



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

SH'VAT - ADAR 5778

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

FEBRUARY 2018



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From social services to synagogues, info at your fingertips.
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HOPE FOR HUMANITY
Granddaughter of Nazi commander to speak at HMMSA's 2nd annual gala.
PAGE 3

This year, do something to make a difference

"It is not what one says, but rather what one does, that makes all the difference in the world (Pirke Avot Ethics of the Fathers)." This teaching of Shimon, from *Pirke Avot*, speaks to the importance of engaging in the work of building our Jewish community. We have many in our community who



Letter from our CEO
RONIT SHERWIN

actively help the work of the Jewish Federation, and for that, I am grateful. There are numerous individuals who give of their

time and their resources to ensure that the Jewish Federation is able to provide support for our local agencies and for Jews around the world. In this Journal you will find an ad that highlights our 2017 annual campaign, dollars raised, events held and volunteers and staff that enabled us to be successful.

It is this "doing" that makes "all the difference in the world." We do with money, with time and with passion. And I want to personally thank all of the individuals who have contributed to our Federation.

As we are all still in the

See **LETTER**, page 6

PERSPECTIVE

It was real, IDF

By Tracy Friedberg

I was uniquely disqualified to join the Israeli army. My Hebrew left much to be desired, the uniform never fit properly and my vision was so terrible, the doctor told me during the draft process, "You know, no other army in the world would agree to take you."

I was the face of the army's Palestinian customer service, a tiny bureaucrat in soldiers' clothing within Israel's Civil Administration, the military-government body in control of all Palestinian civil activities in the West Bank. Tasked with handing out humanitarian permits, I stood behind a bullet-proof window glazed with fingerprints, taking in the desperate

See **IDF**, page 26

DOZENS OF JEWISH ACTIVISTS ARRESTED AT PROTEST



Jewish protesters link arms in a Senate office building on January 17 asking for protections for undocumented immigrants who arrived as children. The activists, from the Reform movement, the Anti-Defamation League, Bend the Arc, T'ruah and other Jewish groups sat in concentric circles in the Rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building until they were removed by police.

Hebrew grammar book from 16th century returns to Prague from auction in NYC

PRAGUE (AP) — A 16th century book that belonged to Prague's Jewish community before World War II and surfaced at a New York City auction last

year has been taken back to the Czech Republic.

Titled *Mikne Avram* – *Peculium Abrae*, the recovered volume is a grammar book published

in both Hebrew and Latin in 1523. It was written by Abraham ben Meir de Balmes, an Italian Jew, and

See **BOOK**, page 19

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



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OF SAN ANTONIO

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EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS:

The submission deadline for the March 2018 issue of the Jewish Journal is February 10, 2018 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 Leslie Komet Ausburn at advertising@jfsatx.org.

Ad deadlines for March 2018 ISSUE:

- Ad space reservations due no later than February 10, 2018 by noon
 - Press ready ads due by February 16, 2018.
- Please include a contact name and phone number with all submissions.

The Jewish Journal is a free publication of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, and is published in print and online 11 times a year as a public service to the community. Donations to offset production and mailing costs are always welcome.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Elsa Abraham

Marcia Cohen

Dr. Michael Merren

Sondra Lotman Rosenthal

Arthur Irwin Stein

CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday, Feb. 2

Light Candles : 5:55 P.M.

Shabbat, Feb. 3

Shabbat Ends: 6:50 P.M.

Friday, Feb. 9

Light Candles : 6:01 P.M.

Shabbat, Feb. 10

Shabbat Ends: 6:56 P.M.

Friday, Feb. 16

Light Candles : 6:06 P.M.

Shabbat, Feb. 17

Shabbat Ends: 7:01 P.M.

Friday, Feb. 23

Light Candles : 6:11 P.M.

Shabbat, Feb. 24

Shabbat Ends: 7:06 P.M.

Friday, March 2

Light Candles : 6:16 P.M.

Shabbat, March 3

Shabbat Ends: 7:10 P.M.



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The Pearl Society invites you to a

Gal-entine's Brunch

Sunday, February 11th
at 11:30am

Liberty Bar | 1111 S. Alamo St.

RSVP by February 9th to

Women's Philanthropy Director,

Eva Laporte @ Laportef@jfsatx.org



Author of *My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me* to be guest speaker at Hope for Humanity Gala

On March 7, 2018, The Jewish Federation of San Antonio will host the 2nd Hope for Humanity Gala to benefit the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio (HMMSA). Guest speaker, Jennifer Teege, will talk about her maternal grandfather, Austrian Nazi concentration camp commander and war criminal Amon Goth.

At 38, Teege unexpectedly learned about her family history when she discovered her mother's biography in the library. As the product of an Austrian-German mother and Nigerian father, she understood that the ideology her grandfather prescribed to would have made her a target and to come to terms with the past, she authored the book, *My*

Grandfather Would Have Shot Me.

HMMSA Docents recently read her book as part of a book study hosted by the Museum staff. The following questions were posed to Jennifer, and below are her responses:

What prompted you to write your story?

It wasn't something I decided immediately, it was a process. Once I realized, it's an individual story, but with so many universal aspects, I thought it's worthwhile to share it.

What has been liberating to you as you discovered and investigated your family?

Adorno said: "A wronged life can't be lived rightly," I agree. The only

way to live a true and authentic life is to bring the skeletons out of the closets where they are hiding. Ignorance is not bliss.

Your book is based on seeking answers and being curious. Are there any questions that you initially asked yourself that have been unanswered?

It's unrealistic to believe one will find all answers in life. There'll always be blind spots - that's ok.

How did you reconcile the love your grandmother had for Amon? Or the love she had for you?

I've fond memories of my grandmother who I saw last when I was 7 years old and who committed

suicide when I was 12 years old.

The question is, is it possible to love one part of a person while rejecting another part? I believe, yes.

Nevertheless, different from my grandmother, I don't minimize what my grandfather did. I don't excuse it and I'm aware that he was a war criminal.

Did you feel the depiction of your grandmother in "Schindler's List" was accurate? How did you feel about it?

Schindler's List is a Hollywood feature, not a documentary. I was always very conscious about that fact. One has to differentiate between a

See **TEEGE**, page 5

BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY!

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MARCH 7, 2018
6:00 P.M.

Witte Museum - The Mays Family Center



Keynote Speaker
Jennifer Teege

"A Black Woman Discovers Her Family's Nazi Past"



For Sponsorship Opportunities
Ronit Sherwin: 210-302-6961

For More Information
Ellen Ollervidez: 210-302-6962



"One Spring" (1941) Robert Bodek and Kurt Conrad Loew

YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

PARTNERSHIP CORNER



By Lauren Abraham,
JFSA Special Projects
Coordinator

San Antonio welcomed the young adult delegation of Hedi Pusztai and Marton Tordai of Budapest, Hungary, as they arrived on January 9. Pusztai and Tordai shared an engaging Prezi presentation about Budapest, Hungary with children from the Temple Beth El Religious School, Inda Posner Religious School of Congregation Agudas Achim, and the Torah Academy of San

Budapest Delegation visits San Antonio



Temple Beth El Religious School welcome the delegates when they first arrived in San Antonio. They were treated to a Hungarian history review.

Antonio (TASA). The students learned about the Jewish history and geography of our Eastern European partnering country, and even learned a few Hungarian phrases. The Budapest delegation also

met with the young adults in Federation's Emerging Leadership Course (ELC). Pusztai and Tordai were treated to their first Tex Mex meal with kosher cheese and vegan enchiladas before sharing their



Hadassah Aviva group enjoyed sharing lunch at Green at the Pearl with the Budapest Delegation

presentation on Jewish life in Hungary. ELC students learned about history from the 19th century through the second World War Pusztai and Tordai's personal stories. Each grew up not knowing about

their Jewish identities and learned through Birthright and Partnership2Gether programs how to reconnect with their cultures and heritage. Pusztai and Tordai

See **P2P**, next page

Presidents Day PJ Our Way

February 18th
at 12:30pm

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Kids 9 through 11 years old,
join us for our inaugural PJ
Our Way Program!
Pizza! Fun! Friends!

SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR PJ LIBRARY

February 11th
at 3pm

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Children 6 months through 8
years, join us for games and
fun in the Beldon Library!

To RSVP contact Lauren Abraham at AbrahamL@jfsatx.org

HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION



YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK



The Inda Posner Religious School of Agudas Achim gifted the delegates with a Texas Kosher Barbecue t-shirt after their presentation.

P2P, from previous page

are now young leaders revitalizing their Hungarian community with education and engagement in Jewish life.

During their visit, they also:

- Joined more than two dozen young adults at the YAD Monthly L'Chaim, mingling and sharing stories about life, travel, and common interests.
- Explored some of San Antonio major sites, the Alamo and Riverwalk, with YAD Board Member Tina Alvarado and Susan Ghertner, and were hosted at the homes of Susan and Steve Butler, and Allen and Susan Noorily
- Presented to the Community Relations Council (CRC) and community members
- With JFSA staff and board member Jonathan Gurwitz, attended Hadassah's young women's group, Aviva, for their monthly Around Town Lunch

Partnership2Gether Resource Development Coordinator Avital Ben-Dror joined the delegation in San Antonio. Together they were able to engage Israel mission participants and Jewish Federation board members to learn more about their Jewish heritage.

TEEGE

continued from page 3

“real” person and the movie character.

Did you have any contact with any other 2nd or 3rd generation family members of perpetrators or victims? How did this affect you?

Of course. In Germany you have so many families where there are perpetrators. Most of the elements you see in my life you can find in other people.

I met many survivors and their families over the years. When I'm with them, I see that the story of my life is not only my

individual life, but it really has a symbolic meaning. I feel grateful and I feel truly blessed.

There is an empowering quote that proves that you do not have to be a product of your circumstances which is, “There is no Nazi gene. We can decide for ourselves who and what we want to be.” Could you share how this impacted your story?

You decide who you want to be. It's your character and you set an example that you can be different. It's not connected to genes.

Christmas Day Dinner at Warrior and Family Support Center



It was a festive affair as volunteers from the Jewish community served Christmas Dinner to patients and families at the Warrior and Family Support Center. Volunteers for the event, led by organizer David Simon, included Bob and Cristina Ray, Liz Glazer and Mike Piesman and family, Ron and Jean Schlesinger, Sonia Hart, Eva Balcazar, Rachel, Jonathan, Jordan and Allie Gurwitz.

Meet & Greet Author Event with children's author

MADELINE BRADLEY

Sunday, February 25 @ 2pm

12500 NW Military Hwy, Beldon Library

Madeline Bradley is the author of *Please take us Home!* and *Please Don't Sneeze on My Cheese!!!*

RSVP to Beldon Librarian, Lynn Waghalter at 210-302-6805





Teen leaders from the Catholic and Jewish Community, including Jocelyn Epstein (far left), Tavo Viramontes (back row, 2nd from left), Jack Rosenblatt, (back row, 3rd from left) and Lainey Komerofsky, (front row, 2nd from right) attended the Catholic-Jewish Hanukkah luncheon.

Catholics and Jews celebrate Hanukkah at San Fernando Cathedral

On Thursday, Dec. 14, Catholics and Jews came together to celebrate Hanukkah during a special luncheon at San Fernando Cathedral. This annual luncheon highlights the friendship that exists between our two communities and shows our dedication to nurturing the Catholic and Jewish relationship in the years to come. Special guest and speaker, Rabbi James Rudin, with American Jewish Committee, warned that the main growth of Catholics and Jewish populations are in parts of the world that have not had the dialogue that we have experienced over the last 50 years in North America and Europe.



Rabbis Jeffrey Abraham, Samuel Stahl, and A. James Rudin.



Kidding Around Yoga with Kendel encouraged the children to enjoy breathing exercises.

PJ Library Winter Bash brings families together

Children, parents and grandparents came together on Sunday, Dec. 24 at the Holzman auditorium of the Jewish Community Campus to share a night at the PJ Library Winter Bash. *Kidding Around Yoga with Kendel Cohen Selig* served as the main event. PJ Library kids were treated to a special kids' yoga session, including meditation as they shared "Peace begins with me!" Children also made snowflakes design projects with white paint and stickers and played with hand-made snow in large sensory tubs. In addition, there were two "edible" stations where children



PJ Library kids enjoyed painting and sticking their own snowflake pictures.

could create pretzel snowflakes with marshmallows, and edible snowmen.

Irene's Kosher Katering served families a pasta dinner and many of the children tossed the football and enjoyed time together during the winter break.

Want to know more about upcoming PJ Library events? Join the fun by contacting Lauren Abraham at AbrahamL@jfsatx.org, or look for *PJ Library San Antonio* on Facebook.

LETTER, continued from page 1

beginning of 2018, I want to encourage everyone in our community to DO something this year to help the Jewish Federation thrive. This community is OURS and the responsibility is ours collectively. Let me give you some ideas: attend a Federation program or a program funded by the Federation and share it on social media and name JFSA, volunteer on Super Sunday (September 16, 2018), make a financial contribution or serve on a Federation committee. We need your support and we welcome your help.

The beauty of the teachings of *Pirke Avot* is that they are intended to develop us as individuals ethically and morally. *Pirke Avot* is not telling us what laws to observe and the details involved in properly executing those laws, but rather how to be a better person from the perspective of doing what is right. From my perspective, we support the Jewish Federation because it is the right thing to do for our community. Join me and the many other volunteers in 2018 in further growing the impact of our Jewish Federation.

YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK



(l to r) Howie Nestel, Holocaust survivor and guest speaker Eva Balcazar, HMMSA Director Ellen Ollervidez, and San Antonio Public Library Director Ramiro Salazar.



Members of the community including, San Antonio Public Library Foundation Board members, San Antonio Public Library and Holocaust Memorial Museum staff, docents and Commission members usher in the 6th annual Holocaust Learn and Remember program.

Holocaust: Learn & Remember

On January 8, community members, civic leaders, and media gathered for the kickoff of the 6th Annual *Holocaust: Learn and Remember*.

The theme, *Art and Survival* was explored through plays, films, scholarly discussions on looted, cultural property,

the model camp: Terezin, and our featured exhibit at the SA Central Library Gallery. Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio (HMMSA) Director Ollervidez extended thanks to Howie Nestel and Ramiro Salazar, founders and co-chairs of Learn and Remember; guest speaker

and survivor, Eva Balcazar; and to the San Antonio Public Library Foundation, San Antonio Public Library, Steve and Carmen Goldberg, and contributors to the annual campaign of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio for collaborating on the important educational outreach event.

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One Happy Camper gift grants available now for Jewish youth

Many children never imagine themselves as "sleepaway camp kids." 7th grader Samantha Fein and her brother Jack never did. That was until this past year when they both decided to attend Camp Young Judea-Texas and BBYO Kallah at the same time.

Samantha had attended Shabbatons at Camp Young Judea in the past, but her mother Cathy Fein said, "she had never expressed interest in being away for so long."

Fein said she was thrilled at the prospect of having two "sleepaway camp kids," but admitted, "our family had not planned on spending this amount of money to send both kids away for the summer."



Mother Cathy and daughter Samantha Fein are featured here together as Samantha embarks on her first day at Camp Young Judea during Summer 2017

So, they applied for Federation's One Happy Camper Gift Grant. To their delight, Samantha was awarded a \$1,000 dollar grant to attend Camp Young Judea for the first time.

"Samantha came home a better version of herself," said her mother. "She is

now more independent, very accomplished, and the summer really let her grow into herself."

"I really enjoyed Shabbat at camp and singing the prayers and Jewish songs in fun ways when I was at CYJ," says Samatha. "I can't wait to go back to Camp this summer and reunite with my friends from last year. This year we will get more privileges and have even more fun."

For more information about the Jewish Federation's One Happy Camper Gift Grant that helps support first time Jewish sleep away camp attendees, contact Lauren Abraham at AbrahamL@jfsatx.org or call the Jewish Federation office at (210) 302-6960.

FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

Marc Schnall



What brought you to San Antonio?

After law school, I got my first job as a lawyer in San Antonio, where my wife Sandi grew up. Joining a small law firm, I started to build a law practice. We had roots in the community, my in-laws were here, and the climate is generally lovely. We raised our three children, Brian (who now lives in Denver with his wife and two children), Lisa (now in Washington DC), and Daniel (who lives in St. Louis with his wife) and we are happy to be in San Antonio.

What is your strongest Jewish memory?

In 1996, as President of Congregation Agudas Achim, I presided over the new synagogue building dedication weekend. One of my main goals as a Jewish leader in San Antonio has been to preserve Conservative Judaism in our community. Building the new synagogue at its new location was a major achievement for the congregation and for the Jewish community and the dedication events were truly special. Friday night, the new sanctuary was full, and the Shabbat service included beautiful singing from the youth chorale. Saturday morning our teens, including mine and Rabbi Spiegel's, read Torah. On Sunday morning, we began to walk with the Torahs from the Donaldson building toward the new Huebner location, stopping

only due to a rain storm. Sunday afternoon we had a ribbon cutting ceremony, a formal dedication service in a packed sanctuary, and a celebration reception. This was a weekend I will never forget.

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

I really find it rewarding to be on various boards of trustees and use my experience to help implement decisions and make sure we preserve the future of our agencies. I have served on the boards of Jewish Family Service, the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, Congregation Agudas Achim, the Keystone School, the original Jewish Day School (which then became the Jonathan Netanyahu Academy), and the Alumni Board of

Governors of Washington University. I am currently one of the two Vice Presidents of the board of the Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community as well.

Please share your favorite Jewish holiday and why?

For me this is the toughest question, as I enjoy them all. I think my favorite is Passover. This is due to the connection with family, history, and the message of freedom. Some years ago, our family began putting an orange on our Seder plate which makes the holiday special and meaningful to us.

Name a hope or aspiration you have for the San Antonio Jewish community.

I hope our Jewish community continues to thrive and continues to grow for future generations.

Now showing at SA Public Libraries: *The Holocaust*

As part of the annual Holocaust Learn & Remember exhibit, the San Antonio Public Library, in collaboration with the San Antonio Public Library Foundation, and The Holocaust Museum of San Antonio, will feature Holocaust-themed films and performances at branch libraries across the city this month. The following films and performances are scheduled for February:

The Pianist (Film, R) - A gifted Polish-Jewish musician who struggles to survive WWII in the Warsaw ghetto. During the early day of the Nazi occupation, he imagines himself above the danger. Later, he narrowly escapes deportation to a Nazi concentration camp and goes into hiding.

The Monuments Men (Film, PG-13) - Allied WWII-era art experts who venture into Germany to recover works of art stolen by the Nazis, which are

BRANCH SCHEDULES

FEBRUARY 3

1 p.m. - *Hiding in the Spotlight*, @ Semmes
2 p.m. - *The Pianist*, @ Central

FEBRUARY 7

5:30 p.m. - *The Monuments Men*, @ Pruitt

FEBRUARY 9

2 p.m. - *The Pianist*, @ Cortez

FEBRUARY 10

1:30 p.m. - *Hiding in the Spotlight* (performance), @ Encino

slated for destruction if the Third Reich falls. With little combat experience, the ragtag squadrons have their work cut out for them.

Hiding in the Spotlight (One-Act Play) - Six-year-old musically gifted Zhanna during the Holocaust. When her family is to be executed by the Nazis, her father distracts the soldiers, allowing Zhanna to escape. Zhanna creates a new identity for herself. Zhanna is overheard playing the piano by a Nazi battalion and soon finds herself performing for Nazi forces.

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Rabbi Nathan offers opening invocation at U.S. House in D.C.

Temple Beth-El Senior Rabbi Mara Nathan was introduced on January 19 by U.S. House speaker Rep. Paul Ryan as she offered the opening invocation at the U.S. House. The honor was coordinated by Rep. Joaquin Castro. Nathan and Joel Swedlove, Temple Beth-El's Director of Youth Programming, were in D.C. with a group of San Antonio teens participating in a L'taken Seminar with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

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Chabad's Annual L'Chaim Event

Chabad's Annual L'Chaim Event will be held on Sunday, March 18 at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning.

Rabbi Yossi and Malkie Marrus will be honored with the 2018 Dor L'Dor Award in tribute to their twenty years of outstanding service to the San Antonio Jewish community.

"The Marrus' faith, warmth and passion have inspired and touched the lives of thousands in our community," said Rabbi Chaim Block, Executive Director of Chabad. "Their leadership and dedication have greatly contributed to Jewish life in San Antonio over the last 20 years."

Rabbi and Mrs. Marrus have devoted their lives to Jewish education in San Antonio. Rabbi Marrus was the Judaic Studies coordinator of the Eleanor Kolitz Academy and now serves in this capacity at the Torah Academy of San Antonio. Malkie Marrus is an acclaimed and beloved preschool teacher at Gan Gani Preschool.

"We are delighted to express our thanks and ap-



preciation to Rabbi and Malkie Marrus for their hard work and dedication to our commu-

nity," said Michelle and Steve Coben, co-chairs of the 2018 Chabad L'Chaim Event.

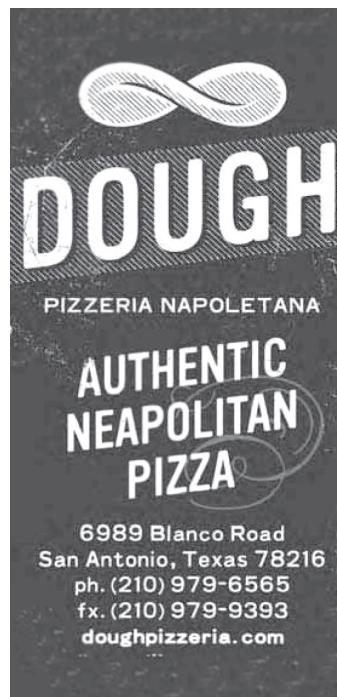
Mr. Dan Markson, Senior Vice President of the NRP Group in San Antonio, will be honored with the 2018 Chabad Distinguished Community Service Award. Markson has worked diligently to transform neighborhoods throughout San Antonio. In 2000, he chose San Antonio as the priority to develop quality affordable housing

for over 12,000 families. These affordable living communities include the pillar of each development – the Homework First program. This free service for residents offers children a safe place after school to come do their homework, enjoy snacks and participate in learning activities. Markson's grandfather, Rabbi Yehudah Leib Hurvitt, was one of the exemplary students in the Yeshivah in the city of Lubavitch, Russia, in the early 1900's. Markson has dedicated the library at the Chabad Center in his beloved grandfather's memory.

"We are honored to present Dan with the 2018 Distinguished Community Service Award for his many years of philanthropic work in the Jewish and civic communities," said Rabbi Chaim Block.

Entertainment for the event will be provided by the globally acclaimed illusionist Ilan Smith.

For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, please call Chabad at (210) 764-0300 or visit www.ChabadSA.org/lchaim.



JFS sets date for Evening of Inspiration

Since 2005, Jewish Family Service of San Antonio has hosted a fundraiser each spring to draw attention to the organization and its many programs. From 2005-2014 this event was known as the Mothers' Day Luncheon, which honored community members who were supportive of JFS. In 2015, the event moved to an evening meal, with its name retaining its emphasis on mothers. In 2016, JFS broadened its focus to include both women and men honorees, and renamed the fundraiser the *Evening of Inspiration*.

This year's Evening of Inspiration is scheduled for April 29. Details of the event and the honorees are being finalized, and will be published in the March issue of the Jewish Journal. For more information visit <https://jfs-sa.org/evening-of-inspiration/> or call (210) 302-6954.

Schaffer Scholar-in-Residence at Chabad

World renowned scholar and author Rabbi Simon Jacobson will be the Schaffer Scholar-in-Residence the weekend of February 16-17 at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning, 14535 Blanco Rd.

On Friday, Feb. 16, services will begin at 6 p.m. followed by Shabbat dinner at 7 p.m. and lecture on *Can We Bridge Faith and Modernity?* A children's program during the lecture will be provided. Cost for Friday night dinner is \$20 adults, \$12 children under 12.

Saturday, Feb. 17, morning services will begin at 9:30 a.m., Torah reading at 10:30 a.m. followed by a Kiddush luncheon at 12:15 p.m. During lunch Rabbi Jacobson will address the topic *Toward a Meaningful Life: Universal Jewish Life-Skills*. The luncheon and address are free and open to the entire community.



On Saturday night at 8:30 p.m. at the home of Rabbi Chaim & Rivkie Block, (call synagogue for address and directions) an informal Q&A with Rabbi Jacobson discussing, *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Judaism But Were Afraid to Ask*. Light dinner

will be served. Cost \$10 per person.

This weekend is sponsored by Dr. Eric & Adah Schaffer in loving memory of Dorothy & Alfred Schaffer.

For reservations please call (210) 764-0300 or visit www.ChabadSA.com/Jacobson.

Rodfei Sholom to host Traveling Chassidim

On February 23 and 24, Rodfei Sholom will continue its annual tradition of hosting the Traveling Chassidim for a traditional, spirited Shabbat.

The Traveling Chassidim are a friendly and talented group of Chassidic Families from New York, who make it their mission to travel all around the Country to communities and synagogues Campus to bring a Shabbaton of a lifetime – “Good old Fashioned Jewish Unity, Joyous singing and dancing, with Classic Chassidic Warmth and Spirit.”

The Traveling Chassidim will be participating Friday Night and Saturday morning services and as well as adding spirit to a very special Friday night dinner and Shabbat Kiddush lunch.

For more information on participating with the Traveling Chassidim, contact the Rodfei Sholom office at (210) 493-3558.

Scholar-in-Residence at Temple Beth-El



Temple Beth-El will welcome Rabbi Josh Weinberg, President of the Association of Reform Zionists of America Studies, as the congregation's Scholar in Residence February 8-10. Studies will begin with Rabbi Weinberg on Thursday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m., continuing with Shabbat Services on February 9 at 6:30 p.m. where he will speak on the State of Reform Zionism today.

Rabbi Weinberg will conclude his weekend with a Lunch and Learn session on Saturday, Feb. 10, directly after services. The Lunch & Learn is \$12 per person, and you must RSVP

at <https://tinyurl.com/tbe-JWL-L>.

This event is made possible by the Jean and Jesse Wulfe Religious Enhancement Fund of Temple Beth-El.

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Hadassah pioneers life-changing MS treatment

Malia Litman was a top Dallas trial attorney--a senior partner in a law firm--and the mother of three children-- the youngest, age five. Her energy level was high, and her life was full. And then she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS), an unpredictable and often disabling autoimmune disease. The next 16 years were a journey of declining energy and mobility. Ultimately, she could only walk a very short distance with a walker. Her balance became

more unsteady. Her speech was harder to understand. With the MS diagnosis, Malia's law career came to a halt.

Then, during a very extensive search on the internet for innovative treatments, she discovered the work of Prof. Dimitrios Karussis, Senior Neurologist and head of the Multiple Sclerosis Center at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem. Prof. Karussis was conducting a world-first clinical trial involving the injection of a

patient's own stem cells directly into the spinal cord.

Since she was accepted into HMO for treatment, she has had four stem cell transfusions. With the very first one, her energy soared. With each subsequent one, her symptoms continued to improve.

Malia has resumed her law practice, no longer takes any medication for MS, and being an MS patient is no longer a central focus of her life. But, she is now a stem cell

activist and fundraiser on behalf of Hadassah because "I feel I have been given a gift and I want to ensure that more people with MS can be helped."

For information about this and other groundbreaking Hadassah medical research, visit www.hadassah.org/health-medicine-in-israel/. To learn more about the local Hadassah chapter, contact Robin Dorfman at rdorfman@hadassah.org or (713) 661-1022.



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SEAL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO



(l to r): Kal Kallison, great-grandson of the school's namesake; fourth graders Bryce Smith and Aedan LeVitre; and Nick Kotz, grandson of school namesake, unveil the official portrait of School Namesake Nathan Kallison that will hang in the school's front hallway

NISD school named in honor of San Antonio rancher Nate Kallison

In November 2017, Northside Independent School dedicated its newest elementary school, named after Nathan Kallison, a well-known rancher who was also instrumental in the development of the San Antonio Jewish community.

Nathan Kallison Elementary School is located in the 1604/ Culebra corridor, one of the fastest growing areas of San Antonio today. Back in the early 1900s, this area was mainly ranches and farms. Nathan Kallison owned a 2,700-acre ranch that he used as a living laboratory to advance farming and ranching techniques. He also owned a popular downtown store, Kallison's, which was one of the largest farming and ranching suppliers in the Southwest.

Kallison Elementary School is the district's 78th elementary school. Kallison's grandson, Nick Kotz, spoke during the dedication ceremony. Kotz is a Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist and author of a book on his grandfather's life, *The Harness Maker's Dream*.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear friends,

I am very proud of the work B'nai B'rith accomplished this year.

When the United Nations and international bodies adopted nearly 20 anti-Israel resolutions, B'nai B'rith worked quickly to take action and condemn those resolutions.

When elected officials in Washington, D.C. were debating legislation that could cut funding from low-income seniors, B'nai B'rith worked tirelessly to advocate with top policy makers as the leading Jewish voice in senior issues, social security and health care, while continuing to sponsor affordable housing for over 8,000 residents in 28 supportive communities throughout the United States.

When communities were hit with natural disasters, when important human rights needed an advocate and when your voice needed to be heard across the globe, B'nai B'rith was able to respond immediately because of community support.

It is only through the generosity of you, our members and supporters, that B'nai B'rith was able to tackle every issue as it arose throughout 2017. But new issues will most certainly arise in the year 2018, and we need your support to provide the resources needed to address them.

Alamo Brandeis B'nai B'rith Lodge monthly activities will take place on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 10:30 a.m. on the Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community,

To get involved or for further information contact me at (210) 341-4502.

Irwin Barath,
President, Alamo Brandeis Lodge – B'nai B'rith

IN THE COMMUNITY: PURIM

Purim 2018 begins Wednesday night, February 28 and continues through Thursday, March 1

Jolly festival celebrated every year that commemorates the salvation of the Jewish people in ancient Persia from Haman's plot "to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews, young and old, infants and women, in a single day."

Celebrate Purim with Congregation Agudas Achim

Congregation Agudas Achim will be celebrating Purim in style on Wednesday, Feb. 28. The evening will begin with Agudas' annual Purim Palooza for kids of all ages from 5-6:30 p.m., featuring a hot dog dinner, carnival games (including a special surprise activity for older kids), prizes, and musical entertainment. The cost is only \$5 per person 2 and up. Gluten free and vegetarian options are available with advanced notice.

After Purim Palooza, the entire community is invited to join Agudas Achim at 6:30 p.m. for its annual *Megillah Madness* interactive Megillah reading. Agudas teenagers will be reading the megillah while Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham will be singing special jingles to introduce each chapter of the Book of Esther.

Congregation Agudas Achim will be rolling out the red carpet for this year's Oscar-themed Third Annual Purim Ball

on Saturday, March 3. This event is open to the community. The evening will include a silent auction, live musical entertainment by *The Oh So Good Band*, dinner, drinks and dancing.

Along with individual ticket sales, table sales will be available at several price points. Early ticket and table sales are now open. Contact Jennifer Meredith at Agudas Achim, (210) 479- 0311 or j.meredith@agudas-achim.org for details.

Agudas Achim will fulfill the mitzvah of sending Mishloach Manot Purim greetings to those in the community. For a small fee, a Mishloach Manot bag can be sent to anyone in the San Antonio Jewish Community. This project helps to support all Family, Youth, and School Programs at Agudas.

For more information about any of the Purim programs or Mishloach Manot, contact the Agudas office at (210) 782-8253 or info@agudas-achim.org.



Purim Extravaganza at Rodfei Sholom on March 1

On Thursday March 1 Rodfei Sholom will host a spirited Megillah reading, followed by the congregation's annual Purim Extravaganza.

For more information about Rodfei's Purim events, contact the Rodfei Sholom office at (210) 493-3558.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



MLK OBSERVANCES INCLUDE INTERFAITH SERVICES

To observe Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, Temple Beth-El and Antioch Baptist Church held Interfaith services in which each senior clergy delivered sermons, and both choirs and congregants were in attendance. Pictured here, Rabbi Mara Nathan delivers a sermon at Antioch Baptist Church, with Rev. Dr. Kenneth Kemp at her side.



SAUSY ON ICE

Congregation Agudas Achim's San Antonio teenage USY chapter enjoyed a night of ice skating during winter break. For more information and to get involved in any teen programs at Agudas, contact Youth Director Eric Steitz at usy.advisor@agudas-achim.org.

2018 PURIM BASH

February 28th
@ 8:30pm
Stone Street Pub
16535 Huebner Rd.



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For questions or more information, contact
Eva Laporte at LaporteE@jfsatx.org.

Jacob Kluger
YAD Board Chair



Young Adult Division (YAD) of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio
Agudas Achim | YJSA | Temple Chai | Temple Beth-El | Rodfei Sholom

WHAT'S HAPPENING

20TH ANNUAL CHANUKAH ON THE RIVER



The Arneson River Theater downtown filled with joyous celebrants at the 20th annual Chanukah on the River hosted by the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning. Other sponsors for the event included H-E-B, Holzman Family Foundation, IBC Bank, Jewish Federation of San Antonio, and SWBC.



HEINTZ PRESCHOOL WINTER CAMP

Heintz Preschool wrapped up a chilly yet exciting Winter Break Camp. Students had fun with their teen Counselors-in-Training, reading stories, doing art projects and learning all about winter.



WINTER WONDERLAND AT CAMP GAN ISRAEL

Winter break was anything but boring for the 95 children who experienced Camp Gan Israel's Winter Camp at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning. For more information on CGI Summer Camp, visit www.GanIsraelSA.com, or contact Rochel Teldon at (210) 764-0300 or director@ganisrael.com.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



TASA CHILDREN CONNECT WITH JFSA PARTNERS IN WESTERN GALILEE

TASA middle school students meet with Heidi and Maton, the Budapest, Hungary representatives, of San Antonio's Western Galilee partnership region during their visit in January.



FOOD, FAMILY & FRIENDS – RODFEI CHINESE DINNER

Ronen and Orah Bass chaired Rodfei Sholom's 3rd annual December 25th Chinese Dinner.



ONE COOL WAY TO SPEND WINTER BREAK

Congregation Agudas Achim's Inda Posner Religious School students were treated by Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham to a fun afternoon of frozen yogurt during winter break.

HADASSAH'S VODKA AND LATKES

Approximately 50 people attended Hadassah's Vodka and Latkes event on December 19, 2017, organized by Hadassah's e.v.o.l.v.e. Initiative and the Aviva Group of the San Antonio Chapter of Hadassah (younger women's groups) and co-sponsored by the Women's Philanthropy Division of the Jewish Federation. The event, which featured tastings of latkes and vodka, was held at Artisan on Alamo. Owner Nick Spink and his team developed unique drinks for the event including raspberry and custard sufganiyot martinis.

The latke vendors included Catherine Richey of Lavish Cuisine, Wendy and Drew Glick from Max and Louie's New York Diner, Linda Wolfe of Deliciously Different Catering and Brandon McKelvey of Say.She. Ate Mobile Eclectic Fare. Participants voted



Vodka and Latkes event coordinators: Lisa Friedman, Leslie Hickey, Sara Lerich, Keng Chester, Suzanne Patrick and Jordana Pazin

for their favorite latke, and Linda Wolfe of Deliciously Different Catering was selected as the "Best Latke in San Antonio!"

Dunkin Donuts donated sufganiyot for attendees and Say.She.Ate. provided smoked salmon, kugel and brisket for purchase.

Attendees learned about Hadassah's support of Israel through Hadassah hospital, the ground-breaking medical research being done at Hadassah and being brought to the

U.S., as well as Hadassah's support of women and women's issues in this country.

Hadassah's young women's group Aviva (20s-50s) meets monthly at various restaurants for lunch and hosts fun events approximately every quarter. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/HadassahAvivaSA/> or email Leslie Hickey at lesliecarsmanhickey@gmail.com or Suzanne Patrick at suzannebpatrick@gmail.com.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

IT WAS GREAT DAY AT THE GARDEN

The San Antonio Jewish community enjoyed A Great (Tu B'Shevat) Day at the Garden on January 21, hosted by The Caring Community — a collaboration of San Antonio Jewish Senior Services, Congregation Agudas Achim, Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, Temple Beth-El, Congregation Beth Am, PJ Library, Heintz Preschool and Hebrew Free Loan of San Antonio. The event was sponsored by San Antonio Jewish Senior Services. The free, inter-generational event at the San Antonio Botanical Garden featured nature-themed activities and kosher snacks in the new H-E-B Discovery Center, and the opportunity to explore the garden, including the new 8-acre \$22 million expansion.



HANUKKAH ART FUN AT GAN GANI

Dreidel spin art was one of the ways Hanukkah sprung to life for students at Gan Gani Preschool. To schedule a tour and for more information, please call (210) 492-1085 or email director@gangani.org.

Jewish Cultural Fair

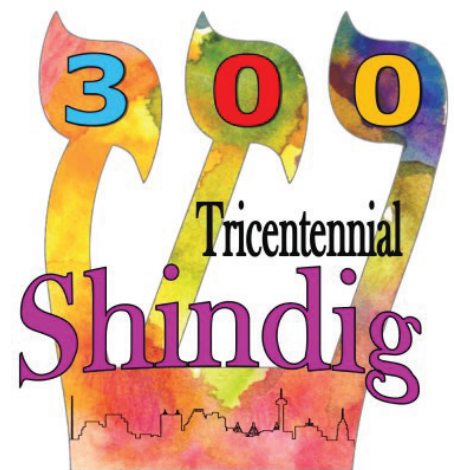
Help us celebrate the deep impact that the Jewish community has had on the city of San Antonio throughout the years!

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OF SAN ANTONIO



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12pm– 8pm**

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the Monte Vista Neighborhood

IN THE COMMUNITY: YOUTH

Gan Gani Preschool adds new afterschool options

Gan Gani is now registering for the 2018 – 2019 school year.

Now in its 30th year, Gan Gani is a Jewish Preschool for children 18 months to 4 years.

“At Gan Gani we seek to create an enriching Jewish educational environment for each and every child. Our goal is to provide your child with the early foundation that prepares them for the transition to elementary school and instills them with a lifetime passion for learning and pride in their Jewish Heritage” said Rivkie Block, Preschool Director.

Gan Gani offers specialty enrichment classes such as Gardening, Literacy, Music and Spanish, to enhance and round off the children’s

learning experience. Drama and Art options will also be offered during the after school program.

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

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

For more information or to set up an appointment to visit the school, please call Rivkie Block at (210) 492-1085 or email director@gangani.org.



HANUKKAH MENORAH LIGHTS UP ALAMO PLAZA

History was made this past Hanukkah as a menorah was lit for the first time in front of the Alamo. The San Antonio chapter of Chabad’s CTeen led a Car Menorah Parade on Saturday night, Dec. 16, departing the Chabad Center for downtown with 15 cars strapped with menorahs built by the teens. A festive ceremony in front of the Alamo included the lighting of a 9 ft. menorah, spontaneous dancing, and a traditional jelly donut for all. For more information about upcoming CTeen events, call Chabad at (210) 764-0300 or email cteens@chabadsa.com.

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www.GanIsraelSA.com

Heintz Preschool prepares for spring events

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim is gearing up for spring with a number of special events.

The Heintz Preschool Annual Rodeo day will be held on February 23 starting at 9:15 a.m. Parents, grandparents, and grandpals will celebrate Shabbat, followed by rodeo themed yoga, games, and an art project. There will be a cowboy breakfast and pony rides rounding out the morning. This program is part of the Yad B’Yad Intergenerational program and receives a grant from San Antonio Jewish Senior Services.

The preschool will host its first ever Spring Break Camp from March 12 to March 16. This action-packed week will include sports activities,

yoga, science experiments, art projects, cooking, water fun, and more. Daily, (\$45) and full week (\$195) options are available.

The Blue and Red Birds (3 to 5 -year olds) will take a special field trip to Adante Senior Living on March 9 at 10:30 a.m. to celebrate Purim for our Yad b’Yad intergenerational program. This field trip and program is made possible by a special grant from San Antonio Jewish Senior Services. The children will hold a performance for the seniors, participate in a special project and finish with a snack.

For more information about Heintz Preschool or to tour the school, contact HPS Director Taryn Bretado at (210) 479-7032 or t.bretado@

IN THE COMMUNITY: YOUTH NEWS / SENIOR NEWS

BABIES, BAGELS, AND BLOCKS & TODDLERS, TOYS, AND TORAH YOGA



Congregation Agudas Achim's monthly Babies, Bagels, and Blocks and Toddlers, Toys, and Torah featured a special Parent and Me Yoga led by yoga teacher, Ms. Kendel. The next Babies, Bagels, and Blocks and Toddlers, Toys, and Torah will be held on Sunday, Feb. 4 and March 4 from 9-11 a.m.

HANUKKAH FUN AT TASA

TASA students got into the rhythm of Hanukkah with Grammy-winning percussionist Nina Rodriguez at TASA's Hanukkah event in December.



Mark Greenwald to entertain seniors at Sunshine Club Luncheon

The Sunshine Club will welcome Mark Greenwald as the entertainer for its upcoming luncheon on Tuesday, March 6, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning, 14535 Blanco Rd.

Mark, an accomplished attorney and member of the San Antonio Jewish community, is the lead singer of local band, Merchants of Jazz.

He enjoys using his unique talents as a vocalist to bring joy to others. His performance at a Sunshine Club luncheon last year drew rave reviews, where he sang 'oldies' he grew up listening to as a child in Brooklyn in his grandmother's kitchen.

The Sunshine Club is a monthly program for seniors that meets at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning, offering seniors the opportunity to meet, kibitz and enjoy a



lunch together.

Monthly guest speakers, films, creative workshops and entertainment compliment the program. The Sunshine Club is a grant recipient of San Antonio Jewish Senior Services (SAJSS).

To RSVP for the luncheon please call Nancy at Chabad at (210) 764-0300 or email info@chabadsa.com.

For complimentary transportation to the event please call Lety at SAJSS at (210) 616-4811.

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Can't Beat Love youth film contest set for February 28

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) and Family Violence Prevention Services (FVPS) will award trophies and cash prizes to winners in the Short Film and PSA categories to highlight the growing issue of teen trafficking in our schools, homes and community at the 8th Annual *Can't Beat Love* Film Premiere and Winner's Gala.

The event will take place at Santikos Silverado located at Loop 1604 and Bandera Road on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 7 pm. Admission is free.

Area high school students created either short films or public service announcements that showcase the dangers of human trafficking, which affects every socio-economic and cultural level.

Trophies and awards will be presented, including peer choice and

special judges' awards.

"Teen trafficking has been a major concern in Texas, and NCJW developed a program to educate teens and their families several years ago," said NCJW co-chair of *Trafficked Teens* Marcia Waldgeir. "We are pleased to present this as a *Can't Beat Love* topic this year. Our goal is to build greater awareness of the trafficking problem in San Antonio and provide student filmmakers with an outlet to address this important issue."

To request additional information about *Can't Beat Love* or the Trafficked Teens program, please contact Marcia Waldgeir at mawaldgeir@satx.rr.com. Links to both *Can't Beat Love* and *Trafficked Teens* can be found in the Programs section of the NCJW website, www.ncjwsa.org.

BELDON LIBRARY NEWS

Books and activities for all ages!

Library Hours:

Mondays & Wednesdays,
12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Children's events

Children's author Madeline Bradley will be at the Beldon Library on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. She will be promoting her delightful books for children, *Please Take Us Home!* and *Please Don't Sneeze on My CHEESE!!!*

Her books will be available for purchase and signing.

Preschoolers from the Block & Dreeben School for Young Children visit the library on Mondays at 4:15 p.m. for storytime.

Mitzvah project for children in Lithuania

The Mitzvah Project that the Beldon Library has with the Vilna/Vilnius Jewish Public Library in Lithuania to build up their children's section is ongoing. Donations of new or gently used children's books with Jewish content are being accepted. Contact Beldon librarian, Lynn Waghalter, at waghalterl@jfsatx.org for more information on this humanitarian project.

Senior music appreciation class

The next music appreciation class with the Charlie Pearl Senior Adults will take place at the Beldon Library on Feb. 19. This monthly class takes place on the third Monday of each month from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. in the Senior Activity Room.

Check this out - Fiction books in Hebrew

Did you know the Beldon Library has a shelf of adult fiction in Hebrew? These books are available for check-out.

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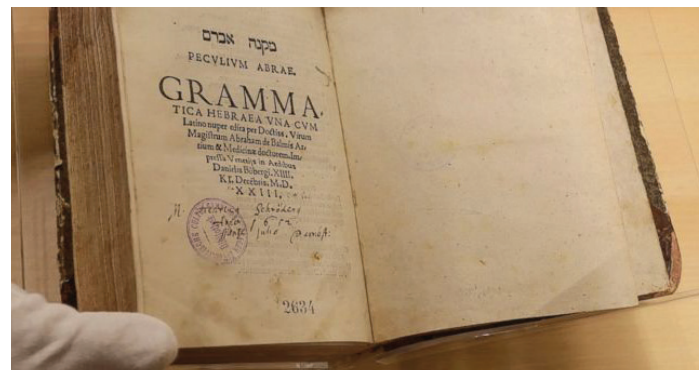
GRAMMAR

continued from page 1

published in Italy.

The book belonged to the library of Prague's Jewish Community before the war, and it is not clear under what circumstances it disappeared.

"It's an exceptional moment for us that such a rare book returns to Prague after such a long time," Leo Pavlat, director of the Jewish Museum in Prague, the legal successor to the Czech capital's pre-war Jewish



community.

The book turned up last year at an auction organized by Kestenbaum & Company, a New York auction house that specializes in Judaica

and rare books. The auction house withdrew it from the sale at the museum's request.

Auction house director Daniel Kestenbaum identified the book's most recent owner as a scholar in Jerusalem who had agreed to let the museum have it.

The scholar said he was willing to return the book because a refusal would be "an active continuity of those terrible thefts committed against Jewish property and cultural treasures perpetrated by the German Nazis."

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Fax: (210) 479-0295
Website: www.agudas-achim.org
Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Senior
Rabbi
Hazzan Jeremy Lipton
Samantha Mazuz, 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
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Fax: (210) 737-8946
E-mail address:
Temple@beth-elsa.org
Website: www.beth-elsa.org
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**Temple Chai
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Website: www.templechaisa.org
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JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

Jewish War Veteran Post officers for 2018 were installed at an installation dinner on January 20 at the Barn Door. The incoming slate of officers includes Commander Herschel Sheiness, Senior Vice Commander Garland Scott, Junior Vice Commander David Marne and Judge Advocate Sean Sandlin. Installing officer was TALO Commander Art Kaplan. The guest speaker was Greg Phillipson, a life patron of the Jewish War Veterans from Austin, Texas, who is a retired executive with years

of experience in the fields of security for state, federal and foreign governments.

Future Events:

• Capitol Hill Action Days & National Executive Committee Meeting - February 6-11. JWV members will meet with members of the U.S. Congress Veterans Affairs Committee to seek aid for veterans. The National Commander will make his plea before the members of the committee, while JWV members from around the country meet with their

respective members of Congress.

• Post meeting February 25, 9 a.m. at the JCC Board Room. Light breakfast to be served, followed by business meeting.

• Jewish War Veterans 31st annual mission to Israel will take place April 30-May 9, 2018. The mission is open to the public. Participants will receive updated briefings, meet Israelis and their leaders, and visit places other groups do not visit.

For further information, contact Christy Turner at (202) 265-6280, ext. 417.

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Remembering deceased Jewish Military Veterans

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

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At Issue: The first Jew in Congress

It surely has not escaped the notice of anti-Semites that Jews have infiltrated the Congress of the United States. Almost 6 percent of its members – including the top Democrat in the Senate, Charles Schumer – are Jewish, though Jews constitute only 2 percent of the general population. Jews have been elected to Congress not only from such obvious strongholds as New York, California, Florida, and Illinois but also from Hawaii, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Vermont, where it is hard to scrape together a minyan.

It was not always so. Article VI of the Constitution guarantees that “no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.” But that did not prevent individual states from prohibiting Jews from serving on juries, testifying in court, or holding local positions. When the first Congress



Perspective:

STEVEN G. KELLMAN

convened, in 1789, all its members were Christians, and it took more than half a century before a Jew was elected to represent any district in Congress.

Lewis Charles Levin was that Jew, and he served three terms, beginning in 1844. An anti-immigrant and anti-Catholic nativist, Levin was not a credit to the Jewish community. Born in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1808, he moved to Philadelphia in 1839 and soon achieved notoriety for the temperance newspaper he published and his intemperate xenophobic rants. The potato famine sent almost a million Irish fleeing to America, and Levin scapegoated them for the job shortages faced by Americans. He helped foment deadly anti-immigrant riots in

Philadelphia.

Levin was a leader of the Native American Party, whose name, which he chose, referred not to American Indians but to privileged citizens who, like Levin, were born in the United States. It eventually morphed into the Know Nothing movement. Levin anticipated later American demagogues who still prey on popular fears of strangers. He accused American Catholics of being pawns of a foreign power, the Pope, and, unable to stem immigration entirely, he attempted, unsuccessfully, to push legislation that would extend to 21 years the period of residence required for citizenship.

The terrible irony is that it was a Jew who, a couple of decades before millions of Jews fled poverty and pogroms in Eastern Europe, became a champion of nativist bigotry and religious animosity. Jewish poet Emma Lazarus had

not yet written her words of welcome to “your tired, your poor,/ Your huddled masses yearning to breathe” for a Statue of Liberty not yet erected. But Levin trashed the ancient Jewish principle of welcoming the stranger. The first Jew in Congress was a stark contrast to those who followed, men and women such as Bella Abzug, Barney Frank, Jacob Javits, Tom

Lantos, Abraham Ribicoff, and Paul Wellstone for whom public service was a mitzvah.

Levin died in 1860, in the Philadelphia Hospital for the Insane. Twenty years later, both his wife and his son converted to Catholicism.

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



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Israeli Air Force names first female flight squadron commander

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A female pilot for the first time has been named the commander of a flight squadron in the Israeli Air Force.

Major T., whose first name is not provided due to security concerns, a 35-year-old mother of two, will be promoted to lieutenant colonel, the Air Force announced January 16.

A transport pilot, she will lead a squadron of IAF transport planes.

A second female Air Force officer, Major M., was appointed to command the Air Force's operational command and control unit. She also will be promoted to lieutenant colonel, the highest rank ever held by a female air traffic controller.

In Austrian jail, Holocaust historian indicts the country for how it handles looted Jewish property

By Cnaan Liphshiz

VIENNA (JTA) — If Stephan Templ's trial and imprisonment in Austria were meant to silence his criticism of the country's Holocaust restitution system, then his prosecution was clearly a failure.

Templ is an Austrian-Jewish historian of the Holocaust who has written critically about his country since 1995.

In 2015, he was sent to jail for nearly a year on controversial fraud charges tied to his family's own claim for compensation — and spent his time in prison diving even deeper into his area of expertise.

The result is a new book that for the first time chronicles how modern-day Austria gave its seal of approval for flawed restitution practices that were overseen by former Nazis. Those practices, Templ shows, in essence validated Nazi-era policies that were used to rob Austrian Jews of what little compensation they sought to receive for vast assets that they had been forced to sell to Aryans.

"The wrongly imprisoned experience a special kind of frustration: Your thoughts



Stephan Templ

get into a cycle about where you are and who put you there," Templ, 57, told JTA. His sentence was decried as a miscarriage of justice by dozens of leading Holocaust historians.

Templ was convicted of fraud for not listing an aunt on his survivor mother's restitution claim, which he filled out for her. Neither Templ nor his mother wrote that they were the only claimants to the property. Austria has no law requiring restitution applicants to list other relatives. In previous official correspondence about the claim, Templ did list his aunt, which he argues means he had indeed informed the Republic of Austria of her existence.

The 75 historians, including Americans Deborah Lipstadt and Michael Berenbaum, suggested in a joint statement

that Templ's prosecution looked like a vendetta by the Austrian judiciary, which the Freedom Barometer index of 2016 ranked as the least independent in Western Europe.

The Anti-Defamation League also protested Templ's sentence, as did the human rights lawyer Robert Amsterdam and Stuart Eizenstat, a former U.S. deputy secretary of the Treasury who helped set up Austria's restitution system.

Efraim Zuroff, Eastern Europe director for the Simon Wiesenthal Center, told JTA about the case: "It looks like revenge, like they wanted to get back at him for his criticism. I'm not a jurist but it looks like an injustice." Templ currently is facing a civil libel suit by Claire Fritsch, a legal adviser to the restitution authority who served as the main witness in his criminal court case. She claims she was libeled by his defense team's attempts to undermine her testimony.

In Templ's English-language book, *Austria's Living Ghost*, he examines the work of Austria's Arbitration Panel for in Rem Restitution, a body set up in

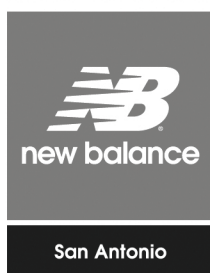
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U.S. & WORLD NEWS

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2002 to review the restitution work done immediately after World War II on properties that in 2001 were in the state's possession.

Until the 1990s, Austria had claimed that it was principally a victim, not a perpetrator, of Nazism. No one has been convicted of Nazi war crimes in Austria in more than 35 years, according to the Simon Wiesenthal Center. And whereas people with a Nazi past were removed from positions of influence in neighboring Germany, in Austria they were allowed to serve as judges, teachers and even restitution officials. (Walther Kastner, for example, was a former Nazi official who was entrusted with advising on restitution issues in the 1940s.)

Austria even had a former Nazi, Kurt Waldheim, as president until 1992 — the year that Austrian officials began to drop the victim attitude, which is now described as a “myth” on official Austrian government websites.

But that myth has had far-reaching implications

for Austria, said Templ, who in 2001 led groups around Vienna on tours of stolen Jewish property. He pointed out building after building, using a loudspeaker to name the families whose ancestors bought the assets for a fraction of their true worth from Jews fleeing for their lives.

“The lack of de-Nazification is the reason Austria now has in government, for the second time already, a party that was founded by an SS officer,” he said of the far-right Freedom Party, which joined the coalition in December.

Austria's victim myth also tainted how the Austrian state handled the return of Jews from concentration camps, prosecuted Nazi war criminals and settled restitution issues. Concerns about this process led to a 2002 review by the Arbitration Panel, as part of a restitution treaty that Austria signed with the United States in 2001.

Thanks to the treaty, Austria has paid at least \$670 million in compensation. But even that may have been the tip of the iceberg in a country

that had at least 200,000 Jews before the Holocaust, many of them wealthy.

Templ's research shows that out of nearly 2,000 restitution cases handled in the 1940s and 1950s, the Arbitration Panel reopened and declared unjust a total of only nine cases. It intervened in another 18 cases that had not been the subject of a claim, he said.

“This seemed to me like an astonishingly low number, considering the prevalence of injustice that went on in 1940s and 1950s restitution,” Templ said.

Take, for instance, the case of Anna Freud, the daughter of the famed Viennese psychoanalyst. Following her claim for restitution for a handsome estate that the Nazis stole from her family in 1938, she received in the 1950s a sum equivalent to \$80, Templ's research shows. However, that property was not reviewed in 2002, because the estate was privately owned and therefore not in the purview of the Arbitration Panel on state-held properties.

“So in prison, I set out to review for myself the

claims that the Arbitration Panel had reviewed before me,” Templ, a bespectacled intellectual with a wry sense of humor and a passion for carpentry, said during a rare visit to Vienna (following his release from prison in 2015, Templ is spending most of his time in his Prague home, in what he terms self-exile).

The findings, he said, surprised even him.

One case deemed fair by the Arbitration Panel involved an apartment building in Vienna's Alserbach Street owned by the Stianssy family. The Aryan buyers paid only 38 percent of its real worth in 1939. Of that sum, the Nazi state stole 80 percent through racist “emigration taxes” devised to defund Jewish sellers. The other 20 percent went to a frozen account and from there to the coffers of

the Third Reich, his research shows. In 1951, Austrian restitution officials declined to return the “emigration taxes” to the Stianssy family, essentially validating their extraction.

Yet the Arbitration Panel in its 2014 review stated that it “cannot conclude that the settlement reached in 1951 represents an extreme injustice.” In so doing, Templ writes, “the Panel confirms the injustice.”

Leopold Stianssy died in Prague on Nov. 20, 1939. His wife, Martha Stianssy, was murdered in Auschwitz. Three of their close relatives were murdered by 1945.

Among the dozens of reviews flagged by Templ is a 2012 case concerning the sale of a forest 45 miles southwest of Vienna by the Hartenstein

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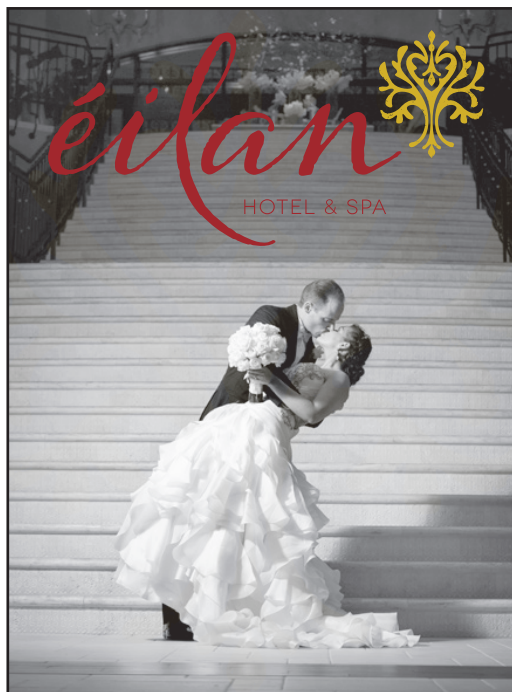
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Anish Kapoor's 2017 Genesis Prize money goes to five groups assisting refugees

(JTA) — Anish Kapoor, the renowned artist and human rights activist who won the Genesis Prize in 2017, and the Genesis Prize Foundation have awarded grants to five organizations that assist refugees globally.

The grants, funded by the \$1 million “Jewish Nobel” awarded to Kapoor in 2017, were announced January 17.

The recipients are the International Rescue Committee, the Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees, HIAS (founded as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society), Help Refugees and Hillel International.

Kapoor, the son of a Baghdadi

Jewish mother and Indian father, upon receiving the prize in February said he would use his award to help alleviate the Syrian refugee crisis and try to expand the Jewish community's engagement in a global effort to support refugees. More than 12.5 million Syrians have been displaced during the current conflict, of which some 2.5 million are children.

The funds will assist refugees in northern Uganda, Myanmar, Italy, Greece and France, and assist Syrian refugees. They will help local leaders in communities across America to advocate in support of immigrants and

refugees to the U.S. through HIAS, and bring thousands of Jewish students and young adult volunteers together to assemble aid packages for 5,000 Syrian refugees through Hillel International, in collaboration with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

“Like many Jews, I do not have to go far back in my family history to find people who were refugees,” Kapoor said in a statement. “Directing Genesis Prize funds to this cause is a way of helping people who, like my forebears not too long before them, are fleeing persecution.”

The foundation canceled last

year's award ceremony in Israel at Kapoor's request, after he said he thought it inappropriate to hold a celebration in light of the worsening refugee crisis “on Israel's doorstep” in Syria.

The Genesis Prize recognizes individuals who have attained excellence and international renown in their fields, and whose actions and achievements express a commitment to Jewish values, the Jewish community and the State of Israel. It is awarded by the Genesis Prize Foundation in partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister of the State of Israel and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

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FROM THE COVER

IDF, continued from page 1

stories of Palestinians asking to cross into Israel for reasons ranging from the tragic to bizarre; a father marked as a security threat desperate to join his sick child alone in the hospital, a woman begging not to miss her cat's labor on the other side, a husband who just needs a few hours to "exchange oil" with his Israeli wife.

I had both remarkable power and none at all. A permit in the wrong hands could lead to a loss of the very lives I swore to protect. Yet as I delved deeper into a system, I got the sense that our policies were less about security needs but something else far more complex. My relationship with the Palestinians was bipolar at best. I oscillated between giving out my personal phone number to every Palestinian that smiled at me to then wringing my hands in paranoia for hours at the chance that I made a detrimental mistake.

A year into the army, depressed and underwhelmed on a base near Bethlehem, I started to re-read Herzl, John Rawls, Fromkin's "A Peace



Frydberg (also pictured below) wheeling an elderly Palestinian woman through the humanitarian zone of Rachel's Checkpoint in Bethlehem during Ramadan 2017.

to End All Peace," James Baldwin on his minority identity, and Barack Obama on inspiring hope. I hoped to piece together an explanation, a formula within Zionism, within history, for awakening a country whose struggle with the outside is nothing compared to the struggle it must fully take on within itself.

My love for Israel is unconditional and only grows deeper with experience. I believe that there is no people, no cause, more worthy of fighting for than the Jewish people and the State of Israel. I had both deeply

disturbing and wildly moving experiences in the army. Both represent Israel.

Starting with a foundation of love for this country, we as individuals and a community are tasked with matching our ideology with a rational acknowledgment for an actual Israel, not only the Birthright version our children learn



about, to create a space for this conversation.

I live among dreamers -- individuals who are unafraid to actualize their beliefs by participating in the Jewish project. What lies ahead of us, I believe, will be more challenging than the founding of the Jewish state or any of our past military victories. Now that my literal service is over, the real one can start.

Born and raised in San Antonio, Tracy Frydberg lives and writes in Jerusalem. After graduating from the University of Texas, Tracy made Aliyah and drafted into the Israel Defense Forces in 2015 where she served as a humanitarian liaison to the Palestinian population in the West Bank. She finished her two-year service as a sergeant in December 2017 and currently works as a reporter for The Times of Israel.

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Bat Mitzvah: Samantha Elise Fogel

Samantha “Sam” Elise Fogel will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on March 10 at Congregation Agudas Achim. Sam is the daughter of Barri and Kirby Fogel, sister to Ben and Max, and grandchild of Buddy and Doris Kalmans of Houston, Melanie Fogel of Dallas, and Richard and Naomi Fogel of Dallas.

Sam is a 7th grader at Eisenhower Middle School. She says she enjoys acting, dancing, reading, creating art and hanging out with her friends. For her mitzvah project, Sam volunteers at *Parents’ Night Out* for parents of children with special needs. She has chosen to donate money to Mothers of Children with Autism (MoCAA), a group dedicated to the support of women whose children have special needs.



TEMPL

continued from page 24

family. It too was not found to be “an extreme injustice,” even though the family by 1957 received less than half of the land’s value, according to the panel. Templ’s research suggests they only got 10 percent of the property’s real value.

“I expect that now that I’ve been jailed, my criticism of Austria will be seen as a vendetta,” Templ said. “And I guess I have an agenda — but the numbers and the facts do not, and they tell a story that is much bigger and more important than my own.”

Queried by JTA on these cases, Josef Aicher, chairman of the Arbitration Panel for In Rem Restitution, stood by his organization’s findings.

“To assess ‘extreme injustice’ the Arbitration Panel has developed a complex case law,” he wrote, based on “restrictions on freedom of contract and

discrepancy in value: The more the two criteria are pronounced, the more likely it is that an extreme injustice exists.”

He added that the Arbitration Panel has so far issued 138 recommendations for restitution with an estimated total value of \$59 million. According to Templ,

all these recommendations pertain to only seven assets.

Citing independent appraisals, Aicher said that “virtually all real estate that had been confiscated by the state was restituted in its entirety after the war” as well as 60 percent of the properties sold under duress.

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Rabbi Abraham named one of SABJ’s 40 Under 40

Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham of Congregation Agudas Achim has been named one of the *San Antonio Business Journal’s 40 under 40* for 2018.

The award is presented each year to 40 young professionals under the age of 40 who have demonstrated excellence in business, leadership and community involvement.

Abraham is the first member of the clergy to be on the *40 Under 40* List from the San Antonio Business Journal.

“I am incredibly honored to be listed as one of the *40 Under 40*,” Abraham said. “We have done so many amazing things at Agudas Achim over the last 3.5 years, and this is only the beginning. I really believe this award is a testament to



our entire growing community here, and I am lucky to have amazing staff and lay leadership around me to help us create the community we want to.”

Abraham, nominated by congregant Vicki Adelstein, was one of 250 nominations for the 2018 class of *40 Under 40*. This year’s recipients will be recognized at a dinner event on February 22.

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A Journey through the 2017 Annual Campaign... the Road to Success! \$1,424,841

MAY: Lion of Judah Luncheon



Speaker Lisa Friedman
Clark, Amy Benedikt,
Jonathan Gurwitz,
Michelle Vizurraga, Ronit
Sherwin & Judy Palans.

JUNE: Annual Meeting



Jonathan & Rachel Gurwitz,
Ambassador Eitan Levon &
Ronit Sherwin.

SEPTEMBER: Campaign Kick-Off



Eva Laporte, Speaker Dennis
Knoll, Jacob Kluger, Christina
Alvarado & Max Wolk

OCTOBER: Campaign Leadership Event



Abigail Pogrebin: Jonathan
Gurwitz, Rachel Gurwitz,
Claire Golden (host) & Steven
& Libby Golden

SEPTEMBER: Super Sunday



Co- Chairs: Willie Cantu, Aliza
Holzman Cantu & David
& Michelle Vizurraga

NOVEMBER: Pomegranate Event



Speaker Joan Nathan
(cook book author) &
Co-Chairs Pat Kalmans
& Lizette Feld

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER: Phone-a-thons



Eva Laporte and YAD Board
members Riley Greenberg
& Jeremy Rosen

We Celebrate You!

Thank you for your support and ongoing
commitment to our Community

To Family and Friends, JFSA Officers,
Board & Staff, Childcare and Baby Sitters,
those we accidentally didn't mention,
and those who wish to be anonymous
– we thank you for your support.

Campaign and Super Sunday Volunteers

Lauren Abraham, Vicki Adelstein, David Alexander, Martine Alexander, Gayle Alterman, Mindi Alterman, Christina Alvarado, Alexis Benedict, Amy Benedikt, Richard Benedikt, Marion Bernstein, Sue Brown, Aliza Cantu, Willie Cantu, Elaine Cohen, Fran Cohen, Jennifer Cohen, Micheline Cohen, Mindy Cohen, Lee Cohen-Gonen, Gerald Cohn, Joy Cutler, Greg Davis, Russell Davis, Lauren Ehrenberg-Chesler, Kevin Epstein, Howard Feinberg, Brian Feld, Lizette Feld, Ilene Franco, Rebeca Galindo-Gonzalez, Jane Briggs Gamez, Amber Garcia, Melissa Garcia, Tara Garner, Elizabeth Glazier, Margaret Gofman-Klein, Riley Greenberg, Jonathan Gurwitz, Danna Half, Kristin Hernandez, Ann Marie Hipolito, Darcy Hoberman, Mark Ingram, Pat Kalmans, Rony Kariv, Susan Kariv, Jason Kboudi, Simone Kboudi, Mike Kelne, Marianne Kestenbaum, Kelly Klein, Jacob Kluger, Phil Kolovson, Rabbi David Komerofsky, Alma Kron, Eva Laporte, Sylvan Lang, Jr., Simona Lascu, Sandy Leigh, Saul Levenshush, Harry Levy, Hannah Margolis, Steve Marks, Sammi Mazuz, Barbara Moss, Philip Moss, Habib Nathan, Rabbi Dov Nimchinsky, Rivkey Nimchinsky, Susan Noorily, Ellen Ollervidez, Rikko Ollervidez, Michael Ozer, Judy Palans, Seymour Palans, Jordana Pazin, Kelly Petlin, Michael Piesman, Richard Planto, Ann Pomerantz, Jeremy Rosen, Juana Rubalcava, Aaron Sarfati, Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg, Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg, Judy Scheinberg, Marc Schnall, Michal Sheinberg, Marc Marcia Schwartz, Leslie Selig-Byrd, Steve Sherman, Ronit Sherwin, Maya Siler, Lynn Stahl, Rabbi Samuel Stahl, Lauren Stanley, Michael Stern, Claudia Stokes, Caitlin Strayer, Amy Sugarman, Michael Swanson, David Vizurraga, Michelle Vizurraga, Lynn Waghalter, Rachel Walsh, Claire Weingart, Ethan Weingart, Lindsay Weingart, Lady Arwen Wilson, Ralph Wilson, Max Wolk