



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

TEVET - SH'VAT, 5779

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

JANUARY 2019



2019 JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL COMING

The film *Echo* (pictured) is among 13 films to be featured in this year's San Antonio Jewish Film Festival, February 16-20. Tickets on sale January 7.

DETAILS PAGE 25



GET READY! GET SET!

Gefilte Fish Tank microgrants are back! Register to present your community building ideas.

DETAILS PAGE 3



WHAT'S HAPPENING!

See what's been happening in your Jewish community,

PAGES 14-20

Renewal at start of new year

I am taking the first few weeks of 2019 to refresh my spirit in Israel. My husband and I, along with our younger children, are spending some much-needed family time in our favorite place to call home, Israel.

This is my children's first trip to Israel, so we will be seeing many of the popular



Letter from our CEO

RONIT SHERWIN

sites, such as the Kotel and the Dead Sea.

In addition, we will be visiting family and simply "being" in Israel, trying to

absorb the daily life and routine of this place, while also trying to visit as many *shuks* (markets) as we can,

Recently, a friend of mine asked me, "Why go to Israel? You have been there many times already." I understood the question because I love to

See **CEO**, page 22

A TRUE SAN ANTONIO MOMENT: HANUKKAH AT THE ALAMO

Jewish teens kindled a Hanukkah menorah—the Lights of Freedom—in front of the Alamo, one of America's most cherished symbols of courage and bravery. The event was coordinated by Rabbi Levi & Naomi Gorssbaum of Chabad's CTeen chapter, in collaboration with USY, NCSY, NFTY, JSU, and BBYO.



Martin Luther King, Jr. interfaith observances

The San Antonio Jewish community is invited to participate in a number of Interfaith services in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and as part of San Antonio's DreamWeek.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Worship Service at Antioch Baptist Church Sunday, Jan. 20 at 10:45 a.m. 1001 N. Walters Rabbi Mara Nathan of Temple Beth-El will speak, and the Temple volunteer choir, Kol Simchah, will sing with the Antioch Baptist Church Choir.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Shabbat Service at Temple Beth-El Friday, Jan. 25 at 6:30 p.m. Wulfe Sanctuary, Temple Beth-El 211 Belknap Place Antioch Baptist Church's Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Kemp will speak, and the Antioch Baptist Church Choir

See **MLK**, page 22

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



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OF SAN ANTONIO

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Jewish Federation
OF SAN ANTONIO

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

EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS:

The submission deadline for the February 2019 issue of the Jewish Journal is January 10, 2019 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 jewishj@jfsatx.org.

Ad deadlines for February 2019 ISSUE:

- Ad space reservations due no later than January 10, 2019 by noon
 - Press ready ads due by January 16, 2019.
- 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

Cindi Scheel

CANDLE LIGHTING

FRIDAY, JAN. 4

Light Candles at: 5:30 p.m.

SHABBAT, JAN. 5

Shabbat Ends: 6:28 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 11

Light Candles at: 5:36 p.m.

SHABBAT, JAN. 12

Shabbat Ends: 6:33 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 18

Light Candles at: 5:42 p.m.

SHABBAT, JAN. 19

Shabbat Ends: 6:38 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 25

Light Candles at: 5:48 p.m.

SHABBAT, JAN. 26

Shabbat Ends: 6:44 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 1

Light Candles at: 5:54 p.m.

SHABBAT, FEB. 2

Shabbat Ends: 6:49 p.m.

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YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK



CRC Chair Kevin Epstein and Rabbi Samuel Stahl



Richard Planto, JFSA CEO Ronit Sherwin, and Community Relations Committee Chair Kevin Epstein



Guest speaker Sister Mary Boys with Bishop Michael Boulette

Catholics & Jews Celebrate Hanukkah

The 17th Annual Catholics and Jews Celebrate Hanukkah event drew a record number of attendees. The event included the history of

Jewish and Catholic dialogue in San Antonio, the Providence High School choir, and guest speaker Sister Mary Boys.

Boys drew connections between Hanukkah and Advent and asked that we use this time, in both traditions, to reflect on our personal

responsibility to humankind and our participation in making the world a better place.

Submit ideas for 2019 Gefilte Fish Tank micro-grants

The second round of Gefilte Fish Tank will be on Sunday, Feb. 24, and the application process is now open online. The Young Adult Division (YAD) of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio created this new community initiative to allocate micro-grants to projects that enhance Jewish

life in San Antonio.

At the first Gefilte Fish Tank, held in June 2018, applicants pitched their ideas to the audience and “Gefilte Fish,” an expert panel, including David Adelman, Leslie Komet Ausburn, Bonnie Reed, and Marty Wender responded to the proposals. The audience

voted for their favorite idea to win a People’s Choice cash award for their project. Finally, the YAD Board members allocated over \$3,000 to the top projects that night.

The winning projects from the first Gefilte Fish Tank included “Hanukkah at Sea World,” submitted

by Congregation Agudas Achim; “The Challah Project,” from Hillel SA; “Drawing Closer to Testimony,” a video exhibit by artist David Kassan showing testimony from Holocaust survivors; and a documentary on San Antonio’s Jewish history by NCJW.

Anyone in San Antonio with an idea to enhance Jewish life in our city is encouraged to learn more and apply online for a micro-grant of \$300 - \$1,000 before February 1. Individuals, including young leaders, high school or Hillel

See **GEFILTE**, page 6

YOM HAZIKARON

Israel Memorial Day

YOM HAATZMAUT

Israel Independence Day

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8TH

SAVE THE DATE!

Featuring a musical performance by Israel Dayan & family from the Western Galilee Partnership region.

Location: Campus of the Jewish Community

PARTNERSHIP 2GETHER
WESTERN GALILEE
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Jewish Federation
OF SAN ANTONIO

YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

Hava and Ryan Rollo and family



Hava and Ryan Rollo of San Antonio are parents to Ari (10), Caleb (5) and Zara (2). Hava is a Major in the U.S. Air Force and is the Associate Program Director of the Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship. She is also an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at San Antonio Military Medical Center. The couple's sons, Ari and Caleb, attend Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy, and Zara attends preschool at the Block and Dreeben School for Young Children at the JCC. Last summer, Ari attended Camp Young Judea (CYJ) in Wimberly, Texas for the first time, with the gift of the Jewish Federation's One Happy Camper Grant of \$1000, matched by a grant from the Foundation for Jewish Camping. (Ari was one of 25 JFSA One Happy Grant recipients in 2018; Federation looks forward to awarding grants to 20 new Jewish sleepaway campers in 2019.)

What brought the Rollos to San Antonio?

Hava and Ryan were stationed here in San Antonio for military service in 2008-2014 and enjoyed the San

Antonio community and the Jewish community as well. After a military relocation to Virginia Beach, the Rollo family asked to be stationed back in San Antonio where they hope to remain.

Strongest Jewish memory and Jewish tradition?

Hava's strongest Jewish memory is when she traveled to Israel with Birthright and went to the Kotel to pray for the first time. She says it was both meaningful and inspirational, and set the tone

for her Jewish journey ahead. She knew she wanted to raise Jewish children and become more involved in the Jewish community.

As a family, the Rollos say their favorite Jewish tradition is lighting candles on Shabbat and Hanukkah. They love to see their kids' faces as the light sparkles.

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

Hava and Ryan enjoy

getting involved and giving to their Jewish community. Hava worked on Tikkun for Troops with the Jewish Federation, and was thrilled to help the Jewish community support the San Antonio military community, giving back to soldiers. She looks forward to this event in summer of 2019. Hava is also a volunteer *Mohelet* who performs the *Brit Milah* ceremony on baby boys whenever she is available and asked.

Ryan is a new board

member of Congregation Agudas Achim, and he has enjoyed helping out with the Texas Kosher Barbecue, kashering grills and helping prepare for the event.

Both Hava and Ryan are passionate about helping out at the San Antonio Food Bank with their family over the years. Packaging food and picking berries has been a way that their kids have been able understand the value of helping others in need.

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Sunday, January 20th
at 3 pm

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PARTNERSHIP CORNER



Jewish Federation San Antonio will welcome three young adults from JFSA's Partnership2gether region from January 24-27. Hedi Pusztai and Istavan Barsony are leaders in the Jewish community in Budapest, Hungary.

They organize cultural programs and engage young adults and teens in the Jewish community. Idan Zaccai is the co-chair of the young adult committee for the Partnership2gether consortium and is a Tour Guide in Israel. Pusztai, Barsony and Zaccai will share their own personal journeys and offer updates about the Jewish community in the Western Galilee of Israel and in Budapest.

Federation still has a few spots available on the San Antonio Community Israel Experience Trip on April 1-9.

This trip will include a visit to our Partnership region in the Western Galilee and home hospitality for dinner with Zaccai and other leaders in the Akko area. The trip will include visits to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, the mystical city of Tsfat, with a true feast for your head and your heart.

Contact AbrahamL@jfsatx.org or call Federation at (210) 302-6960 more information about the trip.

SPOTLIGHT

continued from page 4

How did the One Happy Camper Gift Grant affect their Jewish journey?

When the Rollos' oldest son Ari decided that he wanted to give Jewish sleepaway camp a try, Hava and Ryan went to a camp information session at their friend's

home. They came home trying to calculate how they were going to make this work with camp just around the corner. "It was like a dream come true that the Jewish Federation was able to gift us \$1,000 and we could send Ari to camp," said Hava. The moment Ari arrived home he told his parents he wants to go back each summer and even be a counselor in the future.

Hava said that hearing this made her heart sing. She believes that this camp experience is worth any sacrifices they make as a family.

How has PJ Library and PJ Our Way impacted your Jewish family?

Each of the Rollo children have received PJ Library Books. The family says they love the mission

of PJ Library which turns "snuggly moments into Jewish moments." Hava and Ryan say they also enjoy attending PJ family events, where they meet new families each time. Ari really enjoyed his first PJ Our Way event where he met an Israeli soldier, and continues to talk about his desire to visit Israel.

THE HOLOCAUST

LEARN & REMEMBER

JANUARY 7TH- FEBRUARY 10TH

RESISTANCE

GUESTS & PERFORMANCES INCLUDE

Standing Up: German Resistance to Nazism, Trinity University's

Dr. Jason Johnson

The Warsaw Uprising, UIW's Dr. Roger Barnes

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

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

For details and locations visit:
hmmsa.org/learn-and-remember/
or contact EVENTS@HMMSA.ORG



YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK



Acclaimed author discusses challenges of parenting

PJ Library and Jewish Federation of San Antonio recently hosted an evening with author Kim Brooks, who wrote the widely acclaimed book, *Small Animals: Parenting in the Age of Fear*. Kim's sister Sari Ghitis and Sari's husband Joe hosted the evening of comradery and storytelling. Brooks shared her own dramatic parenting story and then led a group conversation about the challenges parents face today.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

At the December Jewish War Veterans Post 753 meeting, the following were elected to guide the post for 2019: Commander Garland Scott; Senior Vice Commander David Marne; Junior Vice Commander Herschel Sheiness and Judge Advocate Melvin Eichelbaum. In lieu of the January post meeting, officer installations will take place on Saturday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Barn Door. For reservations or information, contact Jeffrey Hoffman at (210) 492-4980.

BINGO

On Tuesday, Jan. 29 from 6:45 p.m. – 8:15 p.m., post members will be at the ECTC-Extended Community Treatment Center (ECTC) at Audie Murphy VA Hospital conducting bingo and socializing with patients. To volunteer, contact Kenneth Ashworth at (210) 647-0330.

CONCLAVE

Post members will attend the TALO Mid-Winter Conclave in New Orleans from January 18 to 20.

AWARDS

JWV Post 753 has received an award from Audie Murphy VA Hospital for members of the post volunteer board attending all

of the board meetings during the year.

Did you know?

In 2018, members of JWV post 753 performed 9,000 volunteer hours at the Audie Murphy and Kerrville VA Hospitals.

Are you a veteran in need of a loan?

The post and SA Hebrew Free Loan have set up a loan process for veterans. For information, contact Hebrew Free Loan at (210) 736 4352.

students, entrepreneurs, or organizations can apply for funding for innovative projects that have an impact on San Antonio's Jewish life.

The online application includes a few simple questions and the YAD Board will invite the top proposals to pitch their ideas live at the Gefilte Fish Tank event on Sunday, Feb. 24.

APPLY ONLINE BY FEBRUARY 1

Anyone in San Antonio with a great idea can apply online at gefiltefishtank.com before the deadline. For more information, please contact Eva Laporte, Director of Community Engagement at laportee@jfsatx.org.

GEFILTE FISH TANK – FEBRUARY 24

Audience members will enjoy music, entertainment, drinks and food at the event while casting their vote for the top pitches of the night. \$5 tickets in advance; \$18 VIP tickets include reserved seating. Get tickets at gefiltefishtank.com.

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San Antonio's Gourmet Olive Oils comes to the JCC

Ahead of Tu B'Shevat, the JCC will welcome Christine Arredondo, owner of San Antonio's Gourmet Olive Oils for a tasting and educational opportunity.

The boutique shop, which opened in 2014, offers a variety of high-quality olive oils. Arredondo, a retired Marine who served two tours in Iraq, opened her shop to educate the community about the difference between high and low-quality olive oils, and particularly, the benefits of cooking with them, something she learned while traveling the world.

From 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on January 17 and 18, Arredondo will set up in the JCC's main level lobby with a variety of certified kosher olive oils. Visitors are welcome to stop by – no reservation required – to taste the oils, learn about their various benefits, and celebrate the birthday of trees in a unique way. There will also be oils available to purchase. For more information, call (210) 302-6828.

Volunteers needed for Jewish Family Service clean up

Volunteers are welcome to join the board and staff of Jewish Family Service on Sunday, Jan. 20 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. as they head to JFS's Mission Road location, 1151 Mission Rd., to give the grounds some much-needed attention. This is a great opportunity to give back and help beautify JFS's southside location with friends in the community. Sign up by calling Tracy at (210) 302-6954.

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SAFETY SEMINAR

Active Shooter Preparedness
Sunday, January 27 | 10am - 1pm
STW Krav Maga Studio | 18450 Blanco Rd #2

In response to the mass shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the **Young Adult Division** of JFSA is coordinating an active shooter preparedness seminar for individuals.

The seminar is donation based with all proceeds going to the fund for the families of the victims at Tree of Life Synagogue.

TO RSVP, PLEASE EMAIL MATT BY JAN 18TH
ELAMM@JFSATX.ORG

NCJW, Hadassah host *Moms Demand Action* at January 17 event

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is partnering with the Aviva Group (young women's group of Hadassah) and the San Antonio Chapter of Hadassah at an evening event on Thursday, Jan. 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Ruthie Wurzburg. The event will feature a presentation by Moms Demand Action.

Danna Half and Lisa Epstein will give an overview

of Moms Demand Action, along with a legislative update, including bills that have been filed for the upcoming Texas legislative session. They will also discuss the Be SMART for Kids program.

Before the presentation, those attending will share a potluck dinner and learn about NCJW's ongoing activities and projects as well as upcoming events for 2019.

RSVP to Mindi Silver-Weiss at mindisw@gmail.com or (210) 497-2333.

To learn more about the event hosts, visit The San Antonio Section of the National Council of Jewish Women (www.ncjwsa.org) and Hadassah (www.hadassah.org).

To learn more about the program, visit momsdemandaction.org and besmartforkids.org.



Calling All Volunteers

Join the Board and Staff of Jewish Family Service on Sunday, January 20 from 11am-2pm as they head to the Mission Road location and give the grounds some much-needed TLC. This is a great opportunity to give back and help beautify our southside location with friends in the community. Sign up by calling Tracy at 210-302-6954.

Congregation Rodfei Sholom to honor Hebrew language teachers

Tickets are now on sale for Congregation Rodfei Sholom's annual fundraiser on January 20, which will honor seven Hebrew teachers who have dedicated their lives to San Antonio's Jewish children. For more than 30 years Orah Abramoff, Aviva Bass, Ayelet Kboudi, Levana Kovo, Hagit Lifshitz, Sara

Purcell and Barbara Weizer have been infusing our community's children with love for the Hebrew language as well as preparing them for their Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations.

For ticket information or for details on purchasing an ad in the tribute book, contact Rodfei Sholom

at (210) 493-3558 or rodfeigala2019@gmail.com.

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Your Mental Health Minute Courtesy of JFS

Each year, it seems like November through January is a blur. Between work parties, holiday celebrations with friends and families, cleaning (and dirtying) the house, and spending money on food, drink, and gifts – life is simply busy! The new year is also the time we usually create resolutions for ourselves that are amended repeatedly or flat-out failed.

We all have the best intentions, but it's easy to neglect taking care of ourselves because when we're busy and overwhelmed, even a small reprieve feels like a luxury. So actually taking time to eat lunch, exercise, and hang out with friends? That just feels like slacking.

That mindset backfires, though.

Practicing self-care can reduce the feelings of burnout and the negative effects of stress, but it can also help you re-engage and focus.

Self-care for the New Year can include:

1. Schedule calendar time for self-care.
2. Make your health a top priority.
3. Practice mindfulness.
4. Grow self-compassion.
5. Maintain a work-life balance.
6. Regularly detox from social media.
7. Cut out toxic people or relationships.

And don't worry if you can't or don't want to do these things. Mental health and self-care require ongoing, lifelong maintenance – there's no finish line, and no need to rush your progress.

If you or someone you know needs to talk, JFS is here. Call 210-302-6920 today and ask for an intake specialist.

Congregation Agudas Achim honors Gurinsky and Jalnos families at Annual Purim Ball

Congregation Agudas Achim will honor Rhonda, Charlie, and Sara Lee Gurinsky as well as Eileen, Robi, and Susanne Jalnos at the 4th Annual Purim Ball on Saturday night, March 2.

"There are very few people in our Jewish community more deserving of being honored than the Gurinsky and Jalnos families," said Senior Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham. "All of our honorees have not only been invaluable leaders in our Agudas community, they have played an integral role throughout different

organizations in our Jewish and San Antonio communities."

In addition to the honorees, this year's Purim Ball will feature a Monte Carlo theme with a live band, food, a casino, and silent and live auctions.

Individual tickets are \$54 if purchased before February 1 and \$72 afterward. Table sponsorships begin at \$700 before February 1 and \$1,000 afterward as well. Contact the office at Agudas Achim at info@agudas-achim.org or (210) 479-0307 for ticket and sponsorship information.

Rise Against Hunger with Temple Beth-El

On February 3, volunteers of all ages are needed to prepare and package over 10,000 meals for developing nations with Rise Against Hunger, a national organization dedicated to fighting hunger on a global scale. Together, Rise Against Hunger and Temple Beth-El are hosting this event, which will allow our community to participate in this unique, interactive, and fun service opportunity. The event will start at 12:30 p.m. Cash donations will be accepted as well to help offset the costs.*

To volunteer for and/or donate to Temple Beth-El's Rise Against Hunger event, sign up contact Ross Halfant at ross@beth-elsa.org or (210) 733-9135 ext 110.

Temple Beth-El Rise Against Hunger

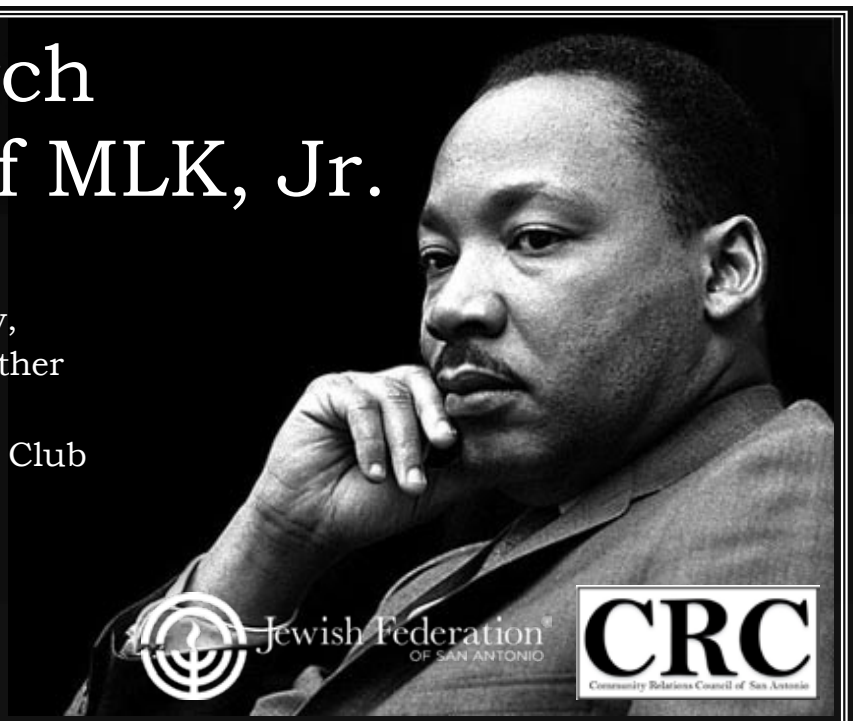
What your donation will buy:

\$5 provides 15 meals
\$34 provides 100 meals
\$69 provides 200 meals
\$102 provides 300 meals
\$170 provides 500 meals

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

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

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



SENIORS



ADANTE RESIDENTS ENJOY HANUKKAH FESTIVITIES

Residents of Adante Independent Living were treated to a fun and festive Hanukkah Party, orchestrated by Temple Beth-El volunteers, Cantor Julie Berlin, the Temple choir (Kol Simchah) and San Antonio Jewish Senior Services (SAJSS).



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Advocacy issues will include support for Israel & support for social services
Pre-register today at JFSATX.ORG | \$18 - Includes Lunch



YOUTH

Congregation Agudas Achim Partners with Austin congregation for 3rd-8th Grade Shabbaton

Congregation Agudas Achim is teaming up this year with Agudas Achim in Austin for a 3rd through 8th grade Shabbaton weekend together at Camp Young Judaea from February 8-10.

San Antonio's Agudas Achim has had a Shabbaton weekend at Camp Young Judaea for nearly 20 years. The goal of the weekend is to create a camp-like Shabbat experience for students and help the students grow in their love for Judaism.

"Our Shabbaton at CYJ is always one of the most enjoyable and meaningful weekends of the year for our students, staff, and clergy,"



said Senior Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham. "I am extremely excited to be partnering with Agudas Achim in Austin so that our children have

the opportunity to interact with and celebrate Shabbat together with similar-aged children at camp for a weekend."

The hope is that both Agudas Achim's will turn this into a yearly tradition allowing the students from both synagogues to gain life-

long friendships. There is talk of future Co Shabbatons with Conservative synagogues from other Texas cities, as well.

TASA, SAN ANTONIO'S JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

FOR THE 2019-2020
SCHOOL YEAR

THURSDAY,
JAN. 31, 2019
9:30 A.M.-
11:30 A.M.



- ✦ Information session
- ✦ General studies and Hebrew/Judiac Studies hands on student lessons
- ✦ A healthy snack
- ✦ Parents encouraged to participate



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Heintz Preschool reports record growth in attendance for 2019

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim has grown to record numbers heading into 2019. Heintz has now opened nine classrooms with over 80 students in attendance. This is up from only four classrooms and 30 students just two and a half years ago. Heintz Preschool prides itself on “Creating Creative Curiosity” with a high focus on kindergarten readiness.

“We stand out because of our small ratios, unique electives, daily personalized attention for each child, in order for each child to reach their maximum potential,” Heintz Preschool director, Taryn Bretado.

The preschool offers daily rotations, weekly and monthly themes not only focusing on secular themes but also intertwining Jewish values with each theme. Children 6 weeks old through PreK participate in tailored rotations including; Yoga, Art, Cooking, Music, Hebrew, and Spanish. Additionally, students are taught skills to improve handwriting through the multisensory and well adapted program Handwriting without Tears.

Students at Heintz preschool participate in regular intergenerational Yad by Yad programs in conjunction with San

Antonio Jewish Senior Services. Through this program, Heintz preschool students visit local senior living facilities and participate in activities and companionship with Jewish seniors in San Antonio.

The core school day is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with extended hours are offered from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. There is limited space available in each classroom with some waiting lists already forming in some age groups. For a tour or to learn more information, contact Heintz Preschool Director Taryn Bretado at (210) 479-7023 or by email at t.bretado@agudas-achim.org.



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



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

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



TASA end of year celebrations



ABOVE: TASA families celebrate together.
LEFT: TASA STEAM Dreidel & Menorah Contest winners strike a pose with their projects.

During November and December, the Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of San Antonio held three events celebrating accomplishments and

successes.

Coming on the heels of TASA's Match-A-Thon which raised over \$121,000, TASA's Family Dinner Night resonated with positive energy. The event was spearheaded by Chava Shaul, Sarah Enzweig and Orah Bass of the TASA PTO, as well as countless volunteers.

TASA's Thanksgiving breakfast welcomed TASA families with their grandparents and special

friends for breakfast provided by the TASA PTO. Entertainment featured songs sung by the K-4th grade students in both Hebrew and English, and a *Hakarat Hatov* (thanks and appreciation) video produced by TASA's Kindergarten teacher, Jessica Johnson. The program finished with the 3rd and 4th graders presenting their "walking museum", during which they dressed in costume and shared their state research project presentations.

The TASA Hanukkah program was held at the Altitude Trampoline park. As part of the STEM curriculum, TASA students were assigned a project where they needed to create either a dreidel or menorah and connect their project to someone in history. The winners of the STEM Dreidel and STEM Menorah contests (pictured) were also announced at the event.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

TEMPLE BETH-EL HANUKKAH PARTY BRINGS LAUGHTER

Hanukkah sweaters of all kinds were seen at Temple Beth-El's big Hanukkah Party, *Light Up and Laugh Up the Night*, a night of food, comedy and fun.



RODFEI HANUKKAH WINE AND OLIVE OIL TASTING

Tal Bendor from Mandelbaum Cellars and Tulip wineries presented a full wine and olive oil tasting in celebration of Hanukkah. For more information on adult and holiday program contact Rodfei Sholom at (210) 859-0935.



WHAT'S HAPPENING: CONGREGATION AGUDAS ACHIM HOSTS ANNUAL INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Congregation Agudas Achim hosted the second annual San Antonio Interfaith Thanksgiving Service for the Abrahamic faith traditions. Different Jewish, Christian, and Muslim denominations were all represented with prayers and song for the service. The service also featured the San Antonio Youth Chorale and the brand new Agudas Achim Youth Choir. Dr. Fatih Harpci, a Muslim professor of Religion at Carthage College was the keynote speaker for the evening as well.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



CONGREGATION AGUDAS ACHIM CELEBRATES HANUKKAH IN STYLE

Congregation Agudas Achim held six different Hanukkah events leading up to and throughout the holiday, including Donuts and Dreidels and the annual Hanukkah Hullabaloo program featuring a Jewish comedy troupe from New York.



HANUKKAH FUN WITH RODFEI SHOLOM'S EMTZA NCSY YOUTH GROUP

Rodfei Sholom's middle schoolers were delighted to light Hanukkah candles and play the Macabee Gift Game at the home of youth director Rabbi Moshe Rosenwasser. For more information on our middle school programming please contact the synagogue office at (210) 493-3558.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



HANUKKAH AT HEINTZ PRESCHOOL

Preschoolers from Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim presented a Hanukkah Show featuring all of the students in the school. The show was followed up with an inter-generational Hanukkah program, funded by a grant from San Antonio Jewish Senior Services.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



Mayor Ron Nirenberg greets Gan Gani preschoolers.



Rabbi Chaim Block lights the Hanukkah menorah in city council chambers.

CITY COUNCIL PAUSES FOR HANUKKAH

A historic Menorah lighting and invocation by Rabbi Chaim Block was held on December 6 at San Antonio City Council Chamber, with Mayor Ron Nirenberg lighting the shamash. Children of Gan Gani Preschool's Pericha class sang a Hanukkah song and gave each city council member an original Hanukkah painting. For more information about Gan Gani Preschool, contact director Rivkie Block at director@gangani.org or call (210) 492-1085. Photo Credit: Allan Smith



A Gan Gani preschooler presents Councilwoman Ana Sandoval with a special Hanukkah painting.

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BAGELS OVER BERLIN is about the experiences of Jewish Army Air Corps veterans in World War II. In this documentary, Jewish veterans relate fascinating stories of life in the service, realizing their recollections will be lost forever if not shared.

More than half a million Jewish men and women enlisted in or were inducted into the U.S. armed forces after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. Of these, 150,000 joined the Army's Air Corps, which had a mortality rate of 70 percent, the highest in the services.

Director Alan Feinberg will appear at the screening to introduce the film and talk about its making.

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OF SAN ANTONIO



For more information or to RSVP visit JFSATX.ORG or call 210.302.6960

WHAT'S HAPPENING



PEARL AGLOW FOR HANUKKAH WITH YJSA

The fourth annual Chanukah at Pearl with YJSA was celebrated with 200 in attendance, featuring a 9 ft. Menorah lighting, crafts for the children, and live music by local band Tera Ferna. Mayor Ron Nireneberg and City Councilman Roberto Trevino shared Hanukkah greetings from the city, as did Elizabeth Faurso of Pearl. YJSA then had an afterparty at a local bar. For more information about YJSA, visit www.YJSA.org or @yjsatx on social media.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



HANDS ON CHANUKAH BRINGS FAMILIES TOGETHER

The JCC hosted its annual *Hands on Chanukah* event on Tuesday, Nov. 27. Families enjoyed arts and crafts activities and latkes made by Irene's Kosher Kitchen. During the event, PJ Library provided Hanukkah-themed books and a "make your own edible snack dreidel" station, where children had fun making their own edible dreidels with pretzels, icing, and chocolate candy "kisses."



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



TEMPLE BETH-EL ADOPT A FAMILY

Scores of Temple Beth-El volunteers bought gifts, wrapped, and sorted the gifts for ten large families in need through Family Service Association. Pictured here, Jennifer Eichelbaum and Jordana Markman-Epstein enjoy this Temple Mitzvah Month activity.



RODFEI SHOLOM CELEBRATES HANUKKAH SUNDAY FUNDAY

Rodfei Sholom families kicked off Hanukkah with the Sunday Funday Chanukah Marketplace. Children made origami dreidels, menorah sand art, decorated Hanukkah cookies and ate latkes and donuts with their parents. For more information on family programming, contact Rodfei Sholom at (210) 357-3558.



WORLD OF UNDERSTANDING AT TASA

Middle School Students from TMI-Episcopal School visit TASA to learn more about Judaism.




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WHAT'S HAPPENING



CHABAD'S ANNUAL CHANUKAH ON THE RIVER DRAWS CROWD

The 21st Annual Chanukah on the River saw over 700 people enjoy a live concert with Jewish music superstar Yoni Z, as well as a 9 ft. Menorah lighting, at the Arneson River Theater. Mayor Ron Nirenberg offered Hanukkah greetings to the crowd. Participants also enjoyed a Menorah rive-cruise, with actors reenacting the story of Hanukkah along the Riverwalk. The event is presented by the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning, and sponsored by H-E-B, the Holzman Family Foundation, IBC Bank, Jewish Federation of San Antonio, and SWBC.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING / FROM THE COVER



WHAT'S HAPPENING: AGUDAS ACHIM CELEBRATES FIRST EVER HANUKKAH AT SEAWORLD

Congregation Agudas Achim partnered with SeaWorld for the first ever Hanukkah Menorah lighting at a SeaWorld location. The lighting took place on the first night of Hanukkah on the stage at the Sesame Street Bay of Play, where Sesame Characters joined Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Rabbi Ben Richards, and Samantha Mazuz on the stage to help light the candles and lead the crowd of hundreds in song. Participants received special Hanukkah at SeaWorld Kippot thanks to a small grant from the Young Adult Division Board of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.



CEO

continued from page 1

travel, and I aspire to visit many places around the world. My answer was, "because it is Israel, and I just love being there." This is a very personal answer and it is different for each of us.

For me, there is something about being in Israel that allows me to feel more connected to humanity and to myself.

I will admit that 2018 was a down year for me. The events of hate and destruction witnessed in our own country, be it by the hands of other human beings, such as in Pittsburgh, or by Mother Nature, as witnessed in California, shadowed my typically optimistic lens on the world. I am in need of the "renewal of spirit,"

as we recite weekly in the *Misheberach* prayer for healing.

And while some may think it ironic that I travel to the Middle East for renewal, I could not think

of a more fitting place to renew and refresh than in Israel.

Happy secular New Year 2019! May we all start the year with renewal and optimism.

MLK

continued from page 1

will join Temple Beth-El's Kol Simchah choir.

A City-wide Interfaith Service will also take place at Second Baptist Church (3310 E. Commerce) on Sunday, Jan. 20, at 4 p.m., followed by the City-wide MLK March on Monday, Jan. 21. For more information, contact Geri Gregory at (210) 733-9135, ext. 120 or geri@beth-elsa.org.

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PRESCHOOLERS SPREAD HANUKKAH CHEER

During Hanukkah, children from the JCC Block and Dreeben School for Young Children created and delivered Hanukkah cards to members in the J's senior adult program.

Congregation Agudas Achim Religious School moving to Saturday mornings

Beginning in January, Congregation Agudas Achim's Inda Posner Religious School will meet on Saturday mornings during Shabbat in place of the Sunday morning meetings. The school will meet on seven Shabbat mornings in January, February, and the beginning of March, in addition to the annual 3rd-8th Grade Shabbaton at Camp Young Judea in February.

The main goal is to teach all of the students about the centrality of Shabbat to the Jewish religion and people by having the students not only learn Hebrew, prayers,

holiday and liturgy, but to experience and participate in them as well.

"I am excited for this new opportunity for our families to gain a greater spiritual connection with Shabbat, our most important day in Judaism," said Director of Congregational Learning Samantha Mazuz.

More than half of Conservative congregations in America have adopted this approach with much success. In addition, this will help to facilitate the Shabbat attendance requirements for the 4th through 7th grades. Further, Shabbat School

will help to integrate the students into the broader synagogue community by having them meet and interact with congregants who regularly attend Shabbat morning services.

During the seven-week trial period of Shabbat School parents are welcome to attend services for any length of time, should they wish to do so. Agudas Achim has adopted the Religious School curriculum to provide age-appropriate Shabbat experiences for the students. The children will still have both educational time in the classroom and the *chuggim* (specials).



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SPONSORS: 100% of your sponsorship dollars will go to the Annual Campaign of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, helping our Jewish community here, in Israel, and around the world.

Bendiner Library Bagels and Books Club explores *Nemesis*

On January 27 at 10 a.m., Victoria Aarons, Ph.D. will lead a discussion of Philip Roth's final work, *Nemesis*, in the Block Conference Center at Temple Beth-El. This discussion is part of Temple Beth-El's Bendiner Library Bagels and Books Club.

In the "stifling heat of equatorial Newark," a terrifying epidemic is raging, threatening the children of the New Jersey city with maiming, paralysis, lifelong disability, and even death. This is the startling theme of Philip Roth's wrenching book: a wartime polio epidemic in the summer of 1944 and the effect it has on a closely knit, family-oriented Newark community and its children.

Through this story runs the dark questions that haunt all four of Roth's late short novels, how does the individual withstand the onslaught of circumstance?

Victoria Aarons holds the O.R. & Eva Mitchell Endowed Chair in Literature at Trinity University, where she teaches courses on American Jewish and Holocaust literature.

Nemesis is available on *Amazon.com* in digital and paper formats.

TASA Kindergarten to host Open House

The Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of San Antonio (TASA) will host a Kindergarten Open House for the 2019-2020 school year t on Thursday, Jan. 31. The program will run from 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m. Parents and students will get to participate in hands on learning activities while exploring general studies, Hebrew language, and Judaic studies. After the activities the children will enjoy a healthy snack. Interested parents are encouraged to come with their preschool children. RSVPs are



preferred to assure the best possible experience for you and your child.

TASA features a dual curricular program. Students enjoy a rigorous STEAM-focused (Science Technology

Engineering Arts and Mathematics) college preparatory general studies program, along with a rich Judaic studies program that allows students to celebrate their heritage in a warm inclusive environment. TASA explicitly emphasizes developing the character and leadership potential of each student to prepare them for being the next generation of Jewish leaders.

For more information or to set up a tour, call (210) 607-7261, or email office@torahacademysa.com.

Temple Beth-El welcomes Musician in Residence Elana Arian

On Friday, Jan.18 and Saturday, Jan. 19, musician and composer Elana Arian will be Temple Beth-El's Musician in Residence for *Shabbat Shirah*. Arian is a talented multi-instrumentalist, composer, and recording artist. She studied conducting and violin, jazz guitar, and songwriting at Yale and has performed at some of the most celebrated concert halls in the country, including five

different performances at the (Obama) White House.

The events of the weekend include:

Friday, Jan. 18 at 6:30 pm- Celebrate Shabbat Shirah!

Arian along with Rabbis Nathan and Yergin and Cantor Berlin will lead a joyous and engaging Shabbat Evening Worship service.

Saturday, Jan. 19 at 12:30 p.m. – Lunch and Learn

Music and Midrash – Arian will lead an

exploration of how different composers interpret the same liturgical text musically. Lunch will be provided. RSVP to Dollie@beth-elsa.org by Monday, Jan.14.

Saturday, Jan. 19 at 7 p.m.- Havdalah and Concert

Share in a captivating musical evening with Arian as she reveals the musical journey of her life and how her experiences with

classical, folk, jazz and rock have enabled her to create her eclectic and enchanting sound. The event will be held at a private residence in Terrell Hills.

RSVP to Dollie@beth-elsa.org by Wednesday, Jan. 16 to receive the address for the concert.

Arian's visit is made possible through Temple Beth-El's Jean and Jesse Wulfe Religious Enhancement Fund.





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18th annual Jewish Film Festival at JCC

The Barshop JCC will present their 18th annual Jewish Film Festival February 16-20 at Regal Alamo Quarry Cinemas, 255 E. Basse Rd. The schedule includes thirteen films, including ten feature-length and three short films.

Kicking-off this year's Festival is a screening of the film *Itzhak* at the JCC on Saturday, Jan. 5. The documentary tells the story of the world-renowned violinist, Itzhak Perlman, and will include pre-film entertainment and movie theater-style snacks. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the film will begin at 7:30 p.m. Patrons who attend the kick-off will get early access to purchasing tickets for the Festival.

Film Festival co-chairs Sandy Levenshus and Clarence Dickinson both commented on

the line-up. "It's a bonanza year for movies," noted Dickinson, in regard to the number of above par films the committee was able to screen. "You won't want to miss this year's fantastic line-up," echoed Levenshus.

The festival will open Saturday, Feb. 16 at 8 p.m. with the documentary *Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel*, a film about sports, patriotism, and personal growth.

Tickets are \$9.50 online, \$10 in person or over the phone, or \$12 at the door. Festival Packs, which include one admission to each film, are \$90 online or \$95 in person or over the phone. To learn more about the 2019 Jewish Film Festival, visit www.jccsanantonio.org/filmfestival or call (210) 302-6820.



Jewish Baroque composers concert coming to JCC

Sonido Barroco, a period instrument ensemble comprised of musicians from the San Antonio & Central Texas area, will present a program of Jewish Baroque composers, plus selections from Handel's *Esther*, at the JCC Sunday, Jan. 27 at 4 p.m.

The concert will feature Hannah McGinty (soprano) and Jeffrey Jones-Ragona (tenor). For more information, visit www.jccsanantonio.org/artsandmusic or call (210) 302-6820.

LETTER TO THE JEWISH JOURNAL

My name is Shanna Miller. I go to the International School of the Americas, and I was in the class of 2018 at the Torah Academy of San Antonio (TASA). I feel that TASA really prepared me for ISA in both a mental and educational aspect. They would frequently tell me, "you will see this a lot in high school" or "make sure you know how to do this." This helped me a lot because I knew what to expect and look out for. TASA also did a lot of hands-on and group activities which was good practice for ISA, since they do a lot of that type of learning.

What I think TASA prepared me for most was note taking. I came not knowing anything about note taking, or how take them. Luckily, it's a small school, and they noticed

my weaknesses and helped me work on them. I really liked the small aspect because the teachers could work

one-on-one with a student in a certain area, even if the rest of the class already understood it.

In ISA, I'm in mostly Pre-AP classes, and this is because TASA led me to succeed. They told me what to expect and taught me everything I needed to know for high school.

I would recommend TASA because it is such a fun educational experience. They teach us what they need to, but in a fun and exciting way. TASA also taught me the importance of an education and how much everyone needs it. They taught me to find the good and importance in education.



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SPRING CALENDAR

January - May 2019






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JANUARY  1 It's New Years Day! Let's PLAY! 3pm 20 Tu Bishvat Nature Hike at Hardberger Park at 3pm
FEBRUARY  10 PJ Gives Love, 3pm 19 PJ Parents and Pearls Night Out Part 2 at the Holocaust Memorial Museum 6-8:30pm
MARCH  17 Hamantashen Bake Off: Pre-Purim Event
APRIL  7 Plagues & Play at Walker Ranch Park
MAY  8 Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day! Special kids area at our city-wide celebration!

Watch for our **AMAZING PJ Library Summer Events Calendar!**



Jewish Federation
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Dates and times subject to change, please look to PJ Library San Antonio Facebook for up to date information
 Questions? Contact Lauren Abraham at AbrahamL@jfsatx.org



Harold Grinspoon
FOUNDATION

Largest U.S. bakery to remove kosher certifications from nearly all breads and rolls

NEW YORK (JTA) — Bimbo Bakeries USA confirmed to JTA that it will be removing the certification. The company produces brands including Arnold, Sara Lee, Stroehmann, Freihofer's and others.

Two of its major brands, Entenmann's and Thomas, will remain certified kosher. So, kosher eaters, your crumb doughnuts and English muffins are still safe. A couple of rye breads also will retain their certifications.

"Removing the kosher certification from some of our products was strictly a business-process decision to enable more efficient operations, and it was one we did not make lightly," Bimbo said in a statement. "Thomas' and Entenmann's products as well as Arnold's and Levy's Rye Breads will remain kosher-certified. It is important to note that we have heard our consumers' concerns

and are working with kosher certification organizations and discussing alternative solutions."

The company did not say when the decision will take effect, and the kosher certification agencies do not know, though they assume it will be sometime this year.

The decision will make it much harder for those outside major Jewish population centers to buy kosher bread, say executives at the Orthodox Union and Kof-K, the kosher agencies that certify the vast majority of Bimbo's kosher products in the U.S.

Genack explained that the decision stems from a mix of corporate efficiency and obscure kosher laws: Bimbo wants the flexibility to produce its breads on the same factory lines as breads that contain dairy products.

Remembering deceased Jewish military veterans

Jewish War Veterans of America Post 753 asks you to remember these Jewish military veterans whose yahrzeit (anniversary of thdividual's death) occurs in the month of January and 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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CHASAN, JOSEPH	LEVINSON, DANNY	STEIN, ARTHUR
CHERNIS, JOSEPH	LINICK, IRVING	STEIN, HARRY
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		WULFE, JESSE

American Jewish group sends aid to Indonesia, stricken by yet another tsunami

(JNS) - The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee announced that it is providing assistance to Indonesia following a tsunami on December 22.

The JDC said that it would provide the aid "through its local partner in the Kalianda and Rajabasa subdistricts in Lampung. The aid provision includes health services, clean water and critical supplies for survivors and the displaced."

"As the people of Indonesia face disaster for the third time this year, we mourn the tragic loss of life and work to provide an immediate response to care for those who survived the tsunami," said JDC CEO David M. Schizer. "Guided by our Jewish values, we will endeavor to alleviate suffering and make the New Year ahead one that is filled with healing and recovery."

Meanwhile, Israel expressed its sympathies to Indonesia following the disaster.

"Our most profound sympathies to all who are affected by the devastating tsunami in Indonesia, wishing speedy recovery to all the injured and expressing hope for search and rescue efforts," tweeted Foreign Ministry spokesperson Emmanuel Nahshon.

The two countries do not have diplomatic relations, and Indonesia has historically rejected Israeli assistance.

Israel last sent aid to the Muslim-majority nation in October, when an earthquake killed more than 1,400 people.

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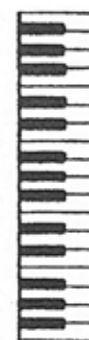
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Joshua Raphael Lazarus Bar Mitzvah

Josh Lazarus is called to Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on January 19th at Temple Beth-El. He is the son of Susan Gershenhorn and James Lazarus, and the younger brother of Kathryn and Richard. He is the grandson of Rhoda and Barry Gershenhorn, and Gladys and Ralph Lazarus (all of blessed memory).

Josh is currently a seventh grader at Keyston School. His mitzvah project involved helping veterans in various ways.

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Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg honored in Jerusalem by Israel Foreign Ministry Recognition for efforts to strengthen Jewish-Christian Relations

The Foreign Ministry of Israel together with the Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding honored Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg of Congregation Rodfei Sholom with a special award for his decades of work strengthening Jewish-Christian ties.

Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely presented the award to Rabbi Scheinberg on November 11, 2018 in the presence of Pastor John Hagee, founder and president of Christians United for Israel (CUFI), Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, founder of Ohr Torah Stone, which promotes cooperation between Christians and Jews, and a number of dignitaries.

Rabbi Scheinberg's work in strengthening the ties between Christian Evangelists goes back



to 1981, when Israel destroyed an Iraqi nuclear reactor and received world condemnation. In response, Pastor John Hagee from Cornerstone Church organized the first Night to Honor Israel (NTHI) in support of Israel, an event Rabbi Scheinberg strongly supported

in spite of some opposition from the Jewish community leadership. This cemented Pastor Hagee's relationship with Rabbi Scheinberg. Today, hundreds of Nights to Honor Israel are held in cities throughout the US and in England.

The success of NTHI was

instrumental in the founding of Christians United for Israel (CUFI) in 2006. More than one hundred million dollars have been given over a period of more than 37 years to humanitarian organizations in Israel. CUFI today numbers more than four-and-a half million members.

A news release from Congregation Rodfei Sholom states, "Thanks to Rabbi Scheinberg's close relationship to Pastor Hagee, Israel has grown stronger, North American immigration to Israel has increased, the majority of Christian Evangelical community love and respect the Jewish people and CUFI has become a major advocate for Israel in Congress."

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