



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

SIVAN, 5777 - AV, 5777

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JUNE/JULY 2017



TEACHING TOLERANCE

Child of Holocaust teaches lessons to children of today.

PAGE 3

HAPPY 69TH, ISRAEL!

Community celebration marking Israel's Independence.

PAGES 14 - 15



STRONGER TOGETHER!

See What's Happening in your Jewish Community.

PAGE 12

The Six Day War: 50 years later

The Six Day War broke out on June 5, 1967. The military victory of the State of Israel just five days later was monumental. Our small homeland reigned victorious over the forces of seemingly greater powers, including Egypt, Jordan and Syria. The Six Day War became not only a landmark event in Jewish history, but it became a great source of pride for the Jewish pride.

This month we mark the fifty-year



Letter from our CEO

RONIT SHERWIN

anniversary of the Six Day War. For those who remember watching the television and listening to the radio intently during those six days, this milestone re-energizes our pride as Jews and our pride in the

State of Israel. For those of us who did not experience this historic event in real time, we may feel the same reaction as the generations before us, or we may not.

We live in a time in which we cannot take anything for granted, especially as Jews. We have witnessed a rise in anti-Semitism in our own country and in many other parts of the world. And

See **LETTER**, page 3



ISRAELI TEENS MAKE IMPACT ON SAN ANTONIO YOUTH

Raz and Yonatan led the students at Shmuel Bass Torah Academy in an interactive song about Israel. For details on their visit to San Antonio,

SEE PAGE 4.

Israel's demographic future: Crowded and very religious

By Andrew Tobin

TEL AVIV (JTA) – Israel's projected future looks a lot like a visit to the Jerusalem central bus station: crowded and very religious.

According to a government report, the Jewish state's population will double in about 40 years. Some 29 percent — or 5.25 million of its projected 18 million residents — will be haredi Orthodox Jews. That's more than triple the current 9 percent.

See **DEMOGRAPHIC**, page 27

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



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OF SAN ANTONIO

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EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS:

The submission deadline for the August 2017 issue of the Jewish Journal is July 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 August 2017 ISSUE:

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

Boyd Bradfield

Ruben Langbaum

Shoshana Olney

CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday, May 5

Light Candles at: 7:56 p.m.

Shabbat, May 6

Shabbat Ends: 8:53 p.m.

Friday, June 2

Light Candles at: 8:12 p.m.

Shabbat, June 3

Shabbat Ends: 9:11 p.m.

Friday, June 9

Light Candles at: 8:16 p.m.

Shabbat, June 10

Shabbat Ends: 9:15 p.m.

Friday, June 16

Light Candles at: 8:18 p.m.

Shabbat, June 17

Shabbat Ends: 9:17 p.m.

Friday, June 23

Light Candles at: 8:20 p.m.

Shabbat, June 24

Shabbat Ends: 9:19 p.m.

Friday, June 30

Light Candles at: 8:20 p.m.

Shabbat, July 1

Shabbat Ends: 9:19 p.m.

Friday, July 7

Light Candles at: 8:20 p.m.

Shabbat, July 8

Shabbat Ends: 9:18 p.m.

Friday, July 14

Light Candles at: 8:18 p.m.

Shabbat, July 15

Shabbat Ends: 9:16 p.m.

Friday, July 21

Light Candles at: 8:15 p.m.

Shabbat, July 22

Shabbat Ends: 9:12 p.m.

Friday, July 28

Light Candles at: 8:11 p.m.

Shabbat, July 29

Shabbat Ends: 9:07 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 4

Light Candles at: 8:06 p.m.

Shabbat, Aug. 5

Shabbat Ends: 9:01 p.m.



REBIRTH AFTER THE HOLOCAUST:

The Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp, 1945-1950



The Rebirth After the Holocaust: The Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp, 1945-1950, photo-documentary exhibit illuminates the inspiring and untold history of Holocaust survivors in the years immediately following their liberation from the Nazis. Bergen-Belsen, a wartime concentration camp, became the largest displaced persons (DP) camp in Germany, at a time when over 250,000 displaced, homeless Jewish survivors sought to recover from the destruction of their families and communities, regain their physical health, and gather the strength and hope to create new families and new homes in new lands. For five years, Bergen-Belsen became a self-governed Jewish community with political, cultural, religious, educational, and social activities that renewed Jewish life and a vibrant center of rehabilitation, reconstruction, and rebirth.

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

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

YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK



Students of the Study Tour, with their families, and our local survivors.

Holocaust Study Tour headed to Eastern Europe

Students of the Holocaust Study Tour will be traveling to Eastern Europe in mid-June, where the students will learn on site at historical locations. Students will be demonstrating and discussing their experiences through personally prepared exhibits that will be featured at a community open house on Sunday, August 20 from 3-5 pm in the Holzman Auditorium at the Jewish Campus of San Antonio.

PJ Library invites you to...

SUMMER SC PS series

Come join us any and all times that fit in your schedule.

(locations to be announced)

Sunday June 11 3pm	Wed June 28 4pm	Friday July 14 11:30 am
	Sunday July 23	Thurs August 3 3pm



LETTER

continued from page 1

who would have thought we would still be dealing with anti-Semitism in the twenty-first century? The same can be said for Jewish identity. For me, Israel is a core component of my identity as a Jew. I take great pride in the land, the people, the food and the constant innovation and development that takes place daily in Israel. I cannot imagine my Jewish identity without Israel.

But this is not to be taken for granted among younger generations or the generations to come. If we do not engage the next generation of Jews with Israel, we will be in danger of losing Israel as a source of Jewish identity and pride. We have to ask ourselves difficult questions. What are we doing to engage with Israel? Are we going

to Israel? Do we invest in sending our youth to Israel? How do we bring Israel to San Antonio? And how do we have uncomfortable conversations about our questions regarding Israel? These are the questions we need to be asking in our board meetings and around our dinner tables.

The Pew Study of Jewish American Life conducted in 2013 found that 94% of Jews in American are "proud to be Jewish." What we do not know is exactly what about being Jewish they are proud of. I would like to think Israel is a source of that pride, but we need to engage to know the answer. As we celebrate this fifty year anniversary of Israel's victory, let's engage in what needs to be addressed in our community so that we can all be proud to be Jewish and of Israel fifty years from now.

L'shalom, Ronit



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PARTNERSHIP CORNER

Israeli and American Jewish teens connect in SA



C-Teens from Chabad and the Israeli teens enjoyed a welcome night full of games, food and fun to get to know each other.

By Lauren Abraham

The Partnership2Gether Western Galilee region selected 11 teens to embark on a yearlong teen leadership program that culminated with a trip to connect with American teens in our consortium cities. Five of the teens enjoyed their last stop on their journey in San Antonio (the other five

concluded in Austin).

During their trip to San Antonio the teens met with C-teens from Chabad for a welcome and games night, led Israeli songs and activities with the students at the Shmuel Bass Torah Academy, and had snacks with the eighth graders that recently returned from Israel with from the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy

(EKHLA).

The Israeli teens also attended Shabbat services and had dinner with teens from the United Synagogue Youth (USY) Group at Agudas Achim. B'nai Brith Youth Organization (BBYO) hosted the teens for their annual Beau/Sweetie Walk down, and on their final day, the NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth)



Amit, Gil (Chaperone), Noam, Raz, Ronit, and Yonatan enjoyed the BBYO Beau/Sweetie event at the Well.

youth group at Temple Beth-El hosted the teens for their end of the year lunch party.

The trip ended with the NCSY (National Conference of Synagogue Youth) chapter at Rodfei Sholom who hosted the teens for a spirited evening of giving as they baked cookies to share with the battered women's and children's shelter. The long weekend made for time for

the teens to bond with their host families the Saklads and Wolfs and for them to see San Antonio and enjoy a warm Texas welcome.

Special thanks to Dr. Mike Ozer for greeting the students at the airport and to Drs. Laura and Gary Benjamin for helping them with an emergency dental check-up while they were here.

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YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

Beldon Library News

Beldon Librarian Lynn Waghalter will attend the 52nd Annual AJL (Association of Jewish Libraries) Conference in New York City on June 19 -21. She reports, "This year's Conference will take place at Hebrew Union College, Brookdale Center. It will be very special because I will be part of a session, *Collaborating to Support Library Collections*, which focuses on the Mitzvah Project that our library has with the Vilna/Vilnius Jewish Public Library. I will be one of the presenters along with Boston University Librarian, Olga Potap, and Zilvinas Beliauskas from the Vilna/Vilnius Jewish Public

BELDON LIBRARY HOURS

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

Library."

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

Beldon Library's Summer

Reading Program for Kids, K – 5 will begin on Wednesday, June 14th. This is an eight week program in which children will check-out and read 2 books per week from the Beldon Library. Children who wish to participate will need a Beldon Library card. At the end of the program, a certificate and a prize will be awarded to those who have read a minimum of 16 books.

A Used Book Sale will take place in the Beldon Library on Sunday, August 13 and Monday, August 14. Donations of gently used books for children and adults are now being accepted. No prayer books will be accepted.



SAN ANTONIAN LAUREL GANDLER REPRESENTS PJ LIBRARY

PJ Library Committee Member and mom Laurel Gandler attended the National PJ Library Conference at Pearlstone Retreat Center to represent San Antonio. Here she is with PJ Library founder and Jewish educational visionary, Harold Grinspoon.

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Temple Chai to welcome summer rabbinic intern

Temple Chai, San Antonio's small Reform congregation, will welcome Sam Stern as its summer rabbinic intern.

Sam recently completed the first year of rabbinical school at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in Jerusalem, and will continue his studies in the fall at the College's Los Angeles campus. As the rabbinic intern at Temple Chai, Sam will spend time with Rabbi David Komerofsky and help lead worship and study experiences for the congregation, participate in pastoral care visits, and get a sense of the workings of a small congregation. Sam has a bachelor's degree in history and Jewish studies, and a master's degree in Jewish



Rabbi Stern

communal service. Before attending HUC-JIR, he worked as a youth professional for 6 years, including

at Temple Beth-El in San Antonio.

Rabbi Komerofsky, who began his career as a dean at HUC-JIR in Cincinnati, said "Internships with congregations and rabbis are an important part of seminary training. I interned at Temple Beth-El after my second year of school, and look forward to coaching Sam as he begins this exciting phase of his professional training." Sam will be with Temple Chai in June and July.

Hadassah event focuses on summer skin care and cancer prevention

The San Antonio Chapter of Hadassah welcomes dermatologist Dr. Karla N. Munoz to speak about summer skin care and cancer on Thursday evening, June 15, at 5:30 pm at KONA Grill in La Cantera.

Those who wish will be able to order happy-hour snacks and beverages.

Dr. Munoz is a graduate of Harvard

Medical School. She interned at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and was a resident in the Department of Dermatology at Stanford University. She will talk about skin care and prevention of skin cancer.

Reservations should be made no later than June 13 by contacting Debbie Linck at marketinglinck@yahoo.com.

Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood hosts annual Mah Jongg tournament

Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood is having its second annual Mah Jongg Tournament on Sunday, July 30 beginning at 10 a.m. and ending by 5 p.m. Play will begin promptly at 10:15 a.m. in the Gurinsky Family Social

Hall, 16550 Huebner Rd., San Antonio, 78248. The early bird registration fee of \$36 is due by Monday, July 17. The regular registration fee of \$45 is due by July 24. Registration includes lunch, snacks, and prizes. There are no refunds or cancellations

after July 24. Further registration information will follow. For information or to add your name to our mailing list, please contact Jean Schlesinger at rjschles@sbglobal.net or Sherie Trakhtenbroit at strakhten@aol.com.



Seeking Volunteers to Teach in the Museum

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

Do you enjoy learning and working with the public?

Are you seeking a rewarding volunteer experience?

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

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



Temple Chai to offer adult education session

Temple Chai will offer an adult learning session, *The Allure of Extremism*, on Wednesday, June 7 at 7 p.m. at its Northwest-side facility (2121 Lockhill Selma). Rabbi David Komerofsky will explore the causes of religious extremism with a focus on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Questions to be addressed include: What draws people from the center to the fringes? How do extremist groups recruit

from non-practicing co-religionists? What are the warning signs that someone is vulnerable for recruitment? What can and should moderates do to address the rise of the extremism from within their own religion?

All are welcome to participate. There is no charge, but advance registration is required. Visit www.templechaisa.org/ extremism or call (210) 340-2090 to sign up.

The JCC announces annual award recipients

The Barshop Jewish Community Center will present a number of awards recognizing outstanding volunteers, programs, and staff at the JCC Annual Meeting Wednesday, June 7 at 7p.m. Outgoing and incoming Board Members will also be announced, along with State of the J addresses by current Board Chair Danna Half and CEO Saul Levenshush.

The following awards will be presented: Phil Kolovson

will receive the Charninsky Award for Leader of the Year; Michele Brown will receive the Charlie Pearl Award for Volunteer of the Year; the 2017 Jewish Film Festival will be recognized with the Lichtenstein Award for Program of the Year - co-chairs Susan Blumenthal and Alan Petlin will accept the award on behalf of the program; Dean Wiemers will receive the Weldon C. Place Award for Sports & Fitness Achievement; Shana

Gurwitz and Randy Tawil will receive the William Alter Award for Emerging Leadership; Hannah Eichelbaum & Jordan Litofsky will receive the Aunt Roselle Smith Award for BBYO Youth Leadership; and Maya Siler and Sally Scharff will receive the Gloria Seitzman Staff of the Year award.

The JCC's Annual Meeting is open to the community; RSVP to Diana Creel at (210) 302-6822 by June 2.

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Temple Chai to host Big Summer Chill

August in Texas is a good time for cooling down, and Temple Chai will host a Big Summer Chill Wine Tasting and Raffle to do just that. Local wine expert Sergio Lavenant will showcase a selection of wines, balsamic vinegars, and olive oils at the Saturday, Aug. 5 event, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at a

private home in Elm Creek.

In addition to the tastings and hors d'oeuvres, the \$54 couvert includes a custom wineglass. "Chai Five" guests' \$90 couvert will also choose a bottle of wine to take home. All of the gourmet foods and spirits highlighted will be available for purchase.

The Big Summer Chill

includes a raffle of various items with tickets at \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Winners need not be present, and raffle tickets are available for purchase without attending the event.

For more information and to register, visit www.templechaisa.org/chill or call (210) 340.2090.

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IN THE COMMUNITY

Israeli Scouts to visit the JCC

The community is invited to the Barshop Jewish Community Center Tuesday, July 11 at 2:30 p.m. for a performance of the Friendship Caravan of the Israel Scouts (Tzofim). The performance is free and open to the community; RSVPs are appreciated to (210) 302-6859.

The Tzofim Friendship

Caravan brings a taste of Israeli culture to communities through art the United States with a one-hour song and dance show. The performance is recommended for ages five and older. The teen performers will be available after the show for a meet and greet to share more about their lives in Israel and experiences in the Caravan.



School's out for Summer, but hunger takes no vacation

In the summertime, schools are closed, and children who depend on free or reduced lunch often go hungry. For the past seven years, Beth-El Food and Fun Summer Day Camp (BFF) has partnered with the San Antonio Food Bank to alleviate hunger and provide fun activities for children in the neighborhood. The following are facts from the National Food Research and Action Center, the US Census Bureau, and the USDA:

- Over 2 million children in Texas qualify for free meals during the school year.
- Only 12% of Texas kids from low-income families receive summer meals.
- 40-50% of San Antonio children live below the poverty level.
- For many children, the breakfasts and lunches served at Summer Feeding Sites like

Beth-El's are the only meals they get in a day.

• 78% of the children who live in zip code 78212 (Temple vicinity) qualify for meal assistance.

This summer, you can help make a difference by volunteering your time or donating funds and/or supplies. Volunteers are welcome as often as you'd like to come, and the experience is more rewarding than you can imagine. You can also earn community service hours, and hours toward the President's Volunteer Service Award. BFF begins on June 5 and runs through July 28. Hours for camp are 8:00 am to 12:30 pm Monday through Friday each week.

Contact camp co-directors, Kathi Kardon or Robyn Rosen, at BFFSummerDayCamp@gmail.com, or call Kathi at

Supplies needed for BFF Summer Day Camp:

- Picture books
- Splash pools
- Water guns/pool toys
- Shaving cream
- Gift cards to HEB or Walmart for cooking and other supplies
- Colored tissue paper
- Paint brushes
- White paper and foam plates
- Paper towels
- Poster board (assorted colors)
- Markers, Crayons, & Pencils
- Colorful yarn
- Ink pads
- Model Magic Crayola (white)
- Water color sets
- Craft paint (fluid acrylic)
- Chalk (assorted bright colors)
- Construction paper
- White drawing paper
- Watercolor paper
- Masking tape
- Glue and glue sticks
- Zentangle supplies
- Food coloring
- Toothpicks
- Bulk canvas 11X14 size
- Bubble wrap
- Sand paper
- Google eyes

(210) 849-6082 for more information or to volunteer.



2017 Summer Reading Program

Begins June 14

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JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

May was a busy month for the Post. May 1, Garland Scott and Irwin Barath presented the colors at the Yom Hazikaron Memorial Day Service. On May 4, members of the post served supper to the patients and their dependents at the Wounded Warrior Center. During a Post meeting May 28, speaker was Mike Kelne who spoke about Golden Manors' new program titled EDGE. After the program post members placed American flags on the grave sites of Jewish Veterans buried in a local cemetery. May 30, post members conducted a Bingo/Social for patients in the CTC unit.

And the beat goes on with post members

attending the Department of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma meeting in Austin, Texas on June 23, 24 and 25. The SA post will not have a meeting in June due to the meeting in Austin.

San Antonio will host the Jewish War Veterans of U.S.A national convention from August 28 through September 1 at the Hilton Del Rio River Walk. This is a first for San Antonio and the post is proud of the fact that national has decided to come to Texas and San Antonio was selected as the site.

The next Post meeting is scheduled for July 23 at 9 a.m. at the JCC. For further information contact Post Commander, Herschel Sheiness at (210) 468-5598.

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more, all while mingling with nice
people & helping Temple Chai!

Saturday, August 5th - 6:30 PM
Private home in Elm Creek

www.templechaisa.org/chill

IN THE COMMUNITY: YOUTH

Watermelon Wednesday Summer Storytime at Agudas Achim returns

Watermelon Wednesday Summer Storytime is returning for its fourth summer at Congregation Agudas Achim. The story time is every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. from June 14 through August 9.

Watermelon Wednesday includes a weekly Jewish theme that includes special stories and songs led by Rabbi and Lauren Abraham. Each week concludes with getting to eat some delicious watermelon sponsored by

Jody and Paul Reddy.

Some of the themes include Tzedakah, the 10 Commandments, Noah's Ark, Israel, and more. For more information, please call (210) 479-0307 or info@agudas-achim.org.

Registration open: Temple Beth-El

Students in Preschool – Grade 10 explore a wide range of Jewish topics, including Holidays and Jewish traditions, history, *Tanach* (Bible), *tefillah* (prayer), Hebrew, *mitzvot* (commandments), Jewish ethics and God using curriculum from the Institute of Southern Jewish Life. Older students learn about American Jewish history, the Holocaust, God, Judaism and how it relates to other world religions, and our responsibility to *tikkun olam*, repairing the world and making it a better place.

Also offered are enrichment specials to our students on a weekly basis. Each Sunday, classes cook classic Jewish recipes, check books out at the library, learn new music, and make beautiful works of art.

Hebrew classes meet twice a week: Sundays

and either Tuesday (JCC) or Wednesday (Temple) to meet the needs of families' and students' busy schedules. Students leave the program prepared to fully participate in worship services and with a cohort of lifelong friends.

Special Needs? A unique program of including students with a variety of physical, emotional and learning needs in our classrooms. An Inclusion Specialist is a member of the faculty and is present whenever class is in session to support both students and teachers as they strive to meet the needs of all of students.

For questions about registration, contact Sara Planto at (210) 733-9135 x108. For membership information, contact Tory Richmond at (210) 733-9135 extension 158.

Registration open: Inda Posner Religious School

Enrollment is open for the 2017-2018 school year at the Inda Posner Religious School at Congregation Agudas Achim.

Senior Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham says Agudas prides itself on experiential creative learning, the warm relationship with

its teachers and clergy, as well as an "outside the box" environment for Jewish learning.

"Our goal is to help our students find a love and passion for Judaism," said Rabbi Abraham. "We believe strongly in relationship building and forging the

beginnings of a life-long friendships and creating an environment that allows our children to grow in their Judaism."

Agudas offers a special track class for 3rd through 5th grade students who attend the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy (EKHLA). The class is taught on Wednesdays from 4:15-6 p.m. by Rabbi Abraham.

The Inda Posner Religious School is for children from kindergarten through 12th grade. Agudas Achim offers a special once a month Pre-K class as well.

For more information, contact Rabbi Abraham at (210) 479-0429 or [rabbi](mailto:rabbi@agudas-achim.org).



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WHAT'S HAPPENING: LIONS OF JUDAH

Lions of Judah recognized for contributions

On May 16, the Women's Philanthropy Division of The Jewish Federation of San Antonio honored the 2016 Lions of Judah. These exemplary women were honored for the profound impact they make on the Jewish community in San Antonio, in Israel and around the world.

During the luncheon, the group also honored Esther Vexler, z"l. Her daughter, Jill Vexler, paid tribute to

her mother and shared Esther's greatest attributes as a visionary and trailblazer within the community.

Speaker Lisa Friedman Clark shared her story of tragedy and triumph and the important role Federation plays in supporting Jewish people around the world. Her harrowing story of adversity, resiliency and positivity is what makes her an example of what it looks like to live a life with

intention.

A life with intention is what defines the Lions of Judah. The luncheon honored that purpose and celebrated their generosity.

The Lions of Judah are distinguished by their commitment of \$5000 or more a year. Laura Ehrenberg-Chesler is the chair of the Lions of Judah and Dr. Amy Benedikt is the Chair of the Women's Philanthropy Board.



Jill Vexler and Bette Vexler joined together with friends to honor their mother Esther Vexler, z"l.

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Jeremy Rosen, Steve Sherman

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- Sylvia F. & Harry Sugerman Young Leadership Award
- Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education
- Chair's Award

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



TASA JOINS IN COMMUNITY YOM HA'ATZMAUT CELEBRATION

TASA Students enjoy some Israeli-style food at a Hebrew Language mock-shuk during their Yom Ha'Atzmaut program.



END OF THE YEAR ALL YOUTH PARTY AT TEMPLE BETH-EL

All of Temple Beth-El's Youth Groups (K through 12) got together for an End of the Year All Youth Party. To be a part of this thriving youth environment, contact Joel Swedlove, Director of Youth Programs and Informal Education at joel@beth-elsa.org or (210) 733-9135, ext. 151.



would like to thank the following hosts of our recent Israel delegations:

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



TEMPLE BETH-EL GOES TO WASHINGTON

From left, member of Temple Beth-El and co-chair of the Temple's Social Action Committee, Dan Klein, Social Action Committee member Olga Kauffman, and Rabbi Marina Yergin recently attended the Union for Reform Judaism's Religious Action Center's Consultation on Conscience in Washington, D.C., where they were able to meet with legislators, learn about ways to advocate for social action, and meet with other Reform Jews across the country who are interested in making a difference.



PRESCHOOL FRIENDSHIP FAIR – GAN GANI

Gan Gani Preschool students recently explored how fun caring and sharing can be at their Friendship Fair. For more information visit www.GanGani.org or call (210) 764-0300.



VETS HONORED AT BETH-EL ARMED FORCES SHABBAT

Temple Beth-El's WWII flag, pictured here with Temple member Tom Kaufman, has a star with each member's name who served in that war, and will be on display in the Wulfe Sanctuary during Armed Forces Shabbat on Friday, June 30, at 6:30 pm. The flag, kept in the Temple archives, was originally dedicated in 1944 in memory of Karleen Hammer Kaufman (Tom Kaufman's mother) by Pi Tau Pi Fraternity and was rededicated in 2010.



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YOM HA'ATZMAUT: Israel's 69th Birthday



Avi Dayan finished the ceremony with the children of San Antonio as they sang Hatikvah (the national anthem) and Am Yisrael Chai (the land of Israel lives)!



Raphi Sonsino led the Israeli dance troupe in festive Israeli dancing to celebrate Israel.

Israeli singer Avi Dayan sings an opening solemn song at the community-wide Yom Hazikaron Israel Memorial Ceremony.



ISRAEL FOCUS OF COMMUNITY COMMEMORATION AND CELEBRATION

The San Antonio Jewish Community gathered to celebrate Israel's 69th Birthday on Monday, May 1. The evening was filled with mixed emotions. It began with the service for Yom Hazikaron (Israel's memorial day for the fallen soldiers) in the Holzman Auditorium as the community heard messages, prayers, songs, and poetry from all of the senior clergy in town, as well as a special message from the Chief of Staff of the state of Israel delivered by Major Yehuda Eldan.

San Antonio welcomed Israeli performer Avi Dayan from the Partnership region in the Western Galilee.



Greg and Gilad Davis enjoyed reading PJ Library books in the children's area during Yom Ha'atzmaut.



Robyn Roberto enjoyed the children's section of the Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration that was sponsored by PJ Library. She is featured decorating her sack to take around the "shuk" (market) to participate in all of the stations.

YOM HA'ATZMAUT: Israel's 69th Birthday

Dayan sang an opening song at the Memorial service, then at the end of the service he led the children in the spirited singing of Hatikvah and Am Yisrael Chai.

The mood then changed from ceremony to celebration as the event shifted downstairs to the Wulfe gymnasium. In the gym, Dayan and his two daughters Lihi and Koral Dayan performed their show *The Heart of Israel* which featured Israeli favorites such as Yerushalayim Shel Zahav, Adon Olam, and Hallelujah.

Irene's Kosher Katering served hot dogs and falafel, and PJ Library sponsored the children's area where children could build their own Kotel like the wall in Israel. Dancing and singing, along with reuniting with friends allowed for everyone to enjoy the evening in the spirit of support for Israel.



Clergy and community members are seated to remember Israeli soldiers who have fallen.

Children of Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy Welcome Israeli singer Avi Dayan



Israeli Performer Avi Dayan and his daughters Lihi and Koral led the over 300 attendees of our Yom Ha'atzmaut Israeli Independence Day celebration in his show "The Heart of Israel" with popular Israeli classics such as Adon Olam, Yerushalayim Shel Zahav, and more.



Community Relations Council (CRC) Chair Elect, Kevin Epstein blows the shofar for freedom and to remind us to gather from the four corners of the earth.



Haim and Keren Ashkenazi lit the torch and then shared words of memory for the soldiers that have passed as they defended our state of Israel.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



EXPLORING ISRAEL AT CAA

Inda Posner Religious School students Hannah Feld and Julia Wilk at Congregation Agudas Achim prepare an itinerary for a trip to Israel as part of their 5th Grade Israel project and presentation in anticipation of Yom Ha'Atzmaut.



TASA HOSTS YOM HAZIKARON PROGRAM

Torah Academy students commemorated and learned about the sacrifices of those who lost their lives serving in the Israeli Armed Forces. IDF veteran and CrossFit trainer Avichai Balila spoke with the students about his experiences in TzaHaL.



MOVING ON UP AT CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL

Chabad Hebrew School students were all smiles after passing their Hebrew reading studies and advancing to the next level.



AGUDAS ACHIM CELEBRATES LAG B'OMER & MOTHER'S DAY

Congregation Agudas Achim's May 14 Lag B'Omer Celebration included a special tribute to moms and featured food, games, a DJ, and a bounce house. The highlight of the day was Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham and other staff members taking turns in the dunk tank.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



CHABAD TEENS GET TOGETHER FOR GAME NIGHT

San Antonio's CTeen Chapter enjoyed a crazy fun game night at home of Rabbi Levi and Naomi Grossbaum. The evening featured special guests of the Israeli teens.



PRE-PASSOVER AT RODFEI SHOLOM

On April 9, Congregation Rodfei Sholom hosted a pre-Passover pancake breakfast and chometz burning. The event included a demonstration by the San Antonio Fire Department.



SUNDAY FUNDAY WITH RODFEI

Congregation Rodfei Sholom's Sunday Funday at Altitude Trampoline Park had everyone jumping for joy on Sunday May 10.



SPREADING SUNSHINE

The Sunshine Club Luncheon, an afternoon of food and friends, met on Tuesday, May 9 at the Chabad Center for a Pre-Mother's Day Bagels and Lox Luncheon. Participants created an elegant floral arrangement and explored the upcoming Jewish holidays. Learn more at www.ChabadSA.com/SunshineClub. The Sunshine Club is a joint program of the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning and Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



CHABAD L'CHAIM EVENT

Rabbi Chaim Block presents the Dor L'Dor Award to Efraim & Orah Abramoff during Chabad's annual L'Chaim event on Sunday, April 2. During the event, which featured entertainment by trumpet virtuoso Arik Davidov, San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce CEO Ramiro Cavazos was presented with a Distinguished Community Service Award.



AGUDAS ACHIM NEW MEMBER BRUNCH

Congregation Agudas Achim recently hosted its annual New Member Brunch with a fiesta style meal, welcoming all new members who have joined the congregation in the past year.



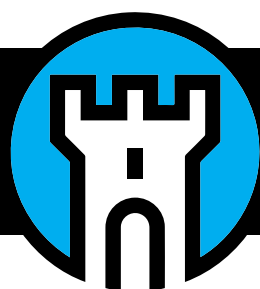
HEINTZ PRESCHOOL HONORS MOMS

Heintz Preschool hosted its annual Muffins with Mom program on May 10 and 11. Each class prepared a special Mother's Day show for the moms along with muffins and a special Mother's Day gift that each child made for their mom.



CLUB AGUDAS ACHIM HAS BACKYARD KOSHER BBQ

Club Agudas Achim, Congregation Agudas Achim's Social Club for 45+, had a huge turnout at its Backyard Kosher BBQ hosted by Rhonda and Charlie Gurinsky. Visit www.agudas-achim.org to learn about future Club Agudas Achim events as well.



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IN THE COMMUNITY: YOUTH

Camp Gan Israel Partnering with Local STEAM Talent

New 'Electivities' will be offered at Camp Gan Israel's 7-week summer program, from June 21 – August 5.

In addition to free swim and swim instruction, watercolor and canvas painting with My Art Starz, pottery, African drumming, Mad Science, basketball clinic, rocket building, origami, and master chef, campers will get to create and interact with their own robots with a team of local STEAM instructors. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.

Campers will also enjoy weekly trips to local attractions, including Pump It Up, Tower of Americas/Rio San Antonio Boat Cruise, Enchanted Springs Ranch/DoSeum, Thin Air, Six Flags/Morgan's Wonderland, Laser Legend/The Jumpy Place, roller skating and Embassy Mini Golf.

This year's exciting theme for Mini Gan for children ages 18 months – 4 (entering Pre-K) is 'Outdoor Adventures'. It will include lots of discovery, hands on activities and theme days with visits from animal friends, in addition to water/splash play, sports with TOTS Basketball, mad science, yoga and swim instruction and more.

For more information please visit www.GanIsraelSA.com/datesrates or call Camp Director Rochel Teldon at 210-764-0300.

Western Galilee teen delegation visits TASA

Torah Academy of San Antonio students spent time interacting with and getting to know the members of the Teen Delegation of the Western Galilee Partnership Region.

The five members of the Teen Delegation, under the guidance of their mentor Gil Klempert, shared a young person's view of the Israeli experience with TASA students. The Teens and students engaged in games, discussion, and interactive

activities, while getting to know about each other.

TASA middle school students discussed the connection between Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut. As one student noted "we go from being super sad to super happy, and it is all connected with how life can really be in Israel." TASA students came away with a deeper understanding of Israeli life, and a few new friends as well.



Summer enrichment at the JCC

Families looking for enrichment opportunities for their younger children this summer have plenty of options at the Barshop Jewish Community Center. Beginning in early June through July, the JCC will offer a selection of enrichment and sport classes for youth as young as twelve months up to eight years.

For those interested in exploring the arts, Mini Movers offers dance instruction, including basic ballet and tap skills, as well as teaching

them to focus on rhythm, timing, and coordination. Rising STARZ is a theatre class that explores drama through puppets, nursery rhymes, acting games, songs, and more.

Sports fans will enjoy kicking the ball in Super Soccer Stars, swinging a bat in the JCC's Tee-Ball League, or learning how to make a hole-in-one Tees Fore Tots. Children who enjoy tumbling around the house will enjoy Tumblebus, a fully-padded

gymnasium on wheels where youth develop gross motor skills through tumbling, coordination, concentration, and balance. Finally, Little Yogis is a relaxing, playful class that promotes development of body awareness, balance, flexibility, and agility.

Programs are open to the community; JCC Members receive special rates. To find out more about the classes available or to register online, visit www.jccsanantonio.org/register.

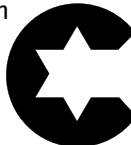
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IN THE COMMUNITY: YOUTH & SENIORS

Congregation Agudas Achim to host two summer camps

Congregation Agudas Achim will again host two camps this summer. Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim is continuing its popular Summer Literacy Camp for 18 months through 8 years old beginning on June 5. There are spots available for Counselors-in-Training (CITs) as well up through 18 years old.

Weekly themes center on beloved children's books. Children will enjoy daily water activities, a petting zoo, special guests like firemen and policemen, and more. The camp will also explore the world of dinosaurs, reptiles, transportation, furry friends and nature.

Agudas is also hosting Mad Science Camp all summer long for 6-12 year

olds. Mad Science camps offer a daily combination of in-class discovery and exploration, outdoor games and physical activities, and hands-on applications of the scientific principles presented. Children will be able to touch, see, hear, smell and taste what science is really all about. Mad Science uses simple, real world science techniques that allow campers to enjoy the learning environment.

Full and half day options are available for both camps.

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



Summer programming available for youth at Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El is excited to announce their "Summer of Shalom Family Programming." Youth are invited to join in on events each week between June 9th and August 11th.

As a community we will explore all of the fun, family-friendly activities around San Antonio. Trips including the DoSeum, seeing a show at The Magic Theatre, dancing the night away at The Pearl and many more exciting events! All events are open to families and children of all ages, so come and experience all the great things our city

has to offer.

There's also no better way to cool down on a hot summer day then with some delicious ice cream or frozen yogurt, so join Director of Congregational Learning, Leah Apothaker and Director of Youth Programs & Informal Education, Joel Swedlove every other Friday at Friday Freeze events.

For more information including the full schedule, prices, and locations for our Summer of Shalom and Friday Freeze events go to www.beth-elsa.org.

Summer Skin Care Tips at Rodfei Sholom L'Chayim Club Luncheon

Join Dr. Vivian Bucay in an interactive question and answer session about summer skin care, including sun protection, heat rash, and dry skin. Plan your questions now, and be sure to attend the next L'Chayim Club on June 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for answers.

San Antonio is home to Dr. Vivian Bucay, her husband Dr. Moises Bucay, a cardiologist and their three daughters. Dr. Bucay is recognized nationally for her expertise in minimally invasive facial rejuvenation. Considered to be one of the pre-eminent dermatologists in the country, Dr. Bucay's credentials span a wide scope of biomedical research, patient care, and medical education. A personal battle with stage 4 melanoma, one of the deadliest forms of skin cancer, has enabled Dr. Bucay to connect with her patients in a unique way.

There will be a D'Var Torah given by Rabbi A. Scheinberg, followed by a delicious home-cooked meal. Seniors are invited to attend at no charge, thanks to a generous grant from Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services and co-sponsorship of Rodfei Sholom. The cost for all others is \$5.00/ person. If attending, please RSVP by Monday, June 19 to the synagogue office at 210-493-3557 or rodfeisa@gmail.com.

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COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Barshop Jewish Community Center

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

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

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President: Steve Butler **Website:** www.thecampustx.org
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Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services

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Phone: (210) 616-4811 **Website:** www.goldenmanor.net
Executive Director: Daniel L. Laser **President:** Alice R. Troy
Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) works to enhance the lives of Jewish seniors in the San Antonio area.

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America

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

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Jewish Family Service

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Executive Director: M. H. Levine **President:** Marion Bernstein
Jewish Family Service (JFS) offers a wide range of professional counseling, social services, advocacy for victims of crime, and services for seniors including senior living and care options.

National Council Of Jewish Women (NCJW)

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

Hillel San Antonio

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

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SAN ANTONIO CONGREGATIONS

Congregation Agudas Achim (Conservative)

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

Congregation Beth Am (Reconstructionist)

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

Congregation Rodfei Sholom (Orthodox)

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

Temple Beth-El (Reform)

211 Belknap Place, 78212
Phone: (210) 733-9135 **Fax:** (210) 737-8946
E-mail address: Temple@beth-elsa.org
Website: www.beth-elsa.org
Rabbi Mara Nathan, Senior Rabbi
Rabbi Marina Yergin
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IN THE COMMUNITY: SENIORS

Show your support for Jewish seniors by enjoying *Shrek the Musical* on July 23

One of the most successful programs for Jewish seniors in the San Antonio area over the last few years has been Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services' transportation program that fights isolation by keeping Jewish seniors connected to the broader Jewish community. It's been so successful that growth in the service has been limited only by limited resources.

To address that situation, GMJSS is holding a fundraiser this year that will appeal to those of all ages. On Sunday, July 23, enjoy a performance of *Shrek the Musical*, at the Woodlawn Theatre. The show starts at 3pm, and is a great summer-fun opportunity for everyone ages 4 and up –

grandparents, grandchildren and everyone in-between.

GMJSS will hold a short annual meeting prior to the musical that begins at 2p.m. and is conveniently located at the Classic Theater, 1924 Fredericksburg Rd, just a few doors down from the Woodlawn Theatre.

Everyone is invited to attend the annual meeting, and is encouraged to stay after and enjoy *Shrek* with GMJSS staff, friends and family. Parking is free, valet available, and children will receive a special gift with their purchased ticket.

For *Shrek* tickets, to RSVP for the annual meeting, or for transportation, please call Lety at (210) 616-4811 or LetyV@GoldenManor.net.

Wandering Jews sets travel itinerary to include 4 trips

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) has created a new travel program for seniors with four special trips planned for 2018. Each trip will include some element of Jewish cultural, religious and/or historic content.

In January, travelers will enjoy a 10-night cruise of Eastern Caribbean islands that were among the first homes of European Jews in the New World. In April, travelers can enjoy *Seder at Sea* and celebrate Passover aboard a cruise ship.

The August trip is a *Jewish Discovery River Cruise* along the Danube River, from Budapest to Prague; and in the fall of 2018 (October or November) senior travelers can enjoy a long weekend in Charleston, South Carolina, which has had a vibrant Jewish community since before the Revolutionary War.

There is only one sailing of the Danube

Jewish Discovery River Cruise each year, and they sell out early. Five (5) cabins have been reserved for GMJSS, and more are still available at this time. People who book by June 6 will receive a \$750 per person discount – \$1,500 per couple. Additional benefits are also offered.

Although the January Eastern Caribbean cruise (which starts on December 30, 2017) is still 7 months away, experienced cruisers know it's wise to book early so you'll have a greater choice of staterooms.

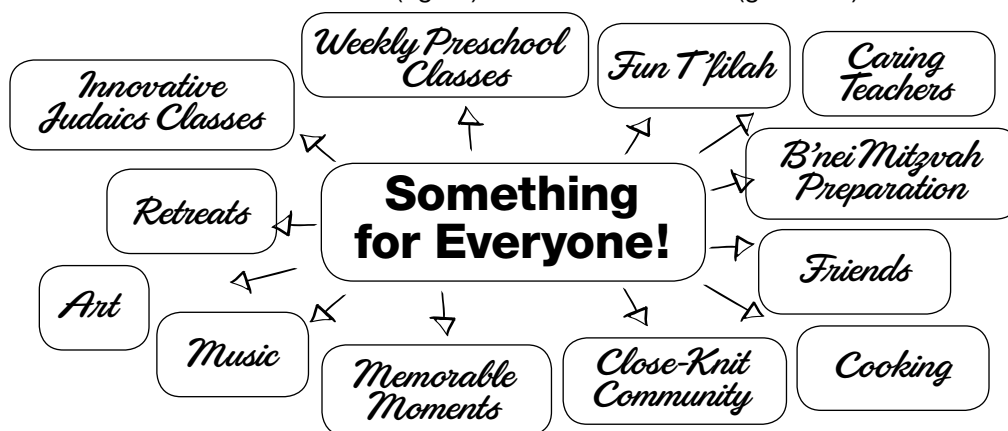
For more information on either cruise, contact Eva Laporte, GMJSS Program Director, (210) 616-4811, eval@goldenmanor.net, or Tina Dinesman or Barb Sellers at Spoil Me Rotten Travel, (210) 670-5305, tdinesman@cruiseplanners.com or bsellers@cruiseplanners.com.

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Teachers teaching tolerance

By Lisa Barry and
Evie Thompson
Special to Jewish Journal

Woodridge Elementary in Alamo Heights ISD began a unit on tolerance this year. Our students learned about four groups of people in our world through a variety of novels and activities: perpetrators, victims, bystanders and upstanders. To better understand the reasons behind the actions of the people in each group and to allow students to build empathy for others, we used stories from the children of the Holocaust.

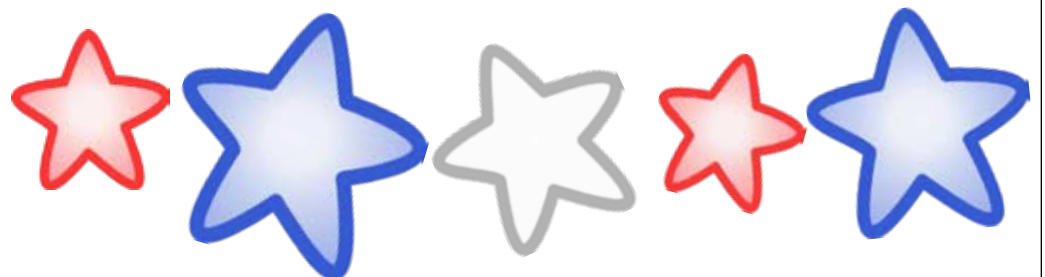
The students viewed a short video, *Anne Frank*, where a modern day Neo-Nazi student travels back in time to learn a lesson. Then, each student was assigned a child of the Holocaust to travel back in time with. Students researched their child and shared a story that was not supposed to be told. Our goal was to tell each story and pay homage to each child.

Inge Auerbacher was one of these children. The

students who researched her not only discovered that she was one of the 1% who survived three years in Terezin, but that she was an author of six books, and currently travels the world talking to people about tolerance, perseverance, and her survival. We read Dr. Auerbacher's book, *I Am a Star*, as a class, and further fell in love with that dark, curly-haired little girl from Kippenheim. Our students were so taken with all the stories of the children. They were able to identify with them and began to feel they had brought them all back to life!

Unbeknownst to the students, we wrote a grant to the Alamo Heights School Foundation and received funds to not only purchase all the supplies needed for the unit, but we also purchased a plane ticket to fly Inge to San Antonio so that she could present her story to both elementary schools and the high school. The day we told the kids they'd get to meet

See **PERSPECTIVE**, page 26



ITEMS WE ARE COLLECTING

- Dental hygiene products
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- Dark color socks

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At Issue: Banned Book

How do you make a book a bestseller? Ban it. In 1957, copies of Allen Ginsberg's *Howl* were seized by authorities, and its publisher, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, was tried for obscenity. The book was ultimately judged to possess "redeeming social importance," but the whiff of scandal made *Howl* one of the most widely read poetry collections in American history.

In 2014, a committee of academic specialists selected a novel called *Borderlife* for required reading in high school literature classes in Israel. The third novel by Israeli author Dorit Rabinyan, the book recounts a passionate affair between Hilmi, a Palestinian from

Ramallah, and Liati, a Jew from Tel Aviv. The Ministry of Education vetoed the idea of adopting it as a school text, warning that the novel might encourage impressionable adolescents to make light of intermarriage. While confessing he had not read it, Minister of Education Naftali Bennett denounced Rabinyan's book as a threat to Israel's national identity.

Endowed with the tang of forbidden fruit, *Borderlife* leaped onto Israeli bestseller lists. It has also sold well in the 17 languages into which it has been translated. Since most of the novel takes place in New York, where Hilmi is pursuing a career as a painter and Liati is studying on a Fulbright, it



Perspective:

STEVEN G. KELLMAN

is surprising that the book is only now appearing in the United States. The title of Jessica Cohen's fluid new English version, *All the Rivers*, appropriates a line by Israeli poet Avot Yeshurun, which Rabinyan uses as an epigraph. Hilmi, who grew up on the West Bank but never had a chance to visit the Mediterranean, contends that what connects Israelis and Palestinians is more important than what divides them: "In the end all the rivers flow into the same sea." A veteran of the Israeli

Defense Forces, Liati was conditioned to regard Palestinians as *treyf* (prohibited.) Hilmi has, in fact, spent time in an Israeli prison for painting anti-Zionist graffiti on a Hebron wall. The effort to keep their relationship secret puts a strain on the couple, as does Hilmi's support for a single binational state and Liati's for a two-state solution. However, a realization that Liati must return alone to her Jewish life in Tel Aviv concentrates the liaison. "How can you love with a deadline," asks a friend, "with a stopwatch running?"

While continuing to bar Rabinyan's novel from required reading, the Ministry of Education

altered its stance to allow it as an elective. At least half a dozen films, including *A Bottle in the Gaza Sea*, have, without much fuss, imagined Capulet/Montague, Israeli/Palestinian romances, and the popular Israeli TV series *Arab Labor* even features a mixed married couple. By contrast, *Crime in Ramallah*, an Arabic novel about gay Palestinians that portrays the Palestinian Authority as corrupt, earned its author, Abbad Yahya, death threats and an arrest warrant. If you test taboos, expect lavish royalties or else an early death.

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

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PERSPECTIVE & OPINION



PERSPECTIVE

continued from page 24

her, they were elated! Many had tears in their eyes.

Inge spoke to our high school sophomore class, who sat in utter silence, taking in every word she shared. The next day, she addressed our elementary schools. Our students rehearsed a song penned by Inge called *Who Am I?*, and greeted her with it as she was introduced to them. This time, *she* was in tears!

She spoke of hope, being an “upstander,” perseverance, survival, and the importance of simple kindness. Her message is one that is a life lesson for these children. They understand completely what it means to be among the last generation to meet a Holocaust survivor in person. The lessons they learned from this unit and from meeting her will be lessons they will not only never forget; but, will pass along to others throughout their lives.

ARTS & CULTURE

Rodfei Sholom to screen the documentary *Faithkeepers* on Sunday, June 11

The community is invited to the screening of the newly released documentary *Faithkeepers*, on Sunday, June 11 at 7:15 pm, at Rodfei Sholom, 3003 Sholom Drive.

Faithkeepers – gives face and voice to the humanitarian crisis and genocide affecting millions in the Middle East as a result of religious and ethnic persecution.

In the Middle East, people of minority faiths are being violently persecuted, driven out of their homes, and killed. Their places of worship are being destroyed, and their history is being erased.

The film is a testament to the stories of the persecuted and an inspiring portrait of the human spirit.

Faithkeepers – the movie and movement – will awaken, enlighten and inspire all people of faith to stand up and take action.

Sponsored by the Israel Public Action Committee of Rodfei Sholom, tickets are \$8/person.

Reservations are required.

For reservations and more information call Rodfei Sholom at 210-493-3557 (ext. 212) or write an email to iparodfei@gmail.com.

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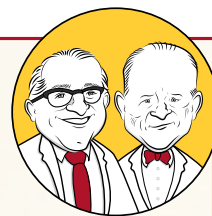
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DEMOGRAPHICS

continued from page 1

“Israel will have the highest population density in the Western world,” Sergio DellaPergola, a preeminent Israeli demographer and member of the report’s steering committee, told JTA. “Interestingly, haredim will overtake Arabs as the largest minority.”

The Central Bureau of Statistics revised upward its previous projection, made in 2012, that the population will reach 15.5 million in 2059, with 4.5 million haredim. DellaPergola said the bureau had wrongly assumed Israel’s fertility rate would continue to decline.

If this report proves accurate, Israel — with a land area of some 8,000 square miles — will be more densely populated than the West Bank and the Gaza Strip taken together are today. Some experts have warned of impending disaster, but DellaPergola said Israel still has room to expand outside its geographic center, the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem region, in what Israelis call the “peripheria,” or periphery.

“Israel has a huge area that is very underpopulated,” he

said. “If you can distribute the population more equally across the periphery, density is not a problem. But I haven’t seen much strategy from the government.”

Israel is growing rapidly mostly because of its birth rate, which DellaPergola said is the highest of the world’s 100 most developed countries, “some of which aren’t that developed.”

The idea is that as the haredi community becomes a bigger part of Israeli society, it must hold its own in the economy — but some current government policies incentivize haredim to remain out of the workforce. Hundreds of thousands of haredi men receive government stipends of \$120 to \$215 a month to study in yeshiva. Just under half of them do not work, although the percentage has been unevenly decreasing for over a decade.

Haredi families also disproportionately benefit from monthly government allowances of \$42 to \$52 per child.

“If we focus on policy regarding pro-natality, and specifically integration of the ultra-Orthodox into society, the dramatic growth predictions may not be fulfilled,” Malach said. “It would also be good for the prosperity of the State of Israel.”

Fidget spinner invented to stop Palestinian kids from throwing rocks at Israelis

By Gabe Friedman

(JTA) — Do we have Palestinian rock throwers to thank for the fidget spinner?

The inventor of the ubiquitous stress-reducing toy says she came up with the idea during a trip to Israel in the 1980s, during the First Intifada, as a way to distract the “young boys throwing rocks at police officers.”

Catherine Hettinger told CNN Money that she first brainstormed the gadget while visiting her sister in the Jewish state and hearing about the clashes between Palestinian youth and Israeli security.

She first considered designing a “soft rock that kids could throw,” according to CNN Money.



“It started as a way of promoting peace,” Hettinger said.

But soon after, upon returning home to Orlando, Florida, Hettinger put together the first fidget spinner — a propeller-like toy

that spins around a center bearing.

Hettinger secured a patent for the device in 1997, but sales languished for over a decade, and Hasbro declined to market it. Hettinger did not have the money to pay the \$400 fee to renew her patent in 2005.

It was not until last year that the fidget spinner became a sensation, appearing everywhere from office cubicles to elementary school classrooms. Some tout the toy as a stress reliever, but others find them disruptive and distracting.

Menorah depictions on display in Vatican and Rome

(JTA) — An unprecedented exhibit centered on the image, history and symbolism of the seven-branched menorah has opened in Rome.

Titled *Menorah: Cult, History and Myth*, the exhibition is a joint project of the Vatican Museum

and the Rome Jewish Museum — the first time the two museums have cooperated in this way. It will run through July 23.

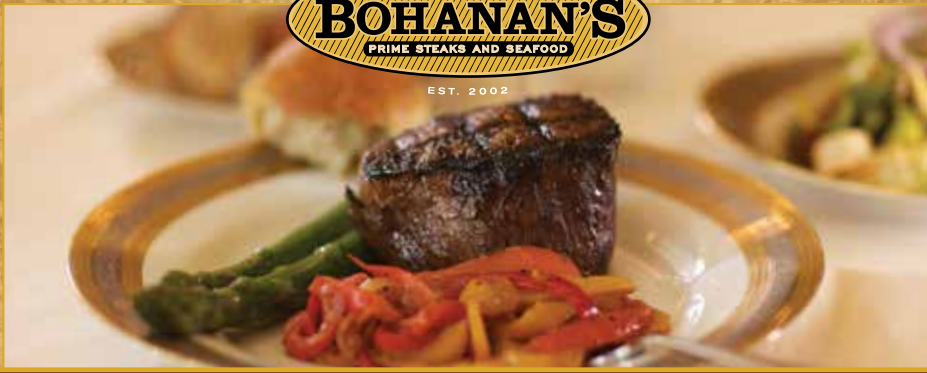
Part of the display is installed in the Vatican Museum’s Carlo Magno exhibition space in St. Peter’s Square, and part of it in the Rome Jewish

Museum, located about a mile away in the complex of the Great Synagogue that towers over the Tiber River.

The exhibition, which took 3 1/2 years to organize, includes some 130 paintings, illustrations and other depictions of menorahs from around the world.



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