



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

TISHREI, 5778 - CHESHVAN, 5778

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

OCTOBER 2017



IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

JFSA to partner with city's news Faith-Based Community Liaison to address issues such as religious discrimination, poverty and hunger.

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GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

Learn about Federation's "Person of the Month" in this issue's Spotlight.

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HOPPING INTO THE NEW YEAR!

See What's Happening in YOUR Jewish community.

PAGES 12-18

San Antonio Jewish Community working to help those affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma



SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

Houston residents and rescuers make their way out of a flooded neighborhood after it was inundated with rain following Hurricane Harvey.

The force of Mother Nature during the past few weeks has heightened our responsibility to each other. Our neighbors in Houston and other cities and towns in Texas are dealing with catastrophic devastation from Hurricane Harvey. More than 70% of the Jewish community in Houston lives in parts of the city that were badly flooded, and that includes nearly 12,000 Jewish elderly.

Our family and friends in Florida were most recently impacted by Hurricane Irma, thankfully avoiding the great damage that was predicted.

RAISED AND ALLOCATED

We are fortunate to be part of a Jewish Federation system that has been able to assist with immediate needs and funds

See **HURRICANES**, page 4

SHOWING SUPPORT

Chabad sends volunteers to help Houston residents.

PHOTOS ON PAGE 12 & 13

5th Annual Texas Kosher BBQ Championship at Agudas Achim

The 5th annual Texas Kosher BBQ Championship at Congregation Agudas Achim will be held on Sunday, Nov.

12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Congregation Agudas Achim.

The annual competition will feature 22 teams cooking a ton of brisket, chicken, salmon, and beans donated by H-E-B.



New this year to the BBQ is the *Showdown at Sundown*, a Pre-Q Party Saturday night from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. In addition to hamburgers, hot dogs, a DJ, dancing and an adult piñata,

See **KBBQ**, page 21



PARTNERSHIP CORNER

Saving Syrians

A visit to a Nahariya hospital treating victims is healing and harrowing
Excerpted from Jerusalem Post Article By Shlomo Maital

It is midnight on a cold winter night in the Syrian part of the Golan Heights. A strange caravan wends its way along a rocky path toward a secret location on the border with Israel. Mothers in hijabs and parkas carry babies and small children swathed in bandages. Some children, crudely bandaged, ride in panniers slung over

See **PARTNERSHIP**, page 22

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



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

PUBLISHED BY

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio
12500 N. W. Military Highway, #200
San Antonio, TX 78231

(210)302-6960

www.jfsatx.org

SUPPORTED BY

Grants from the Helen Arronge Fund, the Eilenberg Family Memorial Endowment Fund, the Charles Atkin Memorial Trust Fund, the Freeman Education Fund and the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign.

RONIT SHERWIN, CEO

JONATHAN GURWITZ, Board Chair

LESLIE KOMET AUSBURN, Editor/Director of Marketing & Communication

ADVERTISING SALES

Sandy Leigh

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Lauren Sandoval

PROOFREADERS

Idelle Abramson

Barbara Argo

Eleanor Komet

Debbie Linck

Renee Sabel

David Simon

Susan Whipple



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EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS:

The submission deadline for the November 2017 issue of the Jewish Journal is October 10, 2017 at noon.

All materials submitted after this date will be considered for the following issue.

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

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

ADVERTISING:

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

Ad deadlines for November 2017 ISSUE:

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

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

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

IN LOVING MEMORY

Freida Axelrod

Emily Zaltsman

CANDLE LIGHTING

Wednesday, Oct. 4

Eve of First day Sukkot,
Light Holiday Candles at:
6:58 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 5

Eve of Second day Sukkot,
Light Holiday Candles after:
7:50 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 6

Light Shabbat Candles at:
6:55 p.m.

Shabbat, Oct. 7

Shabbat Ends: 7:47 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 11

Eve of Shemini Atzeret,
Light Holiday Candles at:
6:49 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 12

Eve of Simchat Torah,
Light Holiday Candles after:
7:42 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 13

Light Shabbat Candles at:
6:47 p.m.

Shabbat, Oct. 14

Shabbat Ends: 7:40 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 20

Light Candles at: 6:40 p.m.

Shabbat, Oct. 21

Shabbat Ends: 7:33 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 27

Light Candles at: 6:33 p.m.

Shabbat, Oct. 28

Shabbat Ends: 7:27 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 3

Light Candles at: 6:28 p.m.

Shabbat, Nov. 4

Shabbat Ends: 7:21 p.m.



The door opened. The details taken care of. The courtesy done automatically. The word spoken softly and with sincerity. A hand placed just so to steady another's step. They don't really define caring, but they're clues of its presence – pervasive and constant. And unobtrusive.

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Hurricanes a reminder that life is fragile

We will celebrate the Jewish holiday of *Sukkot* later this month. This joyful eight day festival of “booths” feels more powerful to me this year in the wake of recent hurricanes and other natural disasters. We are commanded to dwell in these make-shift huts as a reminder that there is a larger universe than what we have created by the genius of human invention. We eat and gather in *sukkot* in order to feel the elements of nature and experience the world God has created, as opposed to the manmade structures in which we dwell the rest of the year. *Sukkot* reminds us



Letter from
our CEO

RONIT
SHERWIN

that we, human beings, are a small part of the greater existence of the world, with the intention of humbling us, balancing our egos and allowing us to start the New Year with a greater sense of God's presence.

And it is with mixed emotions for many of us that we have experienced immense gratitude these past several weeks. Like many of you, my family in San Antonio and I were spared from the hurricanes. We may have experienced

some frustration in filling up our cars with gas, but that was all.

We all know individuals in Houston and Corpus Christi and other small towns in Texas that are now attempting to rebuild from catastrophic devastation. Shortly after Hurricane Harvey, we sat in horror once again watching the state of Florida being pummeled by effects of Hurricane Irene. While I was comforted in knowing that my brother and his family in Miami had safely evacuated, my heart broke imagining the devastation they would face once they returned home.

What can we do? This

was the question that so many of us asked, and it has been heartwarming to see the outpouring of love and support that individuals, families and corporations have extended to their fellow human beings. I was particularly proud to be part of the Jewish Federation system that immediately stepped into action. Days after Hurricane Harvey, we gathered needed cleaning supplies within hours and drove them to Houston, being the first truck load of supplies to be delivered to the Jewish community. Millions of dollars have been raised for relief efforts from damage caused by Hurricane Harvey in Texas

and Hurricane Irma in Florida. We can all feel proud of these efforts because we are part of a system and part of a family that cares for each other.

While it is easy to despair in times like these, I am grateful to be part of a tradition that embraces *tikkun olam*, the concept of “repairing the world.” Although we have witnessed tremendous destruction of recent, we have also seen *tikkun olam* in action, from meals being delivered to those in need to hugs being offered to those with broken spirits. Let this *Sukkot* be a reminder to us always that life is fragile and joy is always possible.

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HURRICANES

continued from page 1

because we are present in all of these communities. Thank you to all of you who contributed to the JFNA Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund. As of September 11, Jewish Federations had raised over \$10M, a third of the estimated \$30M that will be needed to rebuild in the Houston Jewish community. Allocated dollars are being used to address the following priorities:

- Immediate cash grants for flood victims' essential needs
- Extended day-camp programming to make up for delayed school opening
- Expanding capacity of Jewish Family Services to allow them to provide one-stop, comprehensive assistance
- Grants to individual rabbis' discretionary funds to meet specific congregational needs
- Funds to the Hebrew Free Loan Association that will match resources from Cleveland, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco to create a new Hurricane Harvey loan pool

WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN SAN ANTONIO . . .

• On Wednesday Aug. 30, days after Harvey, we collected needed cleaning supplies and other essentials that were delivered by community member Harry Levy that evening; it was the first truck load of supplies to be delivered to the Houston Jewish community.

• With our Austin, Dallas and Ft. Worth Federation colleagues, we created a survey for individuals/families who would be willing to host displaced individuals from Houston. We collected over 100 replies. As of yet, there has not been a need to utilize this information.

• Our Jewish congregations, Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning, Congregation Agudas Achim, Temple Beth-El, Temple Chai and Rodfei Sholom should be applauded as well for their efforts.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Houston still needs volunteers! Call (800) 820-5188 or email allhands@houstonjewish.org.

If you have not made a gift for hurricane relief in Texas and/or Florida, please consider a contribution. A link to Jewish Federations of North America's relief funds can be found on the Jewish Federations of San Antonio website, www.jfsatx.org.

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 7, 2018



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For further information contact Ellen Ollervidez,
Director at the HMMSA at 210-302-6962.

For sponsorship opportunities contact Ronit Sherwin,
CEO of the Jewish Federation at 210-302-6961.

www.hmmsa.org

YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

San Antonio students explore the impact of the Holocaust

In the fall of 2016, applications began to arrive from area high school students interested in studying Holocaust History. As essays from applicants were read, it became apparent that these young people were thirsting for knowledge and eager to learn what was not being taught deeply enough in schools: the Holocaust and current world connections to that history. Proudly, we can now say these young people have acquired that knowledge and are prepared to identify and address anti-Semitism discrimination and prejudice in powerful ways.

The Holocaust Study Seminar was funded by the Sue and Richard Charitable Trust. Chris Busbee, executor of the Trust, greets Survivor Rose Williams. Chris addressed guests at the open house and in his remarks he spoke of being a teenager and traveling with his father to Munich. While in Munich, it was a visit to Dachau that he credits with the beginning of his moral development and his belief in the importance of teaching and learning from this history.



Among the over 220 guests that attended the open house, were, from I-r, HMMSA Docents Becky Hoag and Sharon Mullin, and Survivors and Sisters, Susanne Jalnos and Anna Rado. When asked about the event, Anna said, "It was very impressive that the young people are so interested in the Holocaust because the world is so messed up right now, and they want to make it better."



Judy Palans learns from Study Seminar Student Abigail Lydon. Abigail was one of eight students that attended fifteen 3 hour sessions that culminated in a trip to Berlin, Krakow, and Budapest. Each student created an exhibition that demonstrated their understandings and connections to Holocaust History. For her exhibit, Abigail researched armed resistance in Auschwitz and Warsaw and examples of spiritual resistance demonstrated through literature, art, education, and religion in ghettos and concentration camps.

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JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS

The Faith-Based Initiative: *In the City for Good*

By Ellen Ollervidez

As part of the City's FY 2017 Budget, the Mayor and City Council approved the addition of a Faith-Based Community Liaison to facilitate ongoing collaboration between the



City of San Antonio, faith-based and secular organizations. This position was added to the Department of Human Services to lead the city's Faith-Based Initiative with the primary goal of leveraging efforts and building capacity to improve the quality of life of vulnerable residents and distressed communities. Reverend Ann Helmke was appointed to lead implementation of this important effort and she addressed the Community Relations

Council on Wednesday, Sept. 13 to provide history and information on the initiative. The top human service priorities are poverty, literacy, immigrants, homelessness and hunger, religious discrimination, public health, children in foster care, and mental health.

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio is known for its faithful commitment to the greater good within the San Antonio community. Ideally, we can harness the experiences, skills, and volunteer resources within the Jewish community to partner and coordinate efforts with the Faith-Based Initiative to develop relationships that ensure a healthy and prosperous future for all of San Antonio's citizens. Please contact me at Ollervidez@jfsatx.org if you want to be a part of meaningful change and creating a resilient San Antonio community that is diverse and draws on our shared wisdom.

Q&A with Award-Winning Cookbook Author, Joan Nathan

Women's Philanthropy of JFSA, along with Pomegranate Society Chairs Pat Kalmans and Lizette Feld, will host award-winning cookbook author Joan Nathan for an evening program on Thursday, Nov. 9. In addition to writing numerous cookbooks, Joan was the host of the popular PBS television series Jewish Cooking in America with Joan Nathan.



Do you have any favorite memories or stories of celebrating Sukkot?

When we moved into our new house, we built an open deck to have a sukkah. We did this when our children were

little, stringing fresh fruits up rather than plastic ones and eating in the Sukkah. When they got older, we let the custom die but now that we are about to have grandchildren,

perhaps we will start again.

Where did your journey writing cookbooks begin?

My journey began in Jerusalem where I was foreign press attaché to Teddy Kollek, the mayor of Jerusalem. Whenever I accompanied him on trips I noticed that the act of sitting down with someone and eating their food created a powerful bond.

What were early influences that piqued your interest in food?

My father was from Germany and he and his sister who lived near us made wonderful German pastries and exotic food like

See **JOAN**, page 7



Temple Chai

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If you want a congregation and a rabbi that will agree with you on every topic and never ask you to think for yourself, Temple Chai is not for you.

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YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

Joe Patrick

I grew up in Corpus Christi, TX, the youngest of six children. My mother was from Morocco and my Dad was from Mississippi. They met and married in Morocco when my dad was stationed there with the USAF. I enjoy spending time with my family which includes my wife and two sons, a six year old and a one year old. When I can, I enjoy all types of fishing.

What brought you to San Antonio?

After growing up in Corpus Christi, I went to UTSA for a couple of years during college. I enjoyed the San Antonio area, but decided after living in Texas my whole life, it would be great to move and be closer to my wife (girlfriend at the time) and explore Washington, DC. I moved there in 2003 and we resided in Maryland while working



in the DC Metro area for approximately 8 years. In that time I realized as much as I loved all of what the Washington, DC area had to offer, I greatly missed Texas. In 2009, my wife got the opportunity to take a job in San Antonio and the company I work for gave me the option to work from home. We relocated to San Antonio and love raising our boys in this community.

What is your strongest Jewish memory?

My mother's family (she is one of ten children) mostly lives in Israel and my strongest Jewish memory was the first time I went to Israel with her to visit the entire family on the moshav. I got to see all of my extended family including my maternal grandmother, aunts, uncles and cousins. They took me all over the

country to see the Western Wall, Dead Sea and so much more. It really peaked my interest in learning about my heritage and faith.

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

I like to volunteer in ways that I can feel rewarded but also know are useful and serving a need. When our synagogue needs to cook burgers, hot dogs etc in large volume I'm happy to lend a hand. I also have an Information Technology background and am always happy to lend a hand on processes and procedures that relate to that. When I can help simplify something in a volunteer process I feel accomplished. Volunteers all take time from their family and other obligations to volunteer. Therefore when I can help with efficiency I feel

like I am making a difference.

Please share your favorite Jewish holiday. Why?

Passover is a holiday where family and friends come together. It is also one where it is customary to invite new people or welcome people who may not have a place to attend Seder. I love this holiday and have been happy to be able to offer a place for friends and family to come together. In the past when my wife and I were in Washington, DC we would host a Seder and include friends who we know were far away from family and had nowhere to go. Here in San Antonio we have hosted families new to the area and some have become good friends.

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

It is my hope that everyone in our city, regardless of affiliation or denomination, remember that we are all Jews living in the diaspora. As a community, if we remember what we have in common, as opposed to our differences, we can make a greater difference in our community and the world.

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JOAN

continued from page 6

brains, something that my American born mother never made at home. I was totally captured.

What inspired your newest book, *King Solomon's Table*?

A synagogue in Cochi which had a sign in the sanctuary saying that Jews had been in India since the time of King Solomon, seeking jewels, stones, peacocks and spices.

How has dedicating your life to Jewish food shaped your life?

I feel as if I have been on a constant scavenger hunt, looking for Jewish dishes the world over, that reflect their culture and

history — it has been a great ride!

What has surprised you most about this quest?

How many recipes have been lost because of historical holocausts – and how many have been saved.

What does it feel like to cook a meal for your family or guests?

It is very gratifying as long as someone else cleans up! I love transferring and sharing the recipes I have gleaned for people and most often try them out on my family and friends.

For more information and to make a reservation to see Joan Nathan on Nov. 9, contact Eva Laporte at laportee@jfsatx.org, (210) 302-6960, or online at www.jfsatx.org.

FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK



Many PJ Library kids joined Mister and Missus G on stage to sing and dance.

PJ Library hosts Second Annual Back to School Concert

By Lauren Abraham
& Debbie Denker,
PJ Library Coordinators

PJ Library of San Antonio brought Jewish families together for a concert featuring Latin Grammy Award Winner and acclaimed PJ Library musician, Mister G. Dozens of families gathered at the Magik Theatre for an afternoon of singing and dancing on Sunday, Aug. 30. The concert included Spanish and Hebrew as well as lyrics about Jewish traditions. The highlight of the show was when Mister and Missus G invited the children up on stage for an interactive performance.

Both on and off stage, the kids spent one of their last weekends of summer jamming to various hits from the Parents Choice award winning CD, *The Mitzvah Bus*, and got an introduction to Mister G's new album, *Mundo Verde*, released this year. The first twenty families to arrive got to bring home a



On stage, the PJ Library kids pretended to fly like birds as Mister G sang the hit song, *Cocodrilo*.



free Mister G CD. After the concert, everyone had the opportunity to stay for a Meet and Greet, and take pictures.

Mister G signing an autograph for a fan during the Meet and Greet after the show.



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YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK



Dennis Noll, CEO San Antonio Area Foundation, addressing the group



Rabbi Dov Nlrmchinsky, Jason Kboudi



Greg Davis, Danna Halff, Ronit Sherwin, Lauren Stanley, Campaign Chair



L to R:
Eve Laporte,
Dennis Noll,
Jacob Kluger,
Tina Alvarado,
Max Wolk

Annual Campaign

Campaigners came together on August 22 at the office of Strasburger & Price, LLP, to prepare for and kick-off the Jewish Federation's 2017 Community Campaign. Lauren Stanley, 2017 Campaign Chair, welcomed the group and gave an overview of the Campaign. Dennis Noll, CEO of the San Antonio Area Foundation provided additional motivation and solicitation tips to all in attendance.

Gerald W. Crouch, DDS
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B'nai B'rith launches year-long anniversary celebration

Alamo Brandeis B'nai B'rith will host its October event on Sunday, Oct. 8 at the JCC, Room 227 starting at 10:30 a.m., launching a year-long celebration leading up to B'nai B'rith's 175 anniversary in October 2018.

B'nai B'rith was started by a group of 12 immigrants in a New York City cafe in 1843 who wanted to improve the condition of Jews in their community.

Today, B'nai B'rith has grown into a global force, working to protect the Jewish community all over the world by speaking out against anti-Semitism, defending the State of Israel from biased multilateral organizations, advocating for seniors and using the traditions passed down through our storied history to maintain a sense of Jewish identity and continuity.

To learn more about the Alamo Brandeis lodge or B'nai B'rith or to become a member, contact Irwin Barath at (210) 341-4502.

Temple Chai exploring move to new space

Temple Chai, now in its thirteenth year, has outgrown the space it has used since 2014. “It was a big step to strike out on our own and find a dedicated facility just for our use,” said president and founding member Jimmy Tobin. “Now the membership has grown so much since then that we’re out of room. We’ve had to rent more space for the holidays, and are unable to do everything we need to meet our members’ needs in the space we have.”

Besides Shabbat and holiday worship services, Temple Chai offers adult and childhood education, social and social action programming, volunteering, meals and more. The proposed new space will include dedicated worship space that can expand into a social hall, kitchen facilities,



Proposed sanctuary in new space

meeting rooms, classrooms, a gift shop and offices.

“This is Temple Chai’s Bar/Bat Mitzvah year,” said Rabbi David Komerofsky. “It’s a chance to celebrate how much the congregation has built on the vision of its founders, and how much more is yet to be done by the people who have found their spiritual home at a small Reform temple on the northwest side of town.

We’re growing up and taking chances, and the members know that this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to be on the ground floor of something that will be here for generations after we’re gone.”

For more information about Temple Chai’s changes and to see visualizations of the proposed space, visit www.templechaisa.org/newhome.

Partner’s Shopping Card accepted at Temple Beth-El’s Sisterhood Judaica Shop Oct. 22-29

The Sisterhood Judaica Shop at Temple Beth-El will be honoring the Partner’s Shopping Card October 20-29 for a 20% discount on any items purchased that week.

The cards are sold by the SA Cancer Council for \$50 to benefit their education and patient assistance projects. More than 200 retailers, restaurants, and other businesses are offering this discount

opportunity.

In addition to regular shop hours Friday evenings and Sunday mornings, call the Temple at (210) 733-9135, ext. 126 to schedule your shopping appointment.

For more information about the Partner’s Shopping Card, participating merchants and how to purchase a card, visit <https://sacancercouncil.org> or call (210) 450-5571.

Agudas Achim Sisterhood Rummage Sale – October 25-26

Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood’s annual rummage/thrift sale will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 25 and Thursday, Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The sale will include gently used and fine designer clothing and shoes

for the entire family, and a selection of household and decorative items.

The annual fundraiser benefits the synagogue’s programs and special events, the Ross Family Kitchen, scholarships for children for school, camps,

trips to Israel and other community organizations.

For more information call Joyce Leighton at (210) 494-5861 or Marsha Greenberg at (210) 690-5759.

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Chabad offers new JLI course, *Great Debates in Jewish History*

The Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning will recount 2000 years of Jewish history through the lens of six epic debates that rocked the Jewish world and still resound powerfully today, offering a new course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI), titled *Great Debates in Jewish History*.

The course is being offered at three different times: six Sunday mornings with Rabbi Yossi Marrus

beginning October 29, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Chabad Center, 14535 Blanco Rd.; six Tuesday afternoons with Rabbi Chaim Block beginning October 31, 12 p.m.-1:15 p.m. at the Law Office of Jackson Walker at Weston Centre, 112 E. Pecan Suite #2400, and six Wednesday evenings with Rabbi Levi Teldon beginning November 1, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m. at the Chabad Center.

Great Debates in Jewish History raises such questions as: Why were the authors of the Dead Sea Scrolls opposed to rabbinic interpretation? What motivated the rebels at Masada? And what is the Jewish perspective on taking up arms in situations where defeat is inevitable? What role does nationalism play in Judaism? Are faith and reason mutually exclusive? What motivated the

anti-Maimonideans in banning—and even burning—some of Maimonides's works? And is religion designed to be a private and personal experience, or one to be proudly paraded in the public domain?

Interested students may call (210) 764-0300 or visit www.ChabadSA.com/JLI for registration and information.



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Casino

Additional \$10 buy-in gets \$1,000 in chips for Black Jack & More

VIP Poker Tournament

\$45 buy-in gets Food & Prizes

Temple Chai to host URJ Day of Learning

On Sunday, Oct. 29 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Union for Reform Judaism Communities across North America will be gathering to explore the issue of *How Successful Congregations Embrace Change*. Temple Chai, San Antonio's small Reform congregation, will be a host site. A special part of the day will be a livestream interview with noted author Anita Diamant.

This event will be taking place in cities all over North America as a prequel to the URJ Biennial where this issue of change will be contemplated in workshops and by our speakers. To join the conversation at Temple Chai, visit www.templechaisa.org or call (210) 340-2090. More information about the Union for Reform Judaism is at www.urj.org.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



CHABAD VOLUNTEERS AND TAKES SUPPLIES TO HOUSTON AND THE COASTAL BEND

A delegation of 30+ volunteers traveled from the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning, carrying with them donated supplies, to Houston and the Coastal Bend. Volunteers helped clean up flood ravaged homes and synagogues and organized supply warehouses to show support to those affected by hurricane Harvey. (Photos: Limelight San Antonio)



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

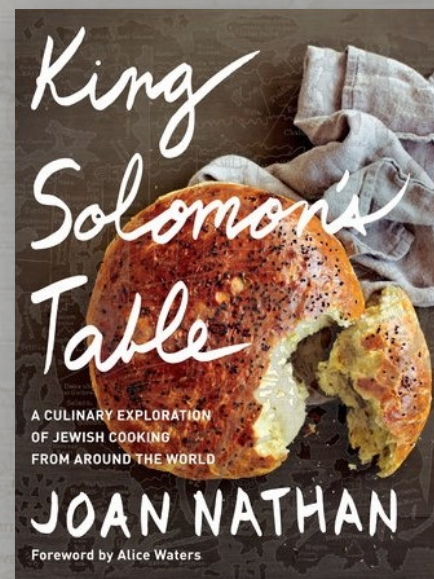


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Contact Eva Laporte, Women's Philanthropy Director
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Joan Nathan is "The queen of American Jewish Cooking" and a multiple James Beard Award Winner. She has made it her mission to uncover the forgotten recipes of the Jewish diaspora. In *King Solomon's Table*, she draws on her decades of travels to give us unique and diverse Jewish recipes from around the world and across the ages.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

INDA POSNER CREATE MURAL FOR HURRICANE HARVEY SURVIVORS



Congregation Agudas Achim's Inda Posner Religious School started off a successful new school year with nearly 200 students. The school has brand new specials of sports teamwork, drama, art, music, and more every week. During its opening week, all students participated in creating a mural of hope to send to its sister synagogue, Congregation Beth Yeshurun in Houston, to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.



MINI MAHJ TOURNNEY

Twenty-four women participated in a Mini Mahj tournament on Friday, Sept. 8 at the JCC. The tournament was a collaborative effort of Jewish Family Service of San Antonio, the Barshop JCC, and San Antonio Jewish Senior Services (formerly Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services). A second tournament will be held at the JCC Friday, Oct. 20. Registration is limited. Visit www.jccsanantonio.org/minimahj or call (210) 302-6870 for more information.



RODFEI SUNDAY FUNDAY AT CLAY CASA

Orah Bass with children Ella & Sammy joined Eitan Bass and Elad Kovo at Clay Casa on September 9 to make a Rosh Hashanah project.



CAA YOUNG ADULTS GET COOKIN'

The Young Couples Club Agudas (YCCA) cooked up a storm during a cooking demonstration with chef Catherine Richey at the home of Michelle and David Vizurraga. The Young Couple's Club next event will be Sushi in the Sukkah at Agudas Achim on Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 7:30 p.m.



TASA TEAM BUILDING

TASA students worked on collaborative team building activities at the start of the new school year to set a tone of togetherness for the new year.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

TEMPLE BETH-EL SHOWS SOLIDARITY



On Friday, August 18, at Shabbat Eve Services at Temple Beth-El, hundreds participated, including Mayor Ron Nirenberg and Councilman Roberto Treviño, to show solidarity with those affected by the events in Charlottesville, VA the previous weekend. #BeTheLightforJustice



SHOFAR FACTORY - CHILDREN MADE THEIR OWN SHOFAR AT CHABAD

Over 75 children and 25 teens made their own shofar at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning on Sunday, Sept. 10. They learned about the significance of the shofar and what makes it Kosher, each sawing, sanding and shellacking their own masterpieces. For upcoming children's events, please visit www.ChabadSA.com/m/cKids.



HEINTZ PRESCHOOL WELCOMES BUDDY THE SERVICE DOG

Buddy, the service dog, visits children at Heintz Preschool weekly to help children stay focused and calm during story time and enjoy reading as part of Heintz Preschool's innovative academic program.



ROSH HASHANAH STORY TIME AT CAA

Congregation Agudas Achim kicked off Rosh Hashanah with a bang as Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham led his yearly Rosh Hashanah Story Time at Barnes & Noble La Cantera. The next holiday Story Time with Rabbi Abraham will be on December 7 for Hanukkah.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



BACK-TO-SCHOOL BBQ

An all-volunteer prepared Back-to-School BBQ Dinner kicked off the new school year at Temple Beth-El.



Volunteer grillers from Temple Beth-El Brotherhood.



RODFEI SUNDAY TALMUD TORAH

Rodfei Sholom's Sunday Talmud Torah has gotten off to a great start with more than 40 kids. Each week, Talmud Torah students come together to learn Judaic and Hebrew, and form the bonds of friendship along with strong Jewish identities.

Those Deemed Dangerous or Inferior:



Jason Johnson, Ph.D., is a professor of Modern European history at Trinity University, teaching courses such as the Holocaust, World War II, European borders, dictatorships, and the Cold War. His recent book *Divided Village: The Cold War in the German Borderlands* centers on a sixty-person German farming village divided by the Iron Curtain.

The Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals and Lessons for Today

Lecture by Jason Johnson

October 17, 2017

6:30pm

*Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the Jewish Community
12500 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, TX 78231
Holzman Auditoriums*

Join Jason Johnson as he discusses the National Socialists' views on homosexuals in Germany during the Third Reich and the regime's policies and actions directed against them. He will conclude by asking: what are the lessons of the Nazi repression of homosexuals for the Texas LGBTQ community today?

RSVP to EVENTS@HMMSA.ORG



WHAT'S HAPPENING



GAN GANI CELEBRATES FOR ROSH HASHANAH

Children at Gan Gani Preschool prepared for the Jewish New Year by planting seeds in their garden, creating holiday themed art and learning about honey bees. For more information please call (210) 492-1085 or visit www.GanGani.org



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



Over 400 Jewish women from across San Antonio baked Challah together at the Mega Challah Bake on Thursday, Sept. 7 at the Norris Conference Center for an evening of unity, learning, and inspiration before the High Holidays. (Photos: Joe Hernandez)



Photos at left: San Antonio Jewish women kneaded dough and added eggs to follow the recipe for their own challah.

SAN ANTONIO JEWISH WOMEN GATHER FOR MEGA CHALLAH BAKE

The Mega Challah Bake, which included a social intermission in order for women to reunite and connect, served as the way to start the new year of 5778 with freshly baked bread and the sound of the shofar.

Women lay leaders from each congregation and partnering organizations offered prayers for the month of Elul, for our country, for those affected by Hurricane Harvey, and prayers for the bread, which each woman had the honor of mixing and braiding. Later in the evening, the women took their dough home to bake, sharing their “work” with their families and friends for a sweet new year.



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New Mad Torah curriculum at Chabad Hebrew School

Chabad Hebrew School has launched a new program for students in grades 4-7 called *Mad Torah: Where Science & Torah Collab.*

The new Mad Torah curriculum indulges children's natural curiosity with live scientific experiments, sparking lively discussions about the hidden Jewish life lessons erupting along the way. Children absorb best

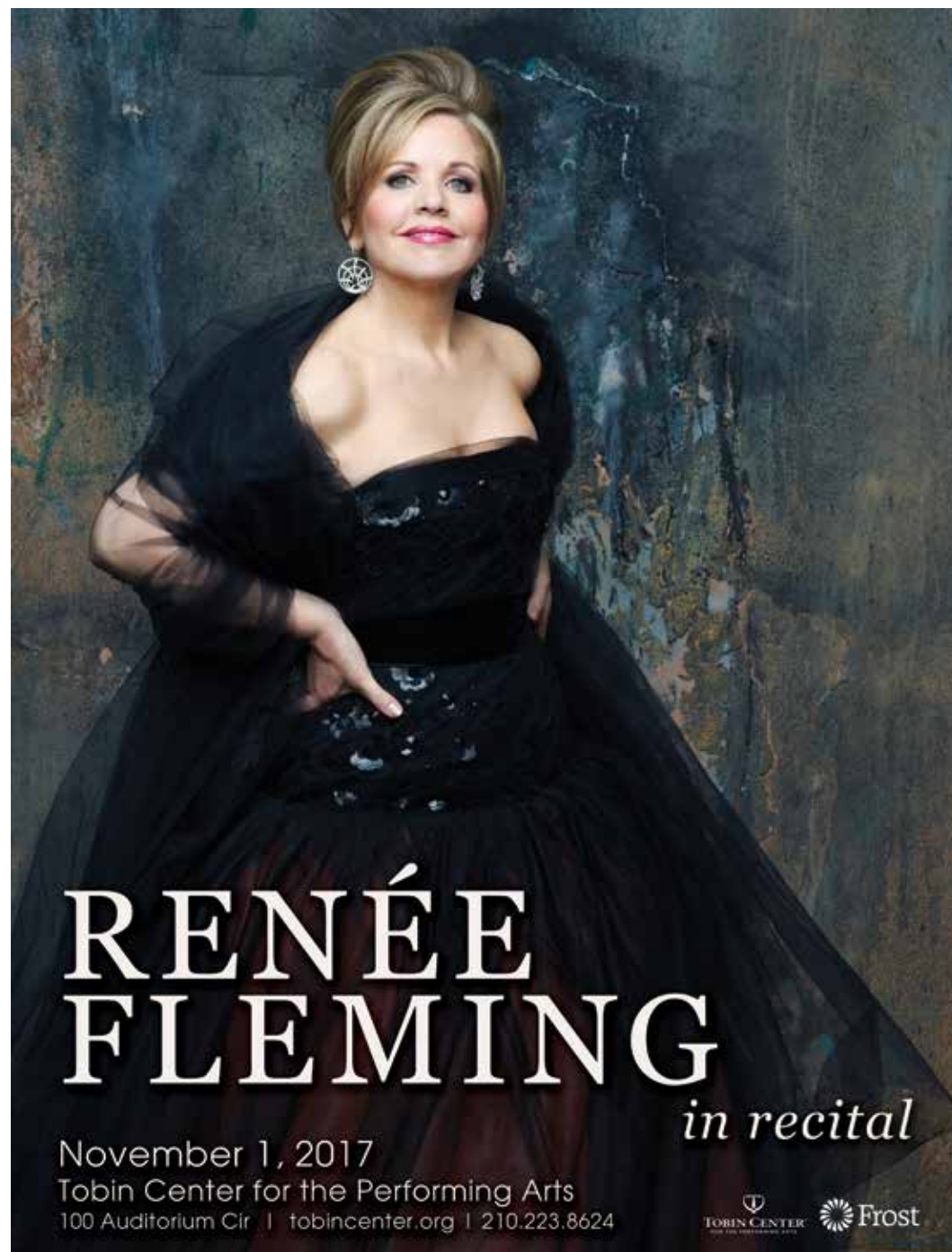
when engaged in Big-Bang level hands-on learning experiences. The goal is to create a greater understanding of science within G-d's beautiful world.

Chabad Hebrew School is in session on Sundays, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. for ages 5-12. The curriculum includes Hebrew Reading, Jewish History, Jewish holidays, Jewish Tradition, Jewish Values,

Parsha and Prayer.

Also new for this year is *Adventure with Alef: Where Hebrew Comes to Life* for kinder and 1st, and Jewish Hero Collection Cards.

A few spots remain. To register and for more information, visit www.ChabadSA.com/HebrewSchool or contact Rochel Teldon, Director at (210) 764-0300 or rochel@chabadsa.com.



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Scholar in synagogue architecture to visit Temple Beth-El

Dr. Samuel Gruber will be the scholar in residence at Temple Beth-El in October. Gruber, a leading scholar in synagogue architecture, will offer the annual Rabbi Samuel Stahl Lecture on Thursday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. His session will focus on the development of synagogue architecture. Gruber will also speak during Shabbat services on Friday, Oct. 20 and offer a lunch and learn following services on Saturday, October 21. Find details and RSVP information at www.beth-elsa.org.

Gruber is a lecturer in Judaic Studies at Syracuse University where he teaches courses on The Art & Architecture of the Synagogue; Art & Memory



in Jewish Tradition; and Jewish Space: Architecture in a Jewish Context. He also teaches in the Honors Program at Syracuse University and at LeMoyne College, also in Syracuse. His visit to Temple Beth-El is made possible by the Rabbi Samuel Stahl Lectureship Fund and the Jean and Jesse Wulfe Religious Enhancement Fund.



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IN THE COMMUNITY

Congregation Agudas Achim volunteering at Food Bank and showing film on Six Day War

Congregation Agudas Achim will be participating in a day of service at the San Antonio Food Bank on Sunday, Oct. 22 from 1 to 4 p.m. The entire Jewish community is welcome to help pack food boxes and sort through donations. The congregation is also currently collecting food donations for the Food Bank through Friday, Oct. 20.

After the afternoon of volunteering, Agudas Achim will host a free screening of

the documentary *In Our Hands: The Battle for Jerusalem*. The documentary tells the story of the Battle of Jerusalem in the Six Day War through the perspective of the Israeli Defense Force's 55th Paratrooper Brigade and their deliverance of Jerusalem. The screening will begin at 5 p.m. and will be followed by a discussion led by Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham. For more information, call (210) 479-0307 or email info@agudas-achim.org.

Temple Beth-El Sisterhood to host tour of McNay exhibition

Temple Beth-El Sisterhood will host a docent-led tour of the McNay Art Museum on Thursday, Oct. 12 to celebrate the life and work of San Antonio artist Chuck Ramirez (1962-2010.)

Ramirez is the late brother of Temple Beth-El Sisterhood treasurer Patricia Marcus. The exhibition of large scale photographs, *All This and Heaven Too*, is listed as the first significant survey of his work.

The museum describes this exhibit as "humorous

yet poignant perspective on our culture of consumption and waste, and the reality of fleeting life and mortality." More information about the exhibit is posted at the mcnayart.org website.

The 45-minute docent tour will begin at 7 p.m. Participants are encouraged to arrive early to enjoy the food trucks and music in the museum parking lot beginning at 5 p.m.

There is no museum admission charge on Thursday evenings. The

special exhibit fee of \$10 has been waived for our docent group, but donations to the museum are always welcome.

Reservations are required by Thursday, Oct. 5 and may be made by emailing Sisterhood member and museum docent, Irene Burns, at knb9487@sbcglobal.net.

Please note the museum does not allow backpacks or large purses. You may take photos with the flash turned off.

Temple Chai partners with San Antonio Clubhouse for a year of social action

Temple Chai's social action committee, chaired by Susan Ghertner, is an active group of volunteers that meets monthly to fulfill its mission to connect Temple Chai congregants with opportunities for *gemilut chasidim* (acts of loving kindness) and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world).

For the new Jewish year 5778, the committee has partnered with San Antonio Clubhouse for ongoing projects. Clubhouse director Mark Stoeltje spoke at a recent Shabbat service about the importance of the

organization's efforts to destigmatize mental illness. The Clubhouse members are able to interact meaningfully and do rewarding work through their involvement, and Temple Chai has adopted the Clubhouse for a Yom Kippur project and Christmas Day volunteering. All are welcome to join the committee's volunteering opportunities.

For more information about Temple Chai and its social action committee, visit www.templechaisa.org/socialaction or call (210) 340-2090.

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Beth-El Adult Ed with Rachel Stern

As part of its focus on adult Jewish learning, Temple Beth-El offers a monthly Sunday morning series for adults taught by Rachel Stern. Stern holds Masters degrees in both Jewish Education and Jewish Non Profit Management and has been in Jewish education for over 20 years. She currently serves as the Director of Education at the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life.

The Sunday classes focus on a yearly theme and explore a multitude of angles. This year the topic is Israel. The class draws a diverse crowd and while there is great learning, the atmosphere is relaxed and comfortable ensuring to welcome and include all levels of learners. Some participants are parents of religious school students inspired to learn with their children, while others are exploring Judaism for themselves. Some participants attend all of the sessions, while others come for specific topics their

A FEW OF THIS YEAR'S SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:

October 1 - *What Every Jew Should Know About Israel*

November 12 - *Ki Mitzion Tetzei Torah*

December 10 - *A Different Kind of Democracy... Israeli Politics 101*

January 7 - *Teaching Israel to Our Kids*

February 4 - *ABC's of Israeli Organizations*

March 4 - *Marking Holy Time in the Holy Land*

April 8 - *Da-ati vs. Cheloni: The Clash Between Religious and Secular Values in the State of Israel*

April 29 - *Cultural Diversity in the Holy Land*

interest. Everyone is welcome and everyone becomes part of the unique classroom community that Temple has fostered.

For more information, contact Temple Beth-El.



Perspective: Rodfei's JWRP Men's Trip recap

By Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg

This past August, Rodfei Sholom sponsored a JWRP mission, funded in part by a generous grant from the San Antonio Jewish Federation.

Nine San Antonio men had the opportunity to take the journey of a lifetime. A journey, because it was more than a trip. And of a lifetime not only because it was amazing and one we will never forget, but more importantly because the experiences we have affected our lives in a way that will

last its entirety.

We visited many impactful, holy sites. Each was put, by our amazing guides, into context of what it meant for our history and our destiny. National and personal.

We prayed at many holy sites, some well known and some off the beaten track. We connected to our land through our own eyes and that of our friends. But, unbelievably, even more than we connected to our land and people we connected to each other.

Strangers from all over the Jewish spectrum of San

Antonio became brothers. We laughed together. We cried together. We debated each other. We learned from each other. We learned about each other. And we shared with each other. We shared something real. We shared the feeling of being home. We shared the feeling of searching together for life's meaning. We shared Torah. We shared Judaism. We shared the feeling of being closer to *HaShem*. I am proud to call Andrew, Jim, Josh, David, Craig, Gal, Jon, and Arturo my Israeli brothers.

KBBQ

continued from page 1

this year participants have the option to buy-in to get \$1000 worth of chips for casino games and/or \$45 for a VIP poker tournament.

Tickets for Sunday's BBQ are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Saturday night is \$10, with combo tickets available for both Saturday and Sunday for just \$25.

Last year, more than 5,000 people attended the daylong event featuring food, live music, and the activities-filled Kiddie Korral.

H-E-B is the title sponsor for the

event, donating all of the kosher food. Each and every year the BBQ supports a different non-profit organization.

This year the BBQ will benefit The 100 Club, which supports the San Antonio Police Department, San Antonio Fire Department and San Antonio Sheriff's Department. In addition to the overall beneficiary, each winner of the people's choice award will donate \$250 to the charity of their choice.

Any active or retired military will receive a discount in honor of Veteran's Day. For more information and discounted tickets, visit www.txkoshherbbq.com or call (210) 479-0307.

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FROM THE COVER

PARTNERSHIP

continued from page 1

donkeys. Many have no accompanying parents because they are dead. There are wounded men, too, limping along, helped by their friends.

The procession walks silently. Finally, they reach the border. Awaiting them is an IDF medical team that quickly administers first aid, stabilizes the wounded and puts them into ambulances that speed off, sirens screaming, to hospitals in Nahariya and Safed. Soon, teams of nurses and doctors begin to heal the enemy – rebuilding faces and hands and treating wounds that are almost indescribable.

The “enemy?” To the Israeli medical teams, these are simply human beings who have been bombed, gassed, shot, sniped, mortared and maimed by their countrymen, who call them terrorists and supporters of terrorism.

Syria is still at war with Israel. So, this is a rare instance where a nation treats the wounded of a neighboring country that seeks its destruction, heals them and sends them home.

The Israeli government had decided not to let in Syrian refugees, but in 2013 it did decide to treat the wounded from its neighbor to the north.

As a result, some 3,000 wounded Syrians, a third of them children, have been treated by Israel. Including some 1,700 at the Galilee Medical Center, or GMC, in Nahariya. And more arrive every day.

These numbers may seem like a drop in the bucket compared to the horrendous human toll of Syrian wounded, but I believe they are immensely symbolic and meaningful.

Dedicated Israeli surgeons, doctors and nurses treat terrible wounds of a sort they have never seen before. In the US, hospital emergency rooms regularly treat gunshot wounds – Chicago, for instance, is notorious for daily gun violence.

Bullets fired by hand guns travel at low velocity – 830 feet per second (253 meters per second). Syrian snipers, in contrast, use high-velocity weapons. An M16 rifle fires bullets that travel 3,300 feet (one kilometer) per second. The shock wave created by such high-speed bullets inflicts massive damage to human tissue, blowing away huge chunks of flesh. It is this travesty that many of the Syrian wounded suffer, both children and adults, and that the Israeli surgeons work to repair.

All the patients know they eventually will return to the chaos and bloodshed of their country – a country that has turned fiercely against them.

BACKGROUND

Modern Syria emerged from a World War I deal between Britain and France known as the Sykes-Picot Agreement, which divided up the Ottoman Arab provinces. In 1920, the Arab Kingdom of Syria was proclaimed – a hodge-podge of Druze, Alawites and Sunni Muslims – and was given to France as a mandate. At the end of World War II, France gave Syria its independence.

Syria’s disastrous civil war broke out more than six years ago on March 15, 2011. Many experts predicted the imminent fall of President Bashar Assad. They were wrong. Just when Assad’s fall looked close at hand, Russia came to his aid

with air power in September 2015. Russia, under Putin, misses no opportunity to poke a finger in the eye of the US and its leaders.

The human toll of this bloody civil war has been immense. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights estimates that some 500,000 persons have been killed, many or most of them civilians. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees claims 7.6 million Syrians have been displaced from their homes, and nearly 5 million refugees have fled the country.

IN THE SHADOW OF ROCKETS

Galilee Medical Center-Nahariya is just a few miles from the Lebanese border, in spitting range of Hezbollah Katyusha rockets. Founded in the early 1950s as a tiny hospital housed in Swedish huts, it has since become a world leader in the treatment of severe war wounds. It has 2,700 workers, and is one of the largest employers in the Galilee. Of these 1,180 are nurses, 450 are doctors, 250 are paramedics, 800 are caregivers and 600 work in maintenance and cleaning. There are 300 volunteers, a large group of which act as translators for the Syrian patients.

I toured the hospital and was struck by its clever modern design. Many of the buildings have atriums, or central courtyards, so that sunlight spills into the rooms. In the pediatric emergency room, children lying in beds stare not at blank ceilings but at panels that show clouds, sky and balloons.

For 18 years, the legendary Dr. Shaul Shasha

See **PARTNERSHIP**, page 23



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FROM THE COVER

PARTNERSHIP

continued from page 22

was its director, until he was succeeded by the current head, Dr. Masoud Barhoum. Among other decisions, Shasha built an entire hospital underground for emergencies, a decision for which he was mocked at the time. But when a Katyusha rocket scored a direct hit on the hospital during the 2006 Second Lebanon war, no one was hurt because, thanks to Shasha's prescience, all the patients and staff were safely underground.

The remnants of the rocket are on display in the hospital's entrance. Today, all the hospital's patients can be whisked underground to safety in about 20 minutes and the staff regularly

practices these evacuations.

Because the identities of the Syrian wounded are carefully guarded against those who would do harm to them and their relatives back home, I saw wounded patients only on surgeons' computer screens. In the office of Dr. Leonid Kogan, head of cosmetic surgery and burns, I saw a picture of the young Syrian man described above, much of whose face had been blown away by a sniper's bullet. I had to look away. For me, the sight was almost unbearable. I could barely imagine the pain and suffering that young man endured.

The doctors and surgeons go to work to heal and rebuild what has been destroyed, with compassion and amazing skill, and for some, a few tears. Incredibly, this particular patient's jaw

was largely reconstructed.

Kogan studied medicine in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, and made Aliya in 1991 after the breakup of the Soviet Union. He has invented a unique material for treating burns that is based on algae. I promised to try to find those who can commercialize it.

I asked him how he and the other doctors deal with the mental stress of treating horrendous wounds. From his response, I understood that he brought to the task a challenging mixture of immense compassion and dispassionate professionalism.

To read the Jerusalem Post's entire article *Saving Syrians*, visit at www.jpost.com and search "Saving Syrians."

IN THE COMMUNITY: YOUTH NEWS



IT'S NFTY TO BE IN SAFTY

Temple Beth-El's High School Youth (SAFTY) Board with Youth Director, Joel Swedlove, enjoyed the National Regional (NFTY-TOR's) Summer Palooza at Greene Family Camp.

TASA welcomes new teachers

The Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of San Antonio has welcomed new educators to its Hebrew Language and Art departments.

Gevert Michal Hadar graduated with a degree in Education from Ohalo Katzerin institution in Israel. She's taught Hebrew Language & Judaics in Israel, California, and Oregon and holds Early Childhood



Erica Henderson



Gevert Michal Hadar

certification in California. She attended the intensive TalAm training program in NJ, and has been exploring new tools and approaches to

engage students in Hebrew.

Erika Henderson graduated Cum Laude with a BA in Art from UTSA. Art and working with children have been her dual passions in life. She's taught Art to children on a variety of levels and is the founder of *Art with My Babysitter*. Her art has been displayed in galleries in San Antonio and New Orleans.

Jewish War Veterans Month at a Glance

On Sunday, Oct. 22, the San Antonio chapter of the Jewish War Veterans will

meet at the JCC, Room 277 at 9 a.m.

On Tuesday, Oct. 31,

members will host a bingo/social for hospitalized veterans at Audie Murphy VA Hospital from 7-8 p.m. in the CTC building, second floor.

Hebrew Free Loan has interest free loans available for San Antonio area veterans. For more information, please call 210-736-4352.

Maxine Cohen

Hope for Humanity Educator Award



Nominate an inspirational educator in your community today! Awarded to a K-12 educator who has demonstrated the moral courage of an Upstander in defiance of prejudice and discrimination, and in support of humanity.

Maxine Cohen is a longtime leader in the San Antonio Jewish Community. She has spearheaded Holocaust education in San Antonio and South Texas. In both her professional and personal life, Maxine has demonstrated her passionate belief in the importance of civic engagement in our democratic society.

Applications available at hmmsa.org. Submit nominations via email to education@hmmsa.org or mail to 12500 NW Military Hwy, Ste. 200, San Antonio, Texas 78231. All nominations due by January 5th, 2018. This award will be presented at the Hope for Humanity Gala, March 7, 2018.



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Heintz Preschool's Yad B'Yad Intergenerational Program begins its fourth year

Thanks to a generous grant from San Antonio Jewish Senior Services, Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim is participating in the fourth year of its Yad B'Yad Intergenerational Program.

The program brings together Jewish seniors from around San Antonio with the Heintz Preschool students for monthly programs together based around the Jewish holidays, Jewish lifecycle events, and other secular happenings such as

Rodeo Day and Fiesta.

The Red and Blue Birds (3-5 Year olds) also take field trips to Adante Senior Living and Madison Estates. The preschool students visit and work on craft projects with the residents and put on shows for the different major Jewish holidays.

For more information about Heintz Preschool or for a tour, contact director Taryn Bretado at t.bretado@agudas-achim.org or by phone at (210) 479-7023.



NCSY TEENS SUPPORT HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS

NCSYers, members of Congregation Rodfei Sholom's youth group, made meals for Hurricane Harvey victims September 3.

TASA enters its fifth year with many firsts

The Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of San Antonio began its fifth year of



RONEN BASS

operation on August 24 with a number of notable "firsts."

TASA welcomed a new

slate of officers to its board of directors, headed by incoming president Ronen Bass. The school and the

current board of directors expressed their appreciation to Aaron Sarfati and the outgoing board members for their service to the school. In an address to parents and faculty, Ronen Bass pointed out that "Five years ago we started the school year with 25 students and now we have over 50 and we look forward to continued growth."

The school, which now has an eighth grade, has implemented two new

curricular initiatives this year: the Math in Focus: Singapore Math curriculum for grades K-4th, and the

Pearson Reading Street/My Perspectives Language Arts program for grades K-8.

The school also welcomed

Gevert Michal Hadar and Erika Henderson to lead TASA's Hebrew Language and Art departments.



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SUKKOT

Sukkot at Congregation Rodfei Sholom

Congregation Rodfei Sholom will feature a full schedule of Sukkot activities.

Back by popular demand, a Persian Shabbat Dinner will be held on Friday, Oct. 6. Shabbat in the Sukkah will be followed by a family-friendly Pizza in the Hut gathering, as well as two adult-only dinner events throughout the week.

The entire community is invited to join

in a celebration of singing and dancing for Simchat Torah. This year, Rodfei will be hosting Yeshiva boys from around the country to bring even more spirit and excitement to the festivities. For the full schedule of Sukkot events, including service and meal times, please contact the Rodfei Sholom office at (210) 493-3557.

Sukkot happenings at Chabad

Chabad will host 8 days of festivities for Sukkot. Events include:

Wednesday, Oct. 4 - Annual Family Sukkot Dinner featuring a traditional holiday dinner, singing and more. 6:45 p.m. services, 7:45pm dinner. \$20 Adult \$10 Child. Register at www.chabadsa.com/3776779.

Saturday, Oct. 7 - Community Sunshine Club Lunch in the Sukkah with Jewish seniors. 12:30 p.m. No charge. Call (210) 764-0300.

Sunday, Oct. 8 Shakes in the Shack Carnival– Celebrate Sukkot with fun for the whole family. Craft your own

milkshakes, enjoy games, face painting, a bounce house and a hotdog & hamburger lunch while you shake the lulav to Jewish music. 12:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m. Register at www.ChabadSA.com.

Monday, Oct. 9 Annual Sushi in the Sukkah – Enjoy a social evening for adults with live music, an on-site sushi chef, cash bar and a kosher wine selection. \$20.00. 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Register at www.ChabadSA.com/sushi.

CTeen Sukkah Hop – Cruise around town with your teen friends while noshing in 3 Sukkahs. 7:30pm. Call (210) 764-0300.

Tuesday, Oct. 10 Pizza in the Hut for Israelis – Music, dancing and pizza all night long for the Hebrew speaking community. Begins 9:30 p.m. Contact Tal at (210) 877-4218.

Wednesday, Oct. 11 Gan Gani Preschool Dance with Dads – Celebrate the Torah with your preschooler. Call (210) 492-1085.

Thursday, Oct. 12 Simchat Torah – Dance your heart out! 7:00pm Children's program of games, raffle, stories and snacks. 8:00pm Hakkafot. Dancing. Kiddush & Refreshments. No charge.

Beth Am Sukkot celebrations

The fall harvest holiday of Sukkot will be observed at services at Congregation Beth Am on Saturday, Oct. 7 at 10 a.m. Services will include the reciting of *Hallel* and *special holiday Torah and Haftarah readings*.

Gary Kurzban and Terry Ruiz will host the congregation in their backyard sukkah on Sunday, Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. RSVP by e-mail to kurzban_ruiz@grandecom.net or by calling (210) 826-4890.

Rabbi Marcy Greene of Houston will join Congregation Beth Am for Shabbat Bereshit and observance of Simchat Torah on Saturday, Oct. 14.

Jazz in the J.Y. Golden Sukkah Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El will celebrate Havdalah under the stars with live jazz and refreshments. Free of charge, thanks to the generosity of Claire Golden, who has dedicated this event in memory of her beloved husband, J.Y. Golden. Music will be provided by the Maverick Quartet organized by Temple member, Dan Klein, with musicians Andrew Bergman, Larry Natlick and Catchie Cartwright. Wine and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. RSVPs are requested



at <https://beth-elsa.org/JazzSukkot>.



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JCC to screen *Life, Animated*

The Barshop Jewish Community Center is presenting a free screening of the feature length documentary film *Life, Animated* on Sunday, Nov. 5 at 4 p.m. in the Holzman Auditorium.

From Academy Award® winning director Roger Ross Williams, *Life, Animated* is the

inspirational story based on journalist Ron Suskind's 2014 book *Life, Animated: A Story of Sidekicks, Heroes, and Autism*, which tells the story of his son, Owen Suskind, a young man who was unable to speak as a child until he and his family discovered a unique way to communicate by immersing themselves in the world of

classic Disney animated films.

Upon its release, the film received rave reviews from critics and won numerous awards including the Sundance Film Festival award for Best Direction and the Special Achievement Annie Award. It was also nominated for the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature category

at the 89th Academy Awards in 2017.

This screening is recommended for audiences ages 13 and older, and is presented by the JCC Special Needs & Inclusion Project. To reserve a ticket, call (210) 302-6820 or visit www.jccsanantonio.org/lifeanimated.

Beldon Library News

The Beldon Library has announced new fall hours. The library is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The library's Mitzvah Project with the Vilnius Jewish Public Library in Lithuania is ongoing. Monetary donations to help with shipping costs are appreciated. For more information contact Lynn Waghalter, Beldon Librarian, at waghalterl@jfsatx.org or (210) 302-6805.

Talmud After Dark discussion at Temple Beth-El

On November 9 at 7 p.m., Temple Beth-El's Sisterhood and Library Committee will host award-winning author Maggie Anton as she discusses the topic *Talmud After Dark*. The program will take place at Temple Beth-El, 211 Belknap Place, in the Barshop Auditorium. It is generously underwritten by The Jean and Jesse Wulfe Religious Enhancement Fund.

Anton was born Margaret Antonofsky in Los Angeles, California, where she still resides. Raised in a secular, socialist household, she reached adulthood with little

knowledge of her Jewish religion. All that changed when David Parkhurst, who was to become her husband, entered her life, and they both discovered Judaism as adults. That was the start of a lifetime of Jewish education, synagogue involvement, and ritual observance.

In 1992, Anton joined a women's Talmud class taught by Rachel Adler, now a professor at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles. To her surprise, she fell in love with Talmud, a passion that has continued unabated for twenty years. Intrigued that the

great Talmudic scholar Rashi had no sons, only daughters, Anton researched the family and decided to write novels about them. Thus, the award-winning trilogy, *Rashi's Daughters*, was born, to be followed by National Jewish Book Award finalist, *Rav Hisda's Daughter: Apprentice* and its sequel, *Enchantress*. Still studying women and Talmud, Anton has lectured throughout North America and Israel about the history behind her novels.

To learn more about Maggie Anton, please go to www.maggieanton.com.

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Next at The Vex

An Act of God, a critically acclaimed play by David Javerbaum, opens at the Sheldon Vexler Theatre October 19. The play, which received rave reviews in its two limited Broadway runs, and is currently playing across the country as well as in Mexico City, is an irreverent play where God and his devoted angels answer some of the deepest questions that have plagued mankind since creation. He's arrived to set the record

straight, and he's not holding back.

The cast includes John Stillwaggon as God (previously seen at The Vex as Black Stache in *Peter and the Starcatcher*), Tyler Keyes as Michael and Michael Howard as Gabriel. The play is directed by Dylan Brainard.

An Act of God is a satirical view of how some beliefs and doctrines impact modern society and contemporary events, and is not intended to be taken

literally. The play contains controversial topics with adult themes and language, and may not be suitable for all audiences.

Performances of *An Act of God* are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2:30 p.m., October 19 through November 12. Tickets may be purchased by calling The Vex Box Office at (210) 302-6835. Visit www.vexler.org/actofgod for more information.

Legendary character actor Stephen Tobolowsky to speak at the JCC

As part of the JCC Author & Speaker Series, Stephen Tobolowsky will present his book, *My Adventures with God*, on Sunday, Oct. 29 at 7 p.m.

Tobolowsky has appeared in over 100 movies and 200 television shows over his career. Many may recognize him from memorable roles in *Groundhog Day*, *Glee*, *Mississippi Burning*, and more recently, *Silicon Valley*, *The Goldbergs*, and Norman Lear's *One Day at a Time*.

In *My Adventures with God*, Tobolowsky organizes stories from his own life into

the 5 books of the Torah- all the while exploring his evolving relationship with God. He remarks that everyone has "Genesis stories", his own largely influenced by growing up in Texas. Tobolowsky will share these stories and recollections during his presentation and will also be available for a Q&A session and book signing.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$30 for admission plus a copy of the book, and can be purchased online at www.jccsanantonio.org/authorspeakerseries or by calling (210) 302-6820.

MAZAL TOV



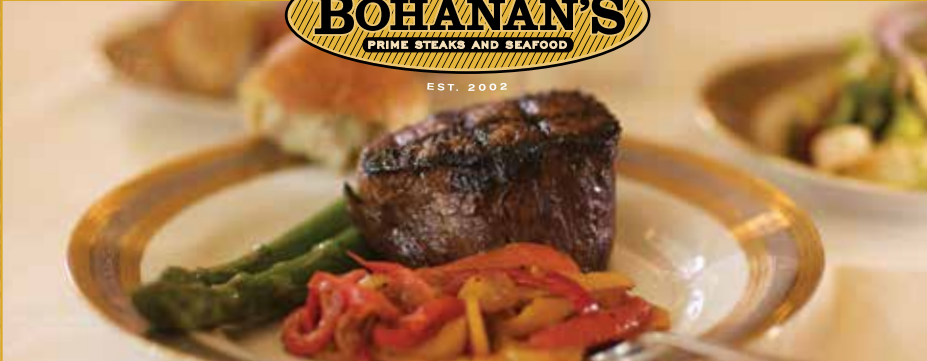
Bat Mitzvah: Paulena Claire Jie Edelman

Paulena Claire Jie Edelman will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on October 28 at Temple Beth-El. Lena Claire is the daughter of Lisa and Jesse Edelman and the sister of AJ. She is the granddaughter of Mary Kay and Arnold Vidis of Scottsdale, Arizona and the late Yolanda and Leonard Edelman of Montreal, Canada. Lena Claire is an 8th grade student at The Montessori School of San Antonio.

In her free time, she loves to dance, play piano and is an avid reader. She is a dedicated volunteer through the National Charity League, where she has amassed well over 100 hours volunteering this summer around the city of San Antonio.

For her Mitzvah project, Lena made 65 blankets for the children in her orphanage in Xiaogan City, China. On October 9th, she will have the opportunity to present the blankets in person, when she and her dad visit China as part of her school trip to participate in the Montessori Model UN in Hangzhou, China.





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