his last years in San Antonio devoting himself to the Holocaust History Project and combating Holocaust denial, always stressed that absolute accuracy should be demanded in discussing the Holocaust so that the deniers would never have any kind of foothold on the historical landscape.

Getting to the truth of the story must always be a priority. Though some have claimed that the Mufti had a vital role in the decision to exterminate the Jews rather

than expel them, much more data would be needed to prove a more dominant role of the Mufti in this aspect of Nazism. Given the Nazis' belief in the superiority of the Aryans, it is hard to conceive that the Mufti could have gained such prominence in their circles. It is more likely that he was convenient and useful for their military goals.

Holocaust history has been extensive in the past fifty years. As Prime Minister Netanyahu said in his address at the GA last month, "The only way to fight lies is to tell the truth." It is crucial that accuracy is kept at the forefront. Therefore it is crucial that accuracy be our continual quest.

Interfaith Hanukkah celebration – December 10

Members of the San Antonio-area Roman Catholic and Jewish communities will gather for an interfaith Hanukkah celebration on Thursday,

Dec. 10 at 11:30 a.m. The event will be held at San Fernando Cathedral Hall, 231 West Commerce.

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio and San

Fernando Cathedral are the co-sponsors.

For further information, call San Fernando Cathedral, (210) 227-1297.

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JNetSA *Rabbi Round Robin* in the Dominion



Rabbi Panel Discussion - Jacob Kluger-J Net Chair as Moderator, Rabbi Ari Weingarten, Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Rabbi Marina Yergin, Rabbi David Komerofsky, and Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg

JNetSA attendees listen to the Rabbi panel



Roberto Kenigstein and Gloria Kenigstein from Image Homes

Each of the Rabbis answered questions asked by JNetSA Chair, Jacob Kluger, that many may have been afraid to ask. Some of these questions included: Why did you become a Rabbi? What are the 3 key ingredients to a successful day of rest? And What's your definition of prayer? The event was held at the award-winning Dominion Image home, which was showcased in the San Antonio Parade of Homes.

"Many thanks to Roberto and Gloria Kenigstein from

Image Homes for allowing JNetSA to use their beautiful property for the JNetSA event," said Federation's Suzie Kariv. "It truly was a wonderful evening of R & R (Rabbis and Real Estate)."

JNetSA holds monthly Jewish networking events featuring various inspiring community and business leaders. By liking the JNetSA Facebook page, one can learn about upcoming events. The full schedule of JNetSA events can be found on <http://www.jnetsa.com>.

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On Thursday, Nov. 5, nearly 50 young adults gathered for JNetSA's *Rabbi Round Robin* event with with guests Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Rabbi David Komerofsky, Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg, Rabbi Ari Weingarten, and Rabbi Marina Yergin.

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

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Walking a Narrow Bridge: Navigating Grief & Mourning in Jewish Tradition, \$3,000

(Jewish Family Service, in partnership with San Antonio Jewish clergy)

This project, which begins with a series of lectures/discussions led by local clergy, aims to address the unique bereavement needs of the community by providing education about Jewish traditions as well as the ongoing psychological support needed by those who are grieving.

Special Services Collaborative, \$12,000

(Heintz Preschool, Gan Gani, Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of San Antonio - TASA)

To identify, serve and empower children and families enrolled in a Jewish education who struggle with a variety of language, cognitive, social, behavioral, sensory and motor challenges. The multidisciplinary professional team consists of Martha Serfaty, Special Educator/Behavior Specialist, M.S. ED, Mandy Dillinger, Occupational Therapist, OTR/L, and Amy Lerman, Speech Language Pathologist, MA, CCC-SLP.

Senior 4-1-1, \$3,000

(Barshop Jewish Community Center, in collaboration with Jewish Family Service)

Jewish Senior 4-1-1 is designed to enhance the quality of life for seniors and their families in the San Antonio Jewish community by providing easy access to resources, programs, and services that seniors need or for which they are voicing an ongoing interest.

#MitzvahQuest, \$2,500

(Temple Beth-El)

#MitzvahQuest is a B'nei Mitzvah revolution that encourages an engaging and active participation of B'nei Mitzvah students and their families during the entire B'nei Mitzvah process through use of social media and enhanced resources.

Ohr Lanu Foundation, \$4,000

(Patient Advocacy Program)

Ohr Lanu Foundation's mission is to facilitate and enhance medical care for the Jewish community of San Antonio. The scope of services provided by Ohr Lanu include patient advocacy, physician referral, ancillary and financial aid.

Parent & Child Education & Playgroup, \$1,500

(Congregation Agudas Achim)

This monthly playgroup brings together parents and their babies (0-18 months), regardless of affiliation, for "play time" and socialization, as well as Jewish educational components for parents.

The Innovation Fund is an initiative of the JFSA Planning & Allocations Committee

Harry H. Levy, IV, Chair • Willie Cantu • Maxine Cohen • Pat Kalmans • Larry Nathan
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www.jfsatx.org

Jewish Federation hosts best-selling Israeli author



Left to right: Susan Butler, Iris Weissburg, Diana Bletter, Marlene Spirt, and Mindi Silver-Weiss. Members of National Council of Jewish Women's Trashy Book club visited with Bletter during her reading in the Beldon Library.



During her visit to Federation in November, Western Galilee author Diana Bletter shared many stories and philosophies about sisterhood with sisterhood representatives from area synagogues and Hadassah in San Antonio.

By Lauren Abraham

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio hosted best-selling author, Diana Bletter of the Western Galilee region in Israel for a number of community events in early November. Although Bletter was only in San Antonio for two and a half days, she met with many groups in intimate settings, and she was able to touch the heart and soul of our San Antonio Jewish community.

Bletter enjoyed lunch with two different sets of sisterhood leaders from each of the area synagogues, she rejuvenated the Israel and Overseas Committee during a special dinner at the home of committee co-chairman David Komet. She was also able to share her beautiful writing and philosophies with dozens of attendees at two of her book readings in the Beldon Library on the Jewish campus.

Bletter discussed the inspiration for her novel, *A Remarkable Kindness*, which traces the lives of four fictional American Jewish women who are part of a unique Jewish tradition in their coastal village in Northern Israel. In preparing and dressing women for burial, the women grow in friendship and marriages, learn to accept death, and come to appreciate the sorrows and wonders of life.

Bletter explained her philosophy, and made the claim that we should always look to our spirituality over religion. "Religion can



Bletter shared details about the Partnership2gether Western Galilee region and anecdotes from her life in Israel.

divide, yet we all have a soul that binds us. Ritual is part of the word spiritual, and we can all agree on it and stay in

touch."

Bletter visited San Antonio as part of her 2015 American book tour.

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FROM THE COVER

PJ LIBRARY

continued from page 1

The group began at Chabad for breakfast and greetings from Rabbi Chaim Block, and for icebreakers, a keynote address and text study with *PJ Library Goes to School* national director Lisa Litman who visited from Pennsylvania. The group of 70 teachers visited the classrooms of Gan Gani Preschool, and then moved to Congregation Agudas Achim where they visited the sanctuary and Heintz Preschool classrooms. They were greeted by Rabbis Jeffrey Abraham and Ariel Greenberg, and Hazzan Jeremy Lipton and learned new songs and stories to take back to their respective schools.

After lunch, the group headed to the Jewish Campus where they were greeted by Barshop JCC CEO Saul Levenshush, and took part in an orientation with PJ Library materials. During their visit to the JCC's Block and Dreeben School, the teachers split into groups according to the age levels they teach to explore Hanukkah books, and then brainstormed and planned how the



Faculty of the JCC Block and Dreeben School for Young Children (pictured) along with staff from the Heintz Preschool and Gan Gani recently gathered for *PJ Library Goes to School*.

books can help their students connect with Jewish values on a deeper level. PJ Library's Litman ran this session using her educational tools and *PJ Library Goes to School* curriculum. The teachers were able to connect with their own colleagues and those from other schools, and expand from their comfort zone to see new classrooms, eat authentic Israeli food provided by Aroma Grill, and, as Ronit Sherwin, CEO of the Jewish

Federation told them, "Clearly define the idea of collaboration."

The group has since opened a Facebook forum to continue sharing ideas and, as Alissa Levey Baugh, Director of the Block and Dreeben School for Young Children says, "We have only begun to scratch the surface!"

As the 19th community around the country to become a member of the *PJ Library Goes to School*

program, Jewish early childhood educators in San Antonio will receive PJ Library books and curriculum each month to utilize and share in their classrooms.

San Antonio will once again have the pleasure of having Lisa Litman return and do another follow up workshop in the Spring. This is a way for families to connect to Judaism in a deeper way, and it starts in the classrooms.



PJ LIBRARY SPOTLIGHTS ISRAEL

PJ Library and children's literature illustrator, Joni Rothenberg, and her cousin, Yael Buxbaum, (both from our Partnership2gether region in America and Israel) held a special PJ Library story reading of Rothenberg's illustrated books. The theme of her visit was the Mezuzah, the sign Jews put on their home. In the story the rabbis argue about the placement of the Mezuzah (upright or down flat). Rothenberg and Buxbaum showed the children how to make a Mezuzah out of Popsicle sticks and sticky tape with a prayer inside. During this process, the PJ Library children got to write their own prayers and aspirations for the world.



The Heintz Preschool staff



The Gan Gani Preschool staff

YOUR JEWISH COMMUNITY

JEWISH FEDERATION OF SAN ANTONIO

Main Number: (210) 302-6960 / Holocaust Memorial Museum: (210) 302-6807 / Beldon Library: (210) 302-6805

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Sherwinr@jfsatx.org / (210) 302-6961

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Julie Schack,
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Schackj@jfsatx.org

Caitlyn Strayer, Office Manager

Lynn Waghalter, Librarian Beldon Library
waghalterl@jfsatx.org

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Barshop Jewish Community Center

12500 NW Military Highway, Suite 275, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6820 **Fax:** (210) 408-2341
Executive Director: Saul F. Levenshus Email: jcc@jcc-sa.org
President: Stephen J. Kramer **Website:** www.jccsanantonio.org
A birth through life organization, JCC programs include a nationally-accredited nursery school, after school care and programs, summer camp programs, programming for adults and senior adults, plus cultural, educational and recreational programs open to the community.

Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus

of the San Antonio Jewish Community
12500 NW Military Hwy, Suite 100, San Antonio Texas 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6801 **Fax:** (210) 408-2322
Director of Operations: Mike Griffin
President: Alice Viroslav **Website:** www.thecampustx.org
The Campus features a variety of spaces available to rent for small or large events.

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services

12500 N.W. Military Hwy. Suite 260, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6946 **Website:** <http://www.goldenmanor.net>
Executive Director: Daniel L. Laser **President:** Alice R. Troy
Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) works to enhance the lives of Jewish seniors in the San Antonio Area by providing transportation and direct programing and through partnerships with other organizations for programs that benefit San Antonio area Jewish seniors.

Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Antonio

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

Jewish Family Service

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

National Council Of Jewish Women (NCJW)

Website: www.ncjwsa.org
For Membership Information: Cathy Pottorf - catpot52@gmail.com
NCJW is a grassroots organization that advocates for women, children and family issues both locally and nationally.

Hillel San Antonio

Website: www.sahillel.org **Phone:** (210) 201-Jews (5397)
Contact: Alan Yancelson **Email:** ayancelson@hillelsa.org
San Antonio Hillel serves college students throughout the San Antonio area.

After School Judaics (JAS @ The J)

12500 NW Military Hwy., 78231 / **Phone:** (210) 302-6969

Gan Gani Preschool

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

Heintz Preschool

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

JCC Block & Dreeben School for Young Children

12500 NW Military Hwy., 78231 / **Phone:** (210) 302-6846

Shmuel Bass Torah Academy

3003 Sholom Drive, Suite #200, 78230 / **Phone:** (210) 607-7261

SAN ANTONIO CONGREGATIONS

Congregation Agudas Achim (Conservative)

16550 Huebner Road, 78248
Phone: (210) 479-0307 **Fax:** (210) 479-0295
website: www.agudas-achim.org
Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Senior Rabbi
Hazzan Jeremy Lipton
Rabbi Ariel Greenberg, Director of
Congregational Learning

Congregation Beth Am (Reconstructionist)

7150 IH 10 West, 78213
Phone: (210) 492-2173 **Fax:** (210) 342-8935
website: www.bethamsatx.org
Lay Leader Marion Bernstein

Congregation Rodfei Sholom (Orthodox)

3003 Sholom Dr., 78230
Phone: (210) 493-3557 **Fax:** (210) 492-0629
E-Mail address: rodfeisa@gmail.com
Website: www.rodfeisholom.org
Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg
Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg

Temple Beth-El (Reform)

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

Jewish Community of the Hill Country

Kerrville, Texas
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Temple Chai (Reform)

2121 Lockhill-Selma
San Antonio, TX 78213
Phone: (210) 340-2090
website: www.templechaisa.org
Rabbi David Komerofsky

Chabad Lubavitch of South Texas

14535 Blanco Rd., 78216
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website: www.chabadsa.com
Rabbi Chaim Block
Rabbi Yossi Marrus
Rabbi Levi Teldon

Congregation Israel of San Antonio (Conservative, Covenantal Judaism in Prayer and Practice)

Office & Mailings:
16320 Huebner Road at St. Andrew
San Antonio, Texas, 78248
website: www.congregationisraelsatx.org
All Faiths Chapel:
5000 Fawn Meadow Drive at Floyd Curl
San Antonio, Texas 78240
Phone: (210) 387-2436
Hazzan David Silverstein, JD,



(l to r) William Daroff and Steve Butler

JFNA William Daroff details advocacy efforts

William Daroff, Senior Vice President of Public Policy & Director of the Washington Office of the Jewish Federations of North America, recently spoke at a reception at the home of Barbara and Stanley Spigel, educating the community about the role that JFNA plays in public policy on behalf of the Jewish community. Daroff spoke about how JFNA's Washington office works to bring the voice of Jewish Federations to Capitol Hill and the White House, advocating for life-saving and humanitarian assistance in the United States and 70 other countries around the world.

Daroff leads the advocacy efforts on key domestic policy issues, principally on health and human services, as well as homeland security programs. Daroff, who is a key player in foreign policy circles, spoke about the efforts of his office to advise policy-makers and elected officials on concerns related to the US-Israel relationship, the Middle East conflicts, vulnerable Jewish



(l to r) Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg and Stanley Spigel

communities, and the fight to combat states promoting terror.

For more information about the Washington office and the key Public Policy Priorities, visit <http://jewishfederations.org/about-jfna/washington-office>.

(l to r) Susan Jacobson, Brian Feld, and Laura Ehrenberg-Chesler



CAMPAIGN

continued from page 7

of Hanukkah adds light to the world, even the donation made grudgingly serves a worthy purpose. Yet, as Hillel taught, we should always strive to increase our good deeds.

Last year, our Jewish Federation Annual Campaign increased on two levels. We increased the number of volunteers who participated in the campaign, and we increased the number of individuals who made donations to the campaign. With that, however, our 2014 campaign raised slightly less than the prior year, continuing a trend that stretches back to 2008.

We have unmet needs in our community and we are determined to turning around the trend. We are committed to raising additional dollars with everyone's help we will do so. We therefore have set a community goal of raising \$1,540,000 so that we may support the growing needs in our community. This represents a 5% increase from our previous year's achievement. With this increase we can continue our commitment to Jewish education, programs for the elderly, Israel experiences, holiday celebrations, young adult networking, PJ Library, safety net services for those in need, advocacy for Jewish causes and Israel on Capitol Hill, trauma services for victims of terror, and support for Jews worldwide.

Why after years of diminishing campaigns would we set such an aggressive, increased goal for 2015? The first answer, of course, is that it is the "Jewish thing to do." From Hillel to Maimonides, our tradition instructs us to increase our efforts. The second answer is that we take seriously the concept of "Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh," our sacred responsibility to the Jewish community everywhere.

With the dedication of our Federation staff, the work of our campaign volunteers and the continued support of generous donors, we stand prepared to increase our 2015 Annual Campaign and support the critical services provided by our Jewish agencies, both here in San Antonio and abroad.

If you have already made a commitment to the 2015 Annual Campaign, we thank you. As the year draws to an end and tax implications become considerations, we hope you will – as appropriate – explore increasing your commitment. If you have not yet made a commitment, there is still time to fulfill the mitzvah of tzedakah, increasing the scope of services of our Jewish institutions and strengthening our community for generations to come. Thank you.

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email yahrzeit@hadassah.org.



(l to r) Diane Fisher, Marlene Spirt and Leslie Tramer



(l to r) 2015 Pomegranates: Julie Schack, Marlene Spirt, Sheila Schwartzman M.D., Ilene Franco- Pomegranate Co-Chair, Michele Vizurraga, Elisa Reinsmith. Other new Pomegranates not pictured: Lisa Menick, Leslie Byrd, Barbara Schnitzler Powell and Bobbie Ravicz.



(l to r) Pomegranate Co-Chair- Ilene Franco, Ronit Sherwin CEO, Lauren Stanley- Board member



(l to r) Elisa Reinsmith and Jodi Starr

Pomegranate Demi Dinner a big success

This year's annual Demi Dinner honoring the women of the Jewish Federation's Pomegranate Society gathered on Wednesday, Oct. 14 for an evening filled with good company and an inspiring message.

Co-chairs Ilene Franco, Simone Kboudi and Lauren Stanley along with their host committee worked tirelessly to plan a wonderful event. The dinner was held at the Grill at Leon Springs where guests enjoyed a blackened redfish dish accompanied by a specially selected wine from the Western Galilee in Israel.

Guest speakers for the evening were collaborative artists Joani Rothenberg and her cousin Yael Buxbaum who painted the Tree of Life mosaic piece, which hangs in the new women's health wing at the Western Galilee Medical Center in Nahariya, Israel.

Created in three panels, the finished piece constitutes the collaboration of hundreds of staff, patients, visitors and volunteers to the hospital as well as local community partners from the Central Area Consortium, of which San Antonio is a partner city.

Guests enjoyed their own artistic collaboration as they tiled a



Pomegranate Mosaic

Pomegranate painting from Joani and Yael that will be completed and remain in our community.

The Pomegranate Society is open to all women who make a minimum gift of \$1800 to the annual campaign. Federation honored 9 new Pomegranate women this year.

IN THE COMMUNITY

December 25: What's a Jew to do?

Congregation Rodfei Sholom has created two memorable events for the Jewish community on December 25, a day where most businesses are closed in recognition of Christmas.

During the daytime, the

congregation will be hosting the 2nd annual ZooMas Day at the San Antonio Zoo.

"It seemed like everything was closed and Jews had nothing to do and nowhere to go. Last year we had

a great turnout at the zoo. Everybody brought lunch and we all had a great time together," said Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg.

Also for the second year, Rodfei will host a Chinese dinner on December 25.

"This year is also Shabbat so it will be a new experience. I guarantee no Sesame Gefilte Fish!" said Scheinberg.

Call the office for more details and to make reservations at (210) 493-3557 or email rodfeisa@gmail.com.

Great big San Antonio Challah Bake

Roll up your sleeves and join other women and children from San Antonio to participate together in a monumental challah bake on Wednesday, Dec. 16 at Rodfei Sholom. Everybody will make their own dough, taking the Biblically commanded Challah portion and saying the beautiful prayer together. The event will be lead by Hudy Abrams of Dallas, Texas. She is the co-director of the Jewish Learning Center of Dallas and a world renowned Jewish teacher and leader. She will be delivering words of Jewish inspiration and growth during the event. For more details and to reserve your spot email sachallahbake@gmail.com.



Hadassah's Hanukkah gift

Those who would like to receive a one-year gift membership to Hadassah have only one month left to do so. The special gift membership is available to any woman over the age of 18 who has not been a member of Hadassah previously. The offer expires on December 31, 2015.

Anyone who would like to take advantage of the free membership may contact any life member of Hadassah, who will be able to confer this Hanukkah gift. Or the prospective member should call Kathy O'Neill at (210) 823-8603.

Hadassah is celebrating Hanukkah early in San Antonio with a holiday supper on Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. at the home of Annette Goldberg. Rabbi David Komerofsky of Temple Chai and Hillel will be the guest speaker. Please contact Annette Goldberg as soon as possible at (210) 860-8536 if you plan to attend.

New Healing Service at Agudas Achim

Saturday, Dec. 20 at 8:30 a.m. Agudas Achim will be hosting its monthly Healing Service, offering participants the space to recenter, regroup, and revive themselves after a busy week with the support of the community. The Healing Service will be led by Rabbi Ariel Greenberg. All are invited to join this rejuvenating celebration of Shabbat.



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Young Couples Club of Agudas December program

Agudas Achim's Young Couples Program will be meeting at Napa Flats on Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015 at 7 p.m. This program is open to all young couples in our community.

Reservations are made through Agudas Achim at rsvp@agudas-achim.org or call (210) 479-0307. Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2015.

Rabbi Stahl to speak at Temple Chai on December 4

Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl, Emeritus Rabbi of its sister congregation, Temple Beth-El, will be the guest speaker at Temple Chai's Friday, Dec. 4 Shabbat service, held at 2121 Lockhill Selma (corner of NW Military Hwy). Rabbi Stahl's timely topic is *Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, and Christmas*. Services begin at 6:45 p.m. and the community is invited to attend.

"Rabbi Stahl has been my mentor for more than 20 years, dating to my time in rabbinical school," said Temple Chai's Rabbi David Komerofsky. "His intellect, warmth, and memory are

unparalleled and he stands out as an exemplary figure in the Reform Movement."

Before retiring in 2002, Rabbi Stahl served as Senior Rabbi at Temple Beth-El for 26 years. He had previously served as Rabbi at Cong. B'nai Israel in Galveston and was a chaplain in the United States Army. He is the author of *Making the Timeless Timely: Thoughts and Reflections of a Contemporary Reform Rabbi*, published in 1993.

For more information, please call Temple Chai at (210) 340-2090 or visit www.templechaisa.org.

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(210) 302-6960



PJ Library is a program of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, Nathalie and Gladys Dalkowitz Charitable Trust and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation

Agudas Achim Movie Club presents Star Wars and Chinese Food

All are invited to join the Agudas Achim Movie Club for a special family event on Thursday, Dec. 24, 2015. The club will be showing a private screening of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* at Santikos Embassy Theater beginning at 3 p.m. All tickets must be purchased in advance and seating is limited. Reserved seating is \$25/adult and \$13/child (under 13). General seating is \$15/adult and \$10/child (under 13). All tickets include a kid's popcorn and 16oz. drink.

The movie will be followed by a no-host dinner at Wah Kee Chinese Restaurant (please confirm you are joining for dinner when booking your movie ticket). RSVP to Agudas Achim at (210) 479-0307 or rsvp@agudas-achim.org. This event is co-sponsored by the Agudas Achim Men's Club.

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Deep discussions at the JLI course Journey of the Soul, led by Rabbi Levi Teldon at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning.

Journey of the Soul classes at Chabad

Journey of the Soul, a new 6-session accredited course presented by the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning, launched in San Antonio last month with over 60 students attending between both classes.

The course addresses the many questions related to the Jewish perspective on life, death, and what lies beyond. Learn more at www.myJLI.com.

Mussar: Jewish spirituality for better living

Mussar learning and practice continues at Temple Beth-El beginning January 24, 2016. *Mussar* is a thousand-year-old Jewish system for personal growth. It is aimed at elevating one's character, or what *Mussar* calls soul traits (*middot*). Practices include meditation, chanting, studying *Mussar* texts, engaging in *Mussar* discussions, and keeping a daily journal on the *middot* (soul traits) that practitioners discover to be obstacles in their lives.

Though *Mussar* practice is often viewed in ethical terms, it is at its core a method of drawing oneself closer to God. According to Alan Morinis, founding director of The Mussar Institute, "To single out the ethical, behavioral, or practical elements without reference to the religious or spiritual aspects is to distort what *Mussar* is and has always been."

A Season of Mussar I will both be offered from 9:30-11 a.m. on seven Sunday mornings on January 24, February 7, February 21, March 6, March 27, April 10, and May 1.

This class is an introduction

to the study and practice of *Mussar*. The *middot* covered in *A Season of Mussar I* are Humility (*Anavah*), Anger (*Ka'as*), Gratitude (*Hakarat Ha'tov*), Trust (*Bitahon*), Honor (*Kavod*), and Alacrity (*Zerizut*).

A Season of Mussar I will be led by Barry Menick. He has been a student of *Mussar* since attending a *Mussar* Institute *Kallah* in 2007. Barry has completed the Everyday Holiness and Path of the Soul courses online through The Institute and has graduated from the *Manchim* program which trains facilitators. He has led several *Va'adot* at Temple Beth-El and said he is excited to help people realize their connection to God through this innately Jewish practice of mindfulness, self-examination and rectification.

The cost for the program is \$100. Registration is open through Monday, Jan. 11.

(Nobody will be denied admission because of inability to pay. Please contact Rabbi Mara Nathan regarding scholarships if needed.)

For information, contact Sara Planto at sara@beth-elsa.org or (210) 733-9135, ext. 108.

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Jewish Federation
OF SAN ANTONIO



WHAT'S HAPPENING



TEXAS KOSHER BBQ CHAMPIONSHIP A SMOKIN' SUCCESS

Delicious Q, beautiful weather, great entertainment and lots of happy people filled the 2015/5776 Texas Kosher BBQ Championship. Congrats to the The Kosher Frat Pack who walked away as Grand Champion! Save the date for next Year: December 4, 2016 (4 Kislev, 5777).



GOLDEN CALF GRILLERS PLACE AT AGUDAS ACHIM TEXAS KOSHER BBQ CHAMPIONSHIP

The Golden Calf Grillers, a team of Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services, competed at the Texas Kosher BBQ Championship at Agudas Achim on November 8. The team received a third place award for brisket. The team - Tim Williamson, Lori Williamson, Daniel Laser, Linda Levy and Lauren Sandoval- served up beans, chicken, brisket and salmon.

SPREADING A LITTLE SUNSHINE

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, more than 40 seniors attended a Thanksgiving-themed Sunshine Club Luncheon at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning. The event included a turkey lunch prepared by Sunshine Club volunteers Wendy Glick and Courtney Silver, and a heartwarming talk on the gratitude of giving by M.H. Levine, Executive Director of Jewish Family Service of San Antonio.

The Sunshine Club is a joint program of the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning and Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services. All Sunshine Club events and activities are complimentary. Free transportation is available. For more information please call (210) (210) 764-0300 or visit www.ChabadSA.com/SunshineClub.



Happy Sunshine Club members enjoy a pre-Thanksgiving turkey lunch at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Andrea Benatar, Kelly Maizel with baby Louis, and Marisa Tawil

JUMP IN FOR SUNDAY FUNDAY

Rodfei girls enjoy Sunday Funday at the Jumpy Place on October 25.



Below: (l to r) Aliza Hanun, Sophie Powell, Eliana Fux, and Shayna Klein)

YAD B'YAD CELEBRATES NOAH'S ARK WITH A ZOO SHOW



Heintz Preschool's Yad B'Yad inter-generational program celebrated Noah's Ark with a special zoo show. The students along with grandparents and grandpals met the animals in the show ate animal related snacks, worked on a special Noah's Ark art project, and learned about the animals in Spanish.

Upcoming Yad B'Yad Events include a Hanukkah Party on December 8th, a Mock Wedding on January 13th, and a Rodeo Pony Ride Party on February 18th.

This program is made possible thanks to a generous grant from Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services. For more information on Yad B'Yad. Contact Celina Geidesman at (210) 479-00429.

TASA TOGETHERNESS



ABOVE: TASA 4th and 5th grade girls leading prayers over Sabbath Candles during Kabbalat Shabbat.



LEFT: TASA Judaic and Hebrew Studies teacher, Rabbi Levi Grossbaum, leading prayer and discussion with students during neighborhood Ushpizin "Sukkot" Walk.

RIGHT: TASA students enjoying lunch outside in the Sukkah, on a beautiful day at school.



Night to Honor Israel distributes \$3.2 million

Reprinted with permission from the Jewish Herald-Voice

On Sunday, Oct. 25, Jewish and Christian friends gathered at Cornerstone Church in San Antonio to celebrate their mutual connection to the State of Israel and to one another. The 34th-annual A Night to Honor Israel featured keynote speakers Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina and Pastor John Hagee.

The program also included a greeting from Israel by Consul General of Israel to the Southwest United States Eitan Levon, and an invocation by Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg, from San Antonio's Orthodox synagogue, Congregation Rodfei Sholom. At a time when Israel is inundated by daily violence and crises, this show of support and solidarity was especially meaningful.

A Night to Honor Israel, an emotionally charged event sponsored by John Hagee Ministries, was declared an overwhelming success by the more than 5,000 Christians and Jews in attendance and the millions of television and Internet viewers. Musical performances of songs in Hebrew and English were sung by the Cornerstone Concert Choir and Orchestra led by Pastor



(l to r) Israel Consul General Eitan Levon, Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg, Pastor John Hagee and U.S. Sen. Tim Scott.

Hagee's son, Pastor Matthew Hagee.

Pastor John Hagee, a charismatic and inspiring leader, along with this congregation, has created an environment of commitment and generosity through philanthropy, innovation and involvement. In his opening remarks, Pastor Hagee said, "We are here tonight to stand boldly with the State of Israel and the Jewish people and to make it known to the nations of the world that we are Israel's dearest friend." Speaking

about the \$95 million distributed over the past 34 years to fund humanitarian aid for the Jewish people, Pastor Hagee proclaimed that "Love is not what you say, love is what you do."

Consul General Levon acknowledged the appreciation of the strong messages of support sent by the Christian community to Israel: "Your support makes us strong and secure and fills our hearts with joy."

In his stirring address, keynote speaker Sen. Scott passionately

declared, "There are members of the United States Congress and there are members of the United States Senate who get on their knees praying for the peace of Jerusalem."

The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston has a more than 30-year partnership with San Antonio Pastor John Hagee. Each year, Pastor Hagee raises millions of dollars for various charitable Israeli organizations that he supports through the Jewish Federation.

This year, Pastor Hagee committed \$3,425,000 to 24 Jewish organizations. Among those receiving grants were the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Friends of the IDF, Galilee Medical Center, the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio, Jewish Agency for Israel, Koby Mandel Foundation, Magen David Adom, Meir Panim, Nefesh B'Nefesh, Netanya Academic College, Shurat Hadin, and the Women's International Zionist Organization.

Cornerstone Church is a nondenominational evangelical church with more than 20,000 members. Since holding its first Night to Honor Israel, JHM has donated more than \$95 million to Israeli and Jewish charities.

Aish Hatorah Scholar speaking at Rodfei

Rabbi Ahron Hoch of Toronto will be visiting Rodfei Sholom from December 14-16. Rabbi Hoch was one of the 5 founding Rabbis of Aish HaTorah Toronto in 1981. In 1991, he became Aish HaTorah's Educational Director, a position he held until 2006. During that time the branch expanded, and built 3 communities, with over 8,000 people attending Aish annually. He is now the Senior Rabbi at The Village



RABBI
AHRON HOCH

Shul and the Aish Hatorah Learning Centre. He will be giving classes on marital harmony, raising Jewish children, the journey of spiritual growth, and the parsha. Please be in contact with the shul office at (210) 493-3557 or email rodfeisa@gmail.com for more information.



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Agudas Achim Purim Ball

Agudas Achim will be hosting a Purim Ball on Saturday, March 26, 2016. The evening will begin with wine and Havdallah followed by a lavish Purim Ball to include heavy appetizers, bar service, dancing, silent auction and several surprises. More information is forthcoming. If you would like to sit on a committee and help plan this event, please contact event co-chairs Lisa Abramson at lisakabramson@gmail.com or Michelle Vizurraga at mkvizzurraga@bellsouth.net.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

Upcoming Events

Friday, Dec. 25 - Post Mid Winter Ice Cream/Cookies social at Audie Murphy VA Hospital. Post members will walk the wards distributing ice cream and cookies to patients and employees on duty beginning at 1 p.m. to about 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 27 - Post meeting and election of post officers for 2016. Meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. with light breakfast, followed by business meeting and election of officers.

Tuesday, Dec. 29 - Post members to conduct bingo/social at CTC Center beginning at 7 p.m. with bingo, followed at 8 p.m. by social time where post members serve coffee, cookies and lemonade to patients in attendance and staff on duty.

For further details on the above activities, contact Ken Ashworth at (210) 647-0330.

Friday Jan. 22, 2016 – The new year begins with San Antonio Post hosting



Winter Conclave of the Department of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma.(TALO). Posts from the four states will be represented. Events begin with Friday night services at Ft Sam Houston Main Chapel. On Saturday morning, Jan. 23, TALO members will attend

services at Congregation Agudas Achim. Saturday afternoon, there will be an informal get together at the Main Chapel at Ft. Sam Houston. Saturday night's banquet at The Barn Door begins at 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24, business meeting at Jewish Community Center.

For further information contact Jeffery Hoffman at (210) 492-4980.

The JWV Membership Drive is in full swing. If you would like to become a member of the post or learn more about them, contact Irwin Barath at (210) 341-4502.

Agudas Achim Men's Club program

Congregation Agudas Achim Men's Club will be presenting guest speaker, Lynn Hickey, Associate Vice President and Director of Athletics at University of Texas at San Antonio on Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015 at 11 a.m. A light breakfast will be served. To RSVP and learn more about the program, please contact Mike Kelne, mkelne@sbcglobal.net or Oren Leff at odleff@gmail.com.



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The CRC and Rodfei Sholom to present *The Land of Israel, The Real Story*

The community is invited to participate in two workshops on Thursday, Dec. 17, by Ronnie Halibard, author of *Jewish History in a Flash*. The first presentation is being co-sponsored by the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation and the Israel Public Action Committee of Congregation Rodfei Sholom (IPA). It is entitled "The Return of the Jewish Nation to its Land." It will be at the Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community at 12 noon, 12500 NW Military Hwy. A taco luncheon will be served at \$5. The program is free and open to the public.

The second lecture, sponsored by the Steven Gossen Education Fund of Congregation Rodfei Sholom, will be in the evening of December 17 at Rodfei Sholom, 3003 Sholom Drive, 7-9 pm. It is entitled



HALIBARD

The Land of Israel –The Real Story-4,000 Years of History of this most Coveted Land. Throughout history the Land of Israel has been invaded and settled in by numerous nations with Jerusalem holding the distinction of being the most conquered city in history. This will be a multimedia presentation of 4000 years demonstrating the ancient Jewish connection to the land, Jerusalem and Temple Mount. There is no charge and the program is open to the public.

Ronnie Halibard is an English-born educator with years of experience teaching students of all ages at Jewish schools in the USA and in Israel. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Jewish Studies from

the University of London, a Master's degree in Education from Johns Hopkins University and is a licensed school teacher in Israel, where he now lives. Over the past 6 years, Ronnie has created and developed 'Jewish History in a Flash' - a series of fast-paced and exciting, interactive multimedia presentations summarizing Jewish history, each with a different subject focus. He has traveled extensively including communities in Israel, England, Scotland, Ireland, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Gibraltar, South Africa, the USA, Panama, Australia and New Zealand. This will be Halibard's first visit to San Antonio.

For reservations or more information please contact the Jewish Federation at (210) 302-6960 or Rodfei Sholom at (210) 493-3557.

JCC to participate in Cycle for Good

This year, the Barshop Jewish Community Center will participate, for the first time, in Cycle for Good, a fundraiser organized annually by the Jewish Community Center Association (JCCA), benefitting a charity of each JCC's choice. Locally, the event will be held Sunday, Dec. 13 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the Holzman Auditorium. Thanks to staggered start times, many participants in Cycle for Good will ride indoor bikes at the same time in Jewish Community Centers across North America.

Participants will register to cycle for one to three hours on one of the JCC's Schwinn Indoor Cycles, or they may opt to utilize their personal bikes with an exercise trainer. The cost to participate is \$15 per hour. Additionally, cyclists will be encouraged



to gather pledges to raise funds for the First Chance Foundation of San Antonio, a local organization who will provide warm winter clothing for underprivileged children in the San Antonio area.

During this event, participants will watch cycling videos so they can enjoy the simulation of cycling through different parts of the world, making for a fun and interactive morning.

For more details on this event, contact Gretchen Hokenson at (210) 302-6851, or visit www.jccsanantonio.org/cycleforgood.



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CLOSED SABBATH

IN THE COMMUNITY

Temple Beth-El offers monthly adult learning program

Jewish Education Consultant, Rachel Stern, is offering monthly adult learning sessions during Religious School at Temple Beth-El. The theme of the classes, held on Sundays from 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m., is how Jewish ethics can guide family life. If you are interested in attending any of the classes, please rsvp to sara@beth-elsa.org.

Upcoming sessions include:

December 13: The Ethical Implications for How and What We Eat

February 7: Take a walk on the wild side: What Judaism says about: Tattoos, gambling, drinking, sex and other 'sinful' topics

March 27: *Yetzer Ha ra/ Yetzer Ha Tov*: What Judaism teaches about knowing right from wrong

April 3: *Chochma, Binah, Da'at*: understanding the stages of moral development in Jewish tradition

May 1: What would you do?: Judaism edition... explore real life ethical dilemmas from a Jewish perspective

IN THE COMMUNITY: Youth

Jewish Children's Regional Service offers assistance to San Antonio youth

Every year, 40-50 Jewish youth in San Antonio receive service from the Jewish Children's Regional Service (JCRS). In 2015, 42 area youth received a combination of services including "needs-based" scholarships for undergraduate college education, Jewish overnight camp, and special needs. Additional youth, from lower income families, are sent Hanukkah gifts, as are permanent Jewish residents of Texas state hospitals.

Generations of San Antonio Jewish youth funded by the agency have become physicians, accountants, nurses, teachers,

computer programmers and pharmacists, and many have appeared in public relations materials produced by JCRS.

JCRS funds and serves Jewish youth from seven states of the Mid-south that include Texas. In 2015, more than unduplicated 1500 Jewish youth were funded and served, including over 900 Jewish youth enrolled in the PJ Library Program. JCRS is the oldest Jewish children's agency in the United States, having begun in 1855, when it was created in New Orleans as the first Jewish children's home in this country. Past Board Members of the agency have

included San Antonin's Bobbie Stern, Rabbi and Lynn Stahl and Gerd and Dorothy Miller.

Applications are currently being accepted for camp scholarship aid in 2016 and must be submitted by the February 15 deadline. The deadline to apply for college aid for the 2016/2017 academic year is May 31, 2016. Special needs applications are accepted year-round.

To contact the agency to donate, or to apply for assistance, visit www.jcrs.org, call (800) 729-5277 or email info@jcrs.org. The agency headquarters address is PO Box 7368, Metairie, LA 70010.



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Camp Gan Israel Winter Camp registration underway

Camp Gan Israel Winter Camp is currently registering campers, ages 18 months through 11 years. The camp will be held during the second week of winter break, Monday, Dec. 28 and goes until Friday, Jan. 1. Drop-off is at 9 a.m. and pick-up is at 3:30 p.m. Children 18 months - 4/5 year olds will be in the Gan Gani classrooms with a similar schedule.

Energized by a team of dedicated staff, the children will enjoy arts n' crafts, Jewish

Fun Time, edible creations, hot cocoa club, Lego and pottery workshops, a field trip to Thin Air and more, all in the Camp Gan Israel spirit.

"We look at this time as an opportunity for kids to connect with Jewish friends in a fun and educational way, almost like a shot in the arm of Jewish pride," said Camp Director, Rochel Teldon.

For more information call the Chabad office at (210) 764-0300 or email Rochel@ChabadSA.com.

Block & Dreeben School for Young Children offering parenting workshops

The Block & Dreeben School for Young Children's parenting workshops will continue December 3 and 6 with *Giving Authentic Praise in a Culture Where Everything is Awesome*. Taught by Master Teacher and Parent Educator Laine Lipsky, this class will teach parents about giving genuine praise in an effort to help children build a positive sense of self. Often, children are smothered with trophies, awards, and inauthentic praise; however, all of this well-meaning acclaim has a tendency to hurt children.

Parents are invited to come to this workshop to discover ways in which they can more effectively deliver praise. The workshop will meet Thursday, Dec. 3 from

9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in JCC Room 229, and Sunday, Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Fisher Board Room (Room 277). Parents do not need to attend both workshops.

The cost to attend is \$5; it is free for JCC members. Tea and snacks will be served. Babysitting will also be available for JCC members at \$3 per hour per child, with advanced reservations. Members who have a Family Plus membership will have access to free childcare with advanced reservations. Call (210) 302-6820 to reserve childcare. Register to attend the workshop online at <http://www.jccsanantonio.org/early-childhood/parenting-classes-at-the-jcc/>. Call (210) 302-6873 for more information.

Rodfei Sholom to host Winter Camp

Rodfei Sholom will hold a Winter Camp 2015 from December 21-31. Rodfei will be bringing down the famed SEED COUNSELORS that have made such an impact in the summer camp and last year's winter camp.

"The young women that come down to be counselors are the secret to our camp's amazing success. They love being in San Antonio and connecting with our children. They are just overflowing with warmth,

happiness, and excitement about being Jewish. It rubs off on the campers and even their parents. They are amazing role models. Last year we had over 40 children and parents have been calling to make sure it's happening again," said Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg.

Please call the synagogue office at (210) 493-3557 or email rodfeisa@gmail.com for more details.

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Left to right: Albert Estrada, SVP; Michael Molak, San Antonio Region Chairman; Jack Roney, SVP; Mayra Mendoza, Bank Officer; Sarah Pendley, VP; Shahid Abdulla, SVP; Chris Davenport, SVP; Connie Gilbert, SVP; Alvin Shenk, VP; Marco Gonzalez, SVP



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IN THE COMMUNITY: Youth

Heintz Preschool opens up Winter Break Camp

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim has opened up enrollment for its Winter Break Day Camp for children 2-8 years old. Heintz will be doing science experiments, games, arts and crafts, sports, and more! The camp runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every day with extended day options available both before and after camp. Session one will be from December 21-23 and session two will be from December 28-30.

For more information on prices and times of our winter camp as well as other special programs, please contact Preschool Director Celina Geidesman for this information or a tour of Heintz Preschool, (210) 479-0429 or c.geidesman@agudas-achim.org.

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IN THE COMMUNITY: Seniors

Simcha Social Club Hanukkah Program

Agudas Achim's Senior Program, The Simcha Social Club, will be celebrating Hanukkah with Hazzan Jeremy Lipton on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. in the Gurinsky Family Social Hall. The luncheon and program will feature songs and stories, latkes and laughs. RSVP is necessary for catering purposes by Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015. All Simcha

Social Club events are free for those 65 years of age and over - \$5 under 65.

Contact Agudas Achim at (210) 479-0307 or email to rsvp@agudas-achim.org.

Simcha Social Club is a joint program of Congregation Agudas Achim and Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services. Transportation only arranged by Lety at (210) 302-6946.

Moonlight Supper Club at Napa Flats

The Agudas Achim 60+ Moonlight Supper Club December dinner will be held at Napa Flats, 1301 N Loop 1604 W, between Blanco and Huebner, on Thursday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. There will be vegetarian and dairy options available on the menu. This no-host dinner club, for "seasoned" participants is open to the community.

For more information please contact Mickey Gross at mlubb@aol.com or Marilyn Berkowitz at marilynn31@sbcglobal.net. Reservations are made through Agudas Achim at rsvp@agudas-achim.org or call (210) 479-0307. Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2015.

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services is offering rides to those in need of transportation. Please call Lety at (210) 302-6946 to make transportation arrangements.



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GMJSS to offer new programs and services in 2016

As 2015 nears its close, Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) is busy planning for new growth, goals and ideas for the year to come. GMJSS serves seniors throughout the San Antonio area with transportation, one-on-one connections, agency partnerships, direct programming, kosher meals and much more.

This year, GMJSS turned to the community, asking for their opinions on how the organization can best serve the Jewish community through this growth. *Reimagine*, the initiative that is collecting these thoughts and ideas from the community through focus groups and surveys, will provide information to give direction to take in the year to come that will be the best fit for our Jewish community – including seniors of all ages.

“With your support, GMJSS can continue to grow and make many of these ideas and concepts given by the community a reality,” said Executive Director Daniel Laser. “Also, GMJSS will be able to maintain providing services by reaching more households to keep fighting isolation, continuing to provide more rides to Jewish community events and religious services, and helping to address the needs that seniors today face.”

GMJSS is preparing for its 2016 Membership drive. To be added to the GMJSS mailing list or for questions, contact the GMJSS office at (210) 302-6946.



Members of the JCC's Fit 4 Life fitness class perform seated dance routines, complete with props, for students from the Block & Dreeben School for Young Children.

Senior/Early Childhood connections: building bridges

The Barshop Jewish Community Center Early Childhood and Senior Services Departments are building connections between the youngest and oldest members. The JCC Fit 4 Life classes recently shared some lively exercise routines with children from early childhood. The children danced and clapped along as the class participants performed three routines for them, complete with props. After the performance, the children had the opportunity to visit and talk with the seniors.

This performance provided a

catalyst for the teachers to introduce the mitzvah, *P'nei Zaken*, honoring the elderly which meshed well with the Block & Dreeben School for Young Children's November *Jewish Value of the Month*, *rachamim* - compassion. The teachers read books about visiting the elderly and found ways to incorporate visits with the seniors into their classroom activities.

Additionally, a class of two-year-olds made a special visit to the Senior Card Room as part of their daily routine, and pre-K classes

make special snacks to share with the seniors. On November 17, the children and seniors were able to share a special meal together at the annual Senior Pre-K Thanksgiving Luncheon.

Alissa Levey Baugh, JCC Director of Early Childhood Services, stated “It's an incredible opportunity to have senior adults and young children together under one roof. The sky is the limit for possibilities for building relationships across the generations.”

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KEEPING UP WITH CHABAD ON CAMPUS

ABOVE: Students enjoy an engaging Torah discussion at the weekly Pizza and Parsha class hosted by Chabad on Campus

BELOW: Cory Weinberg and Brett Davidoff Rabbi Ari at the Chabad on Campus student leadership convention in NYC.

See page 34 for details on Chabad on Campus menorah lighting.



Students stop to pose for a picture at Agudas' Kosher BBQ Championship.

Out and About with Hillel San Antonio

Hillel San Antonio continues to offer exciting and engaging opportunities for students on campus.

On Sunday Oct. 11, students participated in the Jewish Federation's Super Sunday, making calls to connect the wider Jewish community with the good work supported by the Annual Campaign.

On Oct. 18, Hillel women participated in Project Uplift, decorating bras for cancer patients in order to raise awareness of breast cancer. The event was co-sponsored by Hadassah and Congregation Agudas Achim's Sisterhood.

On Sunday Nov. 1, students participated in the annual AIPAC event, at which campus activities were highlighted by many of the speakers.

On Nov. 7, Hillel San Antonio tailgated at the UTSA football game, with kosher hot dogs and refreshments cheering for their football team. The next day, Hillel's team in the Kosher BBQ Championship was led by UTHSCA medical students Zach Spigel and Brian Milman. The Hillel team's salmon was very popular among attendees and the beans took third place with the judges. That afternoon students also made blankets for cancer patients with Texas Lutheran University's civic engagement program.

For more information about Hillel



UTSA Student Jordan Reich showcases the bra she made at Project Uplift.

San Antonio visit the website at www.HillelSA.org or contact Alan Yancelson at ayancelson@HillelSA.org. Check out Hillel on Facebook, and please subscribe to the e-newsletter and share with your friends.

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PERSPECTIVE

From a San Antonio Church Choir to Jerusalem

My wife and I return to San Antonio to run the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon December 6, one of five marathons we are running this year to "celebrate" my 50th birthday. We haven't been back since 1991. This is a homecoming for us. For however much San Antonio has changed since then, we have changed more.

When we first met in San Antonio, I was the Principal Clarinetist in the Air Force Band at Lackland. Beyond occasionally participating in Jewish activities on base, I was as unaffiliated as they come. My wife, however, was highly affiliated - just not with the Jewish community. Born into a devout Christian family, she was the Minister of Music at a large San Antonio church.

Today, we return to San Antonio as an observant Jewish family living in Israel. In San Antonio, my wife conducted church choirs. In Israel, she directs a Jewish women's chorus and teaches at a Jerusalem girls seminary. In San Antonio, I had a gig singing in a church choir. In Israel, I have been raising funds for several non-profit organizations vital to Israel's social fabric. In San Antonio, we were a childless couple. In Israel, we have two beautiful children who are fluent in Hebrew and conversant in Jewish texts.

How we got from point A to point B could literally fill a book - and it has. Doublelife: One Family, Two Faiths and a Journey of Hope (available on Amazon and other book sites) tells of our unanticipated journey to becoming a Jewish family.

How did an intermarried couple so unaffiliated that they weren't on any Jewish organization's radar screen become a Jewish family passionate about all things Jewish?

PERSPECTIVE

HAROLD BERMAN

is the same answer to the question how we can run five marathons in a single year. It comes down to one word: transformation.

At a time when many Jewish communal leaders continue to ask how we can make Judaism more accessible to intermarried families, our journey suggests they may be asking the wrong question. We are better served by asking how Judaism can transform intermarried families and bring meaning to their lives. Rather than focus mostly on making the Jewish door easy to open, we should focus more on what is behind the door.

The complete story of how we transformed from an intermarried family to an observant Jewish one is too detailed to recount here. But it's all about transformation - we were inspired by role models who offered us a deep vision of Jewish life and gently challenged us to aim

higher.

Not unlike how we developed into multiple marathon runners. We started running when we lived in San Antonio. But we never ran more than three miles. Gradually, we saw that there were longer races and became inspired to train for them.

Oh, and I'm running these five marathons, including the one in San Antonio, for an organization that is all about transforming lives. The Israel Sport Center for the Disabled helps people with missing limbs achieve in sports what many able-bodied people cannot (if you want to help me help this amazing organization that is a world leader in its field, you can do so at www.fiscd.org/mitzvah-Berman.html.)

We return to San Antonio as a Jewish family. We return to San Antonio as marathon runners. We return to San Antonio transformed.

Harold Berman lives with his wife, Gayle, and their family in Efrat in Israel. Harold blogs about his marathon-ing adventures at Ontheroadto50.com.



Harold Berman crossing the finish line at the Geneva Marathon in May, 2015.

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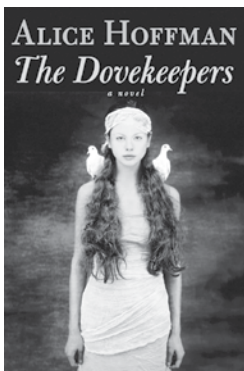
Discount tickets to Kinky Boots available

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services has a very limited number of tickets available to see the musical *Kinky Boots* at the Majestic Theatre at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 28, 2016. The tickets are for seats in the Center Mezzanine section, and are available for a group discounted rate of \$54. To purchase, contact Christina Weinfeld, (210) 302-6954 or cweinfeld@goldenmanor.net.

Winner of 6 Tony Awards® including best musical, *Kinky Boots* is an inspirational story follows a struggling shoe factory owner who works to

turn his business around with help from Lola, a fabulous entertainer in need of some sturdy stilettos. Together, this unlikely pair finds that they have more in common than they ever dreamed possible, proving that when you change your mind about someone, you can change your whole world. Inspired by a true story, *Kinky Boots* features a joyous, Tony®-winning score by Cyndi Lauper, direction and Tony-winning choreography by Jerry Mitchell and a hilarious, uplifting book by four-time Tony winner Harvey Fierstein.

Agudas Achim January Sisterhood Book Review



Agudas Achim Sisterhood January book review will be presented by Rabbi Ariel Greenberg. The selection will be *The Dovekeepers* by Alice Hoffman. Nearly 2,000 years ago, nine hundred Jews held out for months against armies of Romans on Masada, a mountain in the Judean desert. According to the ancient historian Josephus, two women and five children survived. Based on this tragic and iconic event, Hoffman's

novel is a spellbinding tale of four extraordinarily bold, resourceful, women, each of whom has come to Masada by a different path.

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B'nai B'rith gift for Federation literacy initiative

JFSA CFO Tiffany Bockerstette accepts a donation from B'nai B'rith Alamo Brandeis Chapter for the San Antonio Jewish Coalition for Literacy.

Rodfei Sholom Book Club discovers *Jewish Pirates Of The Caribbean*

Rodfei Sholom's Book Club will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room at the synagogue to discuss *Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean* by Edward Kritzler. Kritzler, a journalist who moved from New York to the island of Jamaica, has spent decades studying the Jewish history of his adopted island.

While the book has a historic basis, it is written as an entertaining novel making it an easy book to read. The discussion will be led by Amanda Nathan.

During the Inquisition, which took hold



Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean delves into the lives of Jews who chose the freedom of the high seas and New World adventure over the persecution of the Old World.

in Spain and Portugal, many underground Jews were forced to flee. Many went to the New World as explorers, conquistadors, and pioneering merchants. Others became outlaws, practicing piracy on the high seas.

Shabbat lunch and a movie at Temple Beth-El

Head to Temple Beth-El for lunch and a movie on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 11:45 a.m. The Shabbat lunch will feature specially prepared Jewish comfort foods and will be followed by the showing of *Welcome to*

Kutscher's, a film about the last Jewish country club resort in the Catskills. Kutsher's was family owned and operated for more than 100 years until its demolition in 2014.

The Shabbat lunch is free

for those 65 and older, and only \$5 for those under 65. RSVP to Dollie at dollie@beth-elsa.org or (210) 733-9135, ext. 208. The event is made possible by a generous grant from Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.

BELDON LIBRARY NEWS

The Beldon Library has shipped 3 cartons of books to the Vilnius Jewish Library in Vilnius, Lithuania. There will be more books to send. The Vilnius Jewish Library was destroyed by the Nazis during the Holocaust. The Lithuanian Jewish community is trying to rebuild and restock this library with Jewish books. Monetary donations to cover shipping costs are welcome.

The next Beldon Used Book Sale will take place on May 15 and 16, 2016. Donations of gently used books, CDs and DVDs for children and adults are being accepted.

The Beldon Library, part of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, has a full selection of Hanukkah books for children and adults. There are also cookbooks with a variety of latke recipes available for check out.

HOURS FOR THE BELDON LIBRARY
Mondays:
12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Tuesdays:
10 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Wednesdays:
1:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

WHAT IS HANUKKAH?

HANUKKAH - FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the ancient Israelites over the Syrian Greek army, and the subsequent miracle of restoring the menorah in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

The miracle of Hanukkah is that only one vial of oil was found with just enough oil for one day, and yet it lasted for eight full days.



Hanukkah Candle Lighting Ceremony

As with all other Jewish rituals, the lighting of Hanukkah candles goes according to a specific order and has blessings that accompany it.

On the first of Hanukkah's eight nights, only two candles are placed in the Hanukkah menorah (also known as a hanukkiah): the shamash, or "helper" candle, which has its own designated spot (usually in the center), and another candle. Each night, another candle is added so that on the eighth and final night of Hanukkah, nine candles (the shamash plus eight others) are lit.

The candles are placed in the menorah from right to left (just as Hebrew is written from right to left), but are lit from left to right. The shamash candle is always the first one lit, and is used to light the others, starting with the leftmost one. (Think of it as lighting the candle representing the newest night first.)

Before lighting the candles (but

after placing them in the menorah), we recite three blessings.

To read and hear these blessings in Hebrew (and to see transliteration) visit <http://bit.ly/1HawkcF>.

Praised are You,
Our G-d, Ruler of the universe,
Who made us holy through Your commandments
and commanded us
to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

Praised are You, Our G-d,
Ruler of the universe, Who
performed wondrous deeds for our
ancestors in those ancient days at
this season.

(First Night Only): Praised
are You, Our G-d, Ruler of the
universe, Who has given us life
and sustained us and enabled us to
reach this season.

*Reprinted from
MyJewishLearning.com.*

Decorated Brownie Bites

If you're looking for something other than another doughnut or latkes variation, consider these great, alternative treats from Pastry chef Paula Shoyer's cookbook, *The Holiday Kosher Baker* (Sterling Epicure, November 2013.) They can be decorated with colored sugars, sprinkles, nonpareils, crushed candies, or nuts.

Servings: 96 one-inch bites

Ingredients:

10 ounces bittersweet chocolate
1/2 c canola oil, plus 2 teaspoons
for greasing pan
1 1/2 c sugar
1/3 c soy milk
3 large eggs
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
1/2 tsp salt
3/4 tsp baking powder
1/3 c unsweetened cocoa
1 1/4 c all-purpose flour
At least 3 different colored sugars,
sprinkles, nonpareils, crushed candies,
or ground nuts

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Use 1 teaspoon oil to grease a 9 x 13-inch baking pan. Line with parchment paper, allowing some to extend up and over the sides. Grease top and sides with the other teaspoon of oil.
2. Break or chop the chocolate into small pieces and melt it, either over a double boiler or in the microwave oven for 45 seconds, stir, heat for 30 seconds, stir, and heat another 15 seconds if needed, until completely melted.
3. When the chocolate is melted, add the oil and sugar and whisk well. Add the soy milk, eggs, and va-



nilla, and whisk again. Add the salt, baking powder, and cocoa—and mix. Finally, add the flour in four parts and whisk well each time. Scoop the mixture into the pan and spread it evenly.

4. Bake for 30 minutes, or until the top looks dry and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out looking a little gooey. Cool for 30 minutes and then freeze for a minimum of one hour.
5. Place the decorations into small shallow bowls. Pull up the parchment paper to lift the brownie out of the pan. Trim 1/2 inch from the sides and cut the short side of the brownie into long 3/4 to 1-inch wide strips. Cut each strip into small squares.
6. To decorate, press the top or bottom of each brownie into the desired decoration. Store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to three days or freeze them for up to three months.

The Maccabeats release new Hanukkah video

By Jas Chana
(JTA) Jewish a cappella group the Maccabeats has released a new music video for their song *Latke Recipe* ahead of Hanukkah 2015.

Latke Recipe is a parody of rock band Walk The Moon's *Shut Up and Dance* hit from last summer.

The Maccabeats breakout hit was another Hanukkah song, *Candlelight*, released

in 2010. The video for the song, a take on Taio Cruz's then-popular club anthem "Dynamite," has garnered 10.6 million views on YouTube.

The band has since opened for Jewish reggae star Matisyahu and performed at the White House for a reception in honor of Jewish Heritage Month.

To watch the video, visit the link on the JTA website, <http://bit.ly/1TeDILR>.

In the Kitchen: Potato Latkes

By Claudia Roden
myjewishlearning.com

Potato Latkes are one of the most famous of Jewish foods and a specialty of Hanukkah. The latkes are served as an appetizer, as a side dish, and even for tea with a sprinkling of confectioners' sugar. They can be marvelous if properly prepared, just before eating.

Ingredients:

Salt
2 large eggs
2 lbs potatoes
Oil for frying

Peel and finely grate the potatoes. Put them straight into cold water, then drain and squeeze them as dry as you can by pressing them with your hands in a colander. This is to



remove the starchy liquid, which could make the latkes soggy.

Beat the eggs lightly with salt, add to the potatoes, and stir well. Film the bottom of a frying pan with oil and heat. Take serving-spoonfuls, or as much as 1/4 cup (50 ml), of the mixture and drop into the hot oil. Flatten a little, and lower the heat so that the fritters cook through evenly. When one side is brown, turn over and brown the other.

Lift out and serve very hot.

Reprinted with permission from The Book of Jewish Food: An Odyssey from Samarkand to New York (Knopf).

Remembering deceased Jewish Military Veterans

Jewish War Veterans of America SA Post #753 asks you to remember these Jewish military veterans whose yahrzeit (anniversary of the individual's death) occurs in the month of DECEMBER and who are buried in a local cemetery. If you know of a names missing please contact Herschel at (210) 494-8768.

AARON, BERNARD	MORETSKY, HAROLD
AARONSON, ALVIN	NARTER, SIDNEY
ALBERTS, WILLIAM	NAULT, WENDY
APPLESTEIN, ROSE	PALM, JOSEPH
ARBETTER, MILTON	PATTERSON, JAMES
BARSHOP, SAM	PHILLIPS, HENRY
BLUM, CARL	POMERANTZ, MARK
CHOSÉD, ALBERT	RECKTOR, MORRIS
COHAN, DAVID	REISFIELD, HAROLD
COHEN, SOLOMON	RESNICK, SAUL
DAVIS, DONALD	RIPPSTINE, EDWARD
DAVIS, MICHAEL	RIVKIND, ROGER
DAVIS, HYMAN	SCHERR, HYMAN
DORMAN, ROBERT	SCHWARZKOPF, SIDNEY
DUFF, JOHN	SEIDMAN, JACOB
ESSERICK, BEN	SELIGMANN, IRVING
FEIN, WALTER	SEMEGRAN, MICHAEL
FRANK, MELVIN	SILBERMAN, SAMUEL
GARCIA, BRUNETTA	SMITH, ZAVELL
GENSBERG, FRANK	STEPNER, PAUL
GITZES, JOSEPH	STOCKMAN, LILY
GOTTLIEB, A. MATHEW	SUAREZ, CECILIO
HALFF, HARRY	TEBELLE, ISADORE
KIMMELMAN, ABRAHAM	WEINTRAUB, MICHAEL
LEVINE, SAMUEL	WEISSBERG, SAMUEL
LEWIS, CHARLES	WIEDERMANN, BERNARD
LOWELL, WALFORD	WOLFF, RICHARD
M'CARVER, MITCHELL	WOLFSON, SIDNEY
MICHAELS, DREW	WULFE, LEON
MILLER, BERNARD	ZALMAN, LEONARD

Happy Hanukkah!
From the Board and Staff of the
Jewish Federation of San Antonio



HANUKKAH

Temple Beth-El organizes "Mitzvah Month"

There are many opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others during the month of December:

Hanukkah Party at Golden Estates

130 Spencer Lane – in the entertainment area
Sunday, Dec. 6, at 3 p.m.

Join with other volunteers to bring Jewish residents and their friends a *Taste of Hanukkah!* Volunteers will deliver Hanukkah treats and goody bags, play dreidel, light the menorah, and sing Hanukkah songs. The event is generously supported by Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services. All ages and families from across the community are welcome. Contact Geri Gregory at Temple Beth-El, (210) 733-9135, ext. 120 or geri@beth-elsa.org to tell her you will be there.

Two Seniors' Hanukkah Parties at Adante

Independent and Assisted Senior Living
Independent – 2702 Cembalo Blvd. (off NW Military Hwy) in their Casual Café
Sunday, Dec. 13, 2 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.

Join with other volunteers to bring our Jewish seniors, friends, and family two warm and engaging Hanukkah parties. Sing Hanukkah songs with *Kol Simcha*, the Temple's volunteer choir, play dreidel, distribute goody bags, and serve latkes and refreshments. All ages and families are welcome! Contact Geri Gregory at 733-9135, ext. 120 or geri@beth-elsa.org to tell her you will be there. Adante has asked volunteers to help with their *Toys for Tots* drive – please bring new and unwrapped

toys to donate for Holiday gift giving. The event is generously supported financially by Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.

San Antonio Food Bank – pick a day during Hanukkah to volunteer

5200 W. Old Highway 90
Tuesdays through Fridays in December, 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Closed Christmas Day)

The San Antonio Food Bank receives a lot of donations during December, and they need help in their Warehouse and Kitchen. Volunteers will sort and/or pack produce, nonperishable foods, and household items, preparing them for distribution. Duties may include checking for expiration dates, opened packages and spoilage, labeling cans, packing bags of food and household items. Other duties may include general cleaning of the area, breaking down boxes, etc. This project is fun and rewarding for both adults and children. Contact Dayna Robokowski at (210) 431-8388 for further information and to sign up to volunteer.

Ronald McDonald House of San Antonio

4803 Sid Katz, in the Medical Center area
227 Lewis St., between San Pedro & McCullough, near the Temple

Two locations of the San Antonio Ronald McDonald House are in need of volunteers on Christmas Day, **Friday, Dec. 25**. The three shifts for volunteers are 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, 12 Noon to 3:00 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, and must come by the location for brief instructions beforehand. For more information or to volunteer, please call Liz Medina, 614-2554 or e-mail LizMedina2@yahoo.com.

Family Service Association's "Adopt a Family" for Christmas

Family Service Association receives applications from over 450 families each year who need assistance during the holiday season. The organization will give us a list of families and you may be matched with a family that matches your family in size, age, etc. so that you may provide wrapped gifts and food for Christmas. You will deliver the items to the agency, not the family directly. This is a mitzvah project that involves all ages. For more information, contact Geri Gregory at 733-9135, ext. 120 or geri@beth-elsa.org to let her know you would like to help out.



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Fifth Night Hanukkah Project

The Fifth Night program, sponsored by Big Tent Judaism, is a brief but big, blowout event supporting Congregation Agudas Achim's continuing partnership with the San Antonio Fisher House. "Essentially a toy drive, the program is designed to engage children in the value of giving back. Children are encouraged to donate one Hanukkah toy that they receive to be presented to the Fisher House between Hanukkah

and Christmas," explains Agudas Achim Social Action Chair, Isadora Sintes.

The synagogue will be collecting the toys from now through Hanukkah. Ms. Sintes will be presenting more information on the project at Agudas Achim's *Lots of Latkes Family Hanukkah Program* at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 9. For more information, call Mindi Stern at (210) 479-0307.



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Spurs Mascot to Shine at Chanukah at the Spurs Pre-Game Event

The second annual *Chanukah at the Spurs* will feature a pre-game event in the H-E-B Fan Zone at the AT&T Center on Monday, Dec. 14, from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The event will feature an appearance by the Spurs Coyote, a Menorah lighting, a commemorative *Chanukah at the Spurs 2015* T-Shirt, and an opportunity to watch the Spurs' shootaround practice.

A limited number of tickets at a discounted group rate will be available for the game against the Utah Jazz (7:30 p.m. tipoff). Tickets may be purchased and printed by visiting this exclusive link: www.SpursChanukah.com. Enter promo code Spurs.

Chanukah at the Spurs is coordinated by the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning in conjunction with our local synagogues and Jewish organizations.

For more information, please call Chabad at (210) 764-0300, Spurs accounts manager Chanson Douglas at (210) 444-5099, email cdouglas@attcenter.com, or visit www.ChabadSA.com/SpursNight.

Temple Beth-El hosts Hanukkah celebration for adults

Temple Beth-El will host an Adults Only Hanukkah Celebration beginning at 7 p.m. on December 10. The evening will feature a signature cocktail, a Maccabee Martini, wine and appetizers. Games, dancing, and music by Barshop Ollervidez Entertainment and a festive catered dinner by Drew Glick will round out the evening.

"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 chair, Dr. Amy Benedikt.

During the event, five raffle prizes will be awarded: A top of the line Apple watch; a restaurant package to Il Sogno, Moshe's Golden Falafel, and The Luxury; a \$500 Gift Certificate to Julian Gold; a \$500

Gift Certificate to Joseph's and a David Yurman bracelet from Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry. Winners do not need to be present to win.

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

Fogiel Gift Shop ready for Hanukkah

The Fogiel Gift Shop at the Barshop Jewish Community Center has added new inventory for this Hanukkah. In addition to the wide variety of Judaica that is regularly in stock, the shop has additional dreidels (including decorative ones), cards, wrapping paper, children's items, latke plates, and many other items for sale. The Menorah selection includes items in stone, metal, and ceramic.

The Fogiel Gift Shop is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Thursdays and Fridays from 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. The shop will stay open until 6pm Tuesday, Dec. 1 for Hands on Chanukah, a free community event.

For more information about merchandise, please contact Donna Hatchett at (210) 302-6863 or hatchettd@jcc-sa.org.

JFS announces 2015 Latke Party honorees

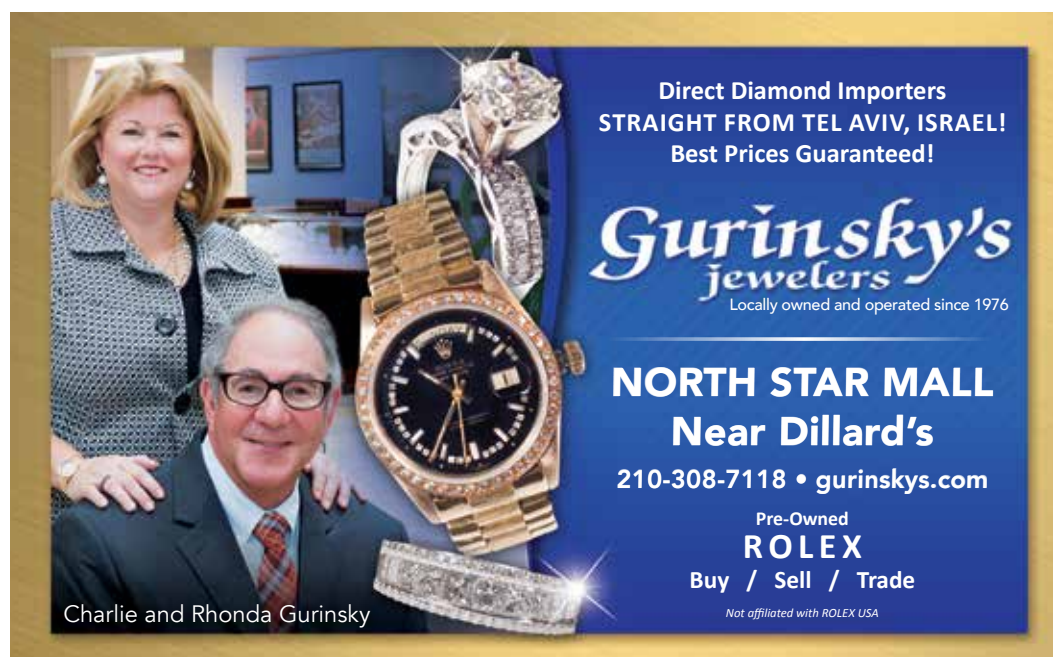
Jewish Family Service will honor Rosanne Atlas, Dan Markson and Natalie Levine at this year's Annual Latke Party. The honorees are all community leaders and long-time supporters of Jewish Family Service.

Alice and Ron Perloff are hosting the event on Sunday, Dec. 20 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost per person is \$36, with the proceeds helping JFS continue its work in the San Antonio and the surrounding area. Attendees will enjoy a mouth-watering dinner, schmoozing, making new friends and, of course, delicious homemade latkes

prepared by guest chefs.

To make your reservations, send your check for \$36 per person, payable to Jewish Family Service, to "JFS Latke Party," 12500 NW Military Hwy, Suite 250, San Antonio, TX 78231. You may also call JFS with your credit card information at (210) 302-6921, or make your online payment at www.jfs-sa.org.

If you cannot attend the event, JFS welcomes donations to support the professional mental health and senior services that JFS provides to the community.



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HANUKKAH

Pearl to host Hanukkah celebration and menorah lighting with YSJA



Pearl is creating a new holiday tradition in partnership with Young & Jewish San Antonio (YJSA) with the inaugural Hanukkah Menorah lighting celebration on Wednesday, Dec. 9. The festivities run from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and will include traditional kosher

food along with music 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 Chanukah celebration," said Nicole Porterfield, Board Member at YJSA. The Menorah at Pearl will be lit each successive evening of Chanukah

as well.

The celebration will begin at 6 p.m. with Hanukkah greetings from Rabbi Chaim Block, Executive Director at Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning as well as Mayor Ivy Taylor, followed by a historic nine-foot Menorah lighting to celebrate the fourth night of the holiday for an evening celebrating the holiday in true Pearl fashion.

Indie-folk-rock band Tera Fena will take the stage following the lighting to play several traditional Chanukah songs along with a 45-minute set of their own music. Throughout the evening, Green Vegetarian Cuisine will offer falafel burritos for \$8, along with traditional Chanukah Jelly Donuts for \$4. Local favorite singer-songwriter Brent Michael Wood will close out the special evening with a two-hour set of music on the plaza for all to enjoy.

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

First ever UTSA campus menorah lighting

Chabad on Campus will host the first-ever public menorah lighting on the UTSA campus. The lighting will take place on a Giant 9 foot Menorah in the center of Campus on Monday Dec. 7, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

All are welcome to join this momentous occasion of bringing the Chanukah Miracle to the biggest college in San Antonio, while enjoying music, chocolate gelt, dreidels and more.

For more info please contact Rabbi Ari Weingarten at (210) 391-3621 or email Ariweingarten@gmail.com.

Rodfei Sholom Hanukkah Celebration

Rodfei Sholom will celebrate the start of Hanukkah on Sunday, Dec. 6, at the synagogue, from 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. The fun will begin with *The Twister Sisters* and their fantastic balloons - including dreidels and menorahs. In addition, there will be face-painting, a dreidel pinata, and arts & crafts activities. At 5 p.m. there will be a home-cooked traditional Hanukkah meal served in a warm, friendly environment. The highlight of the event will be lighting the first candle of Hanukkah. For more information and to RSVP contact the synagogue office at (210) 493-3557 or e-mail to rodfeisa@gmail.com.

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FROM THE COVER

TORAHs

continued from page 1

stolen from the Jewish communities during the Holocaust have been held by Russian and other Eastern European governments, like Belarus, Poland, Rumania and the Ukraine. Until now, Russia had never allowed any of these stolen Torahs to be returned to service and used by Jewish communities. Through the long and dedicated service of Sybil Silver from the Jewish Heritage Foundation Inc. of Boca Raton, Florida, these and other Holocaust Torahs are being returned to service.

"These Torahs represent the heart and soul of the Jewish people," said Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg. "This is the first time that Torahs stolen during the Holocaust and kept in Russia have ever been exhibited in Texas. These Torahs are being used to promote Holocaust education and strengthen Jewish communities."

A full program is being planned for the weekend:

Thursday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m.

Lecture at *Rodfei Sholom - Restoring Jewish Heritage*
Speaker / Presenter - Sibyl Silver, Foundation President

Saturday, Dec. 12

During Shabbat services Rodfei Sholom will have a special presentation by Sibyl Silver. *Our Stolen Heritage and What Needs to be Done to Locate, Rescue and Restore Judaica Stolen by the Nazis and Kept in Russia, Belarus, Poland, Ukraine and Romania*

A Stand-Up Kiddush will follow the Shabbat services.

Sunday, Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Display with explanation of the history of the Torahs.

The Thursday lecture and the Sunday display are being co-sponsored by the Holocaust Memorial of San Antonio, a program of Federation.

The community is invited to see the display and listen to the history of the recovered Torahs.

For more information contact Judy Lackritz at (210) 302-6960 or Bobbie Ghitis at (210) 493-3557.

Is the number of friends your son can invite to his Bar Mitzvah directly proportional to the number of people you can squeeze into your living room?

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WE RENT! For more information, call Mike Griffin at 210-302-6801 or Carisa Heiss at 210-302-6866.

You can also visit www.thecampustx.org.

Hungarian couple uncovers last records of murdered Jews in apartment wall

By Sam Sokol/
Jerusalem Post

Thousands of pages culled from a census documenting Budapest's Jewish population for the purposes of ghettoization during the Holocaust were uncovered behind a wall by a couple renovating their apartment in the Hungarian capital, according to media reports.

According to a report in The Guardian, Gabor and Brigitte Berdefy found more than 6,000 pages, which were used to track down the Jewish inhabitants of the city so that they could be moved to a ghetto for subsequent deportation to Auschwitz.

"Jewish people filled in the forms honestly, they refused to believe where this might end up," Istvan Kenyeres, who runs the city's archives and is now in possession of the papers, was quoted as saying.

While most of the census

still remains missing, "the content and scale of the finding is unprecedented," Kenyeres said. "It helps to fill a huge gap in the history of the Holocaust in Budapest."

While deportations for rural Jews began immediately following Germany's invasion and occupation of its one-time ally in 1944, many of the Jews of Budapest were saved by the arrival of the Red Army only months after the ghetto's establishment.

Last January, the Hungarian ambassador to the UN officially took responsibility for his country's role in the Holocaust. That statement came only days after the local Jewish community accused Budapest of engaging in Holocaust revisionism.

At the time, the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz) had been involved in a high-profile dispute with President Viktor Orbán's administration over a series of incidents which it

claimed showed a tendency towards downplaying their countrymen's role in the genocide of Hungarian Jewry.

That conflict led to a year-long boycott of the government's official 2014 Hungarian Holocaust Memorial Year.

Hungary currently holds

the rotating chairmanship of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and is strongly lobbying to revise the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation, a measure being touted by policymakers as creating a "right to be forgotten" for EU citizens.

Both Hungary and IHRA have asserted that Holocaust researchers in Europe have had their investigations hampered by restricted access to archival data, with archivists citing the GDPR as their rationale for not complying with requests for documents.



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Hundreds gather at Israel memorial service for Ezra Schwartz

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Hundreds of people gathered at Ben Gurion Airport to pay tribute to Ezra Schwartz, the American student killed in late November in a terror attack.

Friends, classmates and fellow yeshiva students sang Jewish songs arm-in-arm in a large circle November 21, in a room near the ambulance that held Schwartz's coffin, before it left for its final journey home to Massachusetts. At the circle's center were an Israeli flag, a New England Patriots football Jersey and Schweppes Apple soda, Schwartz's favorite drink.

Schwartz, a student at



Ezra Schwartz, an 18-year-old American, was fatally shot in Israel on November 19 while delivering food packages to soldiers.

Yeshivat Ashreinu in the central Israeli city of Beit Shemesh, was killed in a shooting November 19 in the

West Bank Etzion settlement bloc. He had come to help beautify a nature reserve dedicated to the three Jewish teens kidnapped and killed by terrorists last year in the same area.

Family and friends recalled Schwartz, a native of Sharon, Massachusetts, as a funny and caring young man with a magnetic personality and a love for sports.

"He was someone who touched people," said Schwartz's uncle, Yoav Schwartz, a resident of Israel. "Wherever he went, people were attracted to him by his sweet demeanor."

Jonathan Pollard freed after 30 years

(JTA) — Jonathan Pollard, the former Navy intelligence analyst convicted of spying for Israel, was freed from a federal prison in North Carolina.

Pollard was released on parole November 20 after serving 30 years of a life sentence for passing classified documents to Israel. His imprisonment has long been a sore point in relations between the United States and Israel.

Successive Israeli prime ministers have raised the issue in their meetings with U.S. presidents. In recent years, support in the U.S. political establishment has grown for his release, although the security community remained

adamantly opposed, saying the breadth of his spying fully merited his life sentence.

"The people of Israel welcome the release of Jonathan Pollard," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement.

"As someone who raised Jonathan's case for years with successive American presidents, I had long hoped this day would come," he said. "After three long and difficult decades, Jonathan has been reunited with his family. May this Sabbath bring him much joy and peace that will continue in the years and decades ahead."

Pollard will not be permitted to leave the United

States for as long as five years under federal parole rules, although he has asked to immigrate to Israel, saying he would relinquish his U.S. citizenship and agree never to return to the United States as a condition.



Jonathan Pollard, left, arrives at a federal courthouse in New York with his wife, Esther, to check in at a probation office just hours after he was released from prison. (Ilana Gold/WCBS-TV via AP Images)

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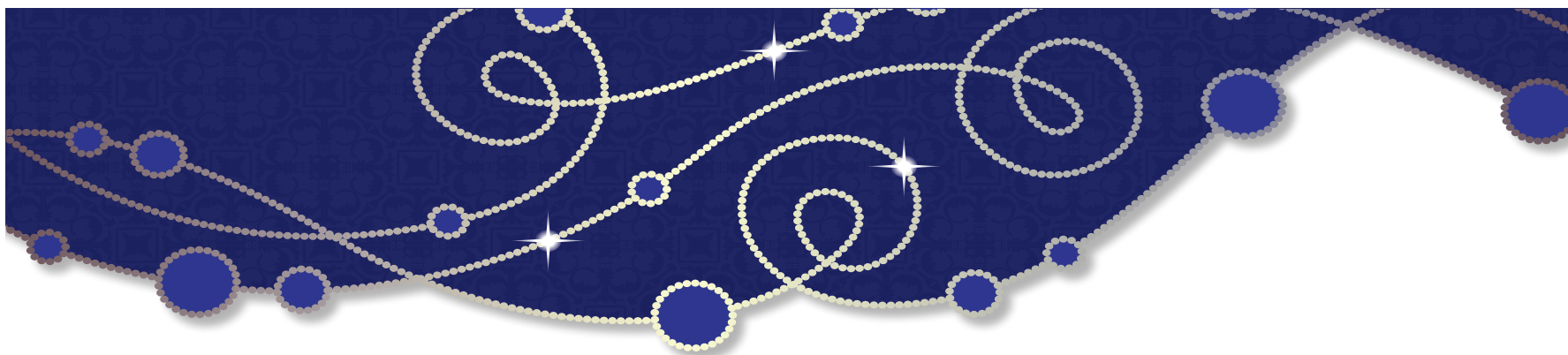
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