



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

TISHREI 5779 - CHESHVAN, 5779

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

OCTOBER 2018



HOLIDAY GREETINGS AND MORE!

See what's been happening in the San Antonio Jewish Community,

PAGES 12-15

VOLUNTEER EDUCATORS NEEDED FOR HMMSA

The Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio is in need of more volunteer docents.

DETAILS ON PAGE 5



REELABILITIES FILM TO SHOW AT JCC

Keep the Change, a film of inclusivity featuring non-professional actors with autism will show at JCC on Nov. 4.

Jewish Federation launches community-wide LIFE & LEGACY initiative

Jewish Federation of San Antonio was recently selected to participate in the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's LIFE & LEGACY program as one of 57 Jewish communities across North America.

"We are excited to have been selected to participate in this initiative to establish legacy gifts," said newly hired Beth Keough, Director of Life & Legacy.

LIFE & LEGACY is a two-year program that assists communities, through partnerships with Jewish Federation, with training, mentorship, marketing and incentive grants to support legacy endowment gifts. The program supplements the ongoing Federation's services through its Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies for individuals and family philanthropy, partner organizations and the professional investment of philanthropic funds.



"We are excited to have been selected to participate in this initiative to establish legacy gifts."

- Beth Keough,
JFSA Director of Life & Legacy

"The Harold Grinspoon Foundation is thrilled to be partnering with Jewish Federation of San Antonio and its local partner organizations to integrate legacy giving into the philanthropic culture of the San Antonio Jewish community," says Life & Legacy National Director Arlene Schiff. "Working together, we will provide the generous and forward-thinking members of

See **LEGACY**, page 7

Help us spread the word!

If you know someone who would like to receive the new digital *Jewish Journal* each month or would like to have a printed copy of our new smaller *Jewish Journal Digest*, please have them contact Jewish Federation at (210) 302-6960.

You're welcome to share the link to this publication, too, via email or social media. An archive of *The Jewish Journal* is available online at jfsatx.org.

A fall of hope and potential

Welcome to our newly transitioned *Jewish Journal*! Some of you are reading this online via our new "Flipsnack" version and some of you are reading this as a hard copy digest version. I realize that some of you



Letter from our CEO

RONIT SHERWIN

are thrilled to be receiving less paper in your mailbox, while others are frustrated by the change. Please know that our goal at the Jewish Federation is

to allow for the greatest access possible of the *Jewish Journal* to the larger Jewish community, while being cognizant of expenses. These changes allow us to do both. So, thank you for your understanding.

We are finally in the fall season in Texas, which means it is no longer 100 degrees. As a native Midwesterner, I miss the literal change of colors – the orange, red and gold of the tree leaves. At the same time, I

See **CEO**, page 7

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



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OF SAN ANTONIO

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OF SAN ANTONIO

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

EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS:

The submission deadline for the November 2018 issue of the Jewish Journal is October 10, 2018 at noon. All materials submitted after this date will be considered for the following issue.

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

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

ADVERTISING:

To place an advertisement or request ad rates, contact Leslie Komet Ausburn at jewishj@jfsatx.org.

Ad deadlines for November 2018 ISSUE:

- Ad space reservations due no later than October 10, 2018 by noon
 - Press ready ads due by October 16, 2018.
- 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

Martin (Marty) Colton

Lucille Friedman

Julius Garb

Lewis H. Richmond

Ross Seline

Bernice Kulick

Adrianna Zimmerman

CANDLE LIGHTING

MONDAY, OCT. 1, Eve of Simchat Torah

Light Holiday Candles after: 7:55 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCT. 2

Holiday Ends: 7:54 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCT. 5

Light Candles at: 6:57 p.m.

SHABBAT, OCT. 6

Shabbat Ends: 7:49 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCT. 12

Light Candles at: 6:49 p.m.

SHABBAT, OCT. 13

Shabbat Ends: 7:41 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCT. 19

Light Candles at: 6:41 p.m.

SHABBAT, OCT. 20

Shabbat Ends: 7:34 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCT. 26

Light Candles at: 6:34 p.m.

SHABBAT, OCT. 27

Shabbat Ends: 7:28 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOV. 2

Light Candles at: 6:28 p.m.

SHABBAT, NOV. 3

Shabbat Ends: 7:22 p.m.



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JFSA welcomes Interim Development Director

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio recently welcomed Betul Ozmat as the Interim Director of Development for the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

Ozmat recently relocated to San Antonio from Albuquerque, New Mexico, along with her husband, Billy Handmaker, who is the new Head of School at Keystone School. The couple has two college-age children, Simon and Lev.

Ozmat's previous experience includes having directed a private foundation, serving as the lead professional in a community wide initiative to increase giving, corporate giving, and as an advisor at a regional association of philanthropy in her hometown of St. Louis.

She also served as an adjunct



professor at Washington University in St. Louis for many years, teaching courses in leadership, volunteer

management and resource development and later as an Assistant Dean for Planning. In Albuquerque, Ozmat worked with a foundation that provided grants to educators and worked to incubate and grow a college access program for low income New Mexico students.

She shared, "I am excited to be a part of such a committed, caring community whose ideals and values so closely match my own."

Community Relations Council 2018-19 members named

Members of the Community Relations Council (CRC) of the Jewish Federation serve as advocates for the Jewish community, promoting tolerance and cultural diversity.

2018-2019 CRC members:
Council Chair, Kevin Epstein
Immediate Past Chair,

Philip J. Moss
Director, Ellen Ollervidez

Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham
Irwin Barath
Marion H. Bernstein
Rabbi Chaim Block
Mindy Cohen
Maxine Cohen
Deb Field
Tevia Friedman
Nancy Gerson
Marge Gregerman
Steven Gross
Charles Gruber

Rabbi David Komerofsky
Marsha Krassner
Peggy Leff
Zac Levin
Mina Lopez
Anaelle Nunez
Barbara Powell
Laura Richardson
Rachel Rustin
Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg
Hazzan David Silverstein
Bennett Stahl
Natalie Steiner
Lori Stockstiel
Winslow Swart
Dr. Richard Thorner
Rachel Walsh
Rabbi Marina Yergin

For more information, to share a concern, or seek support, contact Ellen Ollervidez at ollervidez@jfsatx.org or (210) 302-6960.

JCC and JFSA welcome Randi Hutter Epstein

The Barshop JCC and Jewish Federation of San Antonio will welcome author Randi Hutter Epstein Thursday, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. as part of the JCC's Author & Speaker Series.

Metabolism, behavior, sleep, mood swings, the immune system, fighting, fleeing, puberty,



and sex: these are just a few of the things the human body controls with hormones.

In her book, *Aroused: The History of Hormones and How They Control Just About Everything*, medical journalist Epstein exposes the humanity at the heart of hormone science with her rich cast of characters, including a 1920s doctor promoting vasectomies as a way to boost libido, and a female medical student who discovered a pregnancy hormone in the 1940s. Along the way, Epstein explores the functions of hormones such as leptin, oxytocin, estrogen, and testosterone, demystifying the science of endocrinology. Brimming with fascinating anecdotes, illuminating new medical research, and humorous details, *Aroused* reveals how hormones can both push us to edge and reel us back.

The event, which will be held at the JCC in the Holzman Auditorium, will feature a book discussion, followed by a meet-and-greet opportunity. Tickets for the event are \$10, or \$30 for admission and a copy of the book (plus tax on the book).

Visit www.jccsanantonio.org/authorspeakerseries for more information or for tickets, or call (210) 302-6820.

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Contact Lauren Abraham
AbrahamL@jfsatx.org

YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK



Shofars And Splashes with PJ Library

PJ Library children and their families gathered on Labor Day to celebrate Rosh Hashanah a little bit early this year. With the help of special guest Jason Himmelstein and his son Sam, the children learned how to hold their lips and blow the shofar. They also learned the three key notes, and the history and symbolism of the ram's horn.

Holocaust Memorial Museum of SA announces 2018-2019 Commission members

The Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio is led by a commission comprised of community members with a special interest in the museum and a desire to teach the lessons from the Holocaust to future generations. The commission members volunteer their time to guide Museum operations, provide support and ensure that the Museum continues to offer quality services and educational programs to the San Antonio Community.

Holocaust Memorial Museum Commission members for 2018-2019 are:

Commission Chair,
Mark Ingram
Chair Emeritus,
Maxine Cohen
Director,
Ellen Ollervidez

2018-19 Commission
Victoria Aarons, Ph.D.
Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham
Gayle Alterman
Cantor Julie Berlin
Douglas W. Becker
DeAnne Cuellar
Laura Ehrenberg-Chesler
Francine Garza-Vale
Sharon Greenwald
Marge Gregerman

Kolleen Guy, Ph.D.
Robi Jalnos
Dr. Jason Johnson, Ph.D.
Jeanette Pierce
Richard Planto
Varda Ratner
Linda Solis
Rabbi Samuel Stahl
Joshua Sutin
Rev. Ben Trammell
Sandy Wartell

Sign me up!

Want to receive week to week updates on events in the San Antonio Jewish community? Sign up for JFSA's weekly email which includes information about upcoming events along with updates on important current affairs locally, nationally and abroad, information on holidays and office closures, and community job postings.

To sign up, simply email jewishfederation@jfsatx.org.

And be sure to spread the word about our new online version of the monthly Jewish Journal. Let us know if someone you know would like to receive it in their email inbox each month simply by contacting jewishfederation@jfsatx.org.



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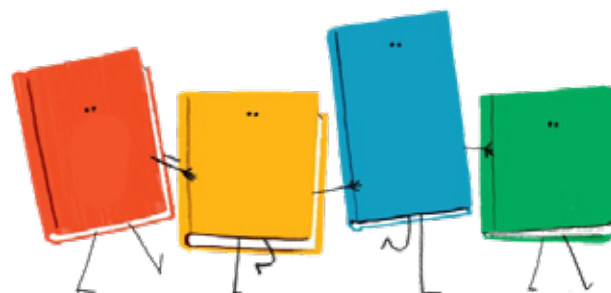
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YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Fred Zedeck



My work at the Holocaust Museum is very meaningful to me because it helps to bring the story of what happened to my mother's family and to 6 million other Jewish people to the present generation. My work as a docent at the Holocaust Museum is a very meaningful contribution to the community I live in.

Q: How long have you been a part of the San Antonio Jewish community?

My wife and I arrived in San Antonio in May, 2015. Our goal was to find a retirement community where we could relax and enjoy our life together. Blue Skies of Texas (formally Air Force Village) had all the

prerequisites we were looking for in a retirement location.

Q: What is your strongest Jewish memory?

My strongest Jewish memory was my Bar Mitzvah in New York City. My second strongest memory was when I stood in the center of Dachau concentration camp

in the summer of 1972. My mother's family had all been killed during WWII and this visit to Dachau brought those horrors home in a way nothing else could.

Q: Do you have a favorite Jewish holiday?

I enjoy Passover very much. I helped organize the first Passover Seders at Blue

Skies of Texas community in which both our Jewish and Christian friends join together to celebrate the exodus from Egypt.

Q: What attracted you to becoming a volunteer docent at the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio?

Q: What aspirations do you have for our Jewish community in the years to come?

My hope for the San Antonio Jewish community is that it will continue to grow and prosper in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding.

HMMSA seeking volunteer educators

The dedicated docents of the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio (HMMSA) have the unique opportunity to affect lives every day, especially those of young people, by making the connections between the Holocaust and the prejudices in society

today.

With that in mind, the Docent Committee of the Jewish Federation's Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio, under the leadership of Sandy Wartell, met on September 5 to discuss and solidify the museum's Docent

Mentor program.

The Mentor program partners Senior Docents with trainees.

This program is designed to encourage the growth and development of trainees so they will have the knowledge and confidence to

guide visitors in the museum or off-site at local schools.

If you are interested in becoming a Docent, a volunteer educator for the museum, please contact GarciaA@jfsatx.org or call (210) 302-6807.

CATHOLICS & JEWS CELEBRATE HANUKKAH LUNCHEON



Jewish Federation
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018 @ 11:30am
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To reserve your seat, purchase tickets or for sponsorship information, please contact Louis Sanchez at (210) 227-1297 ext. 129 or by email at lsanchez@sfcathedral.org

Ta-Ta Trifecta breast cancer awareness event at the JCC

The San Antonio chapter and Aviva Group of Hadassah, along with the Barshop Jewish Community Center, are presenting Ta-Ta Trifecta, a breast cancer awareness and advocacy event. The event will be held at the JCC Tuesday, Oct. 23 at 7:30 p.m.; doors open at 7 p.m.

The event will feature survivor stories from guest speakers Alyssa Greiner and Katya Lezin, as well as information about advocacy, prevention, and treatment. There will be snacks and opportunities for attendees to shop from select vendors, including the Bra Chick, the Pink Boutique, and Ruby Ribbon.

Tickets for the event are \$10 for members of Hadassah and the JCC, or \$18 for the general public. If a current member of Aviva group or the San Antonio chapter of Hadassah brings a friend to the event who signs up for Hadassah, both get in to the event free. Attendees are encouraged to bring gently used bras for donation to women in need.

For more information about the guest speakers, current vendors, or to buy tickets, visit www.jccsanantonio.org/hadassah.

Chabad announces adult education lineup

The Chabad Center has a lineup of new learning opportunities planned, in addition to its acclaimed JLI courses offered three times a year:

Ongoing Weekly:

- Sunday Parshah class with Rabbi Chaim Block, 9 p.m.–9:30 p.m. following minyan
- Monday Talmud class with Rabbi Eliyahu Block 8 p.m.–9 p.m.
- Tuesday Parshah class with Rabbi Chaim Block, 7 p.m.–8 p.m.
- Shabbat Morning Chassidic Philosophy with Rabbi Eliyahu Block, 9 a.m.–9:30 a.m.
- *The Weekly Haftorah* with Rabbi Yossi Marrus, first/third Shabbat of the month; *Kabbalah of Prayer* with Rabbi Levi Teldon, second/fourth Shabbat of the month, 11:45 a.m. –12:15 p.m. during Mussaf services.
- Shabbat afternoon Women's class with Rivkie Block; time varies, at the

Block home (call for address)

Pause & Affect, a 7-part women's series with Rivkie Block, exploring meaningful ways to enrich life with the lessons of Shabbat; seven Mondays beginning October 15, 2018 from 7:30 p.m.–9 p.m. at the Block home

Journeys Through Jewish History, a 3-part series with Rabbi Yossi Marrus, unearthing the pivotal biblical era of Deborah, Gideon and Samson; 3 Thursdays, beginning January 10 from 7:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Larger Than Life, a 7-part women's series with Rivkie Block, showcasing the key Jewish values and social responsibilities that were so influential in molding our civilization; Mondays beginning January 14, 2019 from 7:30 p.m.–9 p.m. at the Block home

Living Jewishly, a 4-part series on the what/how/why of Jewish life, bringing depth and spirituality to our Mitzvah observance; Thursdays beginning in

February from 7:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Jewish Holiday Series, a 5-part series illuminating the history, traditions, and soul of our Biblical holidays; Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

- *The Secret of Hanukkah's Flames* – Nov. 20
- *Purim Unmasked* – March 12
- *The Power of Passover* – April 19
- *The Kabbalah of Lag B'Omer* – May 21
- *Shavuot Ink & Stone* – June 4

All classes are at the Chabad Center, 14535 Blanco Rd., unless noted otherwise. Dates/times are subject to change. For more information, please visit www.ChabadSA.com/AdultEd or call (210) 764-0300.


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IN THE COMMUNITY

6th Annual Texas Kosher BBQ Championship at Congregation Agudas Achim: November 11

Congregation Agudas Achim is gearing up for the 6th annual Texas kosher BBQ Championship, featuring live music, family fun, and, of course, Kosher BBQ. This year's event will be held on Sunday, Nov. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Congregation Agudas Achim, 16550 Huebner Road. Twenty 20 teams will be cooking literally a ton of brisket, chicken, salmon, and beans.

This year, Agudas Achim has teamed up with the Culinary Institute of America (CIA), which will provide culinary student judges until the final celebrity round. Winning teams will be offered cash prizes.

A Pre Q Party on Saturday night, Nov. 10 from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., will feature all you can eat hamburgers and hot dogs, along with a DJ, dancing, and adult games including an adult piñata.

Sunday Only admission is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Saturday night admission is \$10 with Combo tickets available for both Saturday and Sunday for \$25.

Last year, more than 5,000 people walked through the gates and enjoyed the daylong event featuring live music, an action-packed Kiddie Korral featuring H-E-B Buddy, face painting, giveaways, games, art and more.

Title sponsor, H-E-B, is donating all of the kosher food. Every year the BBQ supports a different non-profit organization. This year part of the proceeds of the BBQ will benefit Meals on Wheels to help bring meals to those in need.

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.txkosherbbq.com or call (210) 479-0307.

FROM THE COVER

CEO, continued from page 1

have come to appreciate a mild fall, which allows for more reasonable eating-in-the-sukkah weather and extended weeks of outdoor play minus mittens.

What I most appreciate about this season is the abundance of hope. We are in that time and place of the Jewish liturgical calendar with a clean slate. The High Holidays are behind us, and we can approach the New Year 5779 with great aspirations of being a better version of ourselves.

I always love being reminded of the famous tale told of Reb Zusya. After his death, Reb Zusya is waiting before God for judgment, and he is nervous that God will ask him why he wasn't more like Moses or our other great patriarchs or matriarchs. When Zusya finally appears before God for judgment, the question God asks: *Why weren't you more like Zusya?*

This tale speaks to me of hope and potential. The assumption made in this tale is that we each have the potential for greatness in our own unique way. My greatness is different than my sister's greatness, and we are each judged uniquely based upon that potential. That is what makes the tale of Reb Zusya a favorite for me, as well as an inspiring New Year aspiration.

May this be a fall of hope and potential for all of us!

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LEGACY

continued from page 1

the San Antonio Jewish community with the opportunity to express their passion, purpose and commitment to your most valued Jewish organizations, sustaining them for future

generations."

"One important goal of Life & Legacy is to develop a new community culture where all conversations about giving include at least a mention of planned giving. Planned giving doesn't compete with annual giving. In fact, research

shows that when people make arrangements for planned gifts, their annual giving actually increases," says Ronit Sherwin, CEO of Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

"The LIFE & LEGACY program has been effective around the country to further our common mission to enrich, strengthen and enhance the vibrancy of Jewish life," said Harry Levy, Board Chair. "We are excited to embark on this legacy building program with our agencies and synagogues to ensure their financial stability and future for the San Antonio Jewish community.

Representatives of local Jewish agencies and synagogues will participate in community training in the coming months to learn how to help their donors create legacy gifts for the causes they care about today, so those institutions will thrive for generations to come.

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Temple Beth-El Advocacy Potluck Dinner explores affordable housing, homelessness and gentrification

By Marsha Krassner

Temple Beth El's Social Action Committee will host its annual Shabbat Advocacy Potluck Dinner in the Barshop Auditorium on Friday, Oct. 26, at 7:30 p.m., immediately following services.

The theme of the Advocacy Potluck Dinner is housing, specifically, the availability of affordable housing, and the related issues of homelessness and neighborhood gentrification. The Social Action Committee's overall focus on human rights makes

this evening's topic very timely, as the city of San Antonio continues to grow, and the cost of housing continues to increase.

Speaker will include: Lourdes Castro-Ramirez, Chair of the Mayor's Housing Policy Task Force; Maria Berriozabal, Task Force member and former San Antonio City councilwoman; and Bob Comeaux from the Alta Vista Neighborhood Association who will speak about Miguel's House.

A 30-minute Q & A will follow.

Temple Beth-El will

provide entrée and beverages; participants are asked to bring side dishes and dessert. RSVP at <https://www.beth-elsa.org/SocialAdvocacyPotluck>.

A \$10 fee is requested; partial and full waivers due to financial need will be honored, if requested.

During the event, there will be a collection bin in the Barshop Auditorium for participants to make donations to SAMMinistries. See their Immediate Needs Wishlist at <https://www.samm.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Immediate-needs-8-4.pdf>.

Temple Chai social action committee to host RAICES nonprofit Oct. 19

Temple Chai's social action committee will host a program with RAICES after the regular Shabbat service on Friday, Oct. 19. The service, open to the entire community, begins at 6:45 p.m. and the program will begin at 8 p.m.

RAICES is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency that promotes justice by providing free and low-cost legal services to underserved immigrant children, families, and refugees in Texas. Temple Chai's social action committee engages and educates the congregation and community around important topics that are in line with the tenets of Reform Judaism's historic, prophetic mission.

The evening will include the option of dinner from the visiting food truck that is arranged as part of Brotherhood Food Truck Friday. All are welcome at 2121 Lockhill Selma. No RSVP required.

NCJW to host Planned Parenthood at Lunch & Learn on October 29

The San Antonio Section of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is offering a Lunch & Learn with Planned Parenthood entitled *Care. No Matter What*. Blanca Morales, marketing and program promotion manager of Planned Parenthood South Texas, will be the featured speaker at the event, set for Monday, Oct. 29. The no-host Lunch & Learn will begin at 12 noon at Max and Louie's, 226 W. Bitters.

Morales will discuss the challenges facing the organization on a state and

national level and engage attendees on ways to get involved.

RSVP by October 26 to mindisw@gmail.com. For any questions, contact Mindi Silver-Weiss at (210) 497-2333.

The San Antonio Section

of the National Council of Jewish Women has been improving the lives of women, children and families for more than a century through its commitment of taking progressive ideals and putting them into action.

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JWRP men's group prepares for 10 day journey to Israel

The Jewish Women's Renaissance Project or JWRP movement focuses on eight core Jewish values including unity and mutual responsibility, generosity, and education and growth. Participants in the 2018 JWRP men's trip to Israel will commit to the year-long Momentum experience which is designed to activate enthusiastic engagement with the beauty of Jewish life, to build a lasting connection with Israel, and a commitment to take action in one's community towards making a better world.

Along with Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg of Congregation Rodfei Sholom, ten Jewish men from different backgrounds and congregations throughout San Antonio will take this journey. The learning has already started here at home

with pre-trip meetings and classes, and the men will head off to Israel on October 15 – 21 for a week long educational, spiritual and bonding experience in Israel.

Upon arriving home, there will be monthly get togethers to continue learning, bonding and communication across all segments of the Jewish community of San Antonio. 2018 trip participants will also have many opportunities to connect with previous trip participants and their families. JWRP works to strengthen communities one home at a time. Strong Jewish families make for strong Jewish communities.

For more information on Congregation Rodfei Sholom's JWRP programming for men and women, contact Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg at (210) 493-3557.

Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Annual Rummage Sale

Get a head start on your holiday shopping and beat the crowds this season by shopping at the annual Sisterhood Rummage sale at Congregation Agudas Achim. The sale will be open to the public Wednesday, Oct. 24 and Thursday, Oct. 25, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Our annual rummage sale is Sisterhood's biggest fundraiser of the year allowing

us to give tzedakah money to a variety of worthy organizations throughout San Antonio, the US, and Israel," said Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood President Jody Reddy.

Items include gently used housewares such as glasses, plates and cookware, books, toys, furniture and both men's and women's clothing. The

ever-popular corner of the rummage sale, Marguerite's Boutique, is where you can find designer clothing, handbags, and shoes.

All sales are final and are cash and carry only. No checks or credit cards will be accepted. For more details, contact Caryn Landes (210) 535-0330 or Shelly Berens (507) 330-8372. All donations are tax deductible.

Recovery Chavurah presents discussion about addiction and alcoholism

Temple Beth-El will host an educational discussion on *Spirituality and Recovery: Are Judaism and the Twelve Steps Compatible?* on Wednesday, Oct. 17, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The discussion is open to the Jewish community.

In addition, Temple Beth-El has a confidential chavurah around the issue of addiction and alcoholism. If you are struggling or have a family member, co-worker or friend who is, then join them at their next meeting: Sunday, Nov. 11, 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. at Local Coffee (4115 Pond Hill, near Loop 1604 and N.W. Military).

The meetings are confidential, safe and

non-judgmental environments in which to share, learn and grow with other Temple members who have achieved long-term sobriety. At the meetings, participants share information about sustainable recovery programs and available options. Whether you are struggling or know someone who is, all are welcome.

For anyone needing more immediate assistance or support, reach out to Rabbis Mara Nathan or Marina Yergin who will help you reach a group member for support.

For more information, call Jim Barshop or email jimbisgrateful@gmail.com.

Minority Israeli reservists to speak at Rodfei Sholom

The Israel Public Action Committee of Congregation Rodfei Sholom will host a presentation by non-Jewish Israeli reservists from the organization Reservists on Duty about their experiences as minorities in Israel, on Wednesday, Oct. 10 at 7:15 p.m., at Rodfei Sholom, 3003 Sholom Dr. The event is open to the community.

Representing minorities voices from the Middle East:

- Lorena Katheeb, an Israeli Druze woman, an activist in the Druze community who did her national service for a year

in the Druze youth movement.

- Nasrin Khalifa, an Israeli Arab Muslim who joined the National Service and served for a year in the Unit for Directing Discharged Soldiers. Her father was a colonel in the IDF.

- Jonathan Nizar Elkhouri, an Israeli -Lebanese Christian, the Minorities Coordinator for the NGO Reservists on Duty.

- Mohammad Kabiya, a Muslim Israeli-Bedouin, a former IDF soldier who works as strategic consultant for the IDF specializing in Bedouin and foreign affairs.

In the recent past, there have been a growing number of Arab Christian, Muslim and Druze Israeli minority group members who have chosen to emphasize their Israeli identity.

Several of them have visited campuses in Boston, Houston, College Station, Austin, Las Vegas, Chicago, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Boca Raton and more. Often times the speakers encounter

hostile groups attempting to boycott their presentations.

Reservists on Duty (RoD), an Israeli, non-profit organization sponsoring their Texas tour, was established in 2015 by Israeli reserve combat soldiers who felt they had a duty to expose and counter the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) movement and new forms of anti-Semitism erupting on college campuses across America.

This governmental grassroots organization counts with over 700 reserve officers and soldiers including 150 company commanders, many of whom led Lebanon and Gaza military operations.

The program is free. Reservations are encouraged. For more information please contact Rodfei Sholom at (210) 493-3557, ext. 212 or send an email to iparodfei@gmail.com.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



TASA 2018 KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION

On Monday, June 4, 2018 the Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of San Antonio Kindergarten class celebrated their graduation from Kindergarten with songs and poems that featured elements of what they learned this year in both General and Judaic studies.



Speaker from Jewish Agency for Israel to visit San Antonio

Israeli Military leader and distinguished speaker, Yaacov Amar Rothstein, will be visiting San Antonio October 8-10 on behalf of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the Jewish Federation of San Antonio (JFSA). He will be kicking off programming for PJ Library for older children (PJ Our Way for kids ages for 8-11), and meet-

ing with the Young Adult Division of the Jewish Federation, and other groups, including the Chabad Sunshine Club.



TASA CELEBRATES JEWISH NEW YEAR

Dov Nimchinsky, Head of School at the Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of SA, blew the shofar daily for students during the month of Elul, in preparation for Rosh Hashanah.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



HANDMADE HIGH HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Congregation Rodfei Sholom Talmud Torah Sunday school students created Rosh Hashanah cards to thank and wish a sweet new year to members of the military and their families.



AGUDAS ACHIM ENDS THE SUMMER WITH A SPLASH

Congregation Agudas Achim held its annual End of Summer Splash Day for children of all ages right before they went back to school. All kids enjoyed water play and age appropriate water slides for one last summer hurrah!



TASHLICH AT TEMPLE BETH-EL

Even though it rained on Rosh Hashanah Day, Temple Beth-El found a way to participate in a Tashlich ritual.



TENTALKS: HIGH HOLIDAYS EDITION

The Chabad Center hosted a pre-High Holiday event called *TENTalks: Jewish Ideas Worth Doing*, attended by 150 people, featuring ten live TEDTalk-style powertalks by local Jewish community members, showcasing important Jewish ideas that change attitudes and lives. Speakers included (L-R) Howie Nestel, Steve Kovner, Steven Rosenblatt, Bonnie Hartstein Shweiki, Martha Serfaty, organizer Rabbi Levi Teldon, Adam Quigley, Tal Bendor, Daniella Fisher, Elizabeth Glazier, and Ze'ev Bar-Yadin

(Pictures by Limelight San Antonio).



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

ROSH HASHANAH AT AGUDAS ACHIM

Congregation Agudas Achim brought in the New Year with a variety of pre-Rosh Hashanah programs including their special Selichot Service and program. The program included hearing from guest speaker Steven Cook, Senior Fellow for Middle East and Africa Students at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), brought in by AIPAC, followed by a meaningful musical Selichot service to allow congregants to get into the mood for the High Holidays, and ended with Agudas' annual Tacos and Tequila.



ART, MUSIC AND READING PROGRAMS AT GAN GANI FOR HIGH HOLIDAYS

The High Holidays springs to life for the students of Gan Gani Preschool through art, literacy and musical programs. For more information and to schedule a tour please call Rivkie Block at (210) 492-1085 or email director@gangani.org.

MUSIC TO THE EARS OF L'CHAYIM SENIORS

Congregation Rodfei Sholom's L'Chayim club seniors were treated to a musical performance by Mark Greenwald at the September L'Chayim club lunch. For more information about senior programs at Congregation Rodfei Sholom, please call the synagogue office at (210) 859-0935.



WHAT'S HAPPENING



TEMPLE BETH-EL CHILDREN CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR

High Holy Day Children's Services at Temple Beth-El were lively and interactive for all participants.



TASA'S JUDAICS DIRECTOR LECTURES AT SAINT MARY'S HALL

Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of San Antonio Dean of Students and Director of Judaic Studies, Rabbi Yossi Marrus, addresses the students of Saint Mary's Hall. His talk focused on teaching about Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and setting personal goals towards reaching one's potential.



JCC AUTHOR & SPEAKER SERIES KICK OFF

The Barshop JCC kicked off their 2018-19 Author & Speaker Series with Katherine Reynolds Lewis, author of *The Good News About Bad Behavior*, Thursday, Sept. 6. The series is made possible through the JCC's membership to the Jewish Book Council. Learn more about the upcoming author events at www.jccsanantonio.org/authorspeakerseries.



HEINTZ PRESCHOOL KICKS OFF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR WITH RECORD-BREAKING ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim kicked off its new school year with brand new excitement and learning. This year Heintz Preschool opened with its largest student total in the school's history.

Happy Birthday, B'nai B'rith

San Antonio's B'nai B'rith chapter will celebrate the organization's 175th anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 14 at 10:30 a.m. in room 227 of the Jewish Campus.

The community is invited to join in the festivities that will include light refreshments. There is no cost to attend.



Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl Lecturer at Temple Beth-El

On November 7, Temple Beth-El's Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl Lecturer, traditional Reform Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin, will speak on *Davening With Miss Daisy*. He'll explore the roots of American Reform Judaism and how it has evolved over the past 130 years. Watch for more details in the November *Jewish Journal*.

Hadassah recognizes little known LBJ Holocaust rescue efforts and pending Holocaust education bill

On Monday, Aug. 27 the local Chapter of Hadassah hosted a reception and tour of the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio by Docent and Curator Marge Gregerman. Commemorating the 110th Birthday of President Lyndon B. Johnson, Gregerman spoke of his little known role as a young congressman, in rescuing European Jewry from the Holocaust.

Additionally, local

Hadassah Education Program Director Debbie Linck, described the Never Again Education Act currently pending in the U.S. House of Representatives.

This act, advocated by Hadassah & presented to legislators on Capitol Hill this past May, focuses on the importance of educating America's schoolchildren about the Holocaust in an effort to prevent genocide from occurring.



San Antonio Hadassah President Marion Bernstein gives a JNF Tree Certificate to HMMSA Docent & Curator Marge Gregerman in appreciation for sharing her knowledge of *What The World Knew & What America Knew during the Holocaust*.

Temple Chai Sisterhood and membership committees kick off

Temple Chai, San Antonio's small Reform congregation on the northwest side, is beginning the new Jewish year with programs for membership recruitment and engagement under the leadership of Sisterhood and the membership committee. Jackie Blinderman and Susan Ghertner are

connecting with the 120 members to ensure that, as the congregation grows, it stays true to its mission.

Sisterhood sponsors monthly Shabbat celebrations after the Friday services and the membership committee is sponsoring new post-service get-togethers to foster friendship and conversation. Sisterhood

will host a special Shabbat in March, and the congregation will welcome new members each week.

For more information, visit <http://www.templechaisa.org> or call (210) 340-2090.

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JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

The next Post meeting for the Jewish War Veterans of San Antonio will be on Sunday, Oct. 28 at 9 a.m. at the Jewish Campus. The morning will include a light breakfast followed by the Post business meeting.

On Tuesday, Oct. 30, post members will be conducting Bingo at the CTC Audie Murphy VA Hospital from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Volunteers are needed. For more information, email Irwin Barath at irv@instant.net.

Remembering deceased Jewish military veterans

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

Adelstein, William	Fitell, Sam	Landsman, Richard	Rosson, Walter
Antonoff, Morris	Freeman, Allen	Lang, Christopher	Rowland, Kaveda
Axelrod, Milton	Friedberg, Samuel	Lansberg, Harry	Rubinsky, Harry
Blum, Miriam	Fries, Alvin	Lauber, Irving	Sandfield, Louis
Burleigh, Janet	Ghetzler, Benjamin (KIA)	Levine, Saul	Sapson, Samuel
Bry, Charles	Gitzes, Hyman	Lewin, Richard	Schreiber, Joseph
Caminer, Ernest	Goldenthal, Mitchel	Lieberman, Edward	Shaenfield, Bernard (1951)
Chafetz, Paul	Gorelick, Michael	Maley, Harry	Sontag, Murray
Chandler, Charles	Hernandez, Antonio	Mann, Paul	Spector, Nathan (KIA)
Cohn, Morris	Hornung, Herbert	Melish, Jacob	Speert, Victor
Crane, William	Josephson, John	Midanik, Isadore	Steinberg, Fred
Dennis, Gerald	Kandell, Harold,	Nordhaus, Alexander	Vizcarra, Santiago
Edwin, Edward	Kardon, Louis,	Oppenheimer, Frank (KIA)	Weiner, Leo
Eisenberg, Louis	Kay, Frank	Prescod, Morner	Yudine, Solomon
Escobedo, Victor	Klein, Marcus	Reich, Aaron	Zimmerman, Raymond
Faranco, Albert	Klein, Vernon	Rigsby, Jimmy	Zimmerman, Louis
Fisher, Kenneth	Koplan, Morris	Rosenberg, Donald	Zwick, Earl

Israel Bonds to honor Rivkie Block

Israel Bonds San Antonio will honor Rivkie Block on October 21st at the Barshop JCC. Mrs. Block is the founder and Director of the Gan Gani



Preschool in San Antonio, which is currently in its 30th year and educating a second

generation of preschoolers. Rivkie came to San Antonio in 1985 with her husband Rabbi Chaim Block to establish the Chabad Center. She established the Women's League of Chabad and has been a valued mentor to many women in the community. Bonds Chairman Dr. Mike Ozer said "We are happy Rivkie Block accepted this well-deserved honor and are looking forward to a great evening."

The guest speaker for the evening will be Sgt. Benjamin Anthony. Sgt. Anthony is the founder of Our Soldiers Speak. This non-for-profit NGO provides briefings and analysis on the realities and challenges faced by the Israel Defense Forces in asymmetrical combat situations.

He has lectured before students at every Ivy League college and has been keynote speaker for Israel Bonds, CAMERA, CUFI, AIPAC, and numerous Jewish Federations. He is currently a Sergeant in the IDF Reserves.

The Emcee for the evening will be Israel Bonds Co-Chair and past honoree Howie Nestel.

For more information or to make a reservation, contact Steve Landis at (713) 360-3530 or steve.landis@israelbonds.com.

NCJW, Agudas Achim to host historian Bryan Stone

The National Council of Jewish Women and Congregation Agudas Achim are partnering for a program featuring Dr. Bryan Stone, who will present *From the Shtetl to San Antonio: The Memoir of Alexander Z. Gurwitz* on Sunday, Oct. 14 at 11 a.m. at Congregation Agudas Achim, 16550 Huebner Rd.

Stone is a professor of history at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi. He is the editor of Alexander Z. Gurwitz's



historical memoir, *Memories of Two Generations: A Yiddish Life in Russia and Texas* (University of Alabama Press, 2016) and the author of *The Chosen*

Folks: Jews on the Frontiers of Texas (University of Texas Press, 2010), which won the Southern Jewish Historical Society Book Prize in 2011. He holds a Ph.D. in American Studies and

Civilization from the University of Texas at Austin.

Stone's information has been instrumental to NCJW's research for *Impact: The San Antonio Jewish Oral History Project*, which will feature interviews with members of the Jewish community whose families made a significant impact on San Antonio. Alexander Gurwitz was a member of Agudas Achim.

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JCC welcomes new teen coordinator



The Barshop JCC has welcomed Elie Allen as the teen/young adult services

coordinator, where he serves as the San Antonio BBYO city director, oversees the Youth Lounge after-school program, and looks to engage teens and young adults in a multitude of programs.

A native of Dallas, Elie grew up going to the JCC and was an active member of BBYO. He graduated with a master in the science of social work from the University of Texas in July, and holds a bachelors in social work from the University of Alabama. Elie has already begun working with the local San Antonio BBYO chapters, Erich Weiss AZA (boys) and Sababa BBG (girls), and is eager to provide them with guidance and support.

From October 26-28, BBYO's Lonestar Region will hold its MIT/AIT Convention at Camp Olympia in Trinity, TX. The convention is for new BBYO members from Austin, Houston, and San Antonio to learn more about the organization and meet other Jewish teens.

Recruitment is also under way for the 2019 JCC Maccabi Games® in Detroit, MI. Maccabi is open to Jewish teens ranging from ages 13 to 16.

For more information about BBYO or the 2019 JCC Maccabi Games®, contact Elie Allen, at (210) 302-6869 or allene@jcc-sa.org.

Heintz Preschool hires new Assistant Director

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim has hired a new Assistant Director — Gavy Shapiro. Shapiro brings 10 years of experience in Jewish Preschools in both Philadelphia and Arizona to the position.

"I am excited to be working at Heintz Preschool and bring my skills and experience to the table to create new

and innovative ideas to our wonderful school," Shapiro said.

Heintz Preschool's tremendous growth necessitated the need to hire an assistant director for the first time in the school's history. The school has more than quadrupled in size over the last two years, opening five new classrooms during that time.

The core school day at Heintz

Preschool is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with extended hours offered from 7am to 6pm. There is limited space available in each classroom with some waiting lists already forming in some age groups.

For a tour or to learn more information, contact Heintz Preschool Director Taryn Bretado at (210) 479-0429 or by email at t.bretado@agudas-achim.org.

JCC Author & Speaker Series and Jewish Federation of San Antonio present **RANDI HUTTER EPSTEIN** Thursday, November 1, 7pm | JCC



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TASA Bees & Honey Hands on Presentation

On August 29, two bee experts visited with Torah Academy of San Antonio (TASA) students for a pre-Rosh Hashanah program. During two separate presentations, Morah Wendy Brezek and Margaret Bass shared their expertise about bees and the bee industry with hands on activities. Students saw live bees in their comb, tried on beekeeper clothing, viewed pictures, diagrams and more. After the program students had the opportunity to taste different types of apples with a variety of honey samples.

New Agudas Chai program at Agudas Achim open to all San Antonio teens

Registration is still open for Congregation Agudas Achim's new teenage program *Agudas Chai*, which is open to all students in 8th through 12th grade throughout the Jewish community, including non-Agudas members.

The program meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Each Wednesday, students attend two classes of their choosing, with courses rotating every six weeks. Courses include Jewish Cooking, Krav Maga, learning with local Rabbis, and more. An optional dinner is available at 6 p.m.

For enrollment or more information, contact Samantha Mazuz at s.mazuz@agudas-Achim.org or (210) 479-0429.

SAJSS celebrates Golden anniversary with special event

Next month, San Antonio Jewish Senior Services (SAJSS) will celebrate 50 years of providing programs and services to seniors in our community, first through Golden Manor and now San Antonio Jewish Senior Services.

To commemorate this milestone, SAJSS will host a celebratory kosher luncheon event on November 7 at noon at Congregation Rodfei Sholom, featuring American-Israeli comedian Joel Chasnoff.

In addition, performer Mark Greenwald will croon his favorite jazz songs, and there will be a video highlighting the stories of many who have been instrumental in the 50-year journey.

Those featured include longtime Golden Manor/SAJSS affiliate and current Board President Suzanne Huber, volunteers Rivka

Schechter, Reesa Pullen, Susan Susser, Shari Pulman, Perry Wulfe, and others, as well as former U.S. Congressman Charlie Gonzalez, whose father, former U.S. Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez, played a vital role in helping secure initial funding for the Golden Manor Jewish Home for the Aged.

Proceeds from the luncheon will go toward senior transportation which provides over 2,000 individual rides for Jewish seniors each year. SAJSS spends \$60-\$80 on average per roundtrip ride, and the goal is to increase rides from 8 to 10 per month. Transportation is still a vital need for seniors and is crucial in combatting loneliness and isolation.

To purchase tickets, please visit sajss.com/50th or call (210) 616-4811.

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At Issue: Cage-Free Animal Crackers

In the 1930 comedy *Animal Crackers*, Groucho Marx, as Captain Jeffrey T. Spaulding, is a Gatling gun of clever quips. "One morning, I shot an elephant in my pajamas," Groucho recalls. "How he got in my pajamas, I don't know."

An elephant – and a zebra, a lion, a giraffe, and a gorilla – got into a box of cookies. Though the confection is popularly known as Animal Crackers, the box is labeled "Barnum's Animals," in tribute to the Barnum & Bailey Circus. The traveling extravaganza that billed itself as "The Greatest Show on Earth" went extinct in 2017, but those species and the crackers in their shapes survive. In fact, Nabisco, now a subsidiary of the conglomerate Mondelez International, is said to produce more than 40 million boxes of Animal Crackers every year.

The cover of the boxes used to show elephants and other species in cages. However, last summer, under pressure from PETA, Nabisco freed their captive creatures by changing the design. The animals are now portrayed roaming wild on a savannah. Humans wolfing crackers no longer absorb the subliminal message that captivity is the natural state of African wildlife.

The original box with caged animals was designed by a prolific commercial artist named Sydney S. Stern. The son of Hungarian Jewish immigrants, Stern, who also named Ritz Crackers and devised the Shredded Wheat box, used his talents to lift himself out of poverty during the Depression. In an article for *Vox*, Daisy Alioto, Stern's



Perspective:

STEVEN G. KELLMAN

great grand-niece, complains that the new cage-free Animal Crackers box does "a disservice to my uncle's art and legacy." She aims to rescue Stern's memory from obscurity by likening his accomplishments to those of celebrated artists whose works are found in museums, not in pantries. And she trivializes the symbolism of incarcerated animals, noting that merely changing the design of a cookie box diverts attention from the industrial injustice perpetrated by Mondelez, which pays its CEO more than 400 times its measly corporate median wage.

Alioto's devotion to her great grand-uncle, who died at 99 in 1989, two years before she was born, is touching. But it is possible to chew crackers and walk a straight

ethical line at the same time. We can admire the life of Sydney S. Stern, and we can deplore human injustices, all the while recognizing that images that normalize human exploitation of other species are dangerous. There might not be a direct connection between the old box of Animal Crackers and children who torture puppies or men who poach rhinos. But we have a lot to learn from the animals, not simply that, as Groucho Marx pointed out: "A black cat crossing your path signifies that the animal is going somewhere."

Empathy for animals enhances our humanity. Putting anyone in cages – or concentration camps – diminishes it. "In relation to [animals], all people are Nazis," wrote Isaac Bashevis Singer; "for the animals it is an eternal Treblinka."

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

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San Antonio Chamber Music Society presents Brentano String Quartet

The San Antonio Chamber Music Society will kick off its 76th season with a performance featuring the Brentano String Quartet in collaboration with soprano, Dawn Upshaw.

The concert will feature *Two Madrigals* from Books V and VI by Gesualdo, arranged for string quartet by the Brentano, and Haydn's Quartet in C-Major, Op. 20, No. 2; both of these pieces will be performed by the Brentano Quartet alone.

For the last two pieces, the Quartet will be joined by Upshaw and together they will perform *Il Tramonto* (The

Sunset), P. 101, by Respighi and Schoenberg's String Quartet No. 2 in F-sharp minor. *Il Tramonto* is set to an Italian translation of *The Sunset*, a romantic poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley.

The concert will take place on Sunday, Oct. 7 at 3:15 p.m. at the Temple Beth-El (211 Belknap Place). Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the door or on the SA Chamber Music Society website at www.sacms.org.

Students and active military personnel admitted free. Parking is free in the Temple's parking lot.



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at jewishj@jfsatx.org.

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Phone: (210) 302-6820 Executive Director: Saul F. Levenshus Email: jcc@jcc-sa.org
Board Chair: Danna Halff Website: www.jccsanantonio.org

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America
Website: www.hadassah.org www.facebook.com/hadassah
Phone: (212) 355-7900 (National) or (210) 394-7405 (Local)
Contact: Roberta Abelman. rabelmanesatx.rr.com

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Phone: (210) 302-6801 President: Steve Butler Website: www.thecampustx.org

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National Council Of Jewish Women (NCJW)
Website: www.ncjwsa.org For Membership Information: Cathy Pottorf - catpot52@gmail.com

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JCC presents *Keep the Change*

In an effort to continue reaching the community through film, the Barshop JCC will present the film, *Keep the Change*, Sunday, Nov. 4 at 4:00 p.m.

An official selection of the ReelAbilities Film Festival, the New York romantic comedy, directed by Rachel Israel, stars actors with autism and offers a refreshingly honest portrait of a community seldom depicted on the big screen.

When aspiring filmmaker David is mandated by a judge to attend a social program at the Jewish Community Center, he is sure of one thing: he doesn't belong there. But when he's

assigned to visit the Brooklyn Bridge with the vivacious Sarah, sparks fly and his convictions are tested. Their budding relationship must weather Sarah's romantic past, David's judgmental mother, and their own pre-conceptions of what love is supposed to look like.

Funded in part by the Joel Pullen President's Fund, admission to the event is free; however, reservations are requested. To reserve tickets or view a trailer of the film, visit www.jccsanantonio.org/filmevents or call (210) 302-6820. Recommended for ages 15 and up.

The Vex presents *Sylvia*

Sylvia, written by A.R. Gurney, a prolific and frequently produced playwright, opens at the Sheldon Vexler Theatre this month. Directed by John Stillwaggon, *Sylvia*, to put it briefly, is a modern romantic comedy about a marriage and a dog.

More specifically, Greg and Kate have moved to Manhattan after twenty-two years of child-raising in the suburbs. Greg brings home a dog he found in the park - or that has found him. A street-smart mixture of Lab and Poodle, *Sylvia* becomes a rival for his affection and a major bone of contention between husband and wife. The marriage is put in serious jeopardy until, after a series of hilarious and touching complications, Greg and Kate learn to compromise, and *Sylvia* becomes a valued part of their lives.

Gurney once stated in an interview that his own dog inspired *Sylvia*. He and his wife weren't seeing much of each other due to her job and



him fixing up their country home, and an ad about a dog was just what he needed. His wife was none-too-pleased but

ultimately came around.

Sylvia originally played on Broadway in 2015. Performances at The Vex are October 20 through November 11, Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Tickets and more information is available online at www.vexler.org/sylvia or by calling The Vex Box Office at (210) 302-6835.



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Congregation Rodfei Sholom Movie Night - October 7

Congregation Rodfei Sholom's monthly movie club will screen *The Insult* on Sunday, Oct. 7 at 7:30pm. *The Insult* depicts today's Beirut, a civilian dispute blown out of proportion finds a Lebanese Christian and a Palestinian refugee, facing off in court. As the media circus surrounding the case threatens a social explosion in divided Lebanon, Tony and Yasser reconsider their values and beliefs as revelations of trauma complicate their understanding of one another.

The *New York Times* describes *The Insult* as a fascinating history lesson. It is also a reminder that resentment and hatred don't necessarily recede when the fighting stops. People have long memories, and so do groups whose identities rest in part on seeing one another as enemies.

Movie night is only \$5 per person, thanks to a generous grant from San Antonio Jewish Senior Services. To RSVP or for more information on future movie nights and other programming, contact Rodfei Sholom at (210) 493-3557.

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House legislation supports \$38 billion aid package for Israel

(JTA) – The U.S. House of Representatives passed a measure that would codify into law the \$38 billion defense aid package for Israel over 10 years that was negotiated in the final days of the Obama administration.

The U.S.-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018 approved September 12 gives the defense package the imprimatur of Congress, which would keep any future president from reneging. The \$38 billion deal negotiated in 2016 is the most generous ever to Israel.

The Senate passed the act in early August.

In the House, the measure

was introduced by two Florida representatives — Ted Deutch, a Democrat, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a Republican.

AIPAC said in a statement that the legislation “seeks to ensure that Israel has the means to defend itself, by itself, against growing threats — most significantly Iran’s presence on its northern border.”

The act also expands a stockpile of weapons that the United States keeps in Israel, which may access the stockpile in wartime. It also enhances Israel’s qualitative military edge and urges space research cooperation between Israel and the United States.

Pro-Israel activist Ari Fuld stabbed to death outside West Bank mall by Palestinian teen

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A father of four who was an activist for Israel was stabbed to death outside a shopping mall near Efrat, the West Bank town where he lived.

Ari Fuld, 45, a dual American-Israeli citizen, was attacked late Sunday morning on September 16 by a Palestinian teen in the Etzion bloc. He chased after his attacker and shot him before falling to the ground.

A civilian bystander also shot at the attacker, who was identified as Khalil Jabarin, 17, from a West Bank village near Hebron.



Israeli soldiers and medics at the scene of a stabbing attack by a Palestinian teen that killed an Israeli-American man outside an Efrat mall.

Fuld worked for Standing Together, a nongovernmental organization that provides support for Israeli soldiers.

He died at Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem.

His attacker was taken to Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus in Jerusalem and was in moderate condition with multiple gunshot wounds.

Haaretz cited a source close to the Jabarin family as saying that the teen informed his parents that he planned to carry out an attack at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron. The family told security forces about their son’s plan but could not find him near the tomb.

Fuld was well known for his social media posts defending Israel and its military. He was scheduled to leave in the coming weeks on a speaking tour in the United States. In addition, he reportedly was about to launch a new Israel advocacy website in English.

U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman offered his condolences in a tweet.

“America grieves as one of its citizens was brutally murdered by a Palestinian terrorist,” he wrote. “Ari Fuld was a passionate defender of Israel & an American patriot. He represented the best of both countries & will be deeply missed. May his family be comforted & his memory be blessed.”



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Federations providing hurricane relief

By Sergio Carmona, Florida Jewish Journal

South Florida Jewish federations are providing assistance to the people of North and South Carolina affected by Hurricane Florence and widespread flooding through a hurricane relief fund.

All contributions will be directed through the Jewish Federations of North America to support the Hurricane Florence Relief Fund as part of the Jewish community's collective response to help communities get back on their feet. A hundred percent of donations made to the hurricane relief will go to support those affected by the storm.

Make a donation online or learn more by contacting:

Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County
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 (561) 852-5002

Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County
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Greater Miami Jewish Federation
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 (305) 576-4000 ext. 428

Jewish Federation of Broward County
jewishbroward.org
 (954) 252-6900

Israeli medical company Mazor robotics sold for record-breaking \$1.6 billion

(JTA) — Israeli medical robotic company Mazor Robotics will be acquired by Dublin-based Medtronic in a deal worth approximately \$1.64 billion, the companies announced.

The deal, which the Irish firm announced September 20, represents the largest sale or "exit" of an Israeli medical company to date, surpassing the \$1.1 billion acquisition of NeuroDerm by Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma in 2017, according to The Jerusalem Post.

Founded in 2001, Caesarea-based Mazor Robotics has pioneered the application of robotics technology and guidance for use in

spinal procedures.

The company is the holder of more than 50 patents worldwide. Its 200 systems have guided the placement of more than 250,000 implants during 40,000 spinal operations, the company claims.

Medtronic previously held a stake of approximately 11 percent of Mazor shares.

In August 2017, Medtronic became the sole worldwide distributor of the Mazor X robotic guidance system.

Shares in Mazor Robotics rose by 4.91 percent to \$52.75 at the Nasdaq Stock Market the day the sale was announced.

France to open Dreyfus museum at Emil Zola House, historian says

(JTA) -- Preparations are underway for opening a state museum in France for the wrongly persecuted Jewish army officer Alfred Dreyfus, a prominent historian said.



ALFRED DREYFUS

The Dreyfus museum will open next fall inside the Emil Zola House in Medan in suburban Paris, which is a monument comprising a museum that opened in 1984 for the author, who championed Dreyfus' cause.

The plans were aired in an interview with Alain Pages, a retired Sorbonne University professor of history who edits the *Cahiers Naturalistes* magazine and website about Zola. It was published on the website of the CRIF umbrella group of French Jewish communities.

Partly thanks to Zola's protests, the 1894 treason conviction of Dreyfus was decried internationally as a miscarriage of justice rooted in anti-Semitic bias, for which the affair became a symbol. In 1899, Dreyfus was pardoned by the French president and released, and in 1906 a military commission officially exonerated him.

The plan to set up a museum for Dreyfus, whose trial served as a catalyst for Zionism, was announced in March by French President Emmanuel Macron.

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55 House Republicans urge Trump to allow 'Israel' on passports of Jerusalem-born

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A letter from 55 U.S. House of Representatives Republicans to President Donald Trump asks him to direct the State Department to allow U.S. citizens born in Jerusalem to list Israel as their birth country on their passport.

"Despite the progress in moving the embassy, the State Department has not yet fully implemented the administration's policy of recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital for purposes

of registration of birth, certification of nationality, or issuance of a passport of a United States citizen born in the city of Jerusalem," said the letter sent Sept. 17.

The letter was released to media by Rep. Lee Zeldin, R-N.Y., who initiated it with Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla.

Previous administrations have resisted allowing Jerusalem-born Americans to list "Israel" as their birth country, saying that it would

be de facto recognition of Israel's claim to the city. The Supreme Court in 2015 upheld the executive branch's right to maintain that policy, although Congress in 2002 passed a law requiring the State Department to allow listing "Israel."

Trump in December recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and in May moved the U.S. embassy to the city.

34 Senate Democrats ask Trump to restore aid to the Palestinians

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Two-thirds of Democrats in the Senate and a third of the entire body signed a letter to President Donald Trump urging him to reinstate assistance to the Palestinians, saying the cuts risk exacerbating tensions in the region.

"Eliminating funds for programs that provide clean water, food, education, and medical services for Palestinians will exacerbate poverty, fuel extremism, further reduce the chance of a future peace agreement and threaten Israel's security," said the letter sent September 23 and signed by 34 senators who caucus with the Democrats.

Trump's cuts, penalizing Palestinians for backing away from efforts to revive Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, include \$200 million in aid to the Palestinians and \$300 million in contributions to UNRWA, the U.N. agency that assists Palestinian refugees and their descendants.

The letter noted that Congress authorized the assistance and that it does not go directly to the Palestinian Authority.

"We are deeply concerned that your strategy of attempting to force the Palestinian Authority to the negotiating table by withholding humanitarian assistance from women and children is misguided and destined to backfire," the letter said. "Your proposed cuts would undermine those who seek a peaceful resolution and strengthen the hands of Hamas and other extremists in the Gaza Strip, as the humanitarian crisis there worsens."

The letter was supported by J Street, the liberal Jewish Middle East policy group. "By exacerbating the humanitarian nightmare in Gaza, these cuts promote instability and increase the security threat to Israelis," the group said in a statement.

The letter was initiated by Sens. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., Diane Feinstein, D-Calif., and Chris Coons D-Del. Jewish signatories include Feinstein, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii.

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Polish town accused of turning Jewish cemetery into sports complex using government funding

By Cnaan Liphshiz

(JTA) -- A state-funded sports complex was built on a disused Jewish cemetery in southeastern Poland, several Jewish groups complained.

The complex, comprising a basketball and soccer court, was inaugurated on Sept. 6 at a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Klimontow, a town located 20 miles northeast of Krakow, according to the municipality's website. It said the project has received more than \$90,000 in government funding.

But according to the Shem Olam Holocaust museum near Hadera in Israel, the complex is located atop the former Jewish cemetery for the town, which before the Holocaust had thousands of Jewish residents.



Polish school children at a ribbon cutting ceremony at the field in Klimontow, Poland, Sept. 6, 2018. (Courtesy of the Municipality of Klimontow)

Klimontow did not reply to telephone calls and an email from JTA requesting their reaction to the claims.

Yaakov Hagucl, acting director of the World Zionist Organization, said he holds the Polish government responsible for the construction in Klimontow, which he called "a kick delivered to Polish Jewry Poland."

In a statement, he noted the passing in January in Warsaw of a law prohibiting blaming the Polish nation for Nazi crimes, calling it "an attempt to blur history, compounded by insensitivity to Polish Jews" in Klimontow. "The Polish government must respect Jews as it does any other citizen. Such events must not be allowed to recur in Poland and beyond," he added.

"This is deeply offensive to the Jewish People," the museum's director, Rabbi Avraham Kriger, wrote to the municipality in September, the news site Kipa reported.

Meir Bulka, an Israeli Holocaust commemoration activist and founder of the J-Nerations organization, told JTA that he believes the municipality was aware of the

cemetery's location when it built the complex on it. "They laid down piping there. There is no doubt they encountered graves," he said Friday. The municipality of

German high court upholds ruling allowing ban of Israeli passengers

(JTA) — A high court in Germany has upheld a lower court's ruling allowing Kuwait Airways to bar Israeli citizens from boarding its planes in Germany.

The High Court of Hesse, a German federal state, issued the ruling in September, upholding a 2017 ruling by a district court in Frankfurt. The Frankfurt court said it was unreasonable to expect an airline to "fulfill a contract if it means going against the laws of its state" and having to face legal consequences at home.

The High Court of Hesse noted that it could not force the ban to be ended because it only has jurisdiction over the leg of the flight in Germany.





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Bat Mitzvah: Styra Reese Goldblatt

Styra Reese Goldblatt will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, October 20, 2018 (Heshvan 11, 5779) at Temple Beth-El. She is the daughter of Jeff and Lori Goldblatt and the sister of James, Sylvie and Jarett.

Styra, who is named after her maternal great-grandmother, will share her simcha with grandparents Kenny and Cherry Goldblatt of Bethesda, Maryland and Glenn and Jo Seiden of Highland Park, Illinois.

Styra is currently in 7th grade at Hector Garcia Middle School and a member of the National Junior Honor Society. She plays basketball, piano and guitar. Styra is a talented artist who enjoys drawing and loves her summers spent at Camp Agawak in Minocqua, Wisconsin.

Friends and family will travel to San Antonio from across the country to watch Styra chant Torah. For her mitzvah project, she created a coloring book for hospitalized children. Styra intends to make a donation to The Human Rights Campaign in the memory of her cousin, Elle Taylor Seiden, in recognition of Styra's milestone of becoming a Jewish woman.



Bar Mitzvah: Samuel Max Piesman

Samuel Max Piesman will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on October 13. He is the son of Dr. Michael Piesman and Dr. Elizabeth Glazier, and the older brother to Tyler and Matthew. Samuel is the grandson of Renee and Irwin (of blessed memory) Glazier of San Antonio and Polina and Gregori (of blessed memory) Piesman of Los Angeles, California.

Sam is currently in the 7th grade at Eisenhower Middle School where he is an honor student in the Spanish dual language program. He enjoys participating in club soccer and basketball, reading and playing bass clarinet in the school band. He enjoys studying languages and is tri-lingual in English, Spanish and Russian. He loves animals and for his mitzvah project, he has volunteered regularly at the Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center and is collecting items for donation to the center. He loves lizards and the color green.



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