



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

IYYAR, 5777 – SIVAN 5777

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

MAY 2017



FINDING SOLACE IN YIDDISH

One teen's unique journey to understanding.

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PLANNING TO HAVE A FAMILY?

Don't miss this important genetic education and screening event for future parents, hosted by the JCC.

PAGE 8



BUILDING COMMUNITY

Find out what's been happening in the San Antonio Jewish Community, starting on

PAGE 14



PARTNERSHIP CORNER

Israeli doctors from Partnership Region visit San Antonio



Renowned Israeli doctors Dr. Yoav Hoffman and Dr. Tal Marshak of the Galilee Medical Center in Israel came to San Antonio as part of their recent Partnership tour to the Central Area Consortium of America. Drs. Hoffman and Marshak toured our city and met with local doctors.

They noted that a highlight of their trip was their visit to the San

Antonio Military Center with local Jewish Orthopedic Surgeon, Dr. David Vizurraga.

The doctors also led a lecture on Thursday, March 30 at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the Jewish Community entitled *How Israel is Helping Syria's Injured: Aid Through Hostile Borders*. This

See **PARTNERSHIP**, page 5

Traveling exhibit *Rebirth After the Holocaust* on display at UIW

The photo-documentary exhibition, *Rebirth After the Holocaust: The Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp, 1945-1950*, is currently on display at the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) Kelso Art Center/Student Gallery, 4301 Broadway. The exhibit "illuminates the inspiring and untold history of Holocaust survivors in the years immediately following their liberation from the Nazis."

An opening reception was held on Saturday, March 25. The exhibit is open weekdays from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. through June 23, 2017.



Rebirth After the Holocaust is on display through June 23, 2017.

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



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OF SAN ANTONIO

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EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS:

The submission deadline for the June/July 2017 issue of the Jewish Journal is MAY 10, 2017 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 June/July 2017 ISSUE:

- Ad space reservations due no later than MAY 10, 2017 by noon
- Press ready ads due by MAY 16, 2017.

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.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday, May 5

Light Candles at: 7:56 p.m.

Shabbat, May 6 Shabbat

Ends: 8:53 p.m.

Friday, May 12

Light Candles at: 8:00 p.m.

Shabbat, May 13 Shabbat

Ends: 8:58 p.m.

Friday, May 19

Light Candles at: 8:05 p.m.

Shabbat, May 20 Shabbat

Ends: 9:03 p.m.

Friday, May 26

Light Candles at: 8:09 p.m.

Shabbat, May 27 Shabbat

Ends: 9:07 p.m.

Tuesday, May 30

Eve of First day Shavuot,

Light Holiday Candles

at: 8:11 p.m.

Wednesday, May 31

Eve of Second day Shavuot,

Light Holiday Candles after:

9:10 p.m.

Thursday, Jun 1

Holiday Ends: 9:10 PM

Friday, Jun 2

Light Candles at: 8:12 p.m.

Shabbat, Jun 3

Shabbat Ends: 9:11 p.m.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Susan Dapeer

Blossom Kislin

Our summer issue (June/July) combines both June and July events. Please send submissions for happenings in **June AND July** by Wednesday, May 10.

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Mother's Day reflections on friendship & love

I had a dear friend named Paula. Paula was one of a kind, truly. An only child of a great rabbi, Paula was educated by her father in all kinds of learning, secular and Talmudic. Paula earned a number of degrees in psychology and psychotherapy and married another great rabbi.

As an orthodox rebbetzin, psychotherapist and a tremendous friend to all whom she met, Paula



**Letter from
our CEO**

**RONIT
SHERWIN**

helped countless people (particularly women) in need over her lifetime.

I was fortunate enough to call Paula my friend for a decade. In addition to her great intellect and love of Jewish life, Paula also loved ice cream, chocolate and

Woody Allen movies. We were fast friends. We would spend hours drinking coffee and browsing the new books at Barnes & Noble, talking about anything and everything under the sun. I would listen to Paula talk adoringly of her ill husband, with pain and love. And Paula was always eager to hear the happenings of my single thirty-something life. We laughed a lot together and we also cried on each

others' shoulders.

I will always remember how happy Paula was when I gave birth to my twin babies. I brought Natan and Batya to visit her when she was ill, and she held them with an enormous grin. I think that was the last time I saw Paula. She died of cancer within the first year of my babies' lives.

I share this story of my dear friend Paula, z'l, because she was a mother to all. I learned unconditional love and friendship from Paula. Paula loved with her whole heart and soul. In the months after Paula died, I heard dozens of people refer to Paula as their best friend. Everyone thought Paula was their best friend, and she was.

I think of Paula often, particularly in moments when I am alone with my children. I recall the many conversations Paula and I had about my hopeful motherhood and the complexities of life.

I want to wish all the mothers in our community – and friends to mothers – a happy Mother's Day. And to my dear friend Paula – know that your memory is and will always be a blessing.

L'shalom,
Ronit



HMMSA hosts Holocaust Book Series

Author, Dr. Victoria Aarons (on left), pictured with Barbara Richmond, shared her research and analysis of second and third generation Holocaust writers during the Holocaust Memorial Museum's Holocaust Book Series.

To receive email updates about upcoming museum events, please visit hmmsa.org/upcoming-events.



REBIRTH AFTER THE HOLOCAUST:

The Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp, 1945-1950



The Rebirth After the Holocaust: The Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp, 1945-1950, photo-documentary exhibit illuminates the inspiring and untold history of Holocaust survivors in the years immediately following their liberation from the Nazis.

Bergen-Belsen, a wartime concentration camp, became the largest displaced persons (DP) camp in Germany, at a time when over 250,000 displaced, homeless Jewish survivors sought to recover from the destruction of their families and communities, regain their physical health, and gather the strength and hope to create new families and new homes in new lands. For five years, Bergen-Belsen became a self-governed Jewish community with political, cultural, religious, educational, and social activities that renewed Jewish life and a vibrant center of rehabilitation, reconstruction, and rebirth.

Rebirth After the Holocaust: The Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp, 1945-1950, photo-documentary exhibition will be presented at the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) Kelso Art Center/Student Gallery (4301 Broadway, 78209) from March 1 – June 23, 2017.

Gallery Hours: 10:00am - 5:00pm. Monday through Friday (except UIW holidays)
Parking available in front of Kelso Art Center, Music Building, and Administration Building.

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YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK



(l to r) Drs. Elliot Weser, Mike Ozer, Rick Hodes, Marvin Forland, Stephen Shanfield

Dr Rick Hodes featured at Myron B. Zinn Memorial Lecture

The Maimonides Society of San Antonio hosted the Myron B. Zinn Memorial Lecture on March 27, featuring Dr. Rick Hodes.

Dr. Rick Hodes, an American doctor who has lived and worked in Ethiopia for over 25 years, spoke about the compelling medical needs in Ethiopia and shared many of the stories and successes of the work being done for those with dire needs. Hodes who serves as the Medical Director of Ethiopia for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), has been in charge of the health of over 25,000 Ethiopians immigrating to Israel and

treated the Ethiopian Jews being airlifted to Israel during Operation Solomon. Through the Catholic mission, Hodes is treating sick patients with heart disease, spine disease, and cancer patients. He has also worked with refugees in Rwanda, Zaire, Tanzania, Somalia, and Albania.

The American College of Physicians awarded Hodes *Mastership* and the Rosenthal Award for creative practice of medicine. He was honored as ABC's Person of the Week in 2010. His work was the subject of the HBO documentary *Making the Crooked Straight* as well as a new book *This is a Soul: The*

Mission of Rick Hodes.

Dr. Myron Zinn was an adjunct clinical professor of Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio for more than thirty years while maintaining a private practice. He had a deep and continuing interest in the quality of medical education and medical ethics. The Myron B. Zinn, M.D. Memorial Lectureship was established in his memory by his family, professional colleagues, patients and friends.

The Maimonides Society of San Antonio is organized and sponsored by the Jewish



(l to r) Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg, Rick Hodes, Jacob Kluger



(l to r) Rick Hodes, Betty Zinn, Phil Zinn

Federation of San Antonio. The local chapter has been active for over 20 years and is part of a national organization of Jewish physicians, dentists and other medical practitioners. The Society is set up to strengthen the bonds among medical professionals, the Jewish community and Israel through educational and social activities.

This lecture was underwritten by the Myron B. Zinn M.D. Memorial Lecture Fund and the Annual Campaign of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. For more information about the Maimonides Society, please contact Susan Kariv, Chief Development Officer at the Jewish Federation, at (210) 302-6968 or karivs@jfsatx.org.

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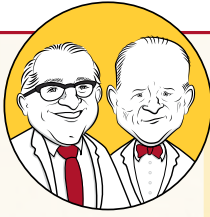


Children became frogs at the PJ Library Pre Passover Party.

PJ Library celebrates Passover

PJ Library enjoyed a pre-Passover celebration on Sunday, April 2 at Congregation Agudas Achim. The children made Seder plates, became frogs to hear the Passover story, and delighted in the treats at the matzo shmear bar.

To stay up to date on PJ Library events, follow PJ Library San Antonio on Facebook at @PJLibrarySanAntonio.



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Beldon Library News

The next session of *Coffee, Books & More* will take place on Tuesday, May 9 at 10 a.m. The book to be read will be *Last Girl Before Freeway: The Life, Loves, Losses, and Liberation of Joan Rivers* by Leslie Bennetts. This book is available at the San Antonio Public Library.

Beldon Library's **Summer Reading Program** for Kids, K – 5 will begin on Wednesday, June 14. Registration begins this month. This is an eight-week program in which children will check out and read two books per week from the Beldon Library. Children

BELDON LIBRARY HOURS

Mondays
12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Tuesdays
10 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Wednesdays
2 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

14th. Donations of gently used books for children and adults are now being accepted. No prayer books will be accepted.

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

who wish to participate will need a Beldon Library card. At the end of the program, a certificate and a prize will be awarded to those who have read a minimum of 16 books.

A **Used Book Sale** will take place in the Beldon Library on Sunday, August 13th and Monday, August

PARTNERSHIP

continued from page 1

lecture discussed the mission of the hospital, which stands at the forefront of medicine and provides humane and professional care as the sole hospital for approximately 600,000 people of the region including Jews, Muslims, Christians, and Druze.

The night also detailed the individual work of each doctor. More than 50 San Antonio Jewish community members attended the event co-sponsored by the Maimonides Society and the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

Dr. Hoffman is the Director of the Pediatric Intensive Care Department of the Galilee Medical Center and Dr. Marshak is a Senior Surgeon and Head of Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery there. Both doctors shared how they deal with trauma cases daily, and who they look forward to continuing to talk about the positive nature of Israel and the hospital's work with the bordering countries of Lebanon and Syria.



YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

Miranda Sutin



Miranda is a caring mother and wife and an accomplished community volunteer. Miranda, a native Texan, grew up in Dallas, California and Washington. She has a B.A. in French from Trinity University, and a J.D. from the University of Texas. She has spent recent years raising her four children, Benjamin, Noah, Ari and Naomi and doing volunteer work around the community.

Miranda is currently serving as the Co-Chair for PJ Our Way, a program of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. She is also serving on the Temple Beth El Sisterhood Board. Miranda has served on the boards of University Presbyterian Children's Center and Girls on the Run of Bexar County, where she is one of the founding members. She also served as Co-Chair of the Temple Hanukkah Gala party. Miranda also works as the librarian in the Bendiner Library of Temple Beth El since 2014.

In addition to spending time with her family and friends, she enjoys studying Hebrew, reading, running, and doing the Sunday New York Times crossword puzzle.

What brought you to San Antonio?

After completing law school in Austin, I had a clerkship in

San Antonio, where I met my husband Josh, and ended up staying here.

What is your strongest Jewish memory?

There are two. One was after my conversion ceremony, and the other was at my second son's Bris – it was so wonderful having all the family with us.

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

My involvement in the Temple, especially the opportunities I have had to bake for the various Bar/Bat Mitzvah Onegs. I enjoy baking and it brings a strong sense of community and belonging when I can do that for others.

What is your favorite

Jewish holiday?

Passover. This holiday to me is very joyful yet meaningful. It is so uplifting and wonderful to celebrate and be with close friends and family as we celebrate freedom.

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

I would like to see more interaction between the different synagogues in our community. On my recent trip to Israel with the Jewish Renaissance Project (JWRP), I experienced a beautiful connection between the women. No matter what synagogue or affiliation, we all connected and blended so well.



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IN THE COMMUNITY

NCJW announces recipient of Vexler Award

The San Antonio section of the National Council of Jewish Women will present attorney Shari Pulman with the Esther Vexler Award for Community Service at a *chai heel* cocktail party to be held on June 4th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Omni Colonnade Hotel on Wurzbach and I-10.

The award was named for its first recipient, volunteer and community activist extraordinaire, Esther Vexler. Vexler, who died last year, was a long-time member and supporter of NCJW and a San Antonio treasure.

The *chai heel* cocktail party refers to Pulman's penchant for wearing high heeled shoes and will be a celebration of her accomplishments.

Shari Pulman, a native of San Antonio, is a life member of NCJW. Her lifelong commitment to



Shari Pulman

giving back to the community includes serving on the committee to establish the Jewish

Campus, as president of the Barshop Jewish Community Center and Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services, as chair of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and volunteering with the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services.

Tickets to the event can be purchased for \$72 at www.ncjwsa/events or by contacting Sheryd Jackson at (210) 558-2010 or sherydsheryd@sbcglobal.net. All proceeds will be used to fund and expand NCJW's community service programs.



Temple Chai

San Antonio's Small Reform Congregation
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Why the Jews?

Join us for a two-session adult education class on the history of anti-Semitism.

May 18 & 25 @ 6:30 PM
Free and open to the public.

www.templechaisa.org

Iris Lieberman to receive Temple Beth-El Sisterhood's Highest Award

Temple Beth-El Sisterhood will honor Iris Lieberman with its most distinguished honor, the *Or Tamid* award during a luncheon on Sunday, June 4 at 11 a.m. at the The Club at Sonterra, 901 Sonterra Blvd.



Iris Lieberman

Or Tamid, which means "everlasting light," acknowledges a Sisterhood member each year who exemplifies continuous and consistent quality of service to the organization. Selection is made by the Honors Committee.

For luncheon reservations, visit www.formstack.com/forms/bethelsa-ortamid.



MEN'S TRIP TO ISRAEL

On March 23, Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg led the first meeting of the upcoming Men's Trip to Israel. If you want information on the trip, contact Rodfei Sholom at rodfeisa@gmail.com.

JCC to hold annual meeting June 7

The Barshop Jewish Community Center will hold its Annual Meeting Wednesday, June 7 at 7 p.m. in the Holzman Auditorium.

The 2017-18 executive committee and new board members will be installed, and annual awards will be presented. Attendees will hear from Chair Danna

Half and JCC President/CEO Saul Levenshus.

JCC annual awards to be presented include the Charlie Pearl Award for volunteer of the year, the

Lichtenstein Award for program of the year, the William Alter Awards for leadership, the Weldon C. Place Award for sports achievement, the Roselle

Smith Award for BBYO Leaders of the Year, and JCC Staff of the Year awards.

The meeting is free and open to the community, and refreshments will be included. Those planning to attend can RSVP to Diana Creel by Friday, Jun. 2 at (210) 302-6822 or creeld@jcc-sa.org.

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Why the Jews? Temple Chai to offer adult education course on anti-Semitism

Temple Chai, San Antonio's small Reform congregation on the Northwest side, will offer a two-session course titled, *Why the Jews? A History of Anti-Semitism*. Taught by Rabbi David Komerofsky, the class is open to the

public and free of charge, and will meet on Thursdays, May 18 and 25 from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Why the Jews? will examine the origins of anti-Jewish sentiment and ideas and trace the development of hatred and

prejudice to the present day. Attention will be paid to the uniqueness of anti-Semitism amongst the many forms of racism and bigotry.

For more information and to register, visit www.templechaisa.org or call (210) 340-2090.

Agudas Achim celebrates adult B'Nai Mitzvah For 11 members

Congregation Agudas Achim will be celebrating the Adult B'Nai Mitzvah of 11 members on Saturday morning, May 20 at 9 a.m.

Those becoming B'Nai Mitzvah will have completed an intense year and a half of study with Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Rabbi Ariel Platt, and Hazzan Jeremy Lipton. Every week, the

Adult B'Nai Mitzvah class would focus on topics such as G-d, mitzvot, history, and social justice. Additionally, students have learned how to read Torah and Haftarah. Each person becoming a B'Nai Mitzvah will be leading the service, reading sections of the Torah and Haftarah, and delivering a D'var Torah speech.

Genetic Education and Screening event at the Barshop JCC

The Barshop Jewish Community Center will collaborate with the Texas Fertility Center and NxGen MDx to provide a genetic education and screening event Wednesday, May 10 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Women and men, ages 18-45, are invited to learn more about genetic screening for inheritable disorders, including Cystic Fibrosis, Sickle Cell Disease, and

Ashkenazi Jewish diseases, such as Tay-Sachs.

This event will provide important information about genetics and carrier screenings, both for people who are looking to have a baby soon or in the more distant future. The event will begin with Dr. Erika Munch, Fertility Specialist, providing general genetic education, as well as information about fertility options.

Attendees will then have the opportunity to receive genetic testing (blood or saliva test), and to have a private consultation with a genetic counselor.

All attendees are recommended to register in advance online at www.jccsanantonio.org/adult services. For more details, contact Jennifer Gordon of NxGen at (512) 497-6238.

Rodfei Sholom Sunday Funday

Congregation Rodfei Sholom will host its monthly Sunday Funday on Sunday, May 7, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Altitude Trampoline Park, 11075 I-H 10 West. The end of the school year get-together will include

trampoline fun and refreshments. Special group rate is \$16 per jumper. Non-jumpers are also welcome to come socialize and nosh. If attending, please RSVP by Wednesday May 3 to rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

Spring JLI Course dedication in memory of the Guggenheims

Chabad's spring Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) course entitled *Survival of a Nation – Exploring Israel Through the Lens of the Six Day War* has been dedicated by Regina Guggenheim in loving memory of her parents, Elie and Cathie Guggenheim, of blessed memory.

"My parents loved learning and were very dedicated supporters of the State of Israel. It is very fitting that this new course on the history of the Jewish

people's relationship to the Land of Israel be dedicated in their memory," said Regina Guggenheim.

The six-week course will be offered at the Law Offices of Jackson Walker at the Weston Center, 112 E. Pecan, from noon – 1:15 p.m. beginning on Tuesday May 9, and at the Chabad center from 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m., beginning Wednesday, May 10.

To register, call (210) 764-0300 or visit www.chabadusa/jli.



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New drama program at Heintz Preschool Literacy Camp

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim is adding a new component to its Literacy Summer Camp this summer by including drama as well.

"We have added a new drama teacher who will work with the children on acting out some of the stories we are already learning at camp, especially nurse rhyme stories," said Heintz Preschool Director Taryn Bretado.

In addition to the drama and literacy components, children will also participate in water play, bouncy houses, a petting zoo, Zumba,

cooking, music, yoga, and more.

Enrollment for the summer camp is now open. Weekly themes center around beloved children's books, and campers will learn about dinosaurs, reptiles, transportation, furry friends and nature. Each week is full of stimulating activities, lessons and play.

For more information about Heintz Preschool, contact Preschool Director Taryn Bretado for information or a tour of Heintz Preschool, (210) 479-0429 or t.bretado@agudas-achim.org.

TASA's Casino Night 2017 to honor Sarfati family

On May 21, 2017, the Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of San Antonio will host its third annual Casino Night event. This year, in recognition of their tireless contributions to the creation of TASA, the Board has decided to honor the Sarfati family at the event. "We are extremely humbled by this honor, but more importantly, we hope that the community comes out to celebrate and support our amazing

school," commented Board President Aaron Sarfati.

TASA was founded four years ago to continue the long tradition of Jewish education in San Antonio, which started over forty years ago.

During its first years, TASA has managed to grow and strengthen as a center of excellence in academics, as evidenced most recently by its raving commendations during the accreditation process. "We

are very proud of what we've been able to accomplish and we look forward to seeing the school continue to grow and serve the entire Jewish community of our amazing city," Sarfati continued.

TASA is currently accepting applications for its fifth year for all grades K-8th grade. For more information about TASA or the Casino Night, visit www.TorahAcademySA.com or contact the office at (210) 607-7261.

Texas Hillel celebrates Israel at its Annual Israel Block Party



For the 19th year, Texas Hillel showcased the greatest aspects of Israel to UT students, faculty and community members

at its annual Israel Block Party. Designed to engage and teach students about Israel in an exciting and interactive way,

this year's Israel Block Party highlighted Israel's innovation, diversity, government and culture with a shuk- theme (Hebrew word for market). With more than 8,000 visitors throughout the day, the Israel Block Party on March 22 on UT's East Mall brought awareness, Israel advocacy and education to the campus community.

Student-favorite activities included learning Hebrew, pita making, trying on tefillin, henna tattoos, Israel Jeopardy and selfies with camels.

As the largest pro-Israel college event on a campus, the Israel Block Party demonstrates Texas Hillel's commitment to building a pro-Israel environment on campus.

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Rodfei Sholom L'Chayim Club Luncheon explores the cost of aging

Learn about one of the greatest financial resources available to Jewish members of San Antonio and surrounding areas. Hebrew Free Loan Association San Antonio (HFLA-SA) has no-interest loans meeting the needs of every generation, including funding for education, emergencies, life-cycle events and much more.

HFLA-SA will speak to Rodfei Sholom's L'Chayim Club luncheon Wednesday, May 10 about expanded interest-free loan programs and how the agency can help combat overwhelming costs associated with aging. Since 1924, Hebrew Free Loan of San Antonio has provided members of the San Antonio Jewish community with much needed assistance, as individuals of all ages encounter various types of financial challenges.

Whether you or your loved ones are facing legal or pre-planning expenses, dealing with healthcare costs, endeavoring to make a home accessible, paying for home health assistance or funding a move, HFLA-SA is there to help. For more information, contact HFLA-SA at (210) 736-4352.

There will be a D'Var Torah given by Rabbi A. Scheinberg, followed by a home-cooked meal. 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. The cost for all others is \$5/person. If attending, please RSVP by Monday, May 8 to the synagogue office at (210) 493-3557 or rodfeisa@gmail.com.

An open letter to San Antonio Jewish teens

If I could describe BBYO in a short sentence, it would be, "BBYO has changed my life by providing me with leadership skills, a network of friends, and unforgettable experiences."

Sure, this may sound cliché or like a typical pitch any number of organizations use to convince you to join them, but as a 4-year member and 2 ½ -year board member, I can honestly say that that statement accurately represents my BBYO

experience.

This organization has helped me learn a lot about how to balance pleasing everyone and getting things done, how to keep up with members of the chapter and get them involved without bugging them too much, how to prioritize tasks, how to speak in front of an audience, how to run successful programs and meetings, and how to be

See **BBYO**, page 11



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OF SAN ANTONIO



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 - Enjoy Shabbat Dinner with your peers!

Applications are available on the Jewish Federation Website for anyone from 22-45 years of age. For more info please contact Samantha Mazuz at (210) 302-6960 or mazuzss@jfsatx.org

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IN THE COMMUNITY: TEENS

BBYO

continued from page 10

an overall better leader. BBYO is entirely teen-led, meaning there are plenty of opportunities for you to learn these skills and more as a chapter member and/or as a chapter board member.

Whether you are interested in becoming a teen leader or not, BBYO also provides long-lasting friendships. In my high school graduating class, there are three Jews. Because of BBYO, I can confidently say that I have dozens of Jewish brothers with whom I plan to have long-lasting friendships.

If you're a teen, consider signing up for BBYO at bbyo.org/azabbg/membership.

BBYO has changed my life, and I think it could positively impact your high school experience as well.

Fraternally submitted with undying love for Erich Weiss AZA #2501, I remain Aleph Godol (Member and President),

Jacob Alexander Powell

Teens in the community with J-Serve



More than 100 teens, chaperones and educators participated in J-Serve on Sunday, April 2. Teens volunteered throughout the community, including at the San Antonio Youth Center (pictured) and with Artful Start.



Teens participating in J-Serve also provided a helping hand at the San Antonio Food Bank.

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LAG B'OMER



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Lag B'Omer Picnic at Chabad

Chabad will host a Lag B'Omer Picnic at Barbecue on Sunday, May 14 from 4 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. The program will feature, sports, games, moon bounce and special activities. Picnic foods will be for sale. For more information please call Chabad at (210) 764-0300.

Did you know? Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services offers transportation for all jewish seniors wishing to attend religious services and other community activities. For information, contact Lety at (210) 616-4811.

Agudas Achim celebrates Lag B'Omer with Mother's Day

This year's Lag B'Omer holiday also falls on Mother's Day, so Congregation Agudas Achim will host its May 14 Lag B'Omer Celebration with a couple of special twists.

"We felt it was important to mark both Mother's Day and Lag B'Omer together," Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Senior Rabbi of Agudas Achim said. "We will be providing all of the moms with a special dessert and small gift as part of the event."

The day will also feature hamburgers and hot dogs, games, a DJ, bounce house, and a dunk tank, where Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham and others will sit ready to be dunked.

The event will take place from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. in the Agudas Achim courtyard. The event is free and open to all. There will be a charge to participate in dunking Rabbi Abraham and others. For more information, please call (210) 479-0307 or info@agudas-achim.org.



Rodfei Sholom celebrating Lag B'Omer and Mother's Day

On Sunday, May 14 Rodfei Sholom will host its annual Lag B'Omer BBQ and picnic. The event will feature outdoor activities, the park, cold drinks and friendship along with the traditional

bonfire and music.

There will also be special celebration of mothers. Contact the synagogue for more info at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3558.

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Agudas Achim creates new Shavuot family program

In addition to its annual Tikkun Leil Shavuot Night of Learning (this year to be held at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 30) with meaningful discussion and special cheesecake desserts, Congregation Agudas Achim is introducing an innovative new Shavuot family program on Wednesday, May 31 from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. called *Say Cheese: It's Shavuot!*

The program is free and will involve a dairy pasta dinner with lots of cheese, including Macaroni and Cheese as well as a special Ice Cream Sundae Bar for everyone in attendance. There will also be multiple stations for the children to participate with their parents in special Shavuot projects.

"While our Tikkun Leil

Shavuot Night of Learning has been a huge success with many adults attending, we feel it is important to educate and include our young families in the celebration of Shavuot as well," said Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Senior Rabbi at Agudas Achim. "I can't wait for our innovative 'camp like' stations we are creating for all of the families in addition to the delicious food. Shavuot tends to be a forgotten holiday amongst our youth because school is already out for the summer, but now we are going to bring this great holiday about receiving the 10 Commandments to people of all ages."

For more information, please call (210) 479-0307 or info@agudas-achim.org.

Temple Chai to celebrate Shavuot with interactive learning for teens and adults

Temple Chai will host interactive learning Shavuot programs for teens and adults on Tues., May 30. The teen program will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the adult learning at 8 p.m. A festive dairy meal will be included.

Led by Rabbi David Komerofsky, Educator/Soloist Lisa Goldstein and other members, this Shavuot event will highlight the receiving of the Torah at Mount Sinai by recreating the experience of the revelation in the wilderness. Temple Chai's

goal is to make Jewish life and learning accessible to everyone, on their own terms, and this Shavuot celebration is an embrace of the diverse understandings of the Sinai moment.

All are welcome to participate in these activities, no prior learning or experience required. Just bring your curiosity and appetite. For more information and to RSVP, visit www.templechaisa.org/shavuot or call (210) 340-2090.

Shavuot at Chabad

Chabad will host a special Shavuot Learning Program on Tuesday night, May 30 from 11:30 p.m. until 1 a.m. The session will be led by Rabbis Block, Marrus and Teldon and will feature samplings from the Talmud spanning the spectrum of Jewish learning and

scholarship.

On Wednesday morning, March 31 at 10:30 a.m. a Grand Children's Ice Cream Party will feature, make your ice cream sundae, games, prizes and the opportunity for all the children to get up close to a real Torah and listen to the Ten Commandments read

from the Torah.

Following services at 12:30 p.m. the community is invited to Chabad's Annual Dairy Kiddush.

On Thursday afternoon at 7 p.m. the *Book of Ruth* will be studied. For more information, please call Chabad at (210) 764-0300.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



NCSY LATTE & LEARN

Rodfei Sholom's youth group, NCSY, hosted a Latte & Learn on April 6. The group's programs are open to all Jewish teens in San Antonio. For more information, contact Rabbi Ashi Gluck at (210) 493-3557.

STUFFING FOR SENIOR GAMES



The Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services staff volunteered to help fill goody bags for the 2017 Texas Senior Games on March 29. Pictured at left is (l to r) Lety P. Vargas, Eva Laporte, Mike Kelne, Lauren Sandoval, and Daniel Laser.

TASA MODEL SEDER

TASA students attend a Model Seder, led by the Middle School, in preparation for Pesach.



WOMEN'S SEDER AT TEMPLE BETH-EL

Chantel Nasits and her daughter joined scores of other multi-generational families at Temple Beth-El's annual Women's Seder.



RODFEI'S KOSHER FOR PASSOVER COOKING DEMO, APRIL 4

More than 50 women attended an entertaining and educational Passover Cooking demonstration and tasting event at Rodfei Sholom hosted by (l to r) Michal Scheinberg and Brach Gluck.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



YOUNG COUPLES CLUB OF AGUDAS ACHIM "MARCHES" TO THE MADNESS

Congregation Agudas Achim's Young Couples Club (YCCA) monthly gathering in March involved a special March Madness college basketball watching party at Centre Court Pizza and Brews. The next YCCA get together on May 4 is a pre-Cinco de Mayo party at El Jarro de Arturo at Bitters Road and Hwy. 281 at 7:30 p.m.



BLOCK & DREEBEN SEDER LUNCH

On March 30, students from the Block & Dreeben School for Young Children participated in a Seder lunch with members from the JCC's Senior Services program. Led by Rachel Rustin, JCC Director of Jewish Journeys, seniors and pre-k students learned about the Seder service, sang songs, and enjoyed a tasty meal prepared by Irene's Kosher Catering.



RODFEI'S OLD STYLE ISRAELI PURIM

Jillian Kaltman tries out the camel ride at Congregation Rodfei Sholom's Purim festivities on Sunday, March 12. The theme for the annual Purim Seudah and Megillah Reading was Throwback Israeli, which included the food and dress from Israel's early years.

TASA SAFETY

On Thursday, April 6, 2017, the staff of The Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of San Antonio set their focus on school and student safety as the San Antonio Police Department visited the campus for training. Teachers and administration spent time in the evening making sure they have the most current and updated knowledge in the event of an active shooter situation.



WHAT'S HAPPENING



AGUDAS HOST PRE-PASSOVER PARTY

During the annual Pre-Passover Pizza Party at Congregation Agudas Achim, the San Antonio Fire Department was on hand to entertain the kids and watch over the fire used to burn chametz (leavened foods) in preparation for the holiday. The event also featured pizza, music, a bounce house, dancing and games.



TEMPLE BETH-EL COMMUNITY SEDER

Temple Beth-El hosted a sold-out crowd at their annual Passover Second Night Community Seder.



Seeking Volunteers to Teach in the Museum

Are you or someone you know interested in the Holocaust Memorial Museum's collections and exhibits?

Do you enjoy learning and working with the public?

Are you seeking a rewarding volunteer experience?

Consider becoming a docent at the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio. A history background is not required... just an interest in learning and a high level of enthusiasm. A new partnership with Yad Vashem has allowed us to create an ongoing docent training program through an online digital portal. Training will continue with our Museum staff and experienced docents.

If you are interested, please contact Juana Rubalcava, Director of Education at 210-302-6812 or docents@hmmsa.org



WHAT'S HAPPENING



Sue Karlin and Roy Silva

ALL THINGS CHOCOLATE AT THIS SEDER FOR SENIORS

Residents at Adante Senior Living enjoyed a Chocolate Seder on April 7. The event was sponsored by Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services, and led by Rabbi Jeffery Abraham of Agudas Achim. The seniors drank chocolate milk, dipped strawberries into chocolate, ate applesauce on chocolate matzah, and shared laughs as they followed along with the Haggadah that creatively included chocolate.



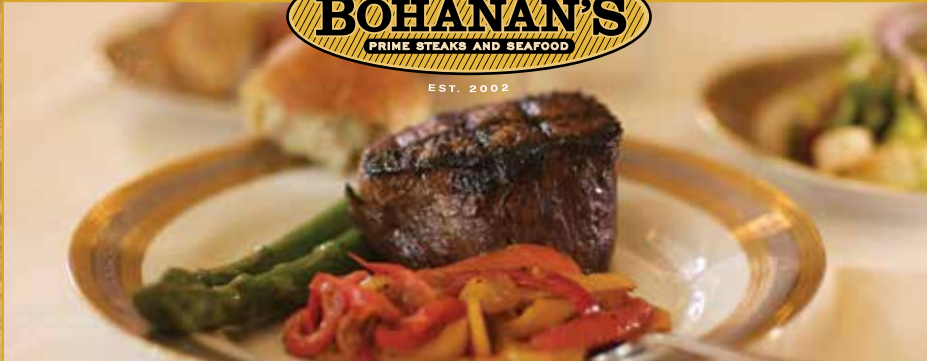
HEINTZ PRESCHOOL STUDENTS CELEBRATE PASSOVER WITH RESIDENTS OF MADISON OF ESTATES

Heintz Preschool Blue and Red Bird students (3 years old and up) went on a special field trip on the Friday before Passover to lead the residents of Madison Estates in a special Passover show, and work on crafts together. This is part of the Yad B'Yad inter-generational programs thanks to a generous grant from Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.





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WHAT'S HAPPENING



EXODUS OUT OF EGYPT

Congregation Agudas Achim's Inda Posner Religious School students participated in an Exodus Extravaganza where they had to complete special tasks and a scavenger hunt to make it out of Egypt together.



RODFEI SHOLOM'S L'CHAYIM CLUB, APRIL 5

(L-R) Jennifer Cohen, Sara Kisel and Dr. Nola Marx enjoyed Rodfei's L'Chayim Club luncheon and learned about the Sefer Torah Project honoring the 50th Anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem.

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JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Thursday May 4, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., post members to serve supper to the wounded and their families at Ft Sam Wounded Warriors. To volunteer, call (210) 647-0330.

- Sunday May 28, 9 a.m., regular post meeting, JCC room 277, light breakfast, followed by business meeting.

- Monday, May 29, Memorial Day, post members to place American flags at grave sites of deceased Jewish veterans at Rodfei Sholom, both Agudas Achim cemeteries and both Temple Beth El cemeteries.

- Tuesday May 30, post members to play bingo, socialize and serve refreshments 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Audie Murphy VA Hospital CTC. To volunteer, call (210) 647-0330.

- June 23 to 25, Department of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma District meeting in Austin.

- August 28 to



September 1, Jewish War Veterans National Convention hosted by Department of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma and San Antonio Post 753.

SA Post 753 is honoring cadets in the ROTC programs at the following High Schools-Brackenridge, Burbank, Edison, Highlands, Sam Houston, Jefferson and Lanier. Plaques and ribbons will be awarded to outstanding ROTC students.

Before there was Audie Murphy VA Hospital, the nearest VA hospital was in Kerrville. SA post members would make the trek once a month to Kerrville and conduct bingo and socialize

Remembering deceased Jewish military veterans

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

Adler, Harry	Harris, Irving	Magrish, Phillip	Shapiro, Harry
Alwais, Melvyn	Jackson, Jerry	Maixel, Noah	Solomon, Elkan
Benson, Ben	Jacobs, Harold	Markow, Frances	Spector, Oscar
Bernal, Domingo	Jacobs, Morris	Meyer, Charles	Sprun, Alfred
Carrillo, Anthony	Jung, Manuel	Miller, Louis	Stein, Alfred
Charles, Aaron	Katz, Lewis	Miller, Sidney	Swidler, Leo
Cropun, Alex	Kaufman, Bennie	Millstein, Conan	Wayne, Lionel
Elson, David	Kboudi, Louis	Pomerantz, Joseph	Weiner, Arthur
Fractor, Sam	Kessler, Daniel	Ray, Belifour	Weinstein, Robert
Frausto, Peter	Koppel, Nathan	Ribakowski, Jamie	Weinstein, Bernard
Goldberg, Moses	Koppleman, Bruce	Rudy, Moses	Wilk, Joe
Greenberg, Kathleen	Lauderstein, Herbert	Schlosberg, Daniel	Zalaznick, Saul
Grodman, Alan	Lieberman, Alexander	Seeman, Irwin	Zimmerman, Jack

with the patients. Since Audie Murphy opened, the Kerrville VA hospital has been left unattended. Now, the SA Post will once again service the Kerrville facility with periodic visits. Volunteers are needed. For more information, call Garland Scott, (210) 834-0113.

"Jewish War Veterans of the USA occupies a unique place in both the military and Jewish communities in that we are the only organization that serves the intersection of the two," said Post members. "We advocate for all veterans while fighting anti-Semitism, and promote the

legacy of Jewish American service. We have 122 years of experience in providing services and support for our Jewish brethren, our military, and all veterans. Come join us."

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Temple Chai to present recital of the music of Aaron Copland

Temple Chai will present a recital by pianist Manahara Virasinha, performing the music of Aaron Copland. The performance will take place Friday, May 12 at 8 p.m. following the regular Shabbat service at 2121 Lockhill Selma.

Virasinha grew up in Sri Lanka where his mother, also a pianist, was his first piano teacher. He came to the United States and attended high school in Philadelphia and then the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, where he majored in piano performance. He did Master's level work in music at Texas State University in San Marcos where he won a concerto competition playing Rachmaninoff's 3rd Piano Concerto. He has also performed with a number of orchestras in Texas and Sri Lanka playing, in addition to the Rachmaninoff concerto, the Brahms 2nd Piano Concerto.



Manahara Virasinha

Virasinha gives private piano lessons in San Antonio and has worked with student choirs at Clark and Marshall High Schools. He has also performed as the accompanist for Temple Chai's cantorial soloists at our High Holy Day services

for the past several years.

The entire community is invited to attend this event, rescheduled from its original January date.



Vex Theatre presents *Peter and the Starcatcher*, a grown-up's prequel to Peter Pan

Rick Elice's Tony Award-winning musical play, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, makes its San Antonio community theatre debut at the Sheldon Vexler Theatre this month.

Based on the novel by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson, the play features marauding pirates and jungle tyrants, while exploring the depths of greed and despair, and the bonds of friendship, duty, and love. It is also an unofficial origin story about the boy who would never

grow up, known the world over as Peter Pan.

However, the show is not necessarily for young children.

Artistic Director Ken Frazier stresses, "It is important for audiences to know this show is designed for imaginative adults. While it tells us how Peter Pan learned to fly and an eccentric pirate became Captain Hook, it is also a pageant of linguistic twists, ingenious plot turns and cultural allusions that will fly over children's heads." Frazier recommends parents who are considering bringing their children to the show research it to make sure it's right for their children.

Onstage May 4 through June 4 (no performance June 1), tickets for *Peter and the Starcatcher* are \$22-19, and may be purchased by calling The Vex Box Office at (210) 302-6835.

For more information visit www.vexler.org/starcatcher.

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Executive Director: Saul F. Levenshush Email: jcc@jcc-sa.org

President: Danna Halff **Website:** www.jccsanantonio.org
JCC programs include a nationally-accredited nursery school, after school care and programs, summer camps, programs for adults, plus cultural, educational and recreational programs open to the community.

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of the San Antonio Jewish Community
12500 NW Military Hwy, Suite 100, San Antonio Texas 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6801 **Fax:** (210) 408-2322

President: Alice Viroslov **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) 616-4811 **Website:** 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.

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America

Website: www.hadassah.org, www.facebook.com/hadassah
Phone: (212) 355-7900 (National) or (210) 394-7405 (Local)
Contact: Roberta Abelman, rabelman@satx.rr.com
Hadassah partners with the land and people of Israel, enhances world-wide health through medical care and research, and empowers members, supporters, and youth in Israel and America through opportunities for growth, education, advocacy and Jewish continuity.

Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Antonio

P.O. Box 780264 San Antonio, TX 78278 **Phone:** (210) 736-4352
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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 **Membership:** 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: Natalie Steiner **Email:** natalie@hillelsa.org
San Antonio Hillel serves college students throughout the San Antonio area.

After School Judaics (JAS @ The J)

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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,

ARTS & CULTURE

Hazzan Lipton presents Jewish Music overview at SoL Center

Hazzan Jeremy Lipton, cantor of Congregation Agudas Achim since 2008, will present a two-part program on *Jewish Music: A Reflection of Culture and Faith* on two consecutive Tuesdays, May 9 and May 16, from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the SoL (Source of Light) Center at University Presbyterian Church, 300 Bushnell. He will explore the multi-cultural strands that comprise Jewish music. Tuition is \$35 for this course.

Music is one of the most engaging, recognizable and ever-present features of Jewish worship, celebrations and life-cycle events. Hazzan Lipton

will share its rich history and variety, drawing on his vast experience and enthusiasm as performer, educator, pulpit artist and conductor. He has trained hundreds of lay and professional leaders in cantillation and choral music.

The SoL (Source of Life) Center at University Presbyterian Church is an interfaith educational center for adults who seek to explore the full dimensions of life and faith in the spirit of respectful curiosity. For more information or to register for "Jewish Music," call (210) 732-9927 or register no later than May 2 at www.upcsa.org/registration.

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PERSPECTIVE

Vos Heyst (What does it mean)

By Matthew Leonard

Zorg zich nit, she said. Don't worry.

It was in November of 2016 that my grandmother started teaching me Yiddish. Born Sandra Miller, the woman I call Nana was the daughter of two Polish Jews: Harry, who immigrated through Ellis Island as a congenial teenager with nothing but the clothes he wore across the Atlantic; and Mary, stubborn and intelligent, who learned to fend for herself from the age of five when she alone guided her blind grandfather on the journey to America. The two married and saved everything they had until they could buy a small, four-apartment building in Brooklyn, where they raised their children with the values quintessential to the Jewish immigrant's parenting style—an emphasis on education and a strong work ethic. My grandmother, however, was a girl under an orthodox roof, so, as part of the status quo, she never received a proper Jewish education. She picked up what she could from her siblings who studied Hebrew and the *Torah*—it was the best and only way to scrape together any and all knowledge she could about her culture—but the real connection to her Jewish roots was through the Yiddish language.

A hybrid language between



Matthew with his grandmother, Sandra Steinman

Hebrew and German, Yiddish was the vernacular of the Eastern European Jewish community throughout the 19th and early 20th century. Spoken in Jewish homes and synagogues alike, Yiddish was not only a language, but a quintessential feature of the growing separatism between the Jews and the rest of Poland, Russia, and Germany. As the Nazi party in Germany rose as a leading power, the Jews stopped being part of Eastern Europe; they were a lone battalion, and they were in enemy territory. Soon enough, Yiddish was spoken behind closed doors, in hushed tones.

Meanwhile, across the Atlantic, my grandmother sat tacitly on the linoleum floor in a Brooklyn apartment, her ear to the door of her parents' bedroom. As she listened to the whispers that billowed up from under the door, accompanied by

Mary's cigarette smoke that made the nosy teenager's eyes water, Sandra started piecing together the Yiddish language in its natural context—in secret. The two *kvetched*—complained—about business, family, gossip, or whatever they could think of: the stingy tenant who hadn't paid his rent in three months; the neighbor who had enrolled in welfare; who was a *mensh*—a selfless person—and who wasn't. For years she listened, and throughout her life, she — and later I — would become deeply influenced by these two hard-working immigrants achieving the American dream, and by the language they spoke.

Nana's parents knew from the start that their life in America would be an uphill battle, so from a young age she learned by example the value, and more importantly the necessity of hard work. After graduating from Brooklyn College, she went on to earn two degrees from Columbia University in social work and administration as well as a PhD in psychology at Fordham University, during which she was the head of a New York City senior center. She loved the senior center with such dedication that she wrote her PhD dissertation about it, detailing the lengths she and her staff went to in the effort to help the retirees feel welcome in one of their few remaining refuges. It is needless to say that the love she had for that place was reciprocated in the highest degree, reflected by the yellowed certificate that hangs on her wall proclaiming Friday, June 9, 1989 to be *Sandra*

See **PERSPECTIVE**, page 24



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PERSPECTIVE

PERSPECTIVE

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Steinman Day in the City of New York for “her warmth, humanity, and passion for making others’ lives better.” After her much-lamented retirement from running the center, my grandmother, now Dr. Steinman, began a career as a psychotherapist, holding sessions with her patients in her Lower East Side apartment.

For more than half her life, my grandmother was surrounded by people with incredible stories. She met Holocaust survivors who never came to the center without a smile, and divorcés who needed their weekly therapy appointment with her more than they needed food or water. From then on, she was back to listening, just as she had done throughout her childhood. But now instead of learning of her rich background, she learned others’ stories and others’ cultures—until about five years ago when, with only five or so patients left in her practice, she decided to find her own story. Nana enrolled in classes on the *Torah* and its history at Temple Emmanuel on Fifth Avenue and the Eldridge Street Synagogue. The classes she took finally made her feel like a part of the Jewish community that neither she nor her family had the time to be a part of in the past. The love she felt for and from this environment sparked a revelation for her that inspired a passion to share her knowledge of the Jewish faith and culture with others. Within a month she was on a flight to my home in San Antonio.

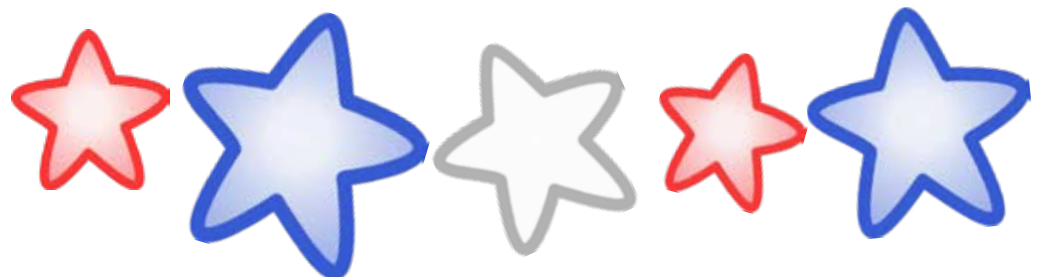
I had always identified as a Jewish person, but for thirteen or so years it was reduced to just that—a name. I had been to temple twice in my life,

one of which was for a *b’nai mitzvah*, and I couldn’t name three kings of Israel if my life depended on it. I would go as far to say that I have strong morals, but I didn’t have any culture to base it in. I was a sprawling tree with no roots—that is until my grandma stepped into our house with the same genuine smile and silver suitcase she brought with her to Texas every time she came. She unpacked her sidewalk-weathered white sneakers as well as the rest of her neatly folded clothes, sat down on the swiveling arm chair in the living room, and with a smirk said “Matthew, do you know the story of Moses?”

We talked for three hours.

Over the next few years I looked forward to speaking with my grandma about the classes she had taken every time we met. In 2016, after five years of intermittent discussion, I found myself on 23rd street and 2nd avenue resting my head on the cushion of a new red leather couch, exhausted from the five-hour journey to New York to which I had never been accustomed. It was six in the evening, and the sun

See **PERSPECTIVE**, page 25



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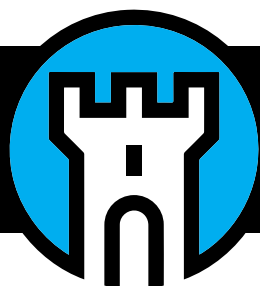
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PERSPECTIVE

continued from page 24

was beginning to set as my grandma turned the corner from her bedroom and walked in just as my mom and I were *kvetching*, just as Mary and Harry did, save the cigarette smoke. She stood there in the opposite corner, quietly listening as she put her small gold earrings on in front of the mirror. After she was finished, she walked across the room towards the door as we continued to

vent, slung her purse over her shoulder, looked at us and, in a nonchalant manner, shrugged her shoulders, saying “eh, *nisht gefloygen*.”

My mother and I looked at each other confused. Was she having a stroke? She looked at us like a teacher looks at an inattentive student struggling at the whiteboard. I saw something in her eyes that looked like she had brought back to mind a cherished memory. “What did you say?” I asked, breaking the silence. “*Nisht gefloygen*,” she

repeated, holding back a smile, “it doesn’t matter.” Complaining isn’t going to get you anywhere—let it go. You can’t change who a person is, you have to work with what you’ve got. *Nisht gefloygen*.” She turned around, threw a scarf around her neck, and was out the door.

That remark lingered in my ears the rest of the night as if it followed me with the icy wind whipping around the Lower East Side brick buildings. How could one phrase be so simple, but have so much

meaning behind it? I put my curiosities into words over delicious lo-mein and egg-drop soup after the 10-block walk (a huge trek for a San Antonio resident whose day is ruined by a crowded parking lot) to a small, conservatively decorated noodle house. “How much Yiddish do you know, grandma?” I inquired, fascinated.

“Oh, I used to know much more when my parents were still alive. I was almost fluent—that is, I could understand it fluently. I wasn’t very fluent in speaking it, but I didn’t speak much in any language as a kid.” I immediately saw the same nostalgia-induced twinkle in her eye that I saw in the apartment. “I do remember a few phrases though.”

“Can you teach me some?” From then on, Nana taught me Yiddish in an opposite fashion to the way she was taught—deliberately. The same passion for others that the people of the senior center saw in my grandma over a decade ago I saw in her that day. She fervently sought to teach me something that she thought could help me understand not only my own culture but the world around me, and she was

right in doing so.

The reluctant optimism that characterizes the tough, strong-willed, yet resigned attitude of many of those who spoke Yiddish in 20th century America is indicative of the language itself, its role in the lives of the Jewish immigrants of the time and the impression it made on me. Every week, my grandma texted me Yiddish phrases: *umglik bindt tsunoif*, misfortune binds people together; *far gelt bakmut men alts, nor kain saichel nit*, money buys everything except brains; *di oi’eren heren nit vos moil redt*, the ears don’t hear what the mouth utters. Although they seem simplistic, these phrases have helped me through the hardships that come with being a student, a teenager, and a friend. I find solace in my Yiddish, a refuge in the gray area between optimism and cynicism.

After all, when I’ve an especially rough day, I still whisper, just loud enough for Harry and Mary to hear, *Zorg zich nit, nisht gelfoygen* (Don’t worry about it. It doesn’t matter).

Matthew Leonard is a sophomore at St. Mary’s Hall.



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- When Israel Goes to War . . . Israel Must Prepare for Death . . .
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ADL offers to hold Holocaust awareness training for White House staff

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Anti-Defamation League is offering to hold Holocaust-awareness training for White House staff after administration spokesman Sean Spicer was pilloried for saying Adolf Hitler never used chemical weapons.

In a letter to Spicer shared with the media in mid-April, ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said his organization “would be happy to conduct one of these trainings at your convenience for you, your staff, and anyone at the White House who may need to learn more about the Holocaust. We know you are very busy, but we believe a few hours learning this history will help you understand where you went wrong and

prevent you from making these mistakes in the future.”

In a media briefing last month, Spicer compared the Syrian government’s role in a chemical weapons attack that killed at least 87 Syrians to the tactics of the Nazi regime.

“We had someone as despicable as Hitler who didn’t even sink to using chemical weapons,” Spicer said.

Pressed by Jewish groups and others who noted that the Nazis regularly used poison gas to kill Jews in concentration camps, Spicer later apologized, saying he made “an inappropriate and insensitive reference to the Holocaust, for which frankly there is no comparison.”

2017 on track to be Israel’s best-ever year for tourism

(JNS.org) The number of foreign tourists visiting Israel reached an all-time high of 739,000 in the first quarter of 2017.

Israel’s Tourism Ministry reported the record-breaking statistics represent a 24-percent increase from the first quarter of 2016. In the month of March alone, 239,000 tourists arrived in Israel, a 22-percent increase from the previous year.

Tourism in the first quarter of 2017 accounted for NIS 4 billion (\$1.1 billion) being added to the Israeli economy, up NIS 730 million (\$199 million) from 2016. Further, 5,000 jobs were added to Israel’s economy as a result of the increased in tourism.

Tourism Ministry officials hope 2013’s previous record number of 3.54 million tourists visiting Israel will be surpassed in 2017. April was expected to see an additional surge due to the Passover and Easter festivals generating increased religious tourism.



The Western Wall and the Dome of the Rock in the Old City of Jerusalem. Credit: David Shankbone via Wikimedia Commons.

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U.S. & WORLD NEWS

Netanyahu lobbying for Syrian buffer zone as Russia reinforces support for Assad

(JNS.org) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is reportedly lobbying for the creation of a secure buffer zone between Israel, Jordan and Syria as part of any future resolution to end the six-year Syrian Civil War.

Netanyahu addressed the issue in recent talks with U.S. administration officials and other international actors as a means of maintaining regional stability by keeping Iran's forces and the Iranian-sponsored terror group Hezbollah at a safe distance from

Israeli territory. The prime minister insisted on the creation of a buffer zone on the Syrian side of the border, secured by forces other than those from the Jewish state, reported Haaretz.

In a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in March, Netanyahu similarly expressed his strong opposition to Iranian forces and terror proxies—many equipped with Russian-made heavy artillery—operating in Syria close to Israel's northern border.

MAZAL TOV



Award Recipients in 2016, from left: Kay Stein, Robin Kressbach, Michael Kressbach, Nelson Chafetz standing in for his mother, Ruthie Chafetz, Amy Strickland, Fred Kanter, Joshua Sutin, Ashley Rosen, and Benjamin Wulfe.

Temple Beth-El to present 2017 President's Volunteer Service Awards

At Shabbat Eve Services on Friday, June 2, at 6:30 p.m., Temple Beth-El will present the President's Volunteer Service Awards (PVSA) to those who have achieved outstanding levels of volunteerism in our community.

Please contact Geri Gregory at (210) 733-9135, ext. 120 or geri@beth-elsa.org no later than May 5 to be included in the presentation.

Presidential recognition sets one apart from one's peers. It is a tremendous honor. Even though one may not seek recognition, one's example can deliver a powerful message that encourages others to take action.

To see the criteria, eligibility, and for further information on the PVSA, visit <https://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov>.



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