

Community gathers to support San Antonio Holocaust Memorial Museum. **18-19**



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

IYAR - TAMMUZ 5775

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JUNE/JULY 2016



STRONGER TOGETHER!

Find out out What's Happening in Your Jewish community.

BEGINS ON PAGE 14



HOW DO YOU TEACH THE HOLOCAUST?

HHMSA offers teacher education programs this summer.

PAGE 8



PERSPECTIVE

Breaking down walls around The Western Wall. Will it work?

PAGE 30

YOM HAZIKARON: ISRAEL'S 68TH BIRTHDAY

A day of remembrance and celebration



The San Antonio Jewish Community was in high spirits for Yom Ha'atzmaut, celebrating Israel's 68th birthday.

Israel's 68th birthday was celebrated in a special and memorable way beginning with a moving Yom Hazikaron Memorial Day ceremony where the community paid tribute to Israeli soldiers who have fallen. A slide show in memory of 170 soldiers killed in our partnership region played throughout the evening, and the entire community was able to connect with the Western

See **CELEBRATION**, page 10

HOPE FOR HUMANITY BENEFIT



HHMSA President Melbourne O'Brien speaks at the Hope for Humanity Benefit for the Holocaust Memorial Museum on May 18th at the Pearl Stable.

FOR PHOTOS AND STORY, SEE PAGE 18

Lions come together for Annual Luncheon

The Lion of Judah annual luncheon took place on Thursday, May 12 at the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts. Our Lions enjoyed a delicious lunch and were captivated by guest speaker Julie Sue Goldwasser, shared her personal and heartwarming story of tragedy and triumph. The Lion of Judah is a women's giving society of the Jewish Federation. Women in this society are the pacesetters of the Annual Campaign and

See **LIONS**, page 12



Ronit Sherwin, Jewish Federation of San Antonio CEO, Julie Sue Goldwasser, and Laura Ehrenberg-Chesler

UC Irvine chancellor: Anti-Israel protesters 'crossed the line of civility'

(JTA) — Anti-Israel student protesters disrupted the screening of a film about the Israel Defense Forces at the University of California, Irvine.

Jewish students attending the screening of the Israeli documentary *Beneath the Helmet* May 18, under the auspices of the campus Hillel, had to be escorted away from the scene by campus police, the Orange County

See **PROTESTERS**, page 32

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WHAT'S INSIDE

CANDLE LIGHTING **5**

YOUTH & TEENS **25**

CALENDAR **4**

ARTS & CULTURE **27**

WHAT'S HAPPENING **14**

PERSPECTIVE **30**

IN THE COMMUNITY **24**

US & WORLD **32**

SENIOR NEWS **25**

MAZAL TOV **35**

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



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EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS:

The submission deadline for the AUGUST 2016 issue of the Jewish Journal is JULY 5, 2016 at noon.
All materials submitted after this date will be considered for the following issue.
How to submit: Email submissions to jewishj@jfsatx.org
• Articles & Announcements - Email as word documents. Articles submitted for consideration are subject to editing.
• Photos - Email high resolution images (300 dpi) in jpg attachments only.

ADVERTISING:

To place an advertisement or request ad rates, contact Sandy Leigh at (240) 498-8999 or advertising@jfsatx.org.
Ad deadlines for AUGUST 2016 ISSUE:
• Ad space reservations due no later than JULY 5, 2016 by noon;
• Press ready ads due by JULY 12, 2016.
Please include a contact name and phone number with all submissions.
The Jewish Journal is a free publication of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, and is published in print and online 11 times a year as a public service to the community. Donations to offset production and mailing costs are always welcome.

JEWISH JOURNAL EDITORIAL POLICY

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

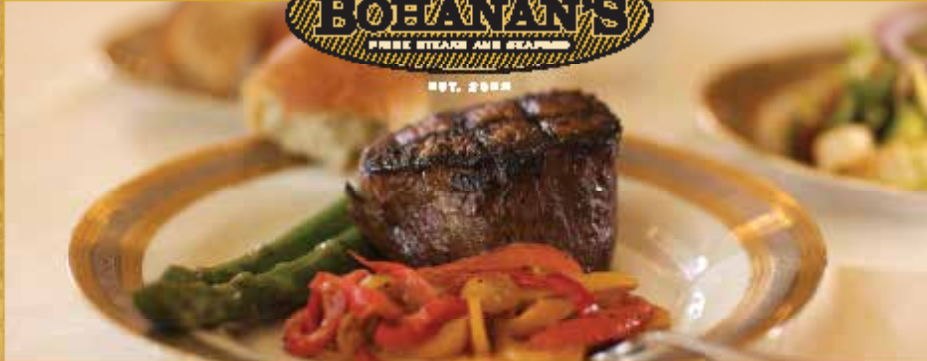
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This exhibition was organized by the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, Connecticut. *Coney Island: Visions of an American Dreamland, 1861–2008* has been generously funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities: Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence, the Henry Luce Foundation, and The Mr. and Mrs. Raymond J. Horowitz Foundation for the Arts, Inc.

Reginald Marsh, *Wooden Horses* (detail), 1936, tempera on board, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, Connecticut; The Dorothy Clark Archibald and Thomas L. Archibald Fund, The Kriebel Family Fund for American Art, The American Paintings Purchase Fund, and The Ella Gallup Sumner and Mary Catlin Sumner Collection Fund, 2013.1.1. © 2016 Estate of Reginald Marsh / Art Students League, New York / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday, Jun 3, 2016

Light Candles at: 8:13 P.M.
Shabbat, Jun 4, 2016
Shabbat Ends: 9:12 P.M.

Friday, Jun 10, 2016

Light Candles at: 8:16 P.M.
Shabbat, Jun 11, 2016
Eve of First day Shavuot, Light
Holiday Candles
after 9:15 P.M.

Sunday, Jun 12, 2016

Eve of Second day Shavuot,
Light Holiday Candles
after 9:16 P.M.
Monday, Jun 13, 2016
Holiday Ends: 9:16 P.M.

Friday, Jun 17, 2016

Light Candles at: 8:19 P.M.
Shabbat, Jun 18, 2016
Shabbat Ends: 9:18 P.M.

Friday, Jun 24, 2016

Light Candles at: 8:20 P.M.
Shabbat, Jun 25, 2016
Shabbat Ends: 9:19 P.M.

Friday, Jul 1, 2016

Light Candles at: 8:20 P.M.
Shabbat, Jul 2, 2016
Shabbat Ends: 9:19 P.M.

Friday, Jul 8, 2016

Light Candles at: 8:20 P.M.
Shabbat, Jul 9, 2016
Shabbat Ends: 9:18 P.M.

Friday, Jul 15, 2016

Light Candles at: 8:18 P.M.
Shabbat, Jul 16, 2016
Shabbat Ends: 9:15 P.M.

Friday, Jul 22, 2016

Light Candles at: 8:15 P.M.
Shabbat, Jul 23, 2016
Shabbat Ends: 9:11 P.M.

Friday, Jul 29, 2016

Light Candles at: 8:10 P.M.
Shabbat, Jul 30, 2016
Shabbat Ends: 9:06 P.M.

Friday, Aug 5, 2016

Light Candles at: 8:05 P.M.
Shabbat, Aug 6, 2016
Shabbat Ends: 9 P.M.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Cary Plotkin Kavy
Gloria Mindes Silber
Dr. Martin Castelbaum

Summer brings new journeys

Summertime! For many of us, especially those of us with school-age children, we are able to breathe a bit more freely than usual the next few months. The rigor and tumult of the academic calendar is on hiatus and we take the next several weeks to live our lives without the demands of the school schedule (clubs, sports, homework, etc.). We allow our children's ever-expanding minds to take a break and decompress. Likewise, for many whose professional worlds are tied to the



**Letter from
our CEO**

**RONIT
SHERWIN**

academic calendar.

So too in the Jewish calendar – in a way. After the celebration of Shavuot (June 12 and 13), we enter the weeks prior to the Jewish New Year. We take several weeks to prepare our minds, hearts and souls to enter the season of the High Holidays during which we reflect on the year that's

passed and pray for the year ahead. It is an intense season and therefore a natural decompression of body and spirit would be of value during the weeks ahead.

I am excited to be spending some time this summer in Israel, along with our new Jewish Federation board chair Jonathan Gurwitz. We will begin our journey in Paris, learning about the situation of our fellow Jews in France, and will then accompany a group of *olim* (new immigrants to Israel) from France

to Tel Aviv. I imagine it will be a very moving experience. Once in Israel, we will visit programs supported by our Federation dollars and connect with our family in the Partnership of the Western Galilee. I cannot think of a more appropriate way to spend the weeks leading up to our New Year than by being in our Jewish homeland, Eretz Yisrael.

I wish you all a wonderful summer of family, relaxation, reflection and the new hopes and dreams for the coming year!

CALENDAR

continued from page 4

- Bikes, Scooters, & Skates, Rodfei Sholom, 10:30 a.m.

- Agudas Achim Brews & Schmooze, Bigz Burger Joint, 5 p.m.

July 10

- Alamo Brandeis B'nai B'rith Lodge, The Campus, 10:30 a.m.

July 14

- Simcha Social Club, Agudas Achim, 11:30 a.m.

- Young Couples Club of Agudas (YCCA), The Well, 7 p.m.

July 15

- Tisha B'Av Services, Rodfei Sholom, 7:45 p.m.

July 16

- Tisha B'Av Services, Rodfei Sholom, 6:15 a.m.

July 17

- Golden Manor Annual Board Meeting, The Campus, 4 p.m.

July 19

- NCJW Lunch & Learn, Scuzzi's, 12 p.m.

July 21

- Agudas Achim, Moonlight Supper Club, 7 p.m.

July 24

- Jewish War Veterans Post 753, The Campus, 9 a.m.

July 25

- Rodfei Missions Baseball, Wolfe Stadium, 7:05 p.m.

July 31

- Jewish War Veterans Post 753, 9 a.m.
- Sisterhood Mah Jongg Tournament, Agudas Achim Social Hall, 12:30 a.m.

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Explore Our Impact YOUR FEDERATION ...

Connects

Individuals and families from across the community celebrate Israel together through Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations. Young families meet each other and experience Jewish values through **PJ Library** events.

Educates

Through formal and informal Jewish education, children and young adults are developing their **Jewish Identity** at the **Shmuel Bass Torah Academy**, **Jewish overnight camps**, **Israel trips** - giving them a strong foundation of Jewish learning and values.

Advocates

The Community Relations Council works with Jewish Federation professionals in Washington to advise members of Congress on concerns related to vulnerable Jewish communities, the US-Israel relationship, and issues of importance to Jewish people.

Judy Palans, Vice Chair, Development ★ **Jonathan Gurwitz, Chair, Board of Directors**



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Includes

Children with special needs are mainstreamed in summer camp experiences at the **Barshop Jewish Community Center**.

Saves Lives

Families in emergency situations receive immediate, life-sustaining services including housing subsidies, food, clothing, post-trauma counseling, locally through our partners; **Jewish Family Service of San Antonio** and in Israel and around the world through the **Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)**

Develops Leaders

Through the new **Young Adult Division Board** and new **Women's Philanthropy Board** community members are taking on leadership roles and planning meaningful events and experiences for Young Adults and for Women of our community.

SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

Claudia Stokes



Claudia Stokes is professor and chair of Trinity University's department of English. A native New Yorker, she received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and her doctorate from Columbia University. She specializes in nineteenth-century American literature and is the author of several books, including *The Altar at Home: Sentimental Literature and Nineteenth-Century American Literature*

(University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014) and *Writers in Retrospect: The Rise of American Literary History, 1875-1910* (University of North Carolina Press, 2006). She is actively involved in the Jewish community of San Antonio in addition to serving on the Board of Trustees of Temple Beth-El, she also sits on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. She is married to the writer David Liss with whom she has two children Eleanor

(15) and Simon (9).

What brought you to San Antonio?

I moved to San Antonio in 2001 when I was hired as an assistant professor in the English Department at Trinity University. It's been a pleasure to watch the city develop and evolve since we first moved here.

What is your strongest Jewish memory?

I have so many strong Jewish memories that it's difficult to pick just one! I suppose my strongest and most beloved Jewish memory is regularly spending Shabbat during my childhood with my relatives, among them my beloved Grandfather Simon (z"l) and my cousins. So many of my relatives lived in the same Manhattan apartment building, owned by my great-uncle Dave, we

would start by visiting my grandfather on the third floor and gradually work our way up to the fifth floor, where we would have a seemingly endless lunch with all the relatives. We would eat traditional Ashkenazi foods--I remember with particular fondness my beloved cousin Morris's fantastic salami and eggs--and discuss current events and politics. After hours of talking and eating, we would eventually go for a walk in neighboring Riverside Park.

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

It's an honor to work with Temple Beth-El and the Jewish Federation and be able to participate in some of their extraordinary activities. However, I get the most gratification from some of my professional service work. I peer-review countless scholarly manuscripts in my research field, and it's a privilege to be able to give feedback to critics conducting important research in nineteenth-century American literature. I also serve as an external evaluator for professors coming up for promotion and tenure, which is without question

one of the most important service commitments in my profession. All of this additional work is completely volunteer, but essential: it helps develop new scholars in the field and ensures the excellence of new research publications.

Please share your favorite Jewish holiday. Why?

I have a particular fondness for Shavuot. In my family, my mother used to joke about Shavuot as the day she would finally get around to doing all the chores she had been putting off. "I'll clean out that closet on Shavuot," she would say, but that was her very Jewish way of saying that she had already decided never to perform that dreaded task. That idiosyncratic family context aside, I have a particular fondness for Shavuot because it commemorates the gift of Torah. Plus, any holiday that requires the consumption of cheesecake and blintzes is automatically going to become my favorite.

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

I hope that the Jewish community will continue to thrive and unite in pursuit of shared ambitions. I take to heart the slogan of this year's JFSA campaign, "Stronger Together"; the more we can unite, the better for all of us, in my view. More broadly, I wish for peace and stability in the state of Israel.

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Educational opportunities at the HMMSA

The Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio (HMMSA) is dedicated to educating the community about the dangers of hatred, prejudice and apathy. Because education is at the core of the HMMSA program, the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio (HMMSA) will host a teacher workshop.

The Museum is a provider of continuing professional education (CPE) and will give credit for all participating teachers.

The teacher second workshop will be held for educators in our annual Echoes and Reflections workshop in cooperation with Yad Vashem. This workshop on July 14 will award CPUs along with a free \$100 curriculum.

The Museum will host docent training in August; we are looking for volunteers interested in teaching the Holocaust to groups that tour our permanent exhibit. The training will consist of 8 sessions; 5 weeks with the permanent exhibit, 1 week working with activity sessions, and 2 weeks of special topics training with our scholar in residence.

For additional information about both of these programs, please contact education@hmmsa.org.



Second Generation Survivors and Cousins Ruthie Wurzburg and Laura Ehrenberg-Chesler greet before the Service begins.



Second Generation Survivors Varda Ratner, Becky Schenker and Mark Ingram. Ratner and Schenker led the Second Gen group, The Torch. Ingram is HMMSA Incoming Commission Chair.

Holocaust Remembrance Day brings generations together



Rose Williams with her grandson led the processional of Survivors after the service.



Hanna Pankowsky greeted Raquel Holzman after the Memorial Service.

The 2016 Yom Hashoah Service on May 4 was a memorial service focused on hope for the future. This year the Second, Third and Fourth Generations joined the procession. Helen Pankowsky introduced her Mother Hanna Pankowsky who spoke about her own mother, Sofia Davidson's art work. Faryl Greller told the story about her quest to find recognition and a home for Davidson's work. The service is coordinated by the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio (HMMSA) with community Rabbis.

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PARTNERSHIP CORNER

Reflections from Efrat Srebro,

Israeli Co-chair of the education Task Force for the Western Galilee Partnership

I want to begin by saying that we, the educators of the Western Galilee Partnership, feel that one of our first priorities is connecting with our brothers and sisters in our Partnership communities. We consider the Jewish people who live in America, and especially



in San Antonio, as our family. We feel it is very important for us to connect and create one big active partnership.

So, two weeks before Passover, 11 educators from our Western Galilee Partnership in Israel (from Kindergarten to High School) left all of their coming holiday preparations and came to San Antonio

to meet with the Jewish community educators, share ideas, and create new twinning projects.

As soon as we landed in San Antonio we felt like coming home!

We started our visit with an interesting city tour and I want to thank Richard Planto (JFSA President) and Jonathan Gurwitz (JFSA incoming President) for the

magnificent Riverwalk and Alamo visit. After that we had a lovely dinner with Israel and Overseas Co-chair, Lauren Stanley and David Komet and many community members. We enjoyed getting to know our friends here very much.

I want to thank Judy Lackritz for exposing us to the wonderful work that the San Antonio Community Relations Council is doing for Israel advocacy! It touches my heart and I felt so proud to know how much Israel is important to the San Antonio community!

During our visit we met with children and teachers in every Jewish educational institution in San Antonio. We taught Israeli songs and dances for the coming

holiday and answered the children's questions about everyday life in Israel.

We brought with us new ideas for mutual projects and we exposed our new initiative: Creating games as a platform for mutual activities.

The Ministry of Education in Israel opened his official site to the Jewish American teachers, and for the next school year every teacher in the Jewish schools of San Antonio will be able to take part in a special games workshop with our Israeli Partnership teachers on line.

I feel this visit will strengthen our relationships and I want to thank the hosting families for their wonderful hospitality.

Hope to see you in Israel!

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YOGA WITH YAD

YAD, Federation's Young Adult Division, hosted a Passover Yoga Cleanse at 5 Points with Yoga instructor Rebecca Planto. Connecting to Passover and freedom during the session allowed the young adults to clear their minds and souls for the holiday and reminded them our story and from where we came. For more information on YAD activities, contact Samantha Mazuz at mazuzss@jfsatx.org.

FROM THE COVER



Young Adults and Hillel students had a very special VIP after party with Listen Up! The participants had the opportunity to sing along with the band and have a Q&A with them!



PJ Library committee member Didi Neuman and her daughter Riley are making an Israeli flag together for Yom Ha'atzmaut

San Antonio chapter of Hadassah women stepped forward to serve the delicious Israeli falafels at the Israeli Independence Day festivities in the Wulfe Gymnasium.



(l to r) Shari Markowitz, Kathy O'Neill, Roberta Abelman, Sharon Gewertz, and Tania Arzi.



Chair of the Yom Hazikaron ceremony, Orah Abramoff and her husband, Ephraim, enjoy the celebrations in the gym.

CELEBRATION

continued from page 1

Galilee in solidarity to mourn these losses.

Jewish clergy from across San Antonio were in attendance and read and sang various prayers to remind us of the strength of our Jewish home, and the courage that we have needed to remember and honor our military soldiers who have defended us. The ceremony ended with Jewish children from San Antonio coming together to sing *Oseh Shalom* (a prayer for peace) and *Am Israel Chai* (the people of Israel live on).

In San Antonio tradition, the somber ceremony was followed with festivities to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day. A highlight for many attendees was Kids' Corner sponsored by PJ Library. Children were engaged with fun Israel-related activities including an archaeological dig throughout time, a large Magen David

(Jewish star) on the floor to decorate, and a pretend "make your own falafel" stand. Renowned Chicago based acapella group, Listen Up! was on hand to deliver upbeat Israeli inspired music to dance to, and the women of the San Antonio chapter of Hadassah were in full force to serve an Israeli dinner. The night afforded the opportunity for members of the Jewish community to come together, unite for Israel, and reacquaint with old friends and meet new ones.

During the celebration, the Israel and Overseas committee co-chair, David Komet announced a San Antonio community mission to Israel in February 2017. There will be upcoming parlor meetings to share details about the trip. For more information, contact Lauren Abraham at AbrahamL@jfsatx.org or go to <http://www.daattravel.com/san-antonio-community-mission.aspx>.



Rabbi Marina Yergin introduces Shofar blower Jeff Cohen as he sounds the shofar to remind us to remember all of the fallen soldiers in the Israeli military.



Jewish children in San Antonio from the Torah Academy of San Antonio (TASA), Jewish After School (JAS) at the JCC, Agudas Achim, Temple Beth El, Chabad, and Rodfei Sholom, came together to sing two songs to honor Israel at the end of the ceremony: the first about their hopes for peace in *Oseh Shalom* and their love for the land of Israel, *Am Yisrael Chai!*



Mother Chava Shaul with daughter Adele and husband Tal Shaul spoke as Daniel Levy (former Military Israel Defense Forces soldier) lit the Yahrzeit candle to remember all of the Israeli soldiers who have passed away.



Ellen Barshop and Rikko Ollervidez came together in their blue and white to celebrate Israel and enjoy dinner and music during the celebration.

3rd grader Daniel Boarnet celebrates Israel with his newly created flag at Yom Ha'atzmaut in the kids' area.



Children and their families decorated a large life-sized Jewish star on the gym floor during Yom Ha'atzmaut. This star will be taken to Israel to be shared with our Israeli friends.



MH Levine and Rabbi David Komerofsky led the community in the Mourner's Kaddish to remember the fallen soldiers in Israel's many battles.



Listen Up A cappella group from Chicago performed at the Yom Ha'atzmaut program to help our San Antonio community celebrate our love for Israel.



PJ Library Committee Member Liz Rockstroh and her son Gilad Davis enjoyed the archaeological dig at the PJ Library corner to go back in time to Israel as we celebrated Israel's 68th birthday.

Mazel Tov to
JEFF & LEA MENDELSON
on being honored by the Ohev Shalom
community in Washington, D.C. for their
lifelong dedication to Judaism and Israel.
- SANDY LEIGH

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**This issue
of the
Jewish Journal
is a joint
June/July
issue.
Look for the
next issue
in August!**

FROM THE COVER

LIONS

continued from page 1

make a minimum yearly gift of \$5,000. In addition, Elaine Cohen presented Alice Viroslov, MD with the Kipniss Friedland Wilson Award for her outstanding leadership and commitment.

San Antonio has 56 Lions in our community. This year's Lion of Judah Chair is Laura Ehrenberg-Chesler and the Chair of Women's Philanthropy is Amy Benedikt.



Laura Ehrenberg-Chesler, Chair, Lion of Judah, JulieSue Goldwasser, Richard Planto, Board Chair



Elaine Cohen, and Alice Viroslov, MD



Elsa Barshop, Sandra Rosenberg, and Linda Blend



Elana Benedikt, Amy Benedikt, MD, Lois Cohodas, and Lynn Stahl

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



JCC FORE! THE KIDS

Sponsors of this year's JCC Fore! the Kids Golf Classic included Stephen J. Kramer Architecture + Design and O'Krent's Abbey Flooring System.



Individual players (from left to right) Rick Thorner, Stanley Spigel, Bruce Hendin, and Harry Eastman enjoying Brackenridge Park Golf Course.

PASSOVER STORY TIME AT BARNES & NOBLE



It's a good thing Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham didn't have a frog in his throat at Passover Story Time. Young families enjoyed the interactive program of Passover stories, songs, and fun at Barnes and Noble La Cantera. Several families kept the fun going at a post story time pizza party at Grimaldi's Pizza.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

I to r: Rabbi Ariel Greenberg, Director of Congregational Learning at Congregation Agudas Achim; Michelle Vizurraga, Coordinator of Yad B'Yad; Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham of Congregation Agudas Achim.



HEINTZ PRESCHOOL YOM HA'ATZMAUT CELEBRATION

School children from Yad B'Yad of Heintz Preschool at Congregation Agudas Achim made Israeli flags in honor of Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut which decorated the lobby of The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community for the festivities to commemorate Israel. Yad B'Yad is an intergenerational program funded by Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.



BETH-EL SISTERHOOD OR TAMID

Temple Beth-El Sisterhood's highest award, the Or Tamid, goes to Sharon Miller, far right, pictured at a Brunch at the Menger Hotel with, from left, Sisterhood President Carole Kerman, Marsha Penner, Robin Kressbach, and Fran Cohen.

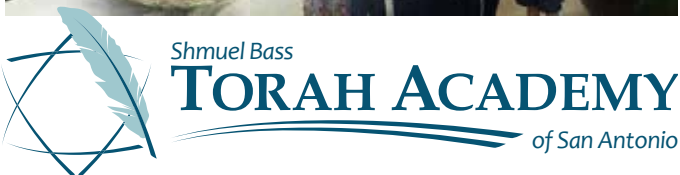


The Heintz Preschool's Yad b'Yad program had children and adults dancing in circles and celebrating Israel's Independence Day.



WHY ON THIS NIGHT?

Rabbi Marina Yergin helps youth with the Four Questions at Temple Beth-El's 2nd Night Community Seder.



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MAZEL TOV TO TASA!

School Receives Impressive School Accreditation Certification

TASA RECENTLY COMPLETED a rigorous review from the school accreditation board, AdvancED, and is proud to announce it formally met all official requirements of academic excellence, curriculum and overall quality standards for all grades, Kindergarten to 7th.

This accreditation speaks directly to TASA's dedication and hard work to providing academic excellence for all its students, while learning within a Jewish environment.

For more information about the accreditation or enrollment for the upcoming school year, please visit TASA's web site at www.TorahAcademySA.com or call the main office at 210.607.7261.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

THE BURNING OF THE CHAMETZ



The burning of the Chametz with Rodfei kids



A fireman demonstrates how to put out a fire with Lauren Abramson

On April 22, Rodfei Sholom had a visit from the San Antonio Fire Department as the community gathered to burn Chametz in preparation for Passover.



CULTURE OUTING WITH TASA

TASA Kinder through 2nd grade students enjoy a field trip to Magik Theatre to see the play Charlotte's Web.



TRAVELING CHASSIDIM

Five families from New York made it their mission to travel around the country to celebrate Shabbat with as many communities as possible. They led Shabbat services at Rodfei Sholom on March 11-12.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



Temple Beth-El partnered with Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services to bring a Dessert Seder to those at Adante Senior Living, with Greg Gonzalez leading the Seder, and volunteers Sally Kanter and Sara Purcell helping out.



Residents of Madison Estates enjoyed the inaugural first night Seder conducted by Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.



BY THE BOOK WITH PJ LIBRARY

PJ Library Author Leslie Kimmelman visited San Antonio for the Barshop JCC's Author and Speaker Series. PJ readers Hannah Tawil, Elias Viramontes and Benny Abraham were ready to explore and visit Israel after hearing her renowned children's book, *Everybody Says Shalom!*



Seder at Golden Estates Rehab Center led by Temple Beth-El's Cantor Julie Berlin was hosted and sponsored by Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services along with a generous grant from the teens of B'nai Tzedek.

PASSOVER WITH OUR SENIORS

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services sponsored Passover Seders at Madison Estates on April 22, and Golden Estates and Adante on April 27.

Residents found the Seders to be an enriching and meaningful experience, connecting them to their community.

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Stanley Rosenberg & Tom Frost

Federation hosts Hope for Humanity Benefit for the Holocaust Memorial Museum

World renowned Holocaust historian and scholar, Father Patrick Desbois, was the keynote speaker at the sold out Hope for Humanity Benefit for the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio (HMMSA) on Wednesday, May 18 at the Pearl Stables. Desbois, who is a French Roman Catholic priest, has just been named the inaugural Braman Endowed Professorship of the Forensic Study of the Holocaust in the Center for Jewish Civilization in Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service.

Honorary chairs for the event were Phyllis and Dr. Sheldon Braverman and Pat and Tom Frost.

The chair was endowed in February with a \$10 million gift from Norman and Irma Braman. Desbois has used innovative research technology and old fashioned detective work to identify and document the sites of Jewish and Roma mass executions by Nazi mobile-killing units in Eastern Europe during World War II.

In 2004, Desbois helped establish Yahad-In Unum, an organization that collects information about the mass killings of Jews and Roma in Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Poland, Moldova and Romania between 1941 and 1944.

Through his work Desbois has provided additional hard evidence against the Holocaust deniers of today and the future. He also provides the opportunity to preserve and give proper respect to the victims' burial places.

2016 HMMMSA BENEFIT



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Pat Frost & Rene Wender

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Keynote speaker Father Patrick Desbois & Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg



Maxine Cohen & Steve Butler



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2016 HMMSA BENEFIT



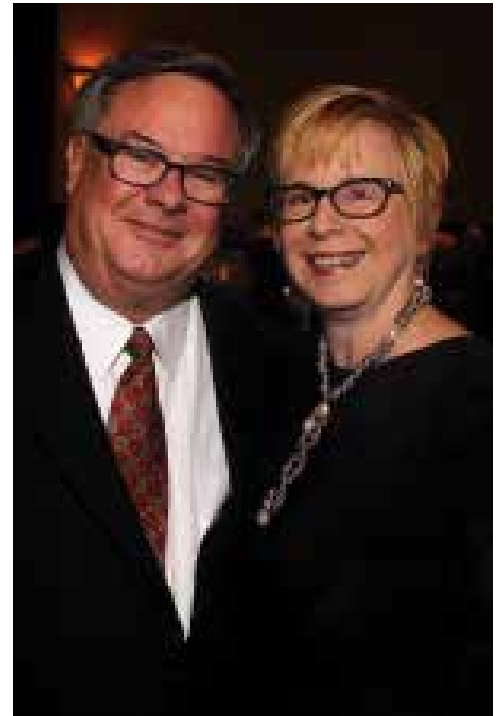
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WHAT'S HAPPENING



BUILDING COMMUNITY

Jewish youth gather for a NCSY Shabbaton at Congregation Rodfei Sholom on May 8.

ROCK IN THE RED ZONE



AGUDAS PRE-PASSOVER PIZZA PARTY & FIRE TRUCK FUN

With tummies full of pizza, families burned their chametz under the watchful eye of the San Antonio Fire Department. Co-sponsored by Agudas Achim Sisterhood, this annual event got everyone fired up for Passover.



Music and film aficionados gathered at the Barshop JCC Sunday, May 15 for a screening of the documentary *Rock in the Red Zone*, accompanied by a concert with Avi Vaknin whose story is featured in the film.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



Food Bank CEO Eric Cooper welcomes guests at Temple Chai's Seder



Children sing the Four Questions with Lisa Goldstein at the Temple Chai Seder

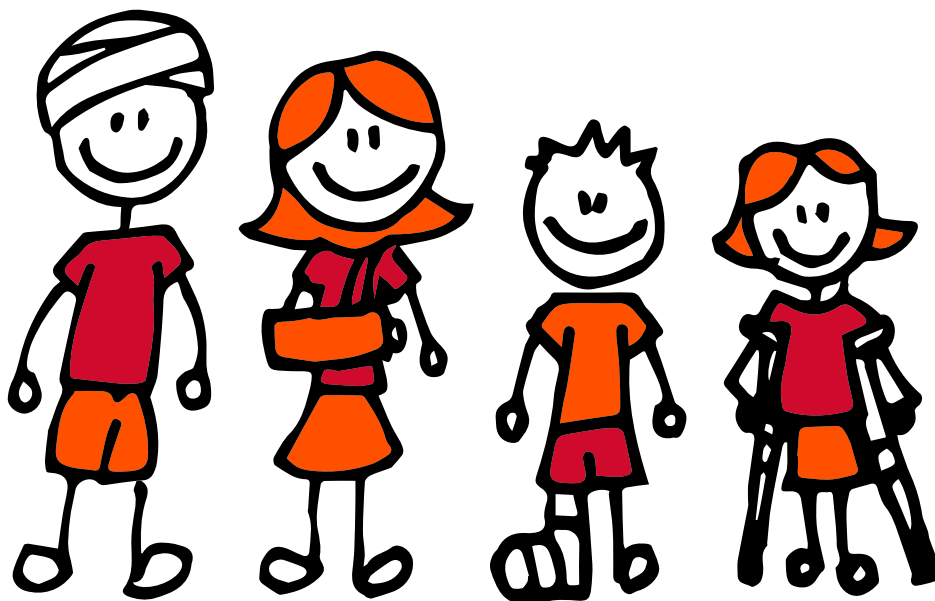
TEMPLE CHAI HOSTS SEDER AT SAN ANTONIO FOOD BANK

Building on a decade-long relationship with the San Antonio Food Bank, Temple Chai hosted its annual Second Night Community Seder. For the first time, the traditional meal was held at the Food Bank site, the meal was prepared by its Catalyst Catering division, which trains chefs and hospitality industry

students. The theme of the Seder was taken from the Hagaddah liturgy: Let all who are hungry, come and eat. Led by Rabbi David Komerofsky and Lisa Goldstein, R.J.E., the Seder was participatory and included a welcome by Food Bank CEO Eric Cooper. The Seder included 130 Temple Chai

members and guests, using an original Haggadah based on the composition of San Antonio native Rabbi Rachel Barenblatt. During this year of Temple Chai's 10,000 Hours of Community Service program, the focus for the Seder was on social action and retelling the Exodus story in modern terms.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



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Members of Agudas Achim proudly display their certificates after completing the Congregation Agudas Achim Basic Mashgiach Course and are now qualified to oversee the Dairy/Parve/Meat preparation in the Ross Family Kitchen under the Hashgacha of Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham.



ECD SHABBAT DINNER

The JCC Block & Dreeben School for Young Children hosted the 22nd annual Family Shabbat Dinner on May 13. The annual celebration benefits the Early Childhood Enrichment

Fund which supports JCC faculty professional development including classes, conferences and workshops, as well as resource materials for the classroom.



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IN THE COMMUNITY

Armed Forces Shabbat at Temple Beth-El – July 1

On Friday, July 1, at 6:30 p.m., in the Wulfe Sanctuary, Temple Beth-El will observe Armed Forces Shabbat. During the service, all current and former U.S. military personnel will be called to the bimah to receive a special blessing before the open Ark.

Military personnel are encouraged to attend in uniform. Rabbi Yergin and Cantor Berlin will

officiate. Jewish War Veterans Post 753 will usher.

The Temple's WWII flag, which has a star with each member's name who served in that war, will be on display in the Wulfe Sanctuary during the service.

The flag, kept in the Temple archives, was originally dedicated in 1944 and was rededicated in 2010.



NCJW to thank volunteers at dessert reception



The National Council of Jewish Women will host a dessert reception on Thursday, June 9 at 7 p.m. at the home of Eileen Jalnos to toast NCJW members who have volunteered for its various programs including Book Buddies, Trafficked Teens, Transitions, Thank A Senior, Bye Bye Rabbi and Lunch and Learn.

The event's featured speaker will be Pamela Luttrell, a freelance writer, journalism educator and lifestyle blogger known for her *Over 50 Feeling 40* daily blog. She is also a contributing writer at *San Antonio Woman* magazine.

You do not have to be a NCJW member to attend. Email ruthiewurzburg@gmail.com by June 6 to RSVP. Directions and gate code will be provided with your reservation.

Temple Chai Joins Union for Reform Judaism

Temple Chai is a new member of the Union of Reform Judaism, the convening body of the Reform movement of North America. Temple Chai members now have access to all the resources of the Union, including its extensive educational information, summer camp programs (including Greene Family Camp), youth groups, Sisterhood and Brotherhood networks. As a URJ congregation, Temple Chai joins more than 800 Reform congregations in the largest stream of Jewish affiliation.

"We are thrilled to be part of the Union," explained Ron Heller, Temple Chai

President. "Membership offers us many benefits, and in turn, we hope to contribute to the strength of the Union. We appreciate the efforts of Harry Levy, national URJ Treasurer and San Antonio leader, in helping to make this possible."

Now in its twelfth year of existence, Temple Chai has grown to become a full-service congregation with the services of HUC-JIR graduate, Rabbi David Komerofsky, and a certified Reform Jewish Educator, Lisa Goldstein. Joining URJ is the latest in a series of exciting developments that are transforming this congregation.

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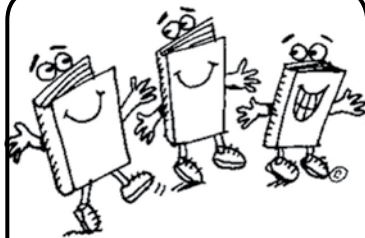
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Beldon Library's 2016 Summer Reading Program

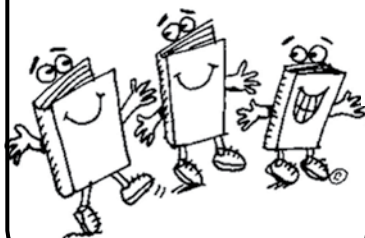
Open to K thru 6th graders

Read a total of 16 books (on your grade level) for 8 weeks (2 books per week) beginning Wednesday, June 15, 2016. The program ends Wednesday, August 3, 2016.

Come to the Beldon Library on Wednesdays from June 15th through August 3rd between the hours of 2 & 4:15 p.m. to check-out/return and update your Summer Reading Journal. All participants who complete reading 16 books will receive a certificate and a special prize! Your school will be notified of your accomplishment.

All checked out books **MUST** be returned by August 10th.

For further information contact Lynn Waghalter, Beldon Library Librarian @ (210) 302-6805 or waghalterl@jfsatx.org.



IN THE COMMUNITY: SENIORS

GMJSS Annual Meeting scheduled for July 17

Interested in learning how Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) touches the lives of San Antonio Jewish Seniors?

Then plan to attend the GMJSS Annual Meeting on Sunday, July 17 at 4 p.m. at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the Jewish Community, 12500 N.W. Military Hwy., in the Holzman Auditorium.

GMJSS will provide details on the organization's

direct programming, community partnerships, transportation and one-on-one connections. GMJSS will also share information gleaned from its Reimagine campaign and how this will direct efforts to develop new programming for a broader spectrum of Jewish seniors in areas such as education, more social events and travel.

Attendees will enjoy scenes from an original

musical, *Senior Moments*, written by San Antonio musician and playwright, Linda Kaufman.

GMJSS strives to combat two of the biggest obstacles seniors today face – transportation and isolation. The Annual Meeting which is open to the community and free of charge.

Refreshments will be served. RSVP to Lety at (210) 616-4811 or LetyV@GoldenManor.net.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Sunday Funday at the Painted Plate on June 5th

On Sunday, June 5, the community is invited to Rodfei Sholom's Sunday Funday happening at the Painted Plate (Huebner at Vance Jackson) from 10 a.m. – 12 noon. Create something special for Father's Day. The cost is \$10 per person. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 31 if attending at (210) 493-3557 or rodfeisa@gmail.com.

L'Chayim Club to touch on dementia vs. senior impairment

Dr. Hal Hoine will discuss *Senior Moments: Do They Mean Anything* at the L'Chayim Club's monthly meeting at Rodfei Sholom on June 22 from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Dr. Hoine, a congregation member, is a clinical psychologist and neuro psychologist working in private practice since 1984. He is coordinator of brain injury for HealthSouth and RIOSA.

The D'var Torah by Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg will be followed by a home-cooked meal and the opportunity to socialize

with friends from throughout the community. All seniors are invited to attend at no charge, thanks to a generous grant from Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services and co-sponsorship of Rodfei Sholom. Non-seniors are also invited to join at \$5 per person. Transportation is available at no cost by calling Lety Vargas at (210) 302-6949. For more information and to RSVP by Monday, June 20, contact the synagogue office at (210) 493-3557 or by email to rodfeisa@gmail.com.

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Congregation Agudas Achim to launch new EKHLA track class At the Inda Posner Religious School

Congregation Agudas Achim will be starting a brand new class at the Inda Posner Religious School this fall. The class will be a special track class for 3rd through 5th grade students who attend the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy (EKHLA). The class will be taught on Wednesdays from 4:15-6 p.m. by Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham.

“We are very excited about this new class and component to our Religious School,” Rabbi Abraham said. “We have many families in our congregation who have children attending EKHLA. A child receiving Hebrew immersion in school five days a week needs a different type of learning during our Hebrew portion of our school on Wednesday

afternoons. By creating this special EKHLA track class, our students will be able to advance their Hebrew skills that much further.”

Students who sign up for this class will be studying Judaics with their regular grades on Sunday morning as well. While this class is geared toward 3rd through 5th graders, the religious school is for children from

kindergarten through 12th grade. Agudas Achim offers a special once a month Pre-K class as well.

For more information about the Inda Posner Religious School at Agudas Achim, please contact Director of Congregational Learning, Rabbi Ariel Platt for information or a tour, (210) 479-0429 or rabbi.greenberg@agudas-achim.org.

ENJOYING TIME TOGETHER!



TASA students enjoying lunch together on a beautiful day.



Watermelon Wednesdays return to Congregation Agudas Achim

Congregation Agudas Achim is planning some sweet summer fun with Rabbi Jeffrey and Lauren Abraham. Preschoolers and young children will be treated to a program of stories, song, fun and of course, watermelon! Watermelon Wednesdays are at 10:30 a.m. beginning June 15, 2016 and are held every Wednesday throughout the Summer. The program is free and open to all.



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Mitzvah time

Preparing for your child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah? Let us share the news. Please send announcements with a high resolution photo 2 months before the celebration. There is no charge for this announcement.

Also, please take time to learn more about Federation's Youth Philanthropy program for post Bar and Bat Mitzvah teens. Visit www.jfsatx.org for details.

Supplies needed for Beth-El Food & Fun Summer Day Camp

Beth-El Food & Fun Summer Day Camp needs your help. This eight-week free Summer Day Camp for food insecure and at-risk children relies on donations of supplies.

Among the items needed: crafts supplies, white, colored construction paper,



markers, crayons, books for ages 3 to 14, costumes (for dress-up), board games for ages 3 to 14, water toys and

kiddie pools.

For more information, please contact one of the Beth-El Camp Co-Directors, Kathi Kardon at (210) 849-6082 or kardon595@gmail.com, or Robyn Rosen, (210) 557-3251 or snr711@aol.com.



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Congregation Agudas Achim to host two Camps from June 6th through August 12th

Congregation Agudas Achim will be hosting two camps this summer. Heintz Preschool is starting its brand new Summer Literacy Camp for 18 months through 8 years old beginning on June 14th. There are spots available for Counselors-in-Training (CITs) as well up through 18 years old.

Weekly themes center around beloved children's books. We'll enjoy water activities every day, a petting zoo, special guests like firemen and policemen, and much more! We'll learn about dinosaurs, reptiles, transportation, furry friends and nature! Each week is full of stimulating activities, lessons and play.

In addition to the Literacy Camp, Agudas is hosting Mad Science Camp all summer long for 6-12 year olds. Mad Science camps offer a daily combination of in-class discovery and exploration, outdoor games and physical activities, and hands-on applications

of the scientific principles presented. Your child will be able to touch, see, hear, smell and taste what science is really all about. Mad Science uses simple, real world science techniques that allow all campers to enjoy the learning environment.

Full and half day options are available for both camps.

For more information about the camps at Agudas or Heintz Preschool, please contact Preschool Director Celina Geidesman for information or a tour, (210) 479-0429 or c.geidesman@agudas-achim.org.



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Caitlyn Strayer, Office Manager

Lynn Waghalter, Librarian Beldon Library
waghalterl@jfsatx.org

SAN ANTONIO CONGREGATIONS

Congregation Agudas Achim (Conservative)

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

Congregation Beth Am (Reconstructionist)

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

Congregation Rodfei Sholom (Orthodox)

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

Temple Beth-El (Reform)

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

Jewish Community of the Hill Country

Kerrville, Texas
For information: (830) 331-8941

Temple Chai (Reform)

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

Chabad Lubavitch of South Texas

14535 Blanco Rd., 78216
Phone: (210) 492-1085 **Fax:** (210) 493-9460
website: www.chabadsa.com
Rabbi Chaim Block
Rabbi Yossi Marrus
Rabbi Levi Teldon

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

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

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Barshop Jewish Community Center

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

Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus

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

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services

13409 N.W. Military Hwy. Suite 210, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6946 **Website:** <http://www.goldenmanor.net>
Executive Director: Daniel L. Laser **President:** Alice R. Troy
Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) works to enhance the lives of Jewish seniors in the San Antonio Area by providing transportation and direct programing and through partnerships with other organizations for programs that benefit San Antonio area Jewish seniors.

Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Antonio

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

Jewish Family Service

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

National Council Of Jewish Women (NCJW)

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

Hillel San Antonio

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

After School Judaics (JAS @ The J)

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

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SHAVUOT 2016

begins the evening of
Saturday, June 11
and ends the evening of
Monday, June 13

Beth Am Hosts Shavuot study

The holiday of Shavuot begins on Saturday evening, June 11, and Congregation Beth Am will usher it in with Havdalah, study, and a dairy potluck dinner at the home of Marga Speicher.

Shavuot celebrates the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai as well as the harvest of first fruits. Dairy

dishes are traditional.

Please call Marga at (210) 541-8441 by Thursday, June 9, for directions and to let her know what you'll be bringing for the potluck. You can also RSVP at marga16speicher@gmail.com.

Shavuot at Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El will host a number of services and activities for Shavuot. Events include:

Saturday, June 11, 7 p.m. – Erev Shavuot/Confirmation Services in the Wulfe Sanctuary.

Saturday, June 11, 9:15 p.m. - Tikkun Leyl Shavuot – Come and join Rabbi Marina Yergin as she discusses “The Making of a Mensch” in the Block Conference Center of the Temple. An ice cream sundae bar will be provided.

Shavuot is the celebration

of the Jews receiving the 10 Commandments from God. We know we are to follow those laws, but how does that influence our everyday lives? How can we become better people – mensches. Join Rabbi Yergin in an interactive, reflective text study, where each person will discover his/her character strengths and how that relates to Judaism.

Saturday, June 11, after Tikkun Leyl Shavuot – The TBE20s30s will move to another location in the

building and continue the tradition of studying all night. They will do more interactive text study and conversation into the night, but not ALL night.

Sunday, June 12, at 8:45 a.m., the 20s30s will meet for breakfast at IHOP (3820 Broadway Street, San Antonio, TX 78209 prior to Shavuot Morning Services (with Yizkor) at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 12, 10:30 a.m. – Shavuot Morning Services with *Yizkor* in the Wulfe Sactuary.

Shavuot at Rodfei Sholom

Saturday, June 11: On Erev Shavuot starting at midnight, youth will enjoy the tradition of *Tikun Leil Shavuot* by joining together adults in a night learning session at Rodfei Sholom. Classes, *Chevrotas* (learning partners), and more are open to all, and everyone is welcome. There will be coffee to keep you awake and goodies to munch on while you learn. With the morning sunrise, those who stay up all night will *daven Shacharit* morning service at 5:30 a.m.; all others will join regular morning services at 9 a.m.

Sunday, June 12: First Day of Shavuot. Children of all ages, dressed in white and colorful spring outfits, adorned with floral crowns, will bring *Bikurim* (fruit baskets) to the *bimah*. The children will be accompanied by older students and Rodfei teachers and will walk to the sounds

of special Shavuot melodies. During the service, the children will have an *aliyah* and will be called to the *bimah*, as guarantors of the Torah, to receive a special blessing.

At the conclusion of the service, there will be a celebration of Yom Tov highlighting Rodfei's annual Kiddie Kiddush honoring all the children. The Kiddie Kiddush will be sponsored by Rabbi Aryeh and Judy Scheinberg, as has been their tradition for many years. There will be ice cream, Mt. Sinai cupcakes, and more. In conjunction, a festive Kiddush for adults honoring Rodfei educators will be served, sponsored by Congregation Rodfei Sholom.

Monday, June 13: Second Day of Shavuot and Yizkor. Morning services will begin at 9 a.m., with the Women's Torah Reading from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Shavuot at Agudas Achim

Congregation Agudas Achim and Temple Chai will be holding join Shavuot services followed by study sessions (Tikkun L'eil) on Saturday, June 11, 2016. Services begin at 9:15 pm followed by four consecutive study sessions led by Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham of Agudas Achim, San Antonio Jewish

Federation CEO Ronit Sherwin, Rabbi David Komerofsky of Temple Chai, and Rabbi Ariel Greenberg of Agudas Achim. This year's theme is *Jewish Heritage and Continuity*. Dessert and coffee will be provided during study sessions.

Shavuot services at Agudas Achim begin at 9am and the

children's service begins at 11am on Sunday, June 12, 2016. Services are followed with a Kiddush luncheon and ice cream social.

Shavuot and Yizkor Services on Monday, June 13, 2016 begin at 9am with children's services beginning at 11am. Kiddush luncheon will follow services.



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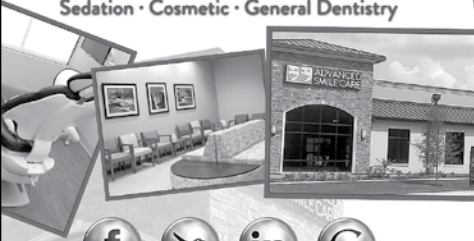
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An Impasse Made of Stone

“Something there is that doesn’t love a wall,” wrote Robert Frost. Yet some Americans love walls so much they want to build one along the 2,000-mile border with Mexico. However, the Wall that arouses special reverence in Jews around the world is the one in the Old City of Jerusalem. The Western Wall, known even in English as the Kotel (from the Hebrew for the Western Wall, *Ha-Kotel Ha-Maaravi*), is a remnant of the Second Temple that was destroyed by the Romans in 70 C.E. Judaism has no Grand Mosque or Golden Temple, but the Kotel is the holiest site at which a Jew can pray.

From 1948-1967, Jordan controlled the Wall and kept it off limits to Jews. Israel’s victory in the Six Day War, which allowed Jews to stand again beside the ancient stone structure, made the Wall seem even more precious. Israel’s leading tourist attraction, the Kotel draws religious pilgrims as well as the merely curious from throughout the Diaspora.

Nevertheless, for a large segment of the Jewish people, access to the Wall remained restricted. The site is administered by Israel’s Chief Rabbinate, which is Orthodox and requires women to pray by themselves, separated from men by a *mechitsa*, a partition that creates a *gynoghetto* within the sacred site. Even there, Orthodox custom prohibits women from donning tefillin and prayer shawls and *leyning* (chanting) from a Torah scroll. Since 1988, a group called Women of the Wall



Perspective:

STEVEN G. KELLMAN

has been demanding equal rights to davening at the Kotel. Over the years, they have been arrested by police and assaulted by Haredim, who, regarding themselves as the last bastions of halakhic Judaism in an impious world, consider the women’s behavior outrageous.

Nathan Sharansky, chairman of the Jewish Agency, attempted to resolve the problem. The compromise that he crafted and the Knesset approved in early February, was to create a separate space in the area known as Robinson’s Arch, where women and supportive men can worship as they please. At 9,700 square feet, the new space will be less than half the 21,500 square foot site at the main Kotel plaza that will continue to require strict adherence to halakha. The plan met

with general approval from Reform, Conservative, and feminist leaders, particularly in the United States, the source of much pressure to ease restrictions at the Wall. A few Women of the Wall opposed what they saw as continuing submission to Orthodox tyranny.

The compromise may work, but the Kotel controversy is symptomatic of tensions that remain unresolved. Will the Orthodox rabbinate remain Israel’s exclusive arbiter of Jewishness, with authority over marriage, divorce, burial, conversion, and kashrut, even for the non-Orthodox? Will Israel respect religious pluralism and its founders’ democratic ideals, or will it become a kosher version of some of its theocratic neighbors? Will Israel and the Diaspora continue to diverge on the question of defining who is a Jew?

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

The Foreigner
Aug. 18 – Sep. 18
2016
NORTH SHORE
FISH
Feb. 2 – 26
2017

THE DIARY OF Anne Frank
Oct. 20 – Nov. 13
2016
PETER AND THE STARCATCHER
May 4 – Jun. 4
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Sheldon Vexler theatre enters Chai season

The Vex will celebrate its Chai – or eighteenth – season with four Vex-tastic shows.

First up is Larry Shue’s comedy *The Foreigner* (August – September). Set in a rural Georgia fishing lodge, an Englishman in need of a vacation finds himself in the middle of several mysterious schemes that he overhears when he is introduced as a foreigner.

The season continues with *The Diary of Anne Frank* (October – November). Through the story of this one young girl, generations have felt the emotional impact of what was lost during the Holocaust.

The second half of the season includes Israel Horowitz’s *North Shore Fish* and the San Antonio

premier of Rick Elice’s award-winning *Peter and the Starcatcher*.

North Shore Fish (February 2017) is a comedy-drama about the workers at North Shore Fish, a seafood processing plant in Gloucester, Massachusetts. When an inspector lays down the law, their jobs and lives face irrevocable changes.

Based on the novel by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson, *Peter and the Starcatcher* (May-June 2017) upends the century-old story of how a miserable orphan boy becomes the legendary Peter Pan.

Season Passes may be purchased by calling The Vex Box Office at (210) 302-6835 or online at www.vexler.org.

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A Linda Kaufman original musical *Senior Moments* to debut at the Campus

If once a month, you see a huge number of cars parked in front of Al and Linda Kaufman's house in Hunters Creek North, you can bet there's an evening of theatre, wine and nibbles underway.

Following a trend of plays being performed in apartments that is catching on in NYC, Linda Kaufman, a writer/composer, is building interest in her new show, *Senior Moments*, by staging in-home evenings of four-five scenes, complete with actors and music, once a month until the show opens. It is just the latest in Kaufman's original musicals.

The show, which is being produced as a senior collaborative effort, will hold performances at the Campus, Saturday, Aug. 6 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 7 at 3 p.m., in the Holzman Auditorium.



Senior Moments is a series of vignettes touching on the various aspects of aging, both the hilarious and the poignant. Featuring a cast of top local actors, the musical will be directed by former JCC Executive Director, Mark A. Lit, with musical direction by Aaron Prado.

This not-to-be-missed event will be a top-rate production that is open to the public. Tickets are \$20 each, or \$15 for groups

(of 10+), and may be purchased by calling (210) 302-6820 or online at www.jccsanantonio.org.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available at \$250, which include 4 tickets and an ad in the production playbill. For more information about sponsorships or the production, contact Cathy Pottorf, JCC Director of Adult & Senior Adult Services at (210) 302-6870.

A *Classy Broad* highlights Hollywood life of San Antonio's own

A new movie about San Antonio native and Hollywood producer Marcia Birenberg Nasatir will premiere on Friday, June 17 at 7 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson High School, 723 Donaldson.

The movie title says it all: *A Classy Broad!* Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door.

Marcia Nasatir, a Thomas Jefferson High School graduate and member of the Lassos, is being honored as the first woman to ever



San Antonio native Marcia Nasatir is the focus of the Hollywood documentary, *A Classy Broad*.

serve as a Hollywood studio executive. For more information, about the event, please call (210) 410-8123.



Coney Island: Visions of an American Dreamland, 1861-2008

The spirit of Coney Island has come alive at the McNay Art Museum presents *Coney Island: Visions of an American Dreamland, 1861-2008*, open through September 11, 2016.

The exhibition explores and celebrates Coney Island, the most iconic, uniquely American Amusement Park in the United States, which has served as national cultural symbol inspiring artists, musicians, novelists, poets, and filmmakers. From

Coney Island's beginning as a watering hole for the wealthy, through its transformation into an entertainment mecca for the masses, to the closing of Astroland Amusement Park following decades of urban decline, this first-of-its-kind exhibition uses visual art as a lens to explore 150 years of Coney Island.

The exhibition features a wide range of artist works including the masterfully-carved carousel horses by Solomon Stein and Harry Goldstein, and Charles Carmel, Jewish refugees from Russia who had learned their trades decorating synagogues. For more information, visit www.mcnayart.org.



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FROM THE COVER

PROTESTERS

continued from page 1

Register reported.

Anti-Israel protesters have disrupted numerous pro-Israel events and Israeli speakers at campuses and other venues around the world in the past year. For example, protesters at London's Kings College in January smashed a window during a speech by former Shin Bet chief Ami Ayalon; protesters at San Francisco State University shouted down Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat during a speech there in April, and protesters at the University of Minnesota in November shouted down Hebrew University Professor Moshe Halbertal during a speech there.

In a campus-wide message sent May 19, University of California Irvine Chancellor Howard Gillman said the incident, which appears to have been coordinated by the campus group Students for Justice in Palestine, "crossed the line of civility."

Hillel International President and CEO Eric Fingerhut said his group "condemns the actions" of the protesters who "aggressively confronted and threatened a group of 10 University of California, Irvine students who were attending a pro-Israel event on campus."

Citing campus police, observers and video from the scene, the Register reported that about 50 protesters gathered outside the film, held in a university classroom, and "began profanity-laced chants against Israel."

"They were screaming. They tried to push open the door, but we were holding the door from the inside," Katrin Gendova, president of the pro-Israel group

sponsoring the screening, told the Register. She said the attendees were mostly women and some felt intimidated and trapped inside the room.

"They had a lawyer with them who said (they had) a right to come in," Gendova added. "They were disrupting our event. This is not freedom of speech. It's harassment."

In his email May 19, Gillman said that while the university will protect freedom of speech, "threats, harassment, incitement and defamatory speech are not protected. We must shelter everyone's right to speak freely – without fear or intimidation – and allow events to proceed without disruption and potential danger."

He also noted that the university administration is "investigating whether disciplinary or legal actions are appropriate."

The University of California system has in recent years experienced numerous anti-Israel protests that have been accused of crossing the line into anti-Semitism. In March, the university system's regents approved a statement condemning anti-Semitic behavior and an accompanying report that urges campus leaders to confront "anti-Semitic forms of anti-Zionism."

Hillel's Fingerhut, in a statement about the Irvine incident, said: "We cannot allow Jewish students to be intimidated, threatened or harassed when they exercise their rights to assemble for student programming. Hillel is committed to freedom of speech and freedom of expression for all students. This includes the students who peacefully gathered to

watch a film yesterday."

Students for Justice in Palestine leaders did not respond to the Register's requests for comment. However, just hours after the

incident the group wrote on its Facebook page that it had "successfully demonstrated against the presence of IDF soldiers on campus."

The post accused the IDF

of enforcing "Zionist settler colonialism" and using Gaza "as a laboratory for weapons testing" and enforcing "militarization and policing all over the world."

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JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

Upcoming Events of the Jewish War Veterans include:

Thursday June 2 - VAVS quarterly meeting at Audie Murphy VA Hospital starting at 1 p.m. Post members Frank Aleman Ken Ashworth, Irwin Barath, Herschel Sheiness, and Garland Scott will represent post at the meeting.

Sunday June 26 - Regular post meeting starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Jewish Campus. Light breakfast to be served followed by business meeting.

Monday July 4 - Starting at 1 p.m., post members will walk the wards of the Audie Murphy VA Hospital distributing ice cream and cookies to patients in the hospital as well as to staff on duty.

Sunday July 24 - Regular post meeting starting at 9 a.m., at the Jewish Campus, speaker details forthcoming. Business meeting to follow speaker.

Sunday August 28 - regular post meeting starting at 9:30 a.m., light breakfast to be served.

Any person who is Jewish, has served in the armed forces and has an honorable discharge is eligible to join JWV. For further information, contact Garland Scott at (210) 834-0113.

Remembering Jewish Military Veterans

Jewish War Veterans of America San Antonio Post #753 asks you to remember these Jewish military veterans whose Yahrzeit (anniversary of the individual's death) occur in the month of June and July and who are buried in a local cemetery (not Ft Sam). If you know of a name that is missing contact Herschel at (210) 468-5598 or (210) 552-4491.

JUNE

ABRAMS, RICHARD
ALPERT, SUMNER
AUGUST, AUGUST
BEILIN, PHILLIP
BERGOVOY, JACK
BRAUNSTEIN, CARL I
BRAY, APRIL
BRIN, ISADORE
CAROLINE, MILTON
COHEN, LOUIS
COHEN, STANLEY
DRYER, RICHARD
EDEL, CHARLES
FELDSTEIN, JOSEPH
GOLDBERG, JACK
GOLDMAN, HILTON
HALPERN, MILTON
HAUSMAN, HAROLD

KRAWETZ, RUTH
KOMET, HARVEY
KORN, JEROME
LEWIS, MARVIN
LIEBERMAN, IRA
LINDENBERG, BERNARD
LOVESTOCK, MAX
LOWN, RUSSELL
MARKO, JOSEPH
MAY, LESTER
NEESE, RICHARD
NEMEROW, STEVEN
OLIVE, JERALD
OPPENHEIMER, HARRIS
OSEASOHN, ROBERT
PAPER, HARRY
PATRICK, STEVEN
PETERSON, JOHN
PITLUCK, JACK
RABINOWITZ, HASKELL
REICHSTEIN, BUHL
ROSENBLUM, MAURICE
ROSENFELD, ROBERT
SALTZMAN, IRVING
SAMUELS, MAURICE
SCHAFER, SYLVAN
SHAPIRO, ABE
SHAPITIO, EDWARD
SMITH, EDWARD
SMITH, HARVEY
SOLON, BENJAMIN
SORKIN, HARDY
SPINNER, DAVID
SPITZER, ARNOLD
STILLMAN, THERESA
TAMON, HARVEY
WACHTER, RONALD
WEISBURD, MORRIS
WEISS, HERBERT

COHEN, ISRAEL
COHEN, ROBERT
COHEN, STEVE
COOPER, SELWYN
DEIN, HARRY
DUCOFF, CHARLES
ELLISOR, YERBIE
EPSTEIN, SIDNEY
FEIN, BERNARD
GALIN, RONALD
HALFF, MAYER
HALSTEAD, HERBERT
HOLMES, PAUL
HONIGFELD, DAVID
HYMAN, ARTHUR
ISSAC, ALFRED
KALISKI, SIDNEY
KALTMAN, MITCHELL
KAMRASS, GEORGE
KLEIMAN, ALBERT
LAMPERT, MORRIS
LANDE, LESTER
LEVY, DAVE
LEVY, RENE
MARKS, ELLIS
MEGEFF, NORMAN
MOUGEL, JULIAN
NOEL, ALBERT
OLDHAM, MERVYN
ORICHT, ISADOR
POLLAK, RUDOLPH
POMERANTZ, R. BERNARD
PUCH, BEATRICE
RAPAPORT, LESTER
RASKIN, NORMAN
ROGEL, JACK
ROSENBLUM, HENRY
RUBINSTEIN, BARNEY
SALTZMAN, IRVING
SCHIFFMAN, REGINA
SCHWARTZ, OSCAR
SINGER, MERTON
STEINBERG, LEWIS
STOCKMAN, WALTER
STRUPPA, CHARLES
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CARTER, JOHN
CHERNOW, JOSEPH
COHEN, HAROLD

MAZAL TOV

Weser Celebrates 60th Bat Mitzvah anniversary

A founding member and past president of Temple Chai, Marcia Goren Weser, celebrated the 60th anniversary of her Bat Mitzvah on April 8. She read, translated, and interpreted *Parashat Tazria* before family and friends at Temple Chai's Friday night service.

"I was not permitted to read from the Torah in my Houston congregation when I was thirteen. At that time, I only read the Haftarah," recalled Weser.

"Marcia is an example of a learned and learning Jew, one who is always curious



about the intersection of tradition and modernity," said Rabbi David Komerofsky. "She has been involved in countless

organizations and brings her entire spirit to her work. She is an inspirational model for her daughters and grandchildren, and all members of Temple Chai."

To view a recording of the service, including Marcia's D'var Torah, visit www.templechaisa.org.

This life cycle event previewed the Adult B'not Mitzvah celebration that Temple Chai will host on Saturday, June 11 at 10 a.m. At that service, Deb Field and Susan Ghertner will be called to the Torah to read for the first time.

U.S. & WORLD NEWS

Divers discover Israel's largest underwater ancient artifact trove found in decades

JTA — Israeli divers off the Mediterranean coast have made the country's largest underwater discovery of Roman-era artifacts in 30 years. A dive in the harbor in Caesarea uncovered statues, thousands of coins and more cargo from a merchant ship that sank 1,600 years ago, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced.

Divers Ran Feinstein and Ofer Raanan of Raanana made the initial discovery shortly before Passover and then alerted the antiquities authority.

According to the authority, many of the artifacts are bronze and "in an extraordinary state of preservation," among them

a bronze lamp depicting the sun god Sol, a figurine of the moon goddess Luna, a lamp in the image of the head of an African slave and a bronze faucet in the form of a wild boar with a swan on its head. Archaeologists also discovered fragments of large jars and thousands of coins.

In a statement, Jacob Sharvit, director of the Marine Archaeology Unit of the Israel Antiquities Authority, and Dror Planer, deputy director of the unit, said: "These are extremely exciting finds, which apart from their extraordinary beauty, are of historical significance."

The two noted that it

has been 30 years since "a marine assemblage" of this type has been discovered in Israel and that it is rare to find metal statues because, in the past, most were "melted down and recycled."

The statues are also in unusually good condition because the sand underwater protected them, according to the archaeologists.

Sharvit said the amount of discoveries are being made in the Caesarea harbor has increased lately due to a lack of sand on the seabed and an increase in the number of divers there.

The two divers who discovered the shipwreck will be awarded a certificate of appreciation.



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Bar Mitzvah: Noah Gabriel Friedman



Noah Gabriel Friedman will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on June 16 at Robinson's Arch at the Kotel in Jerusalem. He is the son of Ariel and Lisa Friedman and brother of Eli. Noah is the grandson of Mel and Aviva Friedman, of San Antonio, and David and Susan Waldman of Naples, Florida.

Noah attended the Eleanor Kolitz Academy until the 3rd grade and is now a 7th grade honors student at Basis San Antonio. Noah is very active in Science Fair and

recently won first place in the category of chemistry for the Junior Division at the Alamo Junior Academy of Science and at the Alamo Regional Science and Engineering Fair. He is a member of the National Junior Honor Society and serves as a mentor for other students. He is in his third year playing oboe for the Basis band.

Noah has been studying and playing piano since the age of 4. He is an avid swimmer and recently developed a love for snow skiing. Noah enjoys

traveling, camping, fishing and boating with his family as well as spending time with his grandparents and cousins.

Israel's Lone Soldiers are servicemen and women who leave their countries of origin to serve the State of Israel. These soldiers willingly leave their families and accept the responsibility

of defending Israel, their adopted home, in the name of Jews worldwide. Noah has taken an interest in the Lone Soldier Program which provides financial, social and emotional support for these selfless men and women and ensures that they are truly never alone.

B'nai Mitzvah: Joseph "Y'akov" Jakob Tawil and Elliott "Eliaz" James Tawil



Brothers Joseph "Y'akov" Jakob Tawil and Elliott "Eliaz" James Tawil will become B'nai Mitzvah on Saturday June 4, 2016 - 27 Iyar 5776 at Congregation Rodfei Sholom. Parents James and Gabriela Tawil will be sharing this *Simcha* with siblings Olivia, Tevia, Avram, Lazar, and their grandfather Joseph Tawil.

Both boys are in 7th grade and enjoy golf, math and science. Club soccer with SA United soccer club is a big part of their routine, as well as biking and hiking.

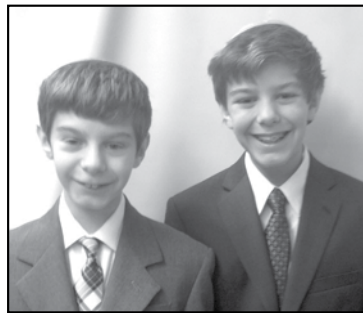
Elliott will be honoring his paternal grandfather, Joseph Tawil who served in the Israeli Military by donating to the Israeli Defense Force and Jakob will be honoring his maternal grandfather Jose L. Gonzalez who served in the Army Navy in WWII by donating to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Friends and family will be traveling from Florida, Israel, Mexico, New York and different cities in Texas to celebrate

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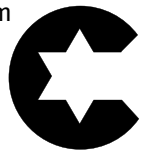
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