

Hanukkah is just weeks away. Don't miss the fun! **Page 12-13**



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

CHESVAN-KISLEV, 5776

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

NOVEMBER 2015



ALL THAT JAZZ

From Jazz in the Sukkah to story time with Superman, find out what's been happening in your Jewish community.

PAGE 20



HEART TO HEART

Join Federation Women for an inspiring Mission to Israel in 2016. .

PAGE 7



MARCH OF THE LIVING

Join the San Antonio delegation of teens for a life changing experience.

PAGE 28

Federation raises more than \$156,000 at Super Sunday Campaign event



Teens Maggie Davis, Dylan Beldon, Tori Shiver, Norman Davis and Anne Schnitzer

TODA RABA! Thank you to the 100-plus community volunteers who collectively raised a record breaking \$156,695 at Super Sunday on October 11, representing a 32% increase over last year's achievement. Super Sunday was truly a day of "Community," where volunteers from all parts of the community came together to reach out to their fellow community members – to fulfill the mitzvah of *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world).

Super Sunday co-chairs, Greg Davis and Liz Rockstroh, and Aaron and Danielle Sarfati, welcomed volunteers and motivated callers throughout the day with words of encouragement, updates and fun raffles.

See **SUPER SUNDAY**, page 22

JCC Main Event set for Saturday, Nov. 21

The JCC's annual fall fundraiser, *The Main Event*, will take place Saturday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. at the JCC. This year, the JCC honors Karen and David Palans, and Courtney and Steve Silver.

These *Fantastic Four* honorees have been indispensable to the JCC's success for nearly 2 decades. They have played lead roles in major initiatives and events including the



JCC Maccabi Games®, the "Fore the Kids" Golf tournament, The Main Event, strategic planning and many more. As couples and individually, they've volunteered their time and expertise to both Jewish and wider San Antonio

organizations including the Jewish Federation, Golden Manor, Jewish Family Service, Temple Beth El, the Campus, PTA's, CTRC, SAMMinistries, and many other worthwhile endeavors.

"Our primary goal for the Main Event each year is "fun," said JCC CEO Saul Levenshus. The JCC Board of Directors, under

See **MAIN EVENT**, page 33

Temple Beth-El to install new Assistant Rabbi

Though Rabbi Marina Yergin has already been serving as assistant rabbi at Temple Beth-El since the first of July, the congregation will officially celebrate her arrival with an installation service on Friday December 11, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Wulfe Sanctuary.

Rabbi Julie Schwartz, an

See **YERGIN**, page 33

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



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

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EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS:

The submission deadline for the DECEMBER 2015 issue of the Jewish Journal is NOVEMBER 12, 2015 at noon. All materials submitted after this date will be considered for the following issue.

How to submit: Email submissions to jewishj@jfsatx.org

- Articles & Announcements - Email as word documents. Articles submitted for consideration are subject to editing.
- Photos - Email high resolution images (300 dpi) in jpg attachments only.

ADVERTISING:

To place an advertisement or request ad rates, contact Sandy Leigh at (240) 498-8999 or advertising@jfsatx.org.

Ad deadlines for DECEMBER 2015 ISSUE:

- Ad space reservations due no later than NOVEMBER 12, 2015 by noon;
- Press ready ads due by NOVEMBER 16, 2015.

Please include a contact name and phone number with all submissions.

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

JEWISH JOURNAL EDITORIAL POLICY

The Jewish Journal of San Antonio is a monthly publication created and paid for by the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. The Journal's primary focus is creating awareness and engagement within the local Jewish community about activities, programs and issues with which the Jewish Federation is involved.

As a service to the broader Jewish community, area synagogues and organizations are invited to submit content relevant to the Jewish community at large for publication consideration.

Items selected for publication are done so solely at the discretion of the Journal Editor and the Jewish Federation. Submissions may be edited and/or re-written for content and length.

We aim to fairly reflect the breadth and depth of activities and Jewish life taking place in the San Antonio Jewish community.



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ISRAEL

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2015

6:30 PM Registration, 7:00 PM Event

The Campus of the Jewish Community, Holzman Auditorium, 12500 N. W. Military Highway

Enjoy dessert and wine while making a difference (dietary laws observed)

Cost: \$18

- **Donate an item for a local Jewish family in need. Visit JFSATX.org/Shower where you can link to the Target registry to choose an item.**
- **Make a beautiful bracelet designed by local artists. A portion of the evening's proceeds will benefit the Economic Empowerment for Women Program in Israel, which provides job training for women living in poverty.**

RSVP BY DECEMBER 1st

RSVP by December 1st at JFSATX.org/Shower or mail check to Jewish Federation of San Antonio, Women's Philanthropy, 12500 N.W. Military Highway, San Antonio, TX 78231

For more information, contact Julie Schack, Director of Women's Philanthropy at Schackj@jfsatx.org or 210-302-6965

Shower Event Chairs:

Jodi Starr, Susan Blumenthal,
Elisa Reinsmith, Leslie Tramer

2015 Shower Committee:

Vicki Adelstein, Leslie Komet Ausburn, Amy Benedikt, Marion Bernstein, Wendy Bolerjack, Aliza Cantu, Lisa Edelman,
Lizette Feld, Wendy Glick, Elizabeth Glazier, Darcy Hoberman, Simone Kboudi, Margaret Gofman Klein, Sara Planto, Nicole
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Jewish Federation of San Antonio:

Richard Planto- Board Chair Jonathan Gurwitz- 2015 Campaign Chair Ronit Sherwin- CEO
Susan Kariv- Chief Development Officer Julie Schack- Director of Women's Philanthropy

Help make a difference this Hannukah season!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: NOVEMBER 2015

November 1

- Chai Lights: Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Hanukkah Show, 9 a.m.
- The Vex Theater Presents, *Bad Jews*, The Campus, 2:30 p.m.
- AIPAC San Antonio Annual Event, La Cantera Hill Country Resort, 6 p.m.

November 3

- Author Diana Bletter at Beldon Library, 2:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- Board Meeting, Temple Beth-El, 7 p.m.

November 4

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

November 5

- The Vex Theater Presents, *Bad Jews*, The Campus, 7:30 p.m.

November 6

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

November 7

- The Texas Kosher BBQ Championship Pre-Party at Agudas Achim 8 p.m.
- The Vex Theater Presents, *Bad Jews*, The Campus, 8 p.m.

November 8

- 3rd Annual Texas Kosher BBQ Championship, Agudas Achim, 10 a.m.
- The Vex Theater Presents,

Bad Jews, The Campus, 2:30 p.m.

November 10

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

November 11

- Veterans Day

November 12

- Agudas Achim, Simcha Social Club with Speaker Varda Ratner, 11:30 a.m.
- NCJW Pink Carpet, The Chalet on Broadway, 6 p.m.
- TBE30s40s, 7 p.m.
- The Vex Theater Presents, *Bad Jews*, The Campus, 7:30 p.m.

November 13

- Temple Beth-El Retreat for Grades 2-5, Greene Family Camp, 10 a.m.
- Sisterhood Veterans Day Shabbat, Congregation Agudas Achim 6:15p.m.
- Shabbat Dinner, Congregation Rodfei Sholom

November 14

- Young Couples Club of Agudas: Get-Together at Bar Louis, 7 p.m.
- The Vex Theater Presents, *Bad Jews*, The Campus, 8 p.m.

November 15

- PJ Thankful, "Thanksgiving Program", Adante Senior Living, 3 p.m.
- Israel Bonds San Antonio Annual Reception, 7 p.m.
- Scholastic Book Fair, Agudas Achim, (15-20)

CANDLE LIGHTING

**Friday, Nov 6
Shabbat, Nov 7**

Light Candles at: 5:26 P.M.
Shabbat Ends: 6:20 P.M.

**Friday, Nov 13
Shabbat, Nov 14**

Light Candles at: 5:22 P.M.
Shabbat Ends: 6:16 P.M.

**Friday, Nov 20
Shabbat, Nov 21**

Light Candles at: 5:19 P.M.
Shabbat Ends: 6:14 P.M.

**Friday, Nov 27
Shabbat, Nov 28**

Light Candles at: 5:17 P.M.
Shabbat Ends: 6:13 P.M.

**Friday, Dec 4
Shabbat, Dec 5**

Light Candles at: 5:17 P.M.
Shabbat Ends: 6:13 P.M.

November 16

- Agudas Sisterhood Event with Speaker Dr. Jerry Winakur, 10:30 a.m.
- March of Living Info Meeting 7:30 p.m.

November 17

- JFSA Board Meeting, The Campus 7 p.m.

November 21

- Family Shabbat, Temple Beth-El 9 a.m.
- Barshop JCC Main Event, 7 p.m.

November 22

- Jewish War Veterans Meeting & Speaker Event, The Campus, 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday Funday, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, 12 p.m.

- JCC Fall J-Camp, The Campus, (23-25)

November 26

- Thanksgiving Day

December 1

- JCC: Hands on Chanukah, The Campus, 3:30 p.m.
- Temple Beth-El Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

December 2

- JCC Board Meeting, The Campus, 7:30 p.m.

December 3

- Shower the Community, JFSA Women's Philanthropy Event, The Campus, 7 p.m.
- TBE30s40s, 7 p.m.

December 4

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

IN LOVING MEMORY

Ana Beniflah

Henry Donzis

Jane Kallison Dreyfus

Heather MacDonald

Dr. Edward Rosenthal

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

December 5

- JCC Kids Night Out, 6 p.m.
- Starz Presents *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, 7 p.m.

December 6

- Agudas Achim Hands on Hanukkah, Vineyard-Whole Foods, 12 p.m.
- Sisterhood Program, Temple Beth-El, 12 p.m.
- Starz Presents *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, 2 p.m. & 4 p.m.

December 7

- *Hanukkah Day 1*
- Torah Academy of San Antonio Hanukkah Party, Rodfei Sholom, 6 p.m.

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YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

Fostering connections, building community

Last month we celebrated Simchat Torah, and with it concluded the High Holy Day season. A few days later, we began the annual cycle of Torah readings with Bereishit...

"In the beginning..."

We read the same words each year, but understand them in new ways because we change with every new year, and our world changes with us.

We study the Torah with different perspectives at various points in our lives. We also find ourselves looking for alternative lessons depending on our life circumstances. For instance, my son always asks the same questions



**Letter from
our CEO**

**RONIT
SHERWIN**

about stories and movies, "Is there a bad guy in it?" As children, we tend to view stories with such contrast – there is a good guy and a bad guy. As we mature, we understand that stories are more complex and nuanced. There is not always a clear "bad guy" or a "good guy." Most of the world is more nuanced than fiction allows.

The work of the Jewish Federation is similarly complex, although some would prefer simply to

label us as the "good guy" or the "bad guy." The Jewish Federation's role is to embrace and strengthen the entire Jewish community. We do not represent specific Jewish interests; we represent what is best for the entire Jewish community, and on that there is not always unanimity of opinion. Our Federation asks a lot from us, and we from it. Sometimes the answers are disappointing, sometimes the labor is discouraging, but it is always worthwhile. It's challenging and complicated and, like the Torah, eternally being re-examined.

"In the beginning."

Those first lines of Torah remind us that as old as the story is, it is new every year. We read the Torah over and over again, the words never change, but we hear it differently each time. Our ancient texts and traditions are studied and observed, pored over and dissected, and interpreted in countless ways within our community. No matter how or why you struggle or connect (or both) with the words and commentaries, your Federation is here to foster those connections and help us all continue the sacred work of Creation.

TODA RABA Thank you!

Our amazing San Antonio Jewish community came together and raised a record \$156,695 on Super Sunday!

Thank you to our Co-Chairs, Greg Davis & Liz Rockstroh and Aaron & Danielle Sarfati and to all the callers and donors. Visit us at www.jfsatx.org to donate and make a difference today!

We are STRONGER TOGETHER!

**Thursday, December 3
4:30pm**

Rabbi Abraham's Hanukkah Storytime

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**Sunday, December 6
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Hands On Hanukkah

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The Tribe rings in the New Year

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio and its auxiliary organization for young adults, the Tribe, held their 5th annual Jewish New Year “Appletini” party on September 26.

The Tribe, our Jewish community’s social organization for 20s and 30s held this year’s event at the home of Elisa and Lance Reinsmith. Sixty young adults dined on vegetarian and fish delicacies created by James Beard nominee Chef Dave Gilbert. The event included a signature apple alcoholic beverage and a presentation of Israeli appetizers such as hummus with feta and dolmas, making for a unique and special gathering for the Jewish New Year of 5776. The event was topped off by three signature homemade Jewish ice cream flavors: Manischewitz wine, coconut macaroon, and horseradish.

Tribe Chair, Nicole Porterfield and Young Adult Coordinator, Kelly Klein both addressed the crowd, told the history of the Tribe, the importance of our Jewish



(l to r) Lauren Abraham, Tribe Chair Nicole Porterfield, Chef Dave Gilbert, Shannon Dufresne, Elisa and Lance Reinsmith (hosts of the evening) and Young Adult Division Chair Kelly Klein celebrate The Tribe’s Appletini event.

Federation’s work, and let the community know of the plans to incorporate all of the Young Adult programming into a Young Adult Division. This event clearly brought our community together and kicked off the Jewish New Year in a sweet way.

For more details about upcoming Tribe events and to learn more about the Jewish Federation’s programming for 20s and 30s, go to The Tribe on Facebook, or contact Young Adult Division Director Samantha Mazuz at mezuzass@jfsatx.org.

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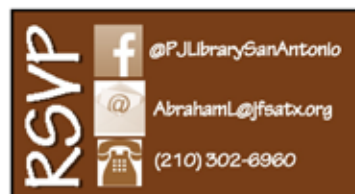
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PJ Library is a program of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, Nathalie and Gladys Dalkowitz Charitable Trust and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation

Unity or Pluralism?

Should we as a Jewish people be prioritizing unity or pluralism? That was the question put forth by Dov Waxman at the opening of the JCPA (Jewish Council for Public Affairs) annual conference in Washington D.C. last month. Waxman is a Political Science, International Affairs and Israel Studies professor at Northeastern University. He stated that individual perspectives on the question of unity versus pluralism would depend on the respondent's perception of the current safety of the Jewish community.

If the Jewish community is threatened, then unity would be more important. If the Jewish community



**CRC
Commentary**

**JUDY
LACKRITZ**

feels less threatened, then the need for recognizing our pluralism would gain more importance.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs by its nature has long cherished and encouraged unity. The JCPA is composed of representatives of community relations councils and national Jewish organizations from around the United States. With such a variety of representation, embracing pluralism

becomes a necessity. To embrace pluralism means to recognize our differences.

JCPA has pioneered the ability to move forward with pluralism by creating the Civility Institute, led by Rabbi Melissa Weintraub. The JCPA Civility Institute has set the pace with workshops to teach the skills of listening, exchanging ideas, and learning to understand other views. The purpose of the program is not to stifle the free expression of ideas, but to protect it. The goal is to allow exchange of ideas by recognizing the dignity in others.

A new book, *Islam and the Future of Tolerance*, illustrates how two people

can speak together though they approach from very different angles. The book is a dialogue between Sam Harris, an atheist and Maajid Nawaz, a Muslim and former radical who co-founded Quilliam, a think tank on religious freedom, extremism and citizenship. Steven Pinker, a Harvard professor who authored the *Better Angel of our Natures* has described their dialogue as "honest and intellectual."

Engaging in respectful dialogue is a vehicle to appreciate our differences. It is a way to "hold to the center" as expressed by Rabbi Doug Kahn, long-time Community Relations Director in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Respectful dialogue can prevent extremism from pulling our community apart.

Working to the same end is another way to learn to embrace pluralism. At this year's JCPA conference, Dr. David Luchins, a professor at Touro College, a national vice President of the Orthodox Union, and a national officer of JCPA, was honored for his personal commitment to Tikkun Olam. In his eloquent acceptance speech he noted that social justice is an area in which Jews can come together with the same goals. Pluralism can be achieved with a shared vision.

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Women's Philanthropy Heart to Heart Mission to Israel

Leave your high heels at home and join women from across North America and Israel for an Israeli experience like no other. The Heart to Heart Mission of the Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy is offering an extraordinary experience

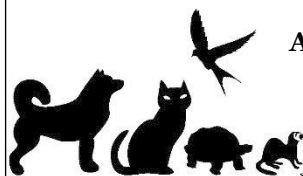
that will "feed your soul and engage your mind."

This 5 day trip scheduled for February 7-11, 2016 is jam packed with exclusive opportunities including a home visit and lunch with the US Ambassador. You'll explore modern Tel Aviv's art,

fashion and booming hi tech businesses and meet artists and entrepreneurs living and thriving in one of the world's most exhilarating cities. And you'll partake in discussions with women holding the highest positions in Israeli society. Plus there is plenty of opportunity to tour and explore Jerusalem for those visiting Israel for the first time.

"Heart to Heart was truly a life changing experience," says Lauren Stanley, active community member and Federation board member.

For more details and the full itinerary, visit jfsatx.org or call Julie Schack, Director of Women's Philanthropy at (210) 302-6965 or schackj@jfsatx.org.



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Shower Our Community with LOVE Event

Federation's Women's Philanthropy will host an evening of tzedakah, collaboration and inspiration as we 'shower' those who need our help here in San Antonio and in Israel on Thursday, December 3 at 7pm at the Campus in the Holzman Auditorium.

This intergenerational evening is open to all women---daughters, grandmothers, moms and friends. Women are encouraged to visit jfsatx.org/Shower to choose an item from the Target registry to bring to the event. These items are from the wish lists of the adopted yet anonymous local families who are experiencing hardship and could greatly benefit from our support.

In addition to organizing the baskets for

these needy families at the event, there will be a hands-on art project designed by local artists, Aliza Cantu and Wendy Bolerjack.

Proceeds from the art project will benefit the Women's Empowerment Program in Israel, which provides job and skill training for women living in poverty.

"it's the season for giving," says Leslie Tramer, one of the co-chairs for the event. "Hannukah begins just a few days after the event."

The hope is that women of all ages will be inspired to come together as a community to do some good here at home and abroad. Which is exactly the *mission* of Federation.

CRC Israel Task Force meets with local Presbyterian officials

Federation's Community Relations Council Executive Director Judy Lackritz, Dr. Mike Stern and Rabbi Samuel Stahl, representing the CRC Israel Task Force, met with more than 20 local Presbyterian ministers and Rev. Mike Cole on September 17.

They discussed current Presbyterian-Jewish relations and expressed grave concern over the 2014 vote by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church-USA, to divest from three American companies that do business in the West Bank.



(left to right) Dr. Mike Stern, (Chair, CRC Israel Task Force), Rev. Ruben Armendariz (Acting Head of Staff and Associate Executive Presbyterian, Mission Presbytery of the San Antonio region), Rabbi Samuel Stahl (Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth-El), and Rev. Mike Cole (General Presbyterian of the New Covenant Presbytery of Houston), the featured speaker.

Speaker Event at Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio – Nov. 10

Margaret Paxson, Senior Associate at the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and Visiting Scholar at the Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at George Washington University will be a guest speaker at the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio, located on the Jewish Campus on November 10 at 6 p.m. Paxson will be speaking about the effect of the rescue effort of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon had on subsequent generations.

To RSVP, please contact Juana Rubalcava at education@hmmsa.org or to (210) 302-6812.

Paxson received a Ph.D. and an M.Sc. in anthropology from the University of Montreal and a B.A. in anthropology at McGill University. For her Research Fellowship of the Miles Lerman Center for the Study of Jewish Resistance, Dr. Paxson is conducting research for her project, *Remembering the Good: Legacies of Rescue and Resistance in Le Chambon-sur-Lignon*.

During her tenure at the Center, Dr. Paxson is researching the rescue and



resistance efforts in the small village of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, France. Ruled by the Vichy government at the time, the villagers managed to rescue thousands of Jews, particularly children, over the course of four years.

Dr. Paxson is assessing the social repercussions of active resistance and how these events are memorialized by the participants and the community.

The event is co-sponsored by the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio and UTSA Honor's College and History Department in memory of Kristallnacht (night of Broken Glass) during Nazi era Germany.

This program is made possible by the Campus Outreach Lecture Program of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, supported by the Leonard and Sophie Davis Fund.

Israel delegation from partnership region traveling to San Antonio

The Young Adult Division of the Western Galilee Partnership2gether Organization in Israel is sending a mission of 10 young adults to Texas in December.

San Antonio will welcome five of these young adults, including two

men, Elichai and Drew from Israel, two women, Barbie and Petra from Budapest, and one chaperone, Heidi from the Western Galilee Israel office.

The group will arrive on December 7 and be involved in the

San Antonio Jewish community during Hanukkah. They will attend various Hanukkah events and meetings around the city, including the Catholic-Jewish Luncheon downtown at the San Fernando Center on December 10.

For more information about our Western Galilee Partnership or these young adults who will visit in December please contact Lauren Abraham, Partnership Coordinator at AbrahamL@jfsatx.org or at (210) 302-6960.



Wonder Woman poses with PJ Little Ladies Arielle, Carlie, and Maisie.



PJ Library celebrated Sukkot with story time

PJ Library celebrates Sukkot and Super Sunday

Chabad Center for Life and Learning and PJ Library teamed up to get ready for Sukkot with lots of creativity! With the theme of “building,” the children spent time building with blocks and legos, and building their own edible Sukkot out of graham crackers and real fruit, and finally using small green strawberry baskets to build their own Sukkot to take home. Morah Rivkie Block and Chaya Block Weingarten shared two PJ Library books with our children, including *It's Sukkah Time* and *Bubbie Isabella's Sukkot Cake*. Morah Chaya Weingarten engaged the children in songs and got them on their feet, dancing around enthusiastically with scarves and musical instruments.

Morah Chaya Weingarten relayed, “It was such a pleasure to sing with this great group of children from all over our community! They were all so excited for the holiday of Sukkot and I loved watching them get up on their dancing feet with so much ruach (spirit). Sukkot is the holiday of joy, and I could certainly see it on their faces!”

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio and PJ Library also hosted “Be A Super Hero” on Super Sunday. With a special visit from the Superman and Wonder Woman of the San Antonio Justice League, the PJ Library children were able to learn more about the idea of being a “hero” and helping the world. Wonder Woman read the children the PJ Library book entitled *Tikkun Olam Ted* which told about a young boy's every day actions that help the world (including recycling and helping feed his animals). The Justice League heros discussed ideas about how we can each be heros in our



Morah Rivkie Block and the Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning hosted PJ Library *Builds A Sukkah* and treated PJ Library children to snack bags during story time.

Young PJ Library reader decorates a cape after Superman's Story time!



Superman poses with Jonathan Neuman at PJ Celebrates Super Sunday.

own homes. This followed with Super Man, himself, reading the book “Sammy Spider's First Mitzvah” and it taught us about *Bikkur Holim*, helping the sick as he read about a boy named Moti who brought chicken soup to his neighbor in the story. This day proved to be a SUPER Success, as the PJ Library children decorated their own capes that were cut out of real t-shirts, so they can continue to be a Super Hero in their own daily lives. PJ Library Committee member, Micah Davies reflected on the day, “It was so wonderful to see the kids so excited to meet and talk to the real Superman! Their eyes got so big. They learned so many values and I hope they will remember all of the important lessons that he and Wonder Woman had to say.”

Spotlight on: Jonas Berkowitch

Jonas Berkowitch is a busy senior at Churchill High School. In his spare time he plays basketball, is a scorekeeper at the JCC, and works at Bigz Burger Joint. He is involved in B'nai B'rith Youth Organization as the beau of Sababa BBG (girls chapter) and as the past President and Vice President of Erich Weiss AZA (boys chapter). Jonas has been accepted to the University of Houston as a hospitality management major, and he is looking forward to beginning college next year, but before that he has stopped to tell us more about himself as this month's Spotlight.

1. What brought you to San Antonio?

I was born in upstate NY, and I moved to SA when I was six. We moved for my dad to take a job here, and my memories of growing up are all from San Antonio.

2. What is your strongest Jewish memory?

Three years ago at a BBYO retreat called Brotherhood weekend at Leaky, Texas, all of the boys came together and did the prayers on Friday night and we were all together all weekend long. It was cool being with only the guys in BBYO. We were able to connect with Judaism and have a good time doing it.

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

I really enjoy working at Food Kitchens and Food Banks... I have experienced and witnessed the poverty in certain areas. I am directly impacting the people that are on the streets and are really hungry. It's a rewarding feeling. When I am helping in one of those pantries I realize my work could be the difference in someone eating and not eating. That's a big deal. In my future career plans I would like to be involved in the hospitality industry and in helping people. The volunteering has helped me get a glimpse of the industry.



4. Please share your favorite Jewish holiday. Why?

My favorite holiday is Yom Kippur because I get a lot out of the fasting and I can think and reflect on

See **SPOTLIGHT**, page 11

Federation welcomes new Young Leadership Director

Samantha Mazuz has joined the Jewish Federation of San Antonio as the new Young Leadership Director and Marketing Manager. Mazuz moved to San Antonio from New Jersey with her husband, Idan, a year and a half ago. Mazuz most recently served as Hillel Director and as a member of the camp administrative team for the Barshop Jewish Community Center. During that time, Mazuz attended the Hillel International Conference in Orlando and was chosen to travel to Israel on a first ever Hillel International Directors trip with 30 other Hillel Directors from around the world.

Mazuz's relationship with Israel started more than 5 years ago when she was finishing up her final semester in the fall at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. She was graduating early and planning to move on into the working world, however this plan changed when she received a phone call from Birthright Israel to go on a trip that January. She decided to put her career plans on hold and quickly packed her bags for a life changing experience, to a place that shortly after became her home.

After living in Israel for two years, participating on a Masa Internship program, followed by an NYU Masters program in



Israel, and getting married there, too, she returned to the United States with her husband, to make a difference in her Jewish

Community and pass on her love for her homeland. Mazuz taught Hebrew school and Sunday Judaica class to 5th graders, 9th grade Hebrew High School, worked as an adjunct professor at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in the Jewish Studies Department, and was involved in Young Leadership throughout the Jewish Community in New Jersey as well.

Mazuz has also led and organized many Birthright Israel trips and has spoken at the annual Birthright Gala in New York City in the spring of 2013, before moving to Texas. Mazuz and her husband are the proud new parents of Eitan.

"We look forward to her enthusiasm as she shares her experiences and love for Judaism, Israel, and our people with our community through planning events and programs for young adults," said Susan Kariv, Chief Development Officer.

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(l to r) Eva Zelig, producer and director of the Film with Paul Montalvo, Artistic Director of the COSA (the Chamber Orchestra of San Antonio) and Eva Balcazar, who grew up in Ecuador.



Roger Adler (right) points out a family photo in the Holocaust Memorial to his cousin, Eva Zelig.



(l to r) Anna Rado, Rose Williams and Suzanne Jalnos, all Holocaust Survivors who live in San Antonio.

An Unknown Country: The Jewish Exiles of Ecuador

The Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio hosted a showing of *An Unknown Country* on September 17 at the Jewish Campus. The film is the story of European Jews who fled the Nazi terror during WWII and found refuge in a land very new for them.

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SPOTLIGHT

continued from page 10

the past year. I think about what I have done that I have liked and just the opposite. It's a nice time to take to myself and to really relax.

It seems like without the food and with the quiet and with the dark mood, it has helped me find my Jewish identity.

Yom Kippur is really the only time I get to personally reflect on my actions and to thank God for the actions I have done that are good and for the ones that I could

improve.

It's an important holiday and one that is meaningful.

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

Over the the past 13 or 14 years we have really grown. I hope this continues. I have seen San Antonio continue to change for the better and I want it to keep happening.

I want us to combat the anti-Semitism that is in the area. In my life I have never seen anything like what happened to

the synagogues and I hope we can grow and be stronger and stop that in the future.

When I was applying to colleges, I wrote about these incidents that happened in the synagogues, as they meant a lot to me.

My last hope is for the youth programs to keep going and improving. BBYO has been so important in my life, and the more Jewish teens can be involved through youth groups, the more it will help them. It has really helped me a lot.

HANUKKAH

Hanukkah 2015 begins in the evening of Sunday, December 6 and ends in the evening of Monday, December 14

Leading Jewish spokesperson at the Vatican to speak at Hanukkah celebration

On Thursday, Dec. 10, at 11:30 a.m., members of the San Antonio-area Roman Catholic and Jewish communities will gather for an interfaith Hanukkah celebration. The event will be held at San Fernando Cathedral Hall, 231 West Commerce.

This marks the 14th year that San Antonio-area Catholics and Jews have jointly celebrated Hanukkah. The Jewish Federation of San

Antonio and San Fernando Cathedral are the co-sponsors.

This year the group will highlight the 50th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*, the Vatican II document, which revolutionized Catholic-Jewish relations. Presenter will be Rabbi Jack Bemporad, the founder and director of the non-profit Center for Interreligious Understanding. He is widely acknowledged as the leading Jewish spokesperson at the Vatican.

The Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S., Archbishop of San Antonio, will be the presiding host for this unique interfaith observance this year. The Very Rev. Tony Vilano, JCL, Rector of San Fernando Cathedral, and Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth-El, will lead the proceedings.

Included in the program will be a presentation by the choir of

Providence High School and the kindling of Hanukkah lights by clergy and lay leaders of the Jewish and Catholic communities.

Reservations are required by December 4 to attend this program, which includes a catered lunch, at \$30.00 per person. Table sponsorships are also available for \$350. For further information, call San Fernando Cathedral, (210) 227-1297.

18th Annual Chanukah on the River – December 13

The eighteenth annual *Chanukah on the River* festival will take place on Sunday, Dec. 13 at the Maverick Plaza in La Villita and at the Arneson River Theater.

The highly acclaimed Chanukah Wonderland segment of *Chanukah on the River* will be held from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. in Maverick Plaza in La Villita, right above the Arneson River Theater. Chanukah Wonderland, a project of Chabad's Youth Zone, will feature a host of hands-on Chanukah activities and attractions for children of all ages. Activities include *Meet Judah the Maccabee*, Chanukah cookie making, granite Menorah making and other Chanukah arts and crafts, Chanukah Tot Corner, a Dreidel-shaped moon bounce, laser tag, games, raffles and more.

The Chanukah River Boat Parade will begin at 3 p.m.



The Chanukah River Boat Parade will begin at 3 p.m.

departing from the Arneson River Theater followed by the Menorah Lighting, which will take place at 4:15 p.m.

Community leaders and dignitaries from throughout the city will participate. Following the Menorah



Moshav, a Los-Angeles-based American/Israeli rock band, will be the headline

lighting ceremony, Moshav Band of Los Angeles, California will perform live in concert.

Chanukah on the River is coordinated by the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning in cooperation with local synagogues and organization, and is sponsored by the City of San Antonio Department for Culture & Creative Development, International Bank of Commerce, H.E.B, Holzman Family Foundation, SWBC and The

Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

Concession stands by Aroma Grill will be open for snacks and light dinner. Guests are advised to allow sufficient time for parking. Cost of Chanukah Wonderland is \$6 per child (adults free) and includes all activities. Chanukah Boat Parade is \$5 per person. Show and concert are free to the public. For more information and an online discount, visit www.ChanukahOnTheRiver.com.

JCC celebrates Chanukah early

The JCC will hold its *Hands on Chanukah* event on Tuesday, Dec. 1 from 3-6 p.m. The event will feature crafts, story time, latkes, and a menorah lighting at 5:15 p.m. The gathering will offer families a chance to make Chanukah cards, play games, and make decorations in order to prepare for the beginning of Chanukah the following week.

The event is free and open to the community; no RSVP is needed.

For more information, please contact Rachel Rustin, JCC Director of Jewish Journeys, at rustinr@jcc-sa.org or (210) 302-6969.

Chanukah Night at the Spurs

The Jewish community is invited to celebrate the second annual Chanukah at the Spurs together at the AT&T Center, as the San Antonio Spurs take on the Utah Jazz.

A limited number of Spurs tickets at a discounted rate will be available for the December 14 game (7:30 p.m. tipoff). Tickets will include a seat in a designated section and a commemorative Chanukah at the Spurs 2015 t-shirt designed for this occasion. A special pre-game menorah lighting and program is being planned.

Tickets may be purchased by visiting this



link: www.SpursChanukah.com.

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

For more information, please call Chabad at (210) 764-0300 or visit www.ChabadSA.com/SpursNight.

JFS Annual Latke Party, December 20

Jewish Family Service's Annual Latke Party will take place on Sunday, Dec.

20 at the home of Alice and Ron Perloff.

The Latke Party will begin at 4 p.m. Cost per person is \$36 and proceeds of the event will help JFS continue their work in the San Antonio community.

Organizers say, "Attendees will enjoy mouth watering delights, schmoozing with familiar faces, making new friends

and of course, delicious homemade latkes prepared by guest chefs."

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

Jewelry designs to benefit Israel

Sharon Levy, Israeli jewelry designer, will be back in San Antonio in November prior to Hanukkah. Between November 29 and December 9, she will be at the Campus

of the San Antonio Jewish Community. A percent of her sales at the Campus will benefit Israel programming. For more information contact Judy Lackritz at lackritzj@jfsatx.org.

Hanukkah with Agudas Achim

Congregation Agudas Achim will host an array of Hanukkah programs starting December 3:

Hanukkah Storytime Barnes & Noble La Cantera - Dec. 3

Join Rabbi Abraham for Hanukkah story time, color Hanukkah Sesame color sheets, eat Hanukkah gelt, and more at a free event Thursday, Dec. 3 at 4:30 p.m. Stick around and Join Rabbi and his family for a no-host dinner at Grimaldi's Pizza.

Hands On Hanukkah Program at the Vineyard Whole Foods - Dec. 6

Outside of Whole Foods (Blanco and 1604). Meet "David the Dreydel," eat latkes and treats,

play Hanukkah games, create Hanukkah crafts, enjoy music, and more. Congregation Agudas Achim has been selected as one of 20 institutions to receive a prestigious grant from the "Big Tent Judaism" Organization to host this free program in San Antonio on Sunday, Dec. 6 from noon until 2 p.m.

Lots of Latkes Dinner

Celebrate Hanukkah with fried chicken, potato latkes, plus some healthy options too! Celebrate with music by Joe Bucanan, enjoy the lighting of the Agudas Hannukiah with glow sticks for children, and more. Concert sponsored by Camp Young Judaea. Dinner and concert \$10/Adult Member-\$15/Adult non-member; \$5/all children ages 6-11; under 5 are free.

Hanukkah Sunday Funday at Rodfei

All things Hanukkah will be the theme for the upcoming Sunday Funday at Congregation Rodfei Sholom. The event on Sunday, Nov. 22 from 10 a.m. - 12 noon will include brunch, arts & crafts, *Sesame Street* Hanukkah DVD, baking, and more.

While the children are

busy, adults are invited to participate in a Hanukkah Workshop at 10:30 a.m. to learn the laws and customs of the Festival of Lights. For more information and to RSVP by Tuesday, Nov. 17, contact the synagogue office at (210) 493-3557 or by e-mail to rodfeisa@gmail.com.

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Rodfei Sholom Shabbat dinner to honor veterans

Congregation Rodfei Sholom will host a special Shabbat dinner on Friday, Nov. 13, in recognition of Veteran's Day, honoring all those who have served, or are presently serving, in the armed forces.

A traditional, home-cooked meal will be enjoyed immediately following Kabbalat Shabbat

services. Veterans will also be honored the following day at Shabbat services where they will be given an aliyah and called to the Torah.

The purpose of the dinner is also to welcome the month of Kislev. Kislev is best known for the holiday of Hanukkah, which begins on the 25th of Kislev. It commemorates the

miraculous victory of the small Jewish army over the mighty Syrian-Greek empire. The message of Chanukah is the eternal power of light over darkness, good over evil.

For more information and to RSVP by Monday, Nov. 9, contact the synagogue office at (210) 493-3557 or rodfeisa@gmail.com.

18th Annual Games

Agudas Achim Sisterhood will host their 18th annual Games Day on Tuesday, Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. in the Gurinsky Family Social Hall. The day of fun, friends and food is open to both men and women. Organizers say door prizes and a raffle add to excitement.

"We provide the tables, chairs and food.

You bring your own group and game," explains event chair, Linda Aboloff. The cost of the event is \$12 which includes lunch and snacks. Reservations are a must to accommodate everyone. For more information and reservations contact Linda Aboloff at (210) 479-3612 or Babs Schnitzer at (210) 764-1714.

Temple Chai launches 10,000 hours of service

Temple Chai, a welcoming, progressive congregation in Northwest San Antonio launched a year-long social action initiative over the High Holy Days. With a goal of 10,000 hours of community service for the year, Rabbi David Komerofsky encouraged the membership "to ensure that our congregation does not just stand on its corner in a new home, but stands for something in the wider community." Deb Field,

a member of the Temple Chai board, is working with a group of volunteers to engage the congregation in service opportunities around the city. The first and on-going project is with the San Antonio Food Bank, and new projects will begin each month.

"Judaism's prophetic mission is central to our congregation's progressive values," said Rabbi Komerofsky. "We believe that our service must be

more than words and music."

Temple Chai's inaugural adult b'nai mitzvah class will also adopt its own community service mitzvah project. For more information, visit www.templechaisa.org/socialaction.

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Temple Beth-El plans trip to Israel

Rabbi Mara Nathan and her family will be leading a mission to Israel from December 18-28, 2016. The trip is open to people of all ages and includes a combination of site seeing, social justice activities, cultural experiences and of course delicious Israeli food and opportunities to support the Israeli economy.

Highlights include a hands-on experience with a volunteer organization that provides food for the needy by collecting excess produce from farms and participation

in a seminar on Arab-Jewish coexistence. Additionally the group will take a Jeep tour up the Golan Heights, explore the Jerusalem Archaeological Park, go for a camel ride in the Judean desert, experience Shabbat in Jerusalem and much, much more. For a full itinerary visit www.beth-elsa.org.

An informational meeting will be held at Temple Beth-El on Tuesday, Dec. 1 from 6:15 - 7 p.m. Please contact Iris Berman Smith at iris@beth-elsa.org for more information.

NCJW hosts Pink Carpet Event

NCJW invites current and prospective members to their pink carpet event on Thursday, Nov. 12 from 6-8 p.m. at Chalet, 5926 Broadway.

Guests can enjoy a fun night out with friends

while sipping champagne, shopping and enjoying a sample massage. Make-up artists are available for mini makeovers. For more information, contact Cathy Pottorf at catpot52@gmail.com.



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Hadassah gets the massage

The San Antonio Chapter of Hadassah will have a “hands-on” application of massage therapy at its meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 7 p.m. Diana Grippi, a registered massage therapist, will demonstrate hand and arm massage and

give useful tips on how to take care of oneself through massage. Those attending are encouraged to bring their favorite lotion; unscented lotion will be available.

The meeting will be at the home of Eileen Jalnos. For reservations and directions,

contact Kathy O'Neill at (210) 823-8603 no later than Monday, Nov. 9.

There will be no cover charge. Light refreshments will be served, and a door prize of a 30-minute massage courtesy of Diana Grippi will be awarded.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

Congressman Julian Castro will discuss veteran affairs at the November 22 breakfast meeting of the Jewish War Veterans Post 753. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. in the Holzman Auditorium at the Jewish Campus. The congressman's remarks will be followed by a business meeting for post members. There will be no charge for the event, but reservations are required. RSVP to Irwin Barath, (210) 341-4502.



patients and staff on duty. To volunteer, call Ken Ashworth at (210) 647-0330.

Sunday, Dec. 27, 9:30 a.m.

Post meeting and election of officers to be held at the Jewish Campus-Room 277 beginning at 9:30 a.m. Light breakfast, followed by business meeting and election of officers for 2016.

Tuesday, Dec. 29 from 7 to 8 p.m.

Post members to conduct Bingo for patients at CTC, followed by refreshments. To volunteer, contact Ken Ashworth at (210) 647-0330.

January 22 to 24 2016

Post to host Winter meeting of the Department of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma (TALO) of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. Activities include Friday night services at Ft Sam Houston, Saturday Shabbat services at Congregation Agudas Achim, Saturday afternoon get together at Ft. Sam Houston, Saturday night banquet at The Barn Door, Sunday business meeting at the JCC. For further information contact Jeff Hoffman, (210) 492-4980 or Irwin Barath, (210) 341-4502.

Rabbi Marvin Tokayer to headline Shabbaton at Chabad in December

The community is invited for a Shabbat weekend with Rabbi Marvin Tokayer on the weekend of Dec. 4-5 at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning, 14535 Blanco Rd.

On Friday, Dec. 4 services will begin at 5:15 p.m. followed by a Shabbat dinner and lecture at 6:15 p.m. Rabbi Tokayer will speak on the topic of *Pepper, Silk & Ivory: Amazing Jews of China, Japan & India*. A children's program during the lecture will be provided. Cost for Friday night dinner is \$20 adults, \$12 children under 12.

Saturday, Dec. 5 morning services will begin at 9:30 a.m., Torah reading at 10:30 a.m. followed by a Kiddush luncheon at 12:15 p.m. During lunch Rabbi Tokayer will address the topic *The Heroic Escape To China & Japan During the Holocaust*. The luncheon and address is free and open to the entire community.

After his ordination as a rabbi, Marvin Tokayer served as United States Air Force Chaplain in Japan. Upon discharge he returned to Tokyo to serve for eight



Rabbi Marvin Tokayer

years as the rabbi for the Jewish Community of Japan. He wrote 20 books in Japanese, including several bestsellers; discovered literally the last of the Chinese Jews; located a long-lost Jewish cemetery in Nagasaki; and contributed to the *Encyclopedia Judaica*. His investigation took him throughout Asia, to Israel and Washington D.C. as he searched for documents and tracked down the people, both Jewish and Japanese, who had taken part in the rescue of Jews from the Holocaust.

After his time in Japan, he founded and led the Cherry Lane Minyan shul in Great Neck, New York. He and his wife are the parents of four children and grandparents of fifteen.

This weekend is sponsored by Stephen & Elaine Cohen. For more information and reservations, please call (210) 764-0300.

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Temple Beth-El Past President Levy to serve as National URJ Treasurer

Temple Beth-El's past president, Harry Levy, will be elected as Treasurer of the URJ National Board during the 73rd URL Biennial Convention to be held in Orlando, Florida from November 4-8. The Convention will bring together more than 5000 Reform Jews from around the world. Temple Beth-El will take an official delegation of 15 people, including members of its Board of Trustees, Sisterhood, clergy, staff and congregants.

In addition to his leadership in San Antonio, Levy has been a leader in the Reform Movement for many years serving in a variety of capacities including the chairmanship of the North American Camp Committee and as a member of the URJ Oversight Committee.

During the Women of Reform Judaism's 50th



Harry Levy

Assembly, which is held in tandem with the URJ Biennial Convention, Temple Beth-El's WRJ Sisterhood chapter will receive a membership award certificate and a silver Or Ami Award in recognition of the recent impressive increase in its sisterhood membership.

Additionally, Rabbi Mara Nathan will be leading a Thursday morning worship service with Cantor Chanin

Rosen of Scarsdale, New York. She will also participate in a panel entitled, *Pulling Back the Biennial Worship Curtain: Creative ideas to use in your home Synagogue.*

The URJ Biennial convention is a multi-sensory five-day feast of Jewish culture, learning and community building.

There are countless workshops, learning opportunities and engaging speakers. Worship is varied, creative and engaging—from Shabbat services with seating for 5000, to smaller venues throughout the convention.

The convention allows San Antonio's delegation to hear new music, gain exposure to a wide range of Jewish talent and return home with ideas, stories, pictures and inspiration that will benefit the entire San Antonio Jewish community.

Chabad's Women's Rosh Chodesh Celebration

The Women's League of Chabad's Rosh Chodesh Celebration for the month of Kislev will take place on Thursday, Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. at the home of Lizette Feld.

Chabad's monthly Rosh Chodesh Celebrations provide an opportunity for women from throughout our community to socialize, enjoy a home-cooked dinner and be inspired by a

D'var Torah presented by Rivkie Block. This month's D'var Torah is entitled Kislev, The Third Month: The Power of Harmony.

For more information about the Women's League of Chabad and the Rosh Chodesh Celebrations, please call Rivkie Block at (210) 492-1085 or email her at RivkiBlock@ChabadSA.com.



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Temple Chai offers new opportunity for interfaith couples

A Blessing to Each Other, a conversation for interfaith couples, will be hosted by Temple Chai at its new home, 2121 Lockhill-Selma (at the corner of NW Military Highway) on Thursday, Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. Facilitated by Rabbi David Komerofsky, the discussion is for families interested in

balancing the values and practices of Judaism within a multi-faith home with an open exploration of how to have these sometimes difficult discussions.

Temple Chai is warm, welcoming, and progressive, and embraces a diversity of Jewish expressions. Explorers and questioners

are encouraged to join the conversation, bring questions and ideas, and meet others with shared concerns. *A Blessing to Each Other* is free and open to the community. For more information or to RSVP, call (210) 340-2090 or visit www.templechaisa.org/blessing.

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February 7-11, 2016



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Cost: \$2,699 (double occupancy) plus
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All participants will be asked to make a
voluntary minimum gift of \$500 to the
2016 campaign of their local Jewish
Federation.

Visit www.JewishFederations.org/h2h or
call Susan Kariv at 210-302-6968.

A night on the town

Looking for something fun to do with your peers?

-Young Couples Club of Agudas (YCCA) will meet for cocktails and dinner at Club Louis at La Cantera on Saturday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. RSVP to (210) 479-0307 or rsvp@agudas-achim.org for this no-host evening.

-Moonlight Supper Club (60+) will meet at the Black Eyed Pea on Fredericksburg Road on Thursday, Nov.

19 at 7 p.m.

For more information on this no-host dinner, contact Mickey Gross at mlhubb@aol.com, Marilyn Berkowitz at marilynn31@sbcglobal.net or Marilyn Karren at jkarren@satx.rr.com.

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

Adult Learning with Rachel Stern



Jewish Education Consultant Rachel Stern is offering a series of adult learning sessions focused on how Jewish ethics can guide family life. The classes will take place on select Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. at Temple Beth-El. Topics include:

November 1: Modern Ethics in Jewish Law: A look at Responsa Literature

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

February 7: ‘Take a walk on the wild side?’ ... What Judaism says about: Tattoos, gambling,

drinking, sex and other ‘sinful’ topics

March 27: Yetzer ha ra/ yetzer ha tov: What Judaism teaches about knowing right from wrong

April 3: Chochma, binah, da’at: understanding the stages of moral development in Jewish tradition

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

For more information or to RSVP, email Sara Planto at sara@beth-elsa.org.

Would you like to visit Israel this coming summer with the LGBTQ community?

Please join our neighbors from the Jewish Community Center of Austin on **Sunday, Nov. 8 at 2 p.m. at Rosella Coffee (203 East Jones Ave.)** to learn about an incredible travel opportunity to Israel overlapping with Pride in Tel Aviv, May 28 - June 9, 2016.

Create memories to last a lifetime on a 12-day trip to Israel, custom-designed for members and friends of the LGBTQ communities from around North America. The itinerary will be packed with activities, offering opportunities for engagement & connection, exploration & history, community, fun and so much more!

For additional information about the trip: www.jcca.org/lgbtqisrael
RSVP to Aliza.orent@shalomaustin.org or (512) 735-8030.

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From Generation to Generation — We are **STRONGER TOGETHER**.

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

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

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



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



BABY BABY!

Parents and babies gather for the first day of Congregation Agudas Achim's monthly Babies Bagels and Blocks and Pre-K Sunday school class.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

RODFEI SHOLOM READIES FOR SUKKOT

Congregation Rodfei Sholom prepared for Sukkot during their monthly Sunday Funday on September 27.



Janice Fagen helps the children make their edible sukkahs to take home



BETH-EL HOSTS DELI DAY FOR DELI MAN

Temple Beth-El's Shabbat Lunch Havurah on October 3 included a Deli Lunch and viewing of the movie, *Deli Man*. The catered lunch included deli meats, various breads, homemade potato salad, and homemade New York style cheesecake along with laughter and reminiscing.



(l to r) Amanda Nathan and Judy Scheinberg are joined by young friends Rus Scheinberg and Ariella Sharabani

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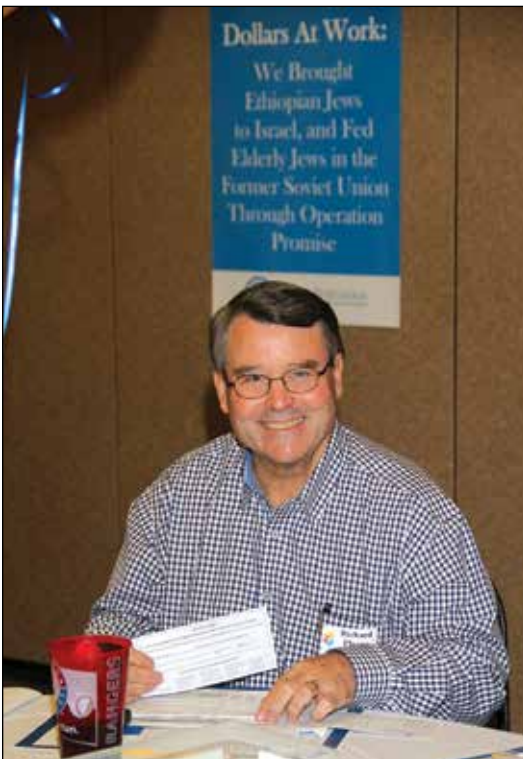
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WHAT'S HAPPENING



PJ Library children with Wonder Woman and Superman



Richard Planto, Board Chair, JFSA



5th graders (l to r) Samantha Fein, Anna Chester and Samantha Fogel making thank you calls

Super Sunday Co-Chairs (l to r) Greg Davis, Liz Rockstroh, Danielle Sarfati, Aaron Sarfati



SUPER SUNDAY

continued from page 1

“We enjoyed seeing such a diverse group of Jews come together for one cause – supporting other Jews,” said the Sarfatis. “We are grateful to both those who made the calls and those who answered.”

“Super Sunday is the perfect example of the greater San Antonio community coming together,” said Davis and Rockstroh. “This year over 100 volunteers, along with the amazing Federation staff, contributed their time and energy in making the day successful.”

“This participation, and our community’s willingness to answer the call and give, helped raise over \$156K, dollars that will go to assist so many! What a fantastic illustration of a community working to be Stronger Together—we thank all who gave their time and generous gifts.”

The Holzman Auditorium was filled with lots of positive energy, children making Thank You calls, while the teens and adults were making solicitation calls. Synagogues and

Agencies were represented, and medical professionals came out and worked as a team. Super Heroes Superman and Wonder Woman came out to motivate callers as well as read stories to our youngest community members at a special PJ Library Super Hero event.

Susan Kariv, Chief Development Officer said, “It was incredibly heart-warming to see so many working together to help our fellow Jews. Callers included veteran community members as well as individuals who moved to San Antonio as recently as one week ago. Community members schmoozing AND working, making new friends while making a difference -- what could be better! The Jewish *Neshama* (soul) is a special thing!”

If you missed the chance to donate at Super Sunday, it is not too late. Make a gift that makes a difference by donating online at www.jfsatx.org, or call the Jewish Federation of San Antonio at (210) 302-6960.

**STRONGER TOGETHER...
We are JEWISH
SAN ANTONIO!**



(l to r) Jonathan Gurwitz, 2015 Campaign Chair, and Marty Schack

WHAT'S HAPPENING



(l to r) Liz Glazier, Marc Schnall, Kevin Epstein, Lauren Abraham, and Mike Ozer



(l to r) Marion Bernstein, Board Chair, Jewish Family Service (JFS), and M.H. Levine, Executive Director, JFS



(l to r) Akiva Pametero, Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Rabbi Chaim Block



Judy Palans mans the phones



STRIKE A POSE

Agudas Achim Sisterhood's New Member Luncheon and Fashion Show was a model event. The ladies welcomed their 2015 new members with a stylish program worthy of Milan.

PANEL DISCUSSES HATE



George Gibson, Chair-Elect of the Anti-Defamation League, Southwest Division, and Michael Ariens, law professor at St. Mary's University, led a panel discussion on Hate Speech and Hate Crimes during Temple Beth-El's Social Advocacy Potluck Shabbat Dinner on October 9.

HANDS-ON LEARNING IN THE SUKKAH

Students from the first grade class of Judaics After School (JAS) Program at the JCC enjoyed an afternoon learning in the sukkah.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

SUSHI & SAKI IN THE SUKKAH

Agudas Achim's Young Couples Club gathered for Sushi & Saki in the Sukkah. The next event is November 14. For details see page 18.



SHOW US YOUR SHOFARS!



Sunshine Club members (L-R) Joan Baskin and Gerry Miller-Hughes show off their newly-made Shofars at Chabad's Shofar Factory event.



Sunshine Club members (L-R) Gerry Miller-Hughes, Elaine Mederos and Anaelle Aguilar look on as Rabbi Levi Teldon saws down the tip of a goat's horn before drilling a hole and crafting it into a Shofar during a Shofar making



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



SUSHI IN THE SUKKAH

The Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning hosted its Annual Sushi in the Sukkah on Wednesday, Sept. 30.

At left:
Rabbi Yossi Marrus and
David Reitblatt

Below:
Courtney Silver and Wendy Glick



SUKKOT WITH PIZZA FUN

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim hosted its 13th annual Pizza in the Hut on Wednesday, Sept. 30. Families enjoyed music from DJ Magic Mike, great pizza and more in addition to exciting Sukkot activities, which included shaking the Lulav and Etrog with Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham and Hazzan Jeremy Lipton (pictured with Heintz preschooler).



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

BLOCK AND DREEBEN SCHOOL CELEBRATES SUKKOT WITH GOOD DEEDS



During Sukkot, families at the JCC Block and Dreeben School for Young Children decorated a “Mitzvah Sukkah” with paper fruits and vegetables to represent the good deeds performed by their children. Families acknowledged mitzvot their child performed, wrote them down on the cut-out fruits or vegetables and taped quarters to the back of each. At the end of Sukkot, the money collected was donated to the Children’s Shelter: two mitzvot in one.

FALL FUN AT THE JCC



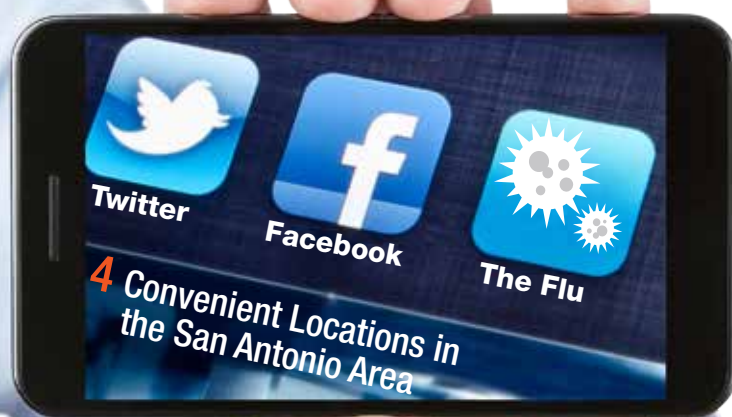
During Sukkot, children from the Block and Dreeben School for Young Children played with giant pumpkins outdoors.



SUKKOT WITH CHABAD TEENS

More than 20 CTeens (members of Chabad’s youth group) enjoyed a Sukkah Hop during Sukkot. The spirited event featured a Havdallah Kumzits with Rabbi Yossi Marrus along with pizza and snacks and visits to three area Sukkot. CTeens affords teens the opportunity to connect with fellow Jewish teens, learn a bout themselves, go on trips, attend local, regional, and international Shabbatons, study, participate in mitzvah projects, all within a Jewish context and setting. For more information call (210) 764-0300 or visit www.chabadsa.com/teens.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



TASHLICH TOGETHER

More than 100 people, led by Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg, attended Rodfei Sholom's Tashlich by the San Antonio River, on September 20.



TASHLICH PICNIC

Congregation Agudas Achim met at the original Agudas Achim site, performed Tashlich (with the ducks!) and then enjoyed each other's company at a pizza picnic.



TASHLICH ON THE RIVER

Congregants from Temple Beth-El walked to San Pedro Springs Park following Rosh Hashanah morning services on September 14, for a Tashlich ceremony.

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The images you keep of people you love – in photos, in your mind, in your heart – deserve to be framed in a proper way. One that honors your family's faith, culture and tradition. We understand. After all, creating exactly the right way for you to say farewell is something the Porter Loring family has done for four generations.


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Interested in March of the Living?

An informational meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. November 16 for students with their parents interested in learning more about March of the Living, a two week trip for Jewish teenagers to Poland and Israel in memory of the Holocaust. Juniors and seniors in High School are eligible. The 2016 trip will be the first two weeks of May.

On Holocaust Remembrance Day, which will be May 4, students will march together down the same path leading from Auschwitz to Birkenau, the largest concentration camp built by the Nazis in World War II.

In Israel students will have the opportunity to celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Independence Day, and to visit various important sites including Yad Vashem, the world's living memorial to the Holocaust.

The meeting will be held in the home of Allan and Susan Noorily. Reservations are required by contacting Juana Rubalcava at rubalcavaj@jfsatx.org, 210-302-6812 or Judy Lackritz at lackritzj@jfsatx.org or 210-302-6962.



Agudas Achim introduces new Post Confirmation class

Inda Posner Religious School at Congregation Agudas Achim is continuing educating its members through 12th grade

now with a brand new bi-monthly Post Confirmation class.

This class, for 11th and 12th graders will meet

on the first Sunday of each month to work on Israel Advocacy with Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham in preparation for college and meet on the third Sunday of each month with Youth Director Eric Steitz to work on a Social Action Project together in the San Antonio community

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KELLER WILLIAMS
LEGACY

NCJW's *Thank A Senior* Thanksgiving Program returns

Members of the San Antonio Jewish community are invited to help San Antonio seniors in need enjoy a meaningful Thanksgiving meal. The annual *Thank A Senior* program is currently accepting donations of \$25 and up, which will provide a complete Thanksgiving dinner for seniors who might not otherwise have a

celebratory dinner.

Tax deductible donations may be mailed to Marilyn Berkowitz, and must be received by November 18. For mailing instructions, marilynn31@sbcglobal.net.

Thank A Senior is sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women's Social Action Program in collaboration with Jewish Family Services

Rodfei to giveback on Thanksgiving Day

On Thanksgiving, Rodfei Sholom will be preparing and serving meals to San Antonio's first responders.

"These people give and sacrifice so much for the greater community every day all year," said Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg. "For them to be working and away from their families on Thanksgiving makes it that much harder for them. We want them to know that we are thinking of them and we are thankful for them."

"Over the years we have had an amazing relationship with the local police and fire departments and because of some recent unfortunate incidents, that relationship has become much stronger. It is time for us to be able to give back."

Anyone interested in helping prepare and serve the meals should contact the synagogue office at (210) 493-3557 or by e-mail to rodfeisa@gmail.com.

Daily Jewish news, just a click away!!

You can get the latest news from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency everyday on the Jewish Federation of San Antonio website:

www.jfsatx.org

IN THE COMMUNITY: SENIORS

L'Chayim Club speaker discusses living "Back in the U.S.S.R."

The L'Chayim Club of Congregation Rodfei Sholom will host an informative program with Faina Gofman during their monthly program gathering on Wednesday, Nov. 18 from 11:30 – 1 p.m.

Faina Gofman, a longtime congregant of Rodfei Sholom, will speak about her life in the former Soviet Union. Born in Kishinev, she will share facts about growing up during the war time and will describe Jewish life in the U.S.S.R. following the war.

Mrs. Gofman holds a Masters Degree in Chemistry and only recently retired from Cleaning Ideas Corporation (Davis Manufacturing) after a



Faina Gofman (r) will speak about Jewish life in the former U.S.S.R. at the upcoming L'Chayim Club gathering.

35 year career with the company since she and her family first immigrated to San Antonio from Russia in 1979.

The event will include a home-cooked meal and the opportunity to socialize with friends in the community. All seniors are invited to attend at no charge

thanks to a generous grant from Golden Manor and co-sponsorship of Rodfei Sholom. Everyone else is also invited to attend at \$5 per person. For more information and to RSVP by Friday, Nov.13, contact the synagogue office at (210) 493-3557 or by e-mail to rodfeisa@gmail.com.

GMJSS provides assistance with Medicare Open Enrollment

Seniors needing assistance with Medicare open enrollment can get free help from Certified Benefits Counselors with AACOG's Bexar Area Agency on Aging thanks to an arrangement with Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services. Counselors are available to explain options for prescription drug plans, health plans and supplements through free

and impartial counseling.

This one time a year opportunity to make changes to original Medicare, Medicare Advantage plan, or Part D prescription drug plans, Medicare's annual enrollment period, is October 15 – December 7, 2015.

Reservations are not required, but appointments can be scheduled for events at Congregation Agudas

Achim on November 19, between 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Temple Beth El on December 2 from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. in the Block Conference Room-B.

Call the Alamo Service Connection's Health Information Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) at (210) 477- 3275 for help or more information.



The Sunshine Club for seniors hosts monthly events

Upcoming Sunshine Club luncheons

The Sunshine Club, a monthly social for seniors, is will host a pre-Thanksgiving luncheon on Tuesday, Nov. 10, and a pre-Chanukah luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 1, both from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning, 14535 Blanco Rd.

The Sunshine Club is sponsored by the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning and Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services. All Sunshine Club events are complimentary. Transportation to and from is also available upon request at no cost by calling Lety Vargas at (210) 302-6946. For more information please call Chabad at (210) 764-0300, email Rochel@ChabadSA.com or visit www.ChabadSA.com/SunshineClub.

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Taking control of your healthcare

Varda Ratner from The Patient Institute will show seniors how to use the workbook, *Taking Control of Your Healthcare: A Guide for Seniors*, at an upcoming Simcha Social Club on Tuesday, Nov. 6 at 5 p.m.

The large-print workbook,

which will be distributed during the presentation, shows how to take control of your healthcare by preparing for appointments, bringing questions to the appointments and then writing down the provider's answers, and following provider's instructions

and notifying the provider if you can't or won't.

RSVP is required for catering purposes by Tuesday, Nov. 6 at 5 p.m. by calling (210) 479-0307 or emailing rsvp@agudas-achim.org.

All Simcha Social Club events & activities are complimentary for

those 65 years of age and over; and \$5 for anyone under 65.

Simcha Social Club is a joint program of Congregation Agudas Achim and Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services. For transportation needs, contact Lety at (210) 302-6946.

SENIORS AT GOLDEN ESTATES ENJOY A SUKKOT LUNCHEON

In celebration of Sukkot this year, residents at Golden Estates enjoyed a lunch together with family and friends. After the meal, Daniel Klein (pictured below right) sounded the shofar and explained some history and answered questions about the instrument.

GMJSS also provided a lulav and etrog (pictured at right) that everyone had the opportunity to wave after the blessing was said.



JCC seniors create art celebrating Sukkot

JCC seniors celebrate high holidays as artists and chefs

Members of the Barshop JCC's senior adult program are always ready to celebrate Jewish holidays in new and interactive ways. Crafting Culture and Senior Chefs are two classes at the JCC that feature seasonal opportunities for senior adults to connect with Jewish life.

At the most recent Crafting Culture, seniors created paintings using water colors and kosher salt that featured seasonal holiday foods such as apples and pomegranates. Two days later, seniors made the transition from painting to tasting during Senior Chefs.

While reminiscing about

each person's favorite holiday foods, participants followed a recipe to make dates stuffed with honey, goat cheese, and pomegranates. Both of these classes allowed both Jewish and non-Jewish seniors to actively participate in celebrating this special time of year.

Hanukah provides another chance to celebrate with the return of Senior Chefs on Dec. 3 and Crafting Culture on Dec. 8, both from 10-11 a.m. in the JCC Senior Center. Classes are \$5, JCC members are free. To enroll or for more information, contact the Senior Center at (210) 302-6860.

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Hillel kicks off new school year

Hillel San Antonio's new semester is off to an active and engaging beginning. The student leadership has been tabling on the different campuses, hosted several successful events, and engaged dozens of new students. The Back to School BBQ, Rosh Hashanah Dinner, Break the Fast, and Students in the Sukkah are a few examples of the offerings. Hillel's programs have been well attended, with as many as 35 students sharing in Jewish life on campus at once.

"We want to meet every Jewish student on campus in San Antonio and help connect their passions to their Jewish identities,"



said Hillel professional Alan Yancelson. "Our programs are a way to meet people, and our work happens one person at-a-time."

For more information and to let Hillel San Antonio know about not-yet-connected students, contact Alan at ayancelson@hillelsa.org.

COC student, Daniel Barshop, leads the 2nd annual Sushi in the Sukkah workshop for Chabad on Campus



Chabad on Campus builds sukkah at UTSA

This fall Chabad on Campus arranged for the first ever sukkah at the UTSA campus. Throughout Sukkot students enjoyed complimentary kosher lunch in the Sukkah daily while being able to meet with fellow Jewish Students in the Sukkah at all hours.

The University expressed great appreciation for the cultural diversity brought to campus by Chabad on Campus.



Throughout Sukkot Students participated in an array of events such as

Sukkot dinner under the stars and Sushi in the Sukkah Workshop.

Students enjoying the Sukkah on campus

Chabad on Campus Road Trip Nov. 13-15

Chabad on Campus will be taking a group of Jewish Students from San Antonio to College station to spend a Shabbat weekend at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life at Texas A&M with Rabbi and Mrs. Yossi Lazarow and fellow Jewish students.

If you know a Jewish Student in San Antonio who would like to get involved, feel free to connect them to Rabbi Ari or Chaya Weingarten at (210) 391-3621, RabbiAri@ChabadonCampus.com or www.chabadoncampus.com.

JCC offers fall camp

The JCC will offer a 3-day Fall Camp for children in kindergarten through fifth grade November 23 - 25.

The word *cornucopia* comes from the Latin word meaning "horn of plenty," and the JCC youth department will offer plenty of activities and explorations to keep child busy. Campers will enjoy arts and crafts, gym, playground, sports, drama, games, and a special

field trip. They will also discover new ways to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. Look for the registration form online at www.jccsanantonio.org/camp or in person at the JCC.

In addition, the JCC Youth Lounge will be open special hours Monday, Nov. 23 and Tuesday, Nov. 24 for JCC members in sixth grade and up. Call (210) 302-6859 for more details or visit.

Camp Gan Israel to offer Winter Break Camp

Chabad is now accepting registration for Camp Gan Israel Winter Camp for children ages 5-12. The camp will be held daily from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. during the second week of winter break, from Monday, Dec. 28 through Friday, Jan. 1. Late stay is available.

Winter camp will include arts and crafts, Jewish Fun Time, edible creations, a hot cocoa club and more.

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

For more information and to register, call the Chabad office at (210) 764-0300 or email rochel@ChabadSA.com.

IN THE COMMUNITY: YOUTH

Heintz after hours

Heintz Preschool has introduced new after school programs, allowing students to stay past the regular hours and participate in new extracurricular activities. Programs include Soccer Shots, Tumblebus gymnastics, and Kid Tech computers. For more information, contact Celina Geidesman at (210) 479-0429 or c.geidesman@agudas-achim.org.

Chabad Hebrew School incorporates new GROW curriculum

CKids' new GROW project, launched this fall at Chabad Hebrew School, is designed to meet the needs of today's children. GROW gives them a safe place to practice foundational skills such as interpersonal awareness, self-care, and character development, in a wholesome group environment.

Dr. Michael Ben-Avie, PhD, a professor at the Yale Child Research Center, is part of the GROW research team. "What GROW gives young children," he said, "is a sense of competence in addressing trying situations, and strategies for problem-solving. It promotes their resilience and teaches them how to be contributing, productive members of a group."

GROW classrooms are student-led learning communities supported by specially trained staff. Instructors help children develop emotional

intelligence through a series of lessons that draw on the latest child-development research fused with the timeless wisdom of the Torah. Kids learn to appreciate the differing perspectives of others, to respond empathetically to challenges and conflict, and to look for peaceful, win-win solutions. Parents want their children to have a positive Jewish learning experience, but they also want them to look forward to something fun and engaging. GROW meets these needs by teaching solid Jewish values through creative, hands-on activities such as baking, drama, art, engineering, social action mitzvah projects and team-building challenges.

For more information call Rochel Teldon at (210) 764-0300, email rochel@chabadsa.com, or visit www.ChabadSA.com/HebrewSchool.

FROM THE COVER

MAIN EVENT

continued from page 1

the leadership of event co-chairs, Ellen Ollervidez and Mary Weiner, look forward to bringing the community together once again for both a celebration and to pay tribute to this year's honorees.

All proceeds benefit youth and senior services, financial assistance for families and individuals in need and future projects at the JCC through the Walter and Reba Viner Charitable Fund.

This year's Main Event

will feature music and dancing by local favorites, *The Merchants of Jazz* and Barshop Ollervidez Entertainment, as well as casino gaming, a silent auction featuring a new Kendra Scott jewelry pull, and a diverse menu of culinary specialties provided by a variety of San Antonio's preferred food purveyors, including Groomer's Seafood, Smoke "The Restaurant," H-E-B Alon Market, Irene's Kosher Catering, and more with the martini bar once again hosted by Myron's

Prime Steakhouse. All food served at the Main Event is under Kosher supervision.

Sponsorship opportunities begin at \$150, and tickets, just \$50 per person, are available online at www.jccsanantonio.org/mainevent, at any JCC Courtesy Desk, or by calling (210) 302-6820. For more information and updates on participating restaurants or the on-line auction, visit the JCC online, or call Carisa Heiss at (210) 302-6866.

YERGIN

continued from page 1

adjunct associate professor of Human Relations and supervisor of the Clinical Pastoral Education program at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, will share in the service and present a lunch and learn on Medical Ethics the following day.

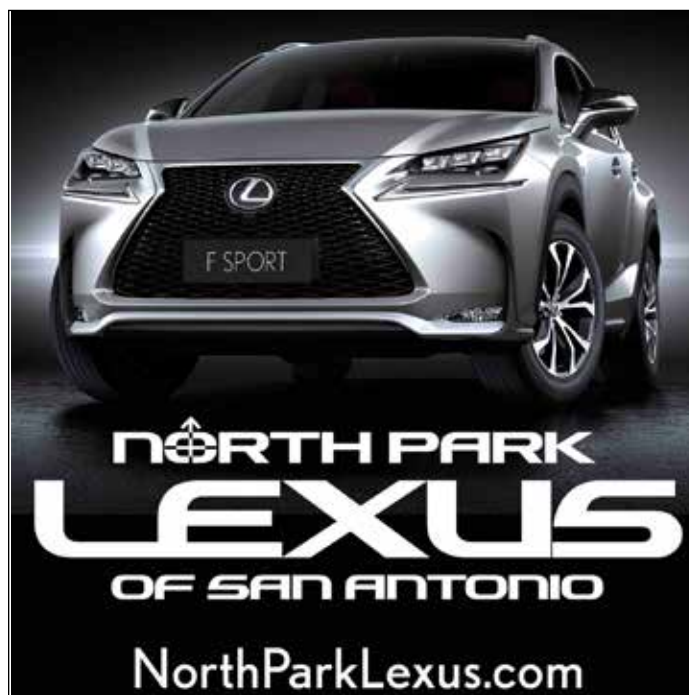
"From the moment she arrived with her husband Dave, Rabbi Yergin has impressed congregants of all ages with her warmth, outgoing nature and intelligence," states a letter

from the congregation. "When interviewing for the position this past spring, she told the search committee that she wanted to be a rabbi since she was twelve years old. It is clear that she has been preparing for her rabbinate since then. Rabbi Yergin's passion and commitment as well as her self-confidence, shine through in her teaching, community work, and presence on the bimah."

"Cantor Julie Berlin and I are so happy to have Rabbi Yergin as part of our clergy team," remarked Senior Rabbi Mara Nathan. "Her energy and willingness to

learn and engage with our congregation and all of our staff has been a blessing."

In addition to participating in bimah duties on Shabbat and Holidays, and sharing in life-cycle responsibilities, Rabbi Yergin is continuing to build a solid young leaders community at Temple Beth-El through its @TBE20s30s group. She coordinates the Temple's introduction to Judaism class, teaches eighth grade, is developing a new mitzvah program for b'nei mitzvah students, and is involved in a variety of community wide endeavors.





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Rodfei Sholom Book Club to discuss Honeydew

Rodfei Sholom's book club will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m., in the conference room at the synagogue to discuss *Honeydew*, a new collection of short fiction by prize-winning writer Edith Pearlman.

"When I was young," said the 75-year-old author, "I wanted to publish a book simply to be buried with it, that's all I wanted. I had no ambition beyond that." Many of Pearlman's stories brim with Jewish characters. Other stories capture the tensions within Israeli society.

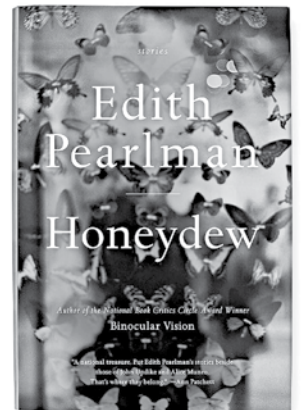
Pearlman sets her stories in far-flung

places, from Latin America to Israel, and a central theme is often dislocation. You might think the writer lived a nomadic existence herself, but she hasn't. She has lived in Brookline for much of her adult life, with the exception of a year spent living in Israel in the mid-1990s where she got the idea for "Allog."

"All the stories I write come from someone I've met, or some anecdote I've heard," Pearlman said, noting that few of her stories are autobiographical. Yet she does acknowledge that many of the stories hit close to home. Her father

immigrated to the States from a small Jewish town outside of Kiev, when he was just a boy, at the turn of the 20th century. Her maternal grandparents were also Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe. Her mother was born in Providence, R.I. and the author was also born in Providence, in 1936.

Many of Pearlman's stories deal with Jewish characters or Jewish subjects, but the themes are universal. Her Jewish characters, she says, "come naturally. I don't consciously write about them, they just come out of me."



The Vex honored at San Antonio theatre awards ceremony

The 25th Annual Alamo Theatre Arts Council (ATAC) Globe Awards Ceremony was held at the historic Charline McCombs Empire Theatre Sunday, Oct. 25 to recognize excellence in the San Antonio theatre community. Awards are given for everything from acting and directing to

set and light design, and beyond.

Since The Sheldon Vexler Theatre's inception, one element or another has historically received recognition at the annual Globe Awards ceremony. This year, all four of the 2014-15 season productions were honored. In addition, The

Vex presented a brief performance from *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* with several of the original cast members reprising their roles, including Tami Kai as Nurse Ratched.

For a complete list of awards The Vex received, visit the JCC blog at www.jccsanantonio.org/blog.

STARZ and NOVA fall 2015 productions

The Barshop Jewish Community Center Youth performance troupes present two family-friendly shows in December.

The STARZ Youth Performance Troupe, composed of students aged fifth to twelfth grade, presents *Thoroughly Modern Millie, Jr.* NOVA, which is composed of students in second through fourth grade, will be presenting *Cinderella, Jr.*

Performances of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* are on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., in the Sheldon Vexler Theatre. Tickets are \$7; advanced purchase is highly recommended.

The show tells the story of Millie, a small town girl who searches for a new life in 1920s New York City. Based on the popular movie that starred Julie

Andrews and Mary Tyler Moore, the musical is full of jazz-inspired song and dance.

The classic tale of *Cinderella* tells the story of poor Cinderella, who is mistreated by her wicked stepmother and stepsisters. With help from her mice friends and her Fairy Godmother, she gets a chance to go to the ball and see if her dreams will come true.

Cinderella will be performed Saturday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. in the Holzman Auditorium. Tickets are \$5.

Tickets for both shows may be purchased in advance by contacting Lauri Batey at (210) 302-6859. For more information about joining the STARZ or NOVA theatre groups, contact Rachel Rustin at (210) 302-6969 or rustinr@jcc-sa.org.

BELDON LIBRARY NEWS

The Beldon Library is in the process of shipping several cartons of books to the Vilnius Jewish Library in Vilnius, Lithuania. The Vilnius Jewish Library was destroyed by the Nazis during the Holocaust. The Lithuanian Jewish community is trying to rebuild and restock this library with Jewish books. Monetary donations to cover shipping costs are welcome.

Contact Beldon Librarian Lynn Waghalter for more



The Vilnius Jewish Library during the reconstruction.

information at (210) 302-6805.

Plans are in the works for another Used Book Sale in 2016. Donations of gently used books for children and adults are being accepted.

Hours for the Beldon Library are: Mondays, 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.; and Wednesdays, 1:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Scholastic Book Fair coming to Agudas Achim

Congregation Agudas Achim will host a Scholastic Book Fair from November 15-20 in the synagogue's Goldie and Joe Tills Library. Hours will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, 10 a.m. to

3 p.m. Monday through Friday, with extended hours until 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18. All proceeds from the Book Fair benefit the Heintz Preschool and Inda Posner Religious School.

Dueling Loyalties

In the World to Come, borders, visas, and missiles will all disappear. However, in the world that we inhabit, nationality defines and divides us. The 193 flags flying outside United Nations headquarters in New York demonstrate that the nations are not entirely united, that even tiny Monaco (pop. 36,000 in less than one square mile) insists on its sovereign uniqueness. “Nationalism is an infantile disease,” insisted Albert Einstein. “It is the measles of mankind.”

Cosmopolitanism is, then, the condition of a species that has outgrown childhood maladies. But the accusation that Jews are cosmopolitans, that they have no loyalty to any nation they inhabit, is also a favorite refrain of anti-Semites, dating at least as far back as 1st-century Rome. The espionage conviction of Captain Alfred Dreyfus found popular support because of the widely held belief that a Jew could not be loyal to France. “Rootless



Perspective:

STEVEN G. KELLMAN

cosmopolitanism” was the phrase employed by Stalinists in the late 1940s to impugn the patriotism of Jews and purge them from responsible positions in Soviet society.

When asked where he came from, Socrates replied: “I am not an Athenian or a Greek, but a citizen of the world.” Though citizens of the world presumably enjoy travel, the world does not issue passports. Customs officials demand documentation from specific nations. So it is necessary to be a citizen in one part of the world in order to visit other parts. A true citizen of the world would hold 193 passports, though that is neither practical nor legal. However, some nations – including the United States and Israel – allow their citizens to be citizens of other nations. Under the

Law of Return, an American Jew settling in Israel who requests Israeli citizenship is ordinarily granted it. Of the 100,000 Americans living in Israel (60,000 of them on the West Bank, constituting 15 percent of its settlers), it is not known precisely how many are dual citizens, but the number must be substantial. There are an estimated 150,000 Israeli *yordim* living in the United States, but if they became American citizens, naturalization procedures would have required them to declare under oath that: “I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen.”

Dual citizenship in Israel and the United States is not unnatural, since both nations share a commitment, however imperfect, to the values of democracy, justice, pluralism, and human rights. The United States and Israel have been closely aligned since the founding of the Jewish state in 1948. Nevertheless, a Yiddish proverb reminds us that: “*Mit eyn tokhes ken men nit tantsn af tsvey khasenes*” – You can’t dance at two weddings with one behind. It turns out that Dreyfus’s Jewishness was compatible with loyalty to France; after release from Devil’s Island and complete exoneration, he reenlisted in the artillery, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. But Jonathan Pollard, an employee of the Naval Intelligence Command in Washington who was sentenced to life in

prison (later reduced to 30 years) for passing top-secret information to an Israeli handler, betrayed the country of his birth (in Galveston). To some, he confirmed the anti-Semites’ contention that Jews are perfidious, a fifth column that places the interests of Israel above those of the country they live in.

During an interview on her June 10 public radio program, Diane Rehm told Bernie Sanders: “Senator, you have dual citizenship of Israel.” However, though Sanders spent time on a kibbutz in 1963, he has never been a citizen of Israel, and Rehm later issued a public apology for having unwittingly repeated a falsehood circulated on the internet. Several sites make the bogus claim that every Jewish Senator holds dual citizenship, when in fact none does. The effect of these misrepresentations was to raise questions again about the loyalty of American Jews. Just as opponents of John F. Kennedy insinuated that he, a Catholic, would allow the Vatican to dictate U.S. policy, American Jewish politicians were said to be taking their orders from Benjamin Netanyahu. The Israeli prime minister did make strenuous efforts to persuade the U.S. Congress to oppose the nuclear agreement with Iran. When Senator Chuck Schumer, a Jew, did, he was vilified as an agent of Israel. When a majority of Jewish members of Congress, including Sanders, supported the agreement, they were vilified as enemies of Israel and self-hating Jews.

In Europe, the question of dual loyalties became even

more acute when Netanyahu appointed Fiamma Nirenstein as Israel’s ambassador to Italy. Nirenstein knows Italy well, since, born in Florence, she was a citizen of Italy at the time of the appointment. A prominent journalist, she served in the Italian Parliament as a member of Silvio Berlusconi’s right-wing People of Freedom Party. Not all of Italy’s 30,000 Jews were enthusiastic about her selection. Yedioth Ahronoth quoted an unnamed figure in the Jewish community as noting that: “If a former Italian parliament member, a Jew, becomes Israel’s ambassador, it basically means that we recognize the fact that each of us, and every store we own, is in fact Israeli. People will think we have dual loyalty, and this holds disastrous consequences.”

Nirenstein’s ambassadorship leaves any Jewish politician in Italy vulnerable to the charge of serving Israel’s interests more than Italy’s. Her own cousin is running for mayor of Milan, and the suspicion that he, too, works for Israel could not be helpful to his campaign. The fact that Nirenstein’s son works for the Italian intelligence service, which no doubt keeps an eye on foreign diplomats, could evoke unfortunate comparisons with Jonathan Pollard. A Jew torn between Rome and Jerusalem suffers a peculiar bipolar disorder. A Diaspora Zionist is enriched by dual loyalties, except when they duel.

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



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Modim - A daily reflection

During the High Holy Days and the joyous Festivals celebrated recently, some of us spent more time in prayer and reflection, soul-searching than during the year. However, which was the most significant of these canonized prayers for us?

Our sages provide us with a curious answer. It is not the Kol Nidre, the *Un'taneh Tokef*, not the *Al Chet* or *Ashamnu*, nor the grandeur of the *Malchuyot*. Rather it is a paragraph of gratitude within the Amidah recited daily. The Talmud records that "at the end of time all prayers will be expendable, but the prayer of Gratitude will not be eliminated." *Modim anachnu lach, We thank you (f.) Adonai for our lives entrusted into thy care; for miracles, and wonders, kindness, that are with us daily evening, morning and noon.*

A sense of gratitude in our everyday lives encourages us to cope with anxieties, conquer frustrations, and build better communities, and lives. Gratitude is a prerequisite for happiness, stability, self-fulfillment and maturity. It is from the source of life, that the staff of life is made creative, by being of grateful countenance, and working to achieve a goal.

Thackeray wrote, "Life is akin to a mirror; if you frown at it, it returns the frown; if you smile, it returns the greeting." Psychiatrists agree that with proper action motivated by gratitude, happiness is possible. Self-realization often confused with "me" is noble. Yet, we tend toward being pathological complainers and focus on ourselves, our technology and toys; we often fail to realize anything



Perspective:

HAZZAN DAVID SILVERSTEIN, JD
CONGREGATION ISRAEL OF SAN ANTONIO

of significance.

Animals cannot articulate prolonged complaint (except at feeding time); they bark and bite and scratch, but do not "complain" continually as people tend.

In Yiddish, the graphic expression says it best: "*er burchet*-one grumbles and complains" about family, spouse, partner, children, employers, schule and its leaders. So many today it seems adorn a "*frekremppte punim*-a sour face." If it is day, they will say night; black is white. A tragedy really, that many do not appreciate the blessings of life until often, it is too late, as we say *viddui* together.

We Jews did not invent gratitude, but we claim authorship to magnificent daily poetry, which evinces it. The national holiday of Thanksgiving (more akin to Hannukah, than Sukkot) combines the senses of nature and bounty, with religious freedoms—all the result of gracious thanks to life-sources in partnership with us.

How often have we been asked, "Can you listen to my troubles for just a half-hour?" A reply might yield "surely, if you will spare me 5 minutes to listen to your blessings."

Jews in history never took life and its blessings for granted; we believe in miraculous occurrences. We say a miracle is the extraordinary in the ordinary: waking up, eating with friends and family, a word of affection, pride from children, new births and partnerships. A genius of Judaism is discovery of the momentous in the momentary.

Abraham Heschel stated, "What the world needs is not more information, but more appreciation." With money and donations, we buy services and performances. With gratitude, we earn affection and loyalty, and humility.

In the final analysis, it is not sufficient to be grateful or offer mere text on command. We are encouraged to acknowledge the Divine spark—the source of those daily gifts. That was the authentic purpose of these past Holy Days, of our new year—the *day the pregnancy of eternity beckoned*. It is the thread within the holiday of Thanksgiving for which we prepare.

Why not daily reflect "Modim, your loving kindnesses never cease; we ever hope in Thee."

Remembering deceased Jewish Military Veterans

Jewish War Veterans of America Post 753 asks you to remember these Jewish military veterans whose *yahrzeit* (anniversary of the individual's death) occurs in the month of November and who are buried in a local cemetery. If you know of a name that is missing, contact JWV 753 at (210) 494-8768.

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COHEN, ARTHUR
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COLODNY, EUGENE
COSTELLO, ELSIE
DUBROFF, JOHN
EDLAVITCH, JULIUS
EIGENBERG, ALFRED
FELDMAN, LAWRENCE
FRIED, MORRIS
GELFER, MAURICE
GREENFIELD, THOMAS
GROSSMAN, BEN
HAMM, ROY
HUNT, MICHAEL
JACOBSON, DAVID
JOHNSTON, WILLIAM D
KAGAN, JOSEPH
KANTER, ISRAEL
KINCAID, NORRIS
KLINE, LEONARD
LANE, JAY
LEVIT, SOL

LEWIS, WERNER
MADORSKY, DAVID
MANDEL, EDWIN
MARCUS, ALAN
NITZBERG, PHILLIP
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SEAVEY, ROBERT JR
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SPECTOR, MORRIS
STANDLEY, DAVID
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JEWISH FEDERATION OF SAN ANTONIO

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Caitlyn Strayer, Office Manager

Lynn Waghalter, Librarian Beldon Library
waghalterl@jfsatx.org

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Barshop Jewish Community Center
12500 NW Military Highway, Suite 275, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6820 **Fax:** (210) 408-2341
Executive Director: Saul F. Levenshus Email: jcc@jcc-sa.org
President: David Palans **Website:** www.jccsanantonio.org
Programs include a nationally-accredited nursery school, an after-school center for school age children, summer camp programs, programming for senior adults, plus cultural, educational and recreational programs.

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

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services
12500 N.W. Military Hwy. Suite 260, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6946 **Website:** <http://www.goldenmanor.net>
Executive Director: Daniel L. Laser **President:** Shari P. Pulman
Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) works to meet the needs of Jewish seniors in the San Antonio area by providing transportation and direct services, and through grants to 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:** Ilene Kramer
Jewish Family Service (JFS) offers a wide range of professional counseling, social services, advocacy for victims of crime, and services for seniors including senior living and care options.

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

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

After School Judaics (JAS @ The J)
12500 NW Military Hwy., 78231 / **Phone:** (210) 302-6969

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

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

JCC Block & Dreeben School for Young Children
12500 NW Military Hwy., 78231 / **Phone:** (210) 302-6846

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

SAN ANTONIO CONGREGATIONS

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

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

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

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

Jewish Community of the Hill Country
Kerrville, Texas
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,

Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards taking nominations

(JTA) — The Helen Diller Family Foundation announced it is taking nominations for the Diller Teen Tikkun Olam awards for Jewish teenagers.

The awards — a series of up to 15 prizes of \$36,000 each — are awarded annually for social justice projects to Jews aged 13 to 19. They are meant to recognize

“exceptional leadership and a commitment to creating meaningful change in the world,” the Diller Foundation said in a recent news release.

The deadline for nominations is December 13. The online application can be found at www.dillerteenawards.org.

Past award recipients have tackled issues such as

bullying in schools, water shortages in Africa and nutrition problems in low-income communities.

The Helen Diller Family Foundation, which awards grants to museums, universities and other arts and culture institutions, has given more than \$2.5 million to the Teen Tikkun Olam Awards since 2007.

Jewish Fraternity issues security alert about rise in anti-Semitic violence on campuses

(Indianapolis, IN) In a message sent to the presidents of its 185 chapters and colonies worldwide, Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi) Executive Director Andrew S. Borans has issued a security alert and cautioned members about rising anti-Israel and anti-Semitic activity and violence on college campuses.

In his message, Borans also promised cooperation and assistance to campus security officials to ensure that members of Alpha Epsilon Pi — and all campus Jewish communities — remain safe.

“Unfortunately, we’ve already seen a number of incidences of anti-Israel

and anti-Jewish rhetoric and violence on campuses this fall. Our brothers are prominent leaders in their campus Jewish communities and are often among the most active pro-Israel advocates around so we want to do everything possible to ensure their safety,” said Borans. “With violence against Israel once more on the rise, we are well-aware that such heinous actions often make their ways to our college campuses next. We are also, obviously, very concerned for our brothers in Israel.”

In 2014, AEPi contracted with a global security firm to develop the fraternity’s security program by

providing guidance on all security matters, deterring and managing incidents, providing security advice at certain events, and educating undergraduates on specific steps which can be taken to create a safer environment for themselves and their campus Jewish community.

“Our brothers are proud to represent their Jewish heritage on their campuses and passionate about their support for Israel. We can’t ever be afraid of that and, yet, we must also be cautious because we know now that many Jews have become targets on college campuses. AEPi is committed to doing everything possible to protect them,” said Borans.

Jewish holy sites under fire as ‘classical terrorism and political warfare’ collide

By Alex Traiman/
JNS.org

Operating on a parallel track to the wave of Palestinian terrorist attacks on Israeli civilians and security personnel, a physical and diplomatic war against Jewish holy sites is also underway.

On October 21, a Palestinian resolution was passed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), by a vote of 26-6 with 25 abstentions, to list two revered Jewish holy sites—the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron and the tomb of the matriarch Rachel in Bethlehem—as Muslim holy sites. Jewish holy sites are also under siege

physically, including the recent firebombing of Joseph’s Tomb.

“This ongoing assault is the merging of classical terrorism and political warfare,” said Dan Diker, director of the Political Warfare project at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA) think tank.

The UNESCO bill, which also condemned Israel for archaeological excavations in the Old City of Jerusalem, was a watered-down version of an earlier bill that sought to officially claim that the Western Wall Plaza—the most heavily visited modern-day Jewish prayer

See **UNESCO**, page 41

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Meet the Islamic Movement, Netanyahu's newest public enemy

By Ben Sales

TEL AVIV (JTA) – In assigning blame for the recent wave of violence in Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has turned to the usual suspects – Hamas and the Palestinian Authority.

But he has also accused a lesser-known group that operates within Israel's borders: the Islamic Movement, a religious political group and social service organization.

Netanyahu has seized on the inflammatory rhetoric of the movement's northern branch, which claims the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem is "in danger" and has funded protest groups that harass Jewish visitors to the site. Netanyahu has blamed the movement's rhetoric for inciting the attacks and is seeking to formally ban its activity.

Here's what the

movement does, what it believes about the Temple Mount and why it might be difficult to ban.

What is the Islamic Movement?

The Islamic Movement is a political organization, religious outreach group and social service provider rolled into one. Formed in the 1970s, the movement's overarching goal is to make Israeli Muslims more religious and owes much of its popularity to providing services often lacking in Israel's Arab communities. Today the group runs kindergartens, colleges, health clinics, mosques and even a sports league – sometimes under the same roof.

"Their popularity stems from the fact that they had, in every place, changed the face of the local village or town," said Eli Rekhess, the Crown Chair in Middle East Studies at

Northwestern University. "It's this combination that underlies the Islamic Movement's formula."

The movement split two decades ago. One faction, known as the southern branch, began fielding candidates for Israel's Knesset in 1996 and now is part of the Joint List, an alliance of several Arab-Israeli political parties. Three of the Joint List's 13 current Knesset members are part of the movement.

The more hardline northern branch rejects any legitimization of Israel's government and has called on its adherents to boycott elections. The branches now operate essentially as two separate organizations.

The 'Al-Aqsa is in danger' conference

The movement's northern branch is in Netanyahu's sights now for its aggressive advocacy for Islamic control over

the Temple Mount, the Jerusalem shrine known to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary. The branch's leader, Raed Salah, has called on his followers to "redeem" the mount, which houses the Al-Aqsa mosque, from purported Israeli aggression.

Every year, Salah hosts a conference titled "Al-Aqsa is in danger," and has promoted the idea — hotly disputed by Israeli officials — that Israel seeks to change the status quo at the site.

The movement also funds a group called the Mourabitoun, whose protests against Jewish visitors at the Temple Mount have occasionally turned violent. On Sept. 9, Israel banned the group from the mount, sparking the riots that preceded the current wave of attacks. Salah has accused Netanyahu of declaring war on the mosque.

Islamic Movement has no organizational relation to the others. Rekhess says remaining separate gives the movement a niche within Israel. And Ali says keeping its distance from Hamas helps the movement avoid prosecution. Which is why ...

There's not much Netanyahu can do to ban it.

Salah has served prison time for assaulting an Israeli police officer and is appealing a conviction for incitement, but several experts say Netanyahu will be hard-pressed to outlaw the whole group for incitement to violence. Its official pronouncements are too ambiguous to qualify as illegal, they say.

"They don't call for violence," Ali said. "They know that use of violence will cause the destruction of the movement. I'm not saying they're angels or that they oppose violence, [but] they're using vague concepts."

Outlawing the group could also spark a broad backlash in Israel's Arab sector. Knesset member Talab Abu Arar, a member of the movement's southern branch, said he could view any ban on the group as an attack on Arab-Israelis as a whole.

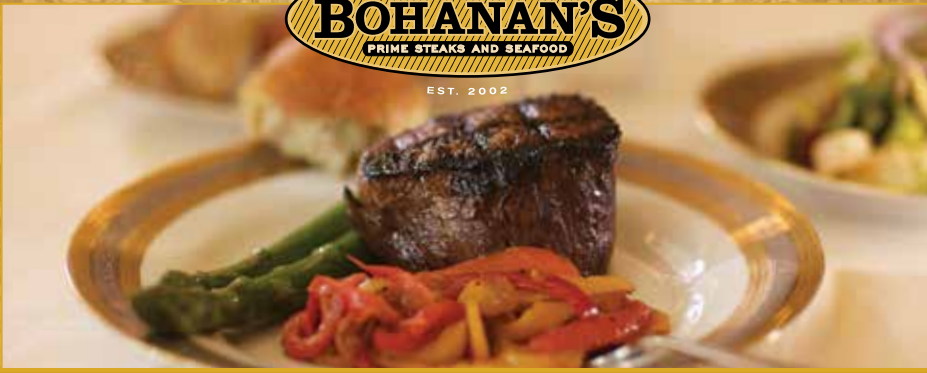
"The Islamic Movement includes most of the Arab public in Israel," Abu Arar told JTA. "Outlawing it, you could say, is outlawing the entire public from the land."

An offshoot of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood

Netanyahu also sees the group as something of an Islamist fifth column within Israel. The movement, according to Haifa University's Nohad Ali, is an ideological offshoot of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, as is Hamas, the militant group that controls Gaza and is considered a terrorist organization by the United States.

Though they all share the same principles and operate similarly — Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood also operate educational and social service programs in addition to their political activities — the





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U.S. & WORLD NEWS

Israeli hummus restaurant gives Jews and Arabs 50% off for eating together

(JTA) — Can a shared love of hummus bring Jews and Arabs together? An Israeli restaurant near the coastal city of Netanya is offering 50 percent discounts on hummus for tables with both Jews and Arabs.

A manager of the Hummus Bar, located in Kfar Vitkin, told the Times of Israel that “several” tables of Jews and Arabs have taken advantage of the offer since it began Oct. 13.

“By us we don’t have Arabs! But we also don’t have Jews ... By us we’ve got human beings!” the restaurant posted on Facebook. “And real excellent Arab hummus!

And great Jewish falafel!”

The move was motivated by the growing unrest across Israel in the aftermath of weeks of attacks by Palestinian extremists on Jewish-Israelis and Palestinian deaths at the hands of Israeli police and soldiers trying to tamp down the violence. The latest attack – a shooting in a Beersheba bus station by a Bedouin-Israeli that left two dead and 10 wounded – came Sunday night.

“If there’s anything that can bring together these people, it’s hummus,” manager Kobi Tzafrir told the Times of Israel.

Holocaust museum opens in Seattle

(JTA) — The Holocaust Center for Humanity, the first museum dedicated in the Pacific Northwest to the Holocaust, opened in Seattle, Washington on October 18.

The \$3.4 million museum, which includes artifacts from local Holocaust survivors, includes classrooms and office space that will be open for students and the public. The center is expecting 16,000 visitors in its first year of operation.

The building is dedicated in honor of Henry and Sandra Friedman of Seattle.

Henry Friedman survived the Holocaust hiding in the barn of a Ukrainian family and tells his story to local audiences.



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UNESCO

continued from page 38

site—is “an extension” of the Al-Aqsa mosque on the Temple Mount compound. That language was roundly rejected by UNESCO and the international community.

“[The Palestinians] are trying to demoralize the Israeli public, first by fear of terror, and second by mobilizing the international community against the legitimacy of the Jewish state,” Diker told *JNS.org*.

For weeks, Palestinian leaders have alleged that the current wave of terror was sparked by Israeli violations of a longstanding and fragile status quo on the Temple Mount, known to Muslims as the Al-Aqsa Compound. The site is recognized by Jews and Muslims alike as the site of First and Second Jewish Temples.

Since the Six-Day War in 1967—in which Israel conquered the Temple Mount, only to return the site days later to a defeated Muslim custodianship—Jews have been permitted under Israeli law to visit Judaism’s holiest site, but are not permitted to pray there. Muslims are allowed to

both gather and pray on the site. Palestinians contend that Israel seeks to revoke Muslim rights on the Temple Mount and permit Jews to pray there, with the intention of replacing Al-Aqsa with a third Jewish Temple.

While Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have continuously denied any change to the regulations and visitation patterns of Jews on the site, Palestinians have used Al-Aqsa as a rally cry to incite Arabs to violence against Israelis.

Before a recent trip to address the U.N. Security Council, Netanyahu stated, “Israel wants peace with the Palestinians, but regretfully lies continue to be spread about our policy towards the Temple Mount. Israel is maintaining the status quo. It is the Palestinians bringing weapons to the Temple Mount who are harming the site’s sanctity and disturbing the status quo.”

In October, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin stated at a joint press conference with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, “The Temple Mount is held captive by people who want to ignite a religious war. Israel won’t let this happen, and won’t change even a sin-

gle letter of the status quo.”

According to Diker, the narrative that Al-Aqsa is in danger has been used by Muslims as a “pretext to incite violence” against Jews for nearly a century.

“The ‘Al-Aqsa is in danger’ libel traces back to the Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husseini. This is the same Husseini who conspired with Hitler on the Final Solution,” Diker told *JNS.org*. “He mobilized thousands of Arabs to the Temple Mount in the 1920s and ’30s using the Al-Aqsa Mosque as a staging ground for terror against the Jewish communities of that time.”

More recently, said Diker, “ Hamas and the Palestinian Authority have adopted this rhetoric, and have used it regularly. In September 2000, Yasser Arafat rallied terrorists under the false claims that Al-Aqsa was in danger. They named their terror wave the Al-Aqsa Intifada. It’s the same libel.”

Earlier that same year, in July 2000 at the Camp David Summit, Arafat famously denied that any Jewish Temple ever stood at the Jerusalem complex—despite the fact that a guide to the Temple Mount

published by the Supreme Muslim Council in 1925 (and again in subsequent years) states explicitly, “Its identity as the site of Solomon’s Temple is beyond dispute.”

“That was Arafat using Al-Aqsa to mobilize Muslims in Israel and throughout the Muslim world. And today we are seeing the exact same thing,” Diker said. “Instead of condemning the Palestinian Authority for incitement to murder, the international community buys the current Islamic narrative... For decades, Arabs have used the Al-Aqsa mosque compound as a sanctuary for terror.”

While the Temple Mount has been at the epicenter of Arab terror and narrative warfare, other significant Jewish holy sites have been dragged into the militant and diplomatic assault. Over the past two weeks, nearly a dozen separate incidents have been recorded near the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron (the burial site of Jewish forefathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob); the tomb of the Jewish matriarch Rachel in Bethlehem; and the tomb of Joseph in Shechem. Attacks have included stabbings, firebombings, pipe-bombings, and an attempted lynch mob.

On a tour of Joseph’s Tomb following the recent firebombing attack there, Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel Yitzchak Yosef cited a verse from Psalms stating, “The nations came and desecrated your sanctuary.” The chief rabbi himself added, “What was done here was quite simply the work of ISIS. The heart cannot grasp the evil.”

At the same time as the Jewish sites are being attacked by Palestinian rioters, the Palestinian Authority’s diplomatic team is trying to claim that the sites are part of Islamic heritage.

Harold Rhode—a retired adviser on Islamic affairs in

the Office of Net Assessment at the U.S. Department of Defense, as well as the department’s former Turkish Desk Officer—suggests that the key to understanding these moves is wrapped up in the narrative.

“From an Islamic point of view, there is only one narrative. And it is the Islamic narrative,” Rhode told *JNS.org*.

According to Rhode, claims that Jewish holy sites such as Joseph’s and Rachel’s tombs also are holy to Muslims have no historical significance in Islam.

“The claims are invented in the battle to de-Judaify Israel,” Rhode said.

Rhode notes that Muslims have historically made claims on Christian and Jewish sites across the Middle East, including in Syria, Iraq, and Turkey.

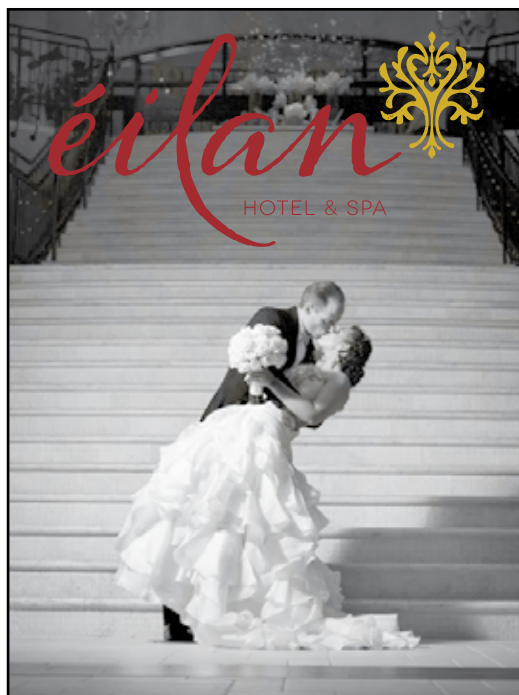
“This is taking place all over the Middle East,” he said. “They take places holy to other religions and they Islamify them. The goal is to snuff out, slowly but surely any other religions.”

Rhode adds that Israel and other societies have difficulty coming to terms with false Muslim claims on other religions’ holy sites, as it would be uncommon for any Judeo-Christian society to manufacture such claims about another religion without historical basis.

“They are not using reason. They are using Islam. This is not right and wrong in the way Westerners would understand it. According to Muslims, if it advances Islam, it is right,” Rhode said.

That phenomenon is now taking hold in Israel, said JCPA’s Diker.

“It’s the total inversion of history to detach by force of terror, as well as by force of non-military means, any Jewish connection to Jewish holy sites in the land of Israel,” he said.



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MAZAL TOV



(l to r) Ken and Helaine Wolff and their son Micky, join Barbara and Alan Dreeben at the McCombs Hall of Fame induction ceremony

Dreeben named to the McCombs Hall of Fame

San Antonio businessman Alan Dreeben was recently inducted into the 2014-2015 McCombs School of Business Hall of Fame at the University of Texas at Austin. During the ceremony it was noted that he has exhibited a “lifetime commitment to education and business excellence.”

In 2010, Dreeben, a UT alumnus, and

his wife Barbara helped to establish the McCombs School’s first 40 Acres Scholarship, a prestigious scholarship designed to attract top undergraduates to the university and to the McCombs School of Business.

Among the recent recipients is Micky Wolff of San Antonio, now a Sophomore at UT.

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MAZAL TOV



Judis B'not Mitzvah

On October 3, Michaela and Bailey Judis, daughters of Rebecca (Treuhaff) and Brian Judis, celebrated their B'not Mitzvah at Temple Beth Shalom (Austin) celebrated the B'not Mitzvah. The girls are the granddaughters of Marty and Judy Treuhaff.

GMJSS recognizes outstanding board member

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services has awarded Warren Lieberman, GMJSS Board Member, with a certificate of appreciation for his outstanding leadership both within GMJSS and in the broader community.

As a writer, artist, program organizer, active volunteer and more, Warren remains very active in our Jewish community.

"Mazal tov and thank you, Warren, for all you do not only for GMJSS, but for all of those who you inspire, drag out of bed on Sunday



mornings for *Walk in the Park* and for sharing your talents and incredible energy

and spirit with us all," said GMJSS Executive Director Daniel Laser.

UCSA honors outgoing leadership



(l to r) Judy Lackritz, Brian Feld and Susan Ghertner, outgoing leadership of the United Communities of San Antonio, at a dinner held at the Jewish Campus, which included a tour of the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio and the Suzman exhibit on the life of Helen Suzman, who was a South African politician that was a strong opponent of apartheid. Feld was honored for his work as Chair. Lackritz and Ghertner were honored as past chairs. Megan Fisher Kluger is the new chair of the United Communities of San Antonio.

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