

A PUBLICATION OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF SAN ANTONIO

THE JEWISH JOURNAL

NISSAN 5778 - LYAR II, 5779 | MAY 2019



CELEBRATE ISRAEL

DAYAN AND FAMILY
WILL PERFORM IN SAN ANTONIO
FOR YOM HA'ATZMAUT

SEE PAGE 23.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ISRAEL

↓ SPOTLIGHT - PG 8 ↓ ARTS & CULTURE - PG 21

Join us to celebrate the State of Israel's 71st birthday

Each year at the Passover Seder, we say "next year in Jerusalem!" I was fortunate to recite this at my Seder a few weeks ago, having just returned from Jerusalem. The Jewish Federation of San Antonio hosted a mission to Israel, along with eighteen members of our community. As always, it was wonderful to be in Israel, hearing spoken Hebrew, tasting the native spices and most significantly, feeling at home in the Jewish land.

This trip marked my twelfth visit to Israel, and each one has been unique. For me, our visit to Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu, located in the Jordan Valley, was a highlight. Sde Eliyahu was founded in the 1920's by young, teenage refugees from Germany, committed

FROM THE CEO



RONIT
SHERWIN

religiously and committed to pioneering the land of Israel. Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu is one of only nineteen kibbutzim in Israel that still operates as a traditional kibbutz. It is a beautiful kibbutz, from the landscape architecture to the palpable soul one feels when walking through the grounds. Sde Eliyahu is a symbol of the State of Israel and the Jewish people in so many ways and being there strengthened my pride in Israel and my own Jewish identity.

On May 8, we will come together as a San Antonio Jewish community to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, the 71st birthday of the State of Israel. Please join me as we rejoice in the miraculous prosperity and success that we call our homeland. I hope to see you there!

"SDE ELIYAHU IS A SYMBOL OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN SO MANY WAYS AND BEING THERE STRENGTHENED MY PRIDE IN ISRAEL AND MY OWN JEWISH IDENTITY"



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FOCUS ON FEDERATION

Arlene and David Starr bring documentary to San Antonio

On Monday, April 8, a full house at Santikos Palladium viewed the documentary *Above the Drowning Sea* to learn about a little-known chapter of Holocaust history. Shanghai accepted Jews fleeing Nazi controlled Europe, with or without papers, and for thousands it meant the difference between life and death. The film was brought to the community by Arlene and David Starr who, after seeing the film in New York, wanted to share the experience with San Antonio. Arlene feels that "the Holocaust is one of the most important times in our history and we can never forget what happened to us. And in this film, we learn how kind, loving and caring the Chinese were to the displaced Jews arriving in Shanghai." The stories told in the film exemplify the glory of love and the beauty of finding commonality and humanity.

Gary S. Gossen, M.D., F.A.C.G.

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Task force shares report on future of San Antonio Jewish Day School

A Jewish Day School Task force was convened by the Jewish Federation of San Antonio in early 2018 to examine whether the San Antonio Jewish Community can continue to sustain a viable Jewish Day School, and if so, how that school's mission and vision must develop to ensure ongoing success for both the school and the broader San Antonio Jewish Community. Pat Kalmans chaired the committee and Alan Noorily, Sherie Trakhtenbroit, Ronen Bass, Leah Apothekar, Jonathan Gurwitz and Harry Levy served as members.

Though various means were discussed to measure support for a Jewish Day School program, the committee decided that a broad community survey would provide the best tool for this analysis. The survey was conducted in the fall of 2018 and in January, 2019 the full report was shared with the board of the current day school, the Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of San Antonio (TASA) as well as the board of the Jewish Federation.

The most important and relevant finding for the committee was that around 70% of respondents who do not currently have children enrolled in TASA said they would consider sending their child to a Jewish Day School. With that said, the support for a Jewish Day School also depended on the same criteria that are used by parents to choose any other school, including strong academics, experienced teachers and proven results, such as high rankings on

standardized test. In addition, the majority of respondents preferred a multi-denominational school with tuition between \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year.

The findings of the survey helped illuminate many of the reasons TASA has difficulty in recruiting students. Some of those reasons are quite unique to San Antonio. Not only are there more charter schools within a 10-mile radius of Bexar County compared to other major metropolitan areas in Texas, but San Antonio is also the only city in Texas, to date, with a Hebrew language charter school. Moreover, the San Antonio Hebrew language charter school (EKHLA) was formed from the remnants of the prior Jewish Day School which meant that it began operations in a familiar and desirable location, with a large number of the same experienced teachers and administrative staff. These advantages were, and remain, very attractive to many families, as is the fact that EKHLA is free.

Given these very complicated issues, the task force came to no conclusion. Many questions remain, however, including whether we, as a community should change our expectations in regards to a Jewish Day School and accept that we will, at least for now, have a smaller school. In addition, and based on more realistic expectations, perhaps the community should support investigating the best possible models for a smaller sized school rather than assuming we can grow a private Jewish Day school to previous enrollment levels.



CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday, May 3

Light Candles at: 7:54 P.M.
Shabbat, May 4
Shabbat Ends: 8:51 P.M.

Friday, May 10

Light Candles at: 7:59 P.M.
Shabbat, May 11
Shabbat Ends: 8:56 P.M.

Friday, May 17

Light Candles at: 8:03 P.M.
Shabbat, May 18
Shabbat Ends: 9:01 P.M.

Friday, May 24

Light Candles at: 8:07 P.M.
Shabbat, May 25
Shabbat Ends: 9:06 P.M.

Friday, May 31

Light Candles at: 8:11 P.M.
Shabbat, Jun 1
Shabbat Ends: 9:10 P.M.

Happy Independence Day



THE MOST IMPORTANT AND RELEVANT FINDING FOR THE COMMITTEE WAS THAT AROUND 70% OF RESPONDENTS WHO DO NOT CURRENTLY HAVE CHILDREN ENROLLED IN TASA SAID THEY WOULD CONSIDER SENDING THEIR CHILD TO A JEWISH DAY SCHOOL.

97TH ANNUAL MEETING

Executive Committee 2019-2020 Proposed Slate

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Immediate Past Board Chair:
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Vice Chair, Campaign:
Greg Davis
Vice Chair, P&A: Marc Schnall
Vice Chair, Programming:
Jacob Kluger
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For more questions contact
Matthew Elam at 210.302.6960
or ElamM@jfsatx.org

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The Moskowicz family enjoyed the multigenerational experience of rolling the dough for their hamantashen baking experience.

PJ Library families gather for Purim fun day

The Sunday before Purim offered the perfect time for the Jewish Federation of San Antonio and PJ Library of San Antonio to gather PJ Library families at the Jewish Community Campus to enjoy a Purim baking experience like no other. Each family received a "dough bag" and then got to work rolling their dough and adding their favorite fillings to make festive hamantaschen pastries to bake at home, which Jews are commanded to enjoy during the Purim holiday. The afternoon of fun included grandparents, parents, and children, along with a Purim introduction by PJ Library Coordinator, Lauren Abraham, and a Purim PJ Library story from PJ Library committee member and Jewish Federation of San Antonio board member, Dana Gorelik.



Families worked together to make the magical and delicious Purim cookies.

PARTNERSHIP CORNER



San Antonio Community Israel Delegation visits the Western Galilee Partnership

The San Antonio delegation touched the ground in Israel and shortly afterwards traveled to the Western Galilee region, which Federation fondly calls our "Partnership region." Together "as partners" with thirteen American cities, there is constant dialogue and collaboration with delegations and leaders from Akko and the surrounding cities. On April 3, the San Antonio delegation connected with fellow Texans on the delegation to Israel from Fort Worth.

Several participants went to tour the Ghetto Fighters House, which is not only the first Holocaust museum in the world, but also the first of its kind to be established by Holocaust survivors. Others visited Kibbutz Evron, where they were taken to an authentic Ethiopian hut built out of mud and straw. There they met Yonie Skiba, who taught about traditions and values to bring people closer within the social tapestry of Israel.

The group then continued to meet a panel entitled "The Faces of Partnership" and enjoyed a short performance from Israeli musician, Israel Dayan and his family who will be performing in San Antonio with his children on Wednesday night, May 8 for Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut. The night then ended with each participant dining in the homes of partnership leaders and forming newfound friendships! Although the visit to the Partnership region was jam packed, delegates say it was one that will not be forgotten, and will continue to extend the "partnership" feeling between Israelis and Americans for years to come.



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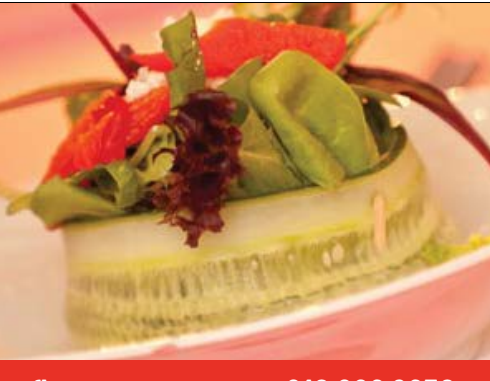
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ANNOUNCEMENT

Hadassah's Rose Treiman Group to be honored – May 9
The San Antonio Chapter of Hadassah will honor members of the Rose Treiman group with a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 9, at Milano's Restaurant, 11802 Wurzbach.

Friends and spouses are welcome to attend.

For information on reservations (\$15 per person), contact Marion Bernstein at (210) 286-7429.

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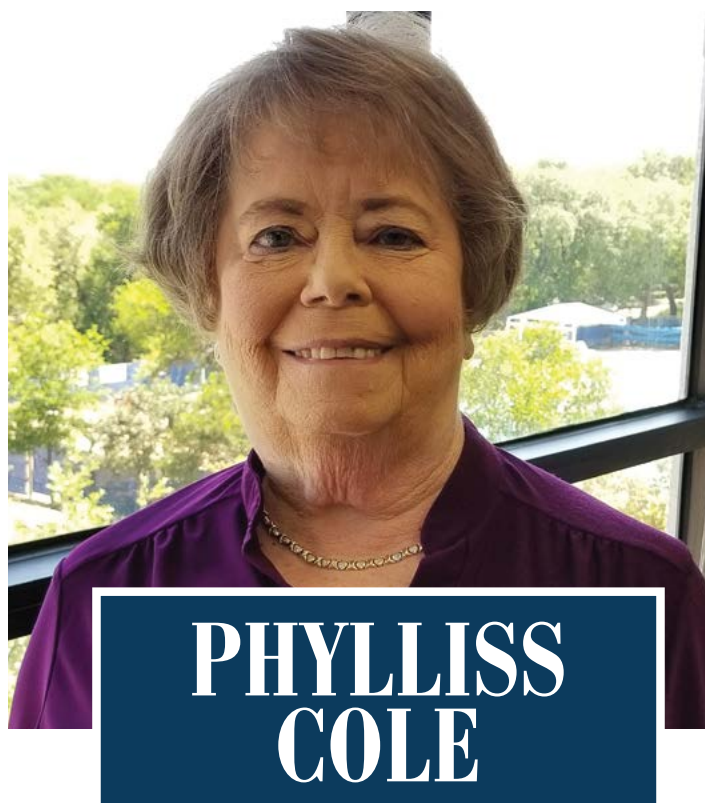
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PHYLLISS COLE

Phylliss Cole is a Port Arthur, Texas, native. She has three children living in Houston and Austin, and seven grandchildren. Recently she completed training and is a new docent with the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio.

■ What brought you to San Antonio?

I moved to San Antonio in 1981 to be near my parents who were living here at the time.

■ What is your strongest Jewish memory?

I have strong memories of celebrating Passover with my grandparents. It was good to have all of the family together, but it was also too long!

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

For a few years I was involved in tutoring elementary students. It was so rewarding to see their progress, particularly a boy I tutored for three years.

Volunteering at the Holocaust Museum is the most rewarding thing I have done, because it is our duty to help people never forget.

■ Please share your favorite Jewish holiday. Why?

Passover, because I enjoy the time with family.

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

I would like us to continue to grow stronger and not forget our roots. We need to remember that our children are our future. L'dor va'dor

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Temple Chai displayed its banner in their new home with legacy donors, (L to R) Bob Markman, Lee Markman, Susan Ghertner, Susan Albert, Steve Sherman, Farel Sherman and David Komerofsky



Congregation Agudas Achim team members Craig Berkowitch and Rabbi Jeffery Abraham, who has signed a Letter of Intent.

LIFE & LEGACY

San Antonio kicks off marketing blitz

On March 28, eleven partner organizational teams heard from Tammy Dollin, Legacy Community Consultant with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, and received LIFE & LEGACY™ San Antonio branding marketing materials.



Jewish Federation San Antonio team members Richard Planto, Team Lead, Steve Sherman and Lynn Stahl, Stahl have each made have made a Commitment to leave a legacy.

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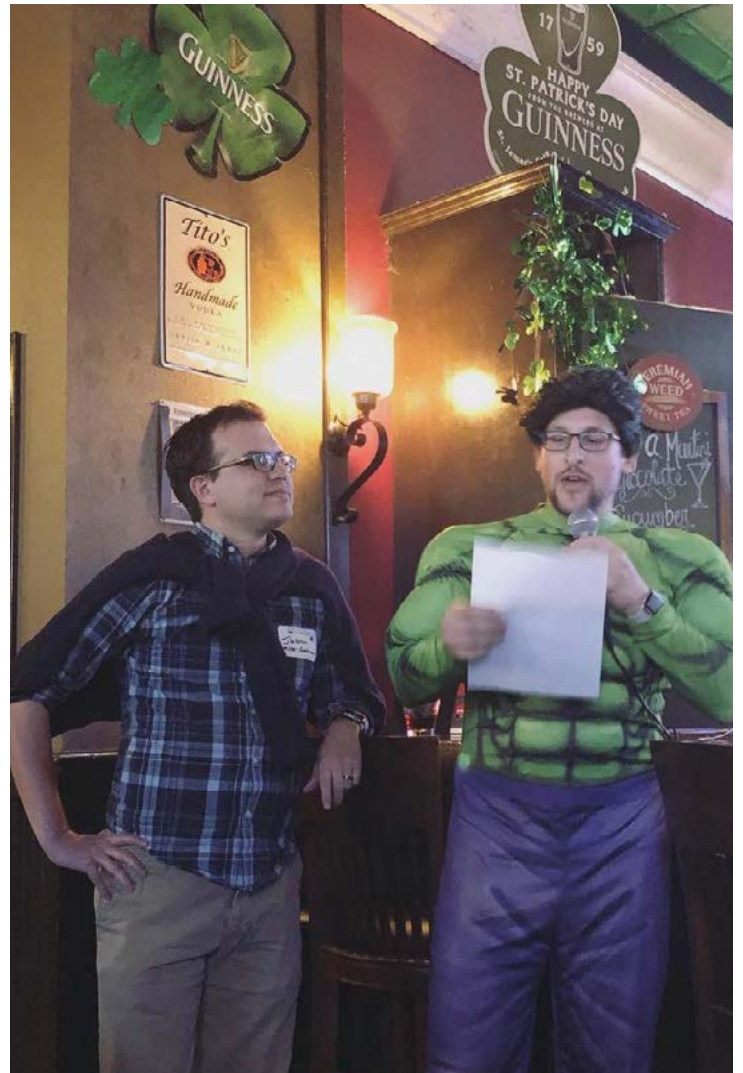
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TASA's Annual Casino Night to honor Furmans



The 5th annual Casino Night Gala of the Shmuel Bass Torah Academy-San Antonio's Jewish Day School will be held on Sunday, May 19 at Congregation Rodfei Sholom. This year's gala, celebrating the completion of the sixth year of TASA, will honor Dr. Joseph & Susan Furman (pictured).

The evening of celebration will include a silent auction, live auction with exciting prizes, fine kosher cuisine, casino games and an open bar. For more information and tickets, contact the school office at (210) 607-7261 or online at www.torahacademysa.com.



Young adults get in the Purim spirit

More than 70 young Jewish adults gathered to celebrate Purim together on Wednesday, March 20th at Stone Street Pub. The Young Adult Division (YAD) of Jewish Federation hosted the 3rd Annual community-wide party and partnered with young adult leaders at Agudas Achim, Temple Beth-El, Temple Chai, Rodfei Sholom and YJSA. Guests enjoyed drinks, Hamantaschen, a costume contest and Megillah reading from Chaplain Mendy Stern.

YAD's next event, the 3rd Annual Tikkun For Troops will take place on Sunday, July 7 and is a volunteer event for the whole family to celebrate Jewish active and retired service members.

To learn more about YAD (for Jewish adults in their 20s and 30s), contact Eva Laporte, Director of Community Engagement at laportee@jfsatx.org or (210) 302-6965.



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HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WORKSHOP

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- Women in Holocaust Resistance
- Holocaust Pedagogy
- Literature study including *Night* by Elie Wiesel
- Docent-led tour and Holocaust survivor testimony

Workshop will be taught by *Echoes & Reflections* and museum staff. **Teachers will earn seven State of Texas CPEs upon completion of the workshop.** Workshop is free of charge and snacks and water will be provided.



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Jewish Federation Maimonides Society, University of Incarnate Word Partner on Zinn Lecture

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio Maimonides Society and the University of Incarnate Word hosted Dr. Rachel Yehuda, who delivered the Myron B. Zinn M.D. Memorial Lecture on Tuesday, March 26 at 7 p.m. at the University of Incarnate Word Concert Hall.

Dr. Yehuda is professor of psychiatry and neuroscience and the director of the Traumatic Stress Studies Division at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. She is also director of the Mental Health Patient Care Center at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center in New York City.

She has studied the children of Holocaust survivors and of pregnant women who survived the 9/11 attacks to understand the intergenerational transfer of trauma. Dr. Yehuda is a recognized leader in the field of traumatic stress studies and has authored more than 250 published papers, chapters, and books in the field of traumatic stress and the neurobiology of PTSD. Her current interests include the study of risk and resilience factors, psychological and biological pre-



dictors of treatment response in PTSD, genetic and epigenetic studies of PTSD and the intergenerational transmission of trauma and PTSD.

Genetics describes DNA sequencing, but epigenetics sees that genes can be turned on and off and expressed differently through changes in environment

and behavior. Dr. Yehuda is a pioneer in understanding how the effects of stress and trauma can transmit biologically, beyond cataclysmic events, to the next generation.

The Myron B. Zinn M.D. Memorial Lecture Fund at the Jewish Federation of San Antonio was created by his family to honor Dr. Zinn's commitment to medical ethics.

New JewishSA website to replace Jewish Journal

Get ready for an exciting new way to access local Jewish community news and information. Beginning in June, the on-line Jewish Journal as you have known it for the past few months will be replaced with a new Jewish community website. JewishSA.org will include important news from Jewish Federation, area synagogues and Jewish organizations, along with information on community resources, plus U.S., Israel and world news of interest to our Jewish community. The responsive website can be viewed

on all devices and is easy to navigate — a positive change for those of you who have had issues working with the PDF version that launched as a temporary solution last year. Over the coming months, the Journal team will be adding new features, and your input is welcome. Let Federation know what resources and information you would like to see on the new JewishSA.org website.

To ensure you're notified when the JewishSA.org website goes "live", please send your name and email to JewishJ@jfsatx.org

with the subject line, "I want to know!"

With the new website, the printed Journal that has been provided upon request for the past several months will cease production. Anyone on the print mailing list will receive a monthly letter, however, with information on upcoming Jewish community events.

Interested in advertising for our launch issue? Contact JewishJ@jfsatx.org for a rate card today.

YOUTH NEWS



J-Serve 2019 brings local Jewish teens together

On Sunday, March 31, 80 Jewish teens from San Antonio came together to perform community service as a part of J-Serve, the International Day of Jewish teen service.

J-Serve provides Jewish teens an opportunity to make positive change in their communities through direct service based on the Jewish values of *gemilut chasidim* — acts of loving kindness, *tzedakah* — just and charitable giving, and *tikkun olam* — the duty to repair the world.

Participants engaged in service projects at The San Antonio Food Bank, San Antonio

Pets Alive!, the City of San Antonio Graffiti Abatement Program (GAP), and Adante Senior Living.

As a program designed to impact the community at-large, J-Serve brings teens together from Congregation Agudas Achim, Temple Beth-El, Chabad, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, NFTY, NCSY, USY, CTeens, and BBYO to form a cohesive group in the interest of performing *Mitzvot*.

Contact Elie Allen at (210) 302-6869 to learn more about ways Jewish teens can get involved in programs at the JCC.

KESHER CHAI kids learn about Passover hands-on

The kids of KESHER CHAI, Temple Chai's Saturday morning education program recently made matzah and charoset from scratch with educator Lisa Goldstein. Leading up to the Temple Chai Seder with Metropolitan Community Church, the students were joined by new friends from the church's school as they made matzah covers and learned songs for the Seder. KESHER CHAI is open to kids from kindergarten through eighth grades, meets Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. — 12 p.m. and is included in Temple Chai membership. Registration is also available for non-members. Learn more at www.templechaisa.org/KESHER-CHAI.



HEINTZ PRESCHOOL EXPANDS LENGTH OF SUMMER LITERACY SUMMER CAMP

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim is again hosting its innovative Literacy Summer Camp for all children six weeks to eight years old for 10 weeks this summer.

The Literacy Summer Camp will have a different book theme each week focusing on popular children's books. Each week will have activities specifically related to the book as well as daily water play and other fun.

The core hours of Heintz Preschool and the Literacy Summer Camp are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.. Early and late stay is available from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Heintz Preschool and Agudas Achim will host the popular Mad Science Camp all 10 weeks as well.

For more information about Heintz Preschool or the Literacy Summer Camp, including touring the school, contact the Heintz Preschool Director, Taryn Bretado at t.bretado@agudas-achim.org or (210) 479-0429.



Block & Dreeben School raises funds for local charities

The JCC's Block & Dreeben School for Young Children teaches students many Jewish traditions and values, such as mitzvot and making good choices.

The word tzedakah means "justice" or "righteousness," but is commonly used to signify charity. Each week on Shabbat, students collect tzedakah in the form of coins and discuss who needs the charity, while learning that every little bit helps. The older children in the pre-kindergarten classes get to vote on which organization will receive the donation.

In the past year, the school has donated over \$995 to three area charities. The summer collections went to the San Antonio Humane Society, the fall/winter collections went to the San Antonio Children's Shelter, and spring collections will go to the San Antonio Food Bank.

In Judaism, tzedakah refers to the religious obligation to do what is right and just, which is an important part of living a spiritual life.

"WE ARE PROUD OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF THE BLOCK & DREEBEN SCHOOL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN FOR SETTING SUCH A WONDERFUL EXAMPLE OF PHILANTHROPY."

— LISA GUERRERO, SCHOOL DIRECTOR

CAMP GAN ISZKY TO OFFER WEEKLY HOT LUNCH

Camp Gan Israel will host a weekly Kosher hot lunch program this summer. Now in its 31 year, CGI enjoys a well-earned reputation as a trendsetter with innovative ideas, creative programming and a highly acclaimed warm and dynamic counselors.

In addition to sports, activities, carnivals, dress up days, weekly exciting field trips, and on-site free swim and swim instruction, Gan Izzy Gadol campers (ages 5 - 12) will get to learn from and interact with a team of local instructors, including: Drumming with Kevin Cooley, Mad Science with DoSeum, STEM with Challenge Island, Clay Art with My Art Starz, Martial Arts, Mosaic and Glass Fusion, Rocket Building and Launching and more.

Mini Gan Izzy (ages 18m - 4y) will continue our favorites including Yoga, TOTS Basketball, Swim Instruction, Rocking with Rabbi, Challah Baking, Pint-sized Picassos, Mini Chefs, Story Time Theater, Mad Science, Tumblebus, Soccer Shots and a new Water Play program.

Camp Gan Israel will be in session Mon., June 24 – Fri., August 9, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (early and late care available), and is located at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning campus on Blanco Rd.

For more information please visit www.GanIsraelSA.com or contact camp director Rochel Teldon at (210) 764-0300 or director@ganisraelisa.com.

MAZAL TOV

Zaltsman Bat Mitzvah



Sarah Joy Zaltsman

was called to Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on February 2 at Congregation Agudas Achim. She is the daughter of Tamir and Karin Zaltsman and sister to Emily (of blessed memory). She is the granddaughter of Arthur and Lois Solomon of San Antonio and David (of blessed memory) and Brurya Zaltsman of Rishon Lezion, Israel.

Sarah is an A honor roll student at Concordia Lutheran School. She was just inducted into National Junior Honor Society. Sarah is a cheerleader for her school and loves using one of her electives for SOS (service over self). All year she has worked with one teacher in 3rd grade and her students as a teacher assistant. She absolutely loves being in the classroom with little ones. Outside of school, Sarah loves to continue to practice her cheer and tumbling and also does summer swim league for Rogers Ranch Waverunners.

In her free time, Sarah loves to read, crafts, art, go on bike rides with her dad and watch TV shows with her mom. She also loves being able to travel to Israel to see her Israeli family.

For her Mitzvah project, Sarah chose to raise money for The Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas in memory of her sister who was tragically killed a year and a half ago by a distracted driver on their phone. Money raised will help others when a family member may sadly lose a loved one. They were so very caring and compassionate after Emily died. Because all of their services are free, it is important to give to this much needed non-profit organization.

If you would like to donate: https://my.reason2race.com/fundraiser/SarahZaltsmanBatMizvahProject_Always-ForEmily and click on DONATE

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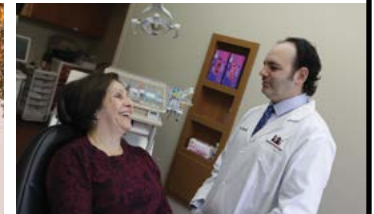
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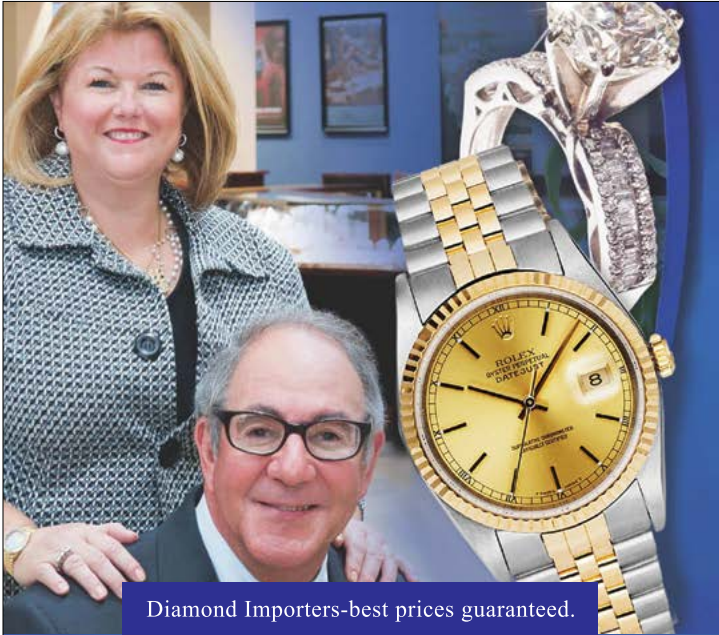
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COMMUNITY

June 1

Temple Chai Brotherhood sponsoring a night at the San Antonio Missions

The Temple Chai Brotherhood is bringing a group to the ballpark on Saturday, June 1 when the San Antonio Missions play the Omaha Storm Chasers. Game time is 7:05 p.m. Infield reserved tickets are \$11 each and are available for pre-purchase at www.templechaisa.org/brotherhood.



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ANNOUNCEMENT

JCC TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING MAY 22

The Barshop Jewish Community Center will hold its Annual Meeting Wednesday, May 22 at 7 p.m. in the Holzman Auditorium.

The 2019-20 executive committee and new board members will be installed, and annual awards will be presented. Attendees will hear from current Chair Adam Zeldes, as well as JCC President/CEO Saul Levenshush.

JCC annual awards to be presented include the Charlie Pearl Award for volunteer of the year, the Lichtenstein Award for program of the year, the William Alter Awards for emerging leadership, the Weldon C. Place Award for sports achievement, the Roselle Smith Award for BBYO Leaders of the Year, the Gloria Seitzman Award for JCC Staff of the Year, and the Charninsky Award for Leader of the Year.

The meeting is free and open to the community; refreshments will be included. RSVP to Diana Creel by Thursday, May 16 by phone at (210) 302-6822, by email at creeld@jcc-sa.org, or online at www.jccsanantonio.org/annualmeeting.



Temple Chai Social Action committee hosts program on human trafficking

Temple Chai, San Antonio's northwest Reform congregation, hosted a presentation on human trafficking by Chuck Paul of the Roy Maas Youth Alternatives on April 7. Paul, a veteran and former Customs and Border Patrol officer, explained the process by which traffickers exploit the vulnerable in our community, including the homeless, migrants, and teenagers. The audience

learned signs and symbols of which they should be aware to detect if someone is in danger, and of resources that are available to help.

Temple Chai's social action committee sponsors educational and hands-on opportunities to put the tenets of Reform Judaism into practice. Learn more at www.templechaisa.org/social-action.

Genizah ceremony at Temple Beth-El Cemetery

Genizah means "reserved" or "hidden" and since Talmudic times, Jewish communities have placed their worn-out Hebrew language books and papers on religious topics in this temporary repository, before burying them in a cemetery. Temple Beth-El has a genizah that contains old prayer books, services and ceremonies and other Hebrew papers that contain holy language.

Following a Jewish tradition that dates back at least to medieval times, Temple Beth-El gathered at the congregation's cemetery on Austin Highway, on April 28 to share in

a brief ceremony before burying worn-out sacred texts. All were invited to join in this ancient ritual and also to bring any old Jewish books that they wanted to deposit. Such documents included unused Haggadot, home prayer books or other Jewish documents and certificates. Tefillin, tzitzit and old talitot were also buried in the genizah.

The ceremony was open to the entire community and was a special opportunity to bring modern meaning to an ancient ritual followed by Jewish communities around the world.

TEMPLE CHAI SISTERHOOD KITCHEN SHOWER TEA

The community is invited to a Kitchen Shower Tea at Temple Chai (15316 Huebner Road) on Sunday, May 19 from 2 p.m.—4 p.m. For the first time, Temple Chai Sisterhood has a kitchen, and the membership is excited to utilize it. The Sisterhood is registered at Amazon and Bed, Bath & Beyond, and would welcome donations and gift cards, too. Registry links, RSVP and more information available at www.templechaisa.org/kitchen-shower.

JCRS OFFERS FINANCIAL AID FOR UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE STUDENTS – DEADLINE 5/31

May 31 is the deadline for Jewish college students to apply for need based financial assistance from the Jewish Children's Regional Service for the upcoming 2019/2020 academic year. Applications received by the deadline will receive priority funding and those received after that date will be considered if funds are still available.

JCRS has been providing social services, care and funding for Jewish youth from Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas since 1855. It is the oldest Jewish children's agency in the United States.

Further details and applications are available online at www.jcrs.org.

CELEBRATE

CONGREGATION AGUDAS ACHIM HOSTS LAG B'OMER NIGHT OF FUN

Congregation Agudas Achim will be hosting a fun night for the holiday of Lag B'Omer with a hamburger and hot dog dinner as well as snow cones and picnic style games for all ages on Wednesday, May 22 from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

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

RODFEI SHOLOM TO THROW LAG B'OMER CELEBRATION

Congregation Rodfei Sholom will host a Lag B'Omer family picnic on Thursday, May 23. The celebration will include food, inflatables, and a traditional Lag B'Omer bonfire. To make a reservation for dinner on Lag B'Omer or for more information, please contact (210) 493-3558.



May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being, and mental health challenges are common and treatable. So much of what we do physically impacts us mentally — it's important to pay attention to both your physical health and your mental health, which can help you achieve overall wellness and set you on a path to recovery.

A healthy lifestyle can help to prevent the onset or worsening of mental health conditions, as well as chronic conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and obesity. It can also help people recover from these conditions. For those dealing with a chronic health condition and the people who care for them, it can be especially important to focus on mental health.

There are things you can do that may help. Finding a reason to laugh, going for a walk with a friend, playing with a pet, or working from home once a week can go a long way in making you both physically and mentally healthy. In today's technological

world, disconnecting from the internet and social media can help eliminate stress and anxiety — which both have a physical and mental influence. The company of animals — whether as pets or service animals — can have a profound impact on a person's quality of life and ability to recover from illnesses. A pet can be a source of comfort and can help us to live mentally healthier lives. And whether you attend a synagogue, meditate daily, or simply find time to enjoy that cup of tea each morning while checking in with yourself — it's important to make the mind-body connection.

JFS wants everyone to know that mental health challenges are real, and recovery is always the goal. Finding the balance between work and play, the ups and downs of life, and physical health and mental health, can help you on the path towards a healthier YOU.

Remember, JFS is always here for you should you need to talk. Call us at 210-302-6920.



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UPCOMING COURSES

New Morning Class option offered at Chabad's Spring JLI Course With All My Heart

The Chabad Center will offer With All My Heart, a new six-session course by the acclaimed Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) that will examine the Jewish art of prayer and spiritual experience.

Participants in the course will study the history and philosophy of Jewish worship, seeking to discover the deep, elegant structure embedded within the Jewish prayer book and within Judaism's ancient synagogue traditions.

"Responsibilities pull us in so many directions that we seldom get a chance to reflect on our lives, our mission in this world, and truly connect with our innermost self," said Rabbi Levi Teldon, course instructor. "Even much of religion seems to have become routine and devoid of heartfelt feeling and spirituality. This course is out to debunk that notion and reclaim the 'spirit' within spiritual practice."

"We tend to turn to prayer when we're out of options," explained Rabbi Chaim Block, Executive Director of Chabad Center. "Prayer is meant to be so much more than that. It's a way to relieve stress; find focus, clarity, and connection to a raw and vulnerable place deep within us; or even just to start

each day from a positive, humble, and grateful frame of mind."

With All My Heart explores questions such as: How do we achieve intimacy with G-d? What is the mystical meaning, power, and impact of our prayers? If prayer is a journey, what is its destination? And how do we practice focused mindfulness while engaging in our day-to-day responsibilities?

The course will be offered at three different times: six Tuesday afternoons with Rabbi Chaim Block, beginning May 14, 12 p.m.-1:15 p.m. at Jackson Walker law offices (Weston Centre), 112 E. Pecan Suite #2400; and six Wednesday mornings and evenings with Rabbi Levi Teldon, beginning May 15, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m. at the Chabad Center, 14535 Blanco Rd.

Interested students may call (210) 764-0300 or visit www.chabadsa.com/jli.

Congregation Agudas Achim to offers adult education class "Dilemmas of Faith"

Congregation Agudas Achim is offering a new four-part Adult Education Class taught by Senior Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham on "Dilemmas of Faith." The class is based off of curriculum from the Shalom Hartman Institute in Israel. The class will be taught on four Wednesday nights from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. beginning on May 15 and ending on June 5.

"We all have aspects of our faith that we grapple with on a daily basis," Rabbi Abraham said. "This class will allow us to take a deeper look into some of those dilemmas and how Judaism helps us during these different moments in our lives."

For more information on pricing and details about this or other Adult Education classes or to sign up, contact Jessica Halfant at the Agudas Achim Education Office at j.halfant@agudas-achim.org or (210) 479-2689.

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THERE'S MORE ONLINE!

Our community photos can now be found on the Federation Facebook Page, @JFSATX

ISRAEL'S YOM HA'ATZMAUT CELEBRATION AT RODFEI SHOLOM

Rodfei Sholom will celebrate the 71st Anniversary of Israel's Independence on Thursday, May 9 at 5:30 p.m. Festivities will include relay races, Israeli Bingo, an archeological search and excavation, and making and stamping Israeli Passports.

An Israeli Style dinner will also be served, and there will be a special video presentation. To make reservations, contact Rodfei Sholom at (210) 493-3558.



S P E A K E R S

Congregation Rodfei Sholom to host President of the Orthodox Union

Moishe Bane will be joining Congregation Rodfei Sholom for Shabbat May 3-4. Bane became president of the Orthodox Union in January 2017 and is a senior partner and chairman of the Business Restructuring department at the International law firm of Ropes & Gray. Much of his time, however, has been dedicated to service within the American Orthodox community. His past positions in the Orthodox Union include chairman of the OU's Board of Governors, chairman of the OU Advocacy arm, and national chairman of NCSY.

In addition to involvement in an array

of non-OU kiruv and educational endeavors, Bane has written and lectured extensively and is a founding editor of *Klal Perspectives*, a journal addressing contemporary public policy issues within the American Orthodox community.

Rodfei Sholom will be hosting a Shabbat Dinner followed by a talk with Bane on Friday, May 3. The entire community is welcome.

For more information on this special Shabbat and other Shabbat programs at Rodfei Sholom, please contact the synagogue office at (210) 493-3558.

Congregation Agudas Achim to host Jerusalem Post Chief Political Correspondent

Congregation Agudas Achim in partnership with the Jewish National Fund (JNF) is hosting the Jerusalem Post's Chief Political Correspondent Gil Hoffman on Tuesday, May 14 at 7 p.m. Hoffman will speak about what the Israeli Election results means for us now and moving forward. There will be a dessert reception to follow as well.

"I'm thrilled that we are bringing such a

high-profile journalist here to San Antonio to discuss the aftermath of the Israeli elections," Senior Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham said. To learn analysis from someone who studies these issues and is on the ground in Israel is invaluable for our community."

The event is free and open to the public, all are welcome to attend.



WOMEN'S CHOCOLATE SEDER

Congregation Agudas Achim hosted its first ever Women's Chocolate Seder. The women enjoyed all of the chocolate while learning about the female heroes of the Passover story.

ARTS & CULTURE

PJ Library's Jason Mesches to Perform at Temple Beth-El



"Weaving together clever rhymes, beautiful arrangements, and a sincere love for Jewish values, Jason takes his little listeners on a journey through Shabbat," boasts a review of Jason Mesches' 2016 album, *The Nosh Pit*.

Temple Beth-El will share Jason's Shabbat journey with the San Antonio Jewish community Memorial Day weekend. Mesches, an award-winning singer, songwriter and PJ Library musician, will lead a young family

Shabbat service at 5:45 p.m. at Temple Beth-El on Friday, May 24.

Temple Beth-El will also host a Young Family Concert starring Mesches on Saturday, May 25th at 4 p.m. where families can sing, dance, play instruments, and share in the joy of Jewish music and food together.

This event is open to all members of the San Antonio community and is free of charge.

May 19

Barshop JCC presents a Jewish Film Mini-Fest

In an effort to enhance the Jewish Film Festival experience and ease the pressure of attending five consecutive days of films, the Barshop JCC's season of screenings will change to spread the films over three weekends throughout the year.

To conclude the 2019 Festival season, the JCC will present their first Jewish Film Mini-Fest with three new films Sunday, June 30. The line-up will include the films *Shoelaces* (2 p.m.), *The Other Story* (4:30 p.m.), and *The Tobacconist* (7:30 p.m.). All screenings will be held at Regal Alamo Quay Stadium 16.

Going forward, the 2019-20 season will begin with a Mini-Fest featuring three films Sunday, September 15; the traditional Jewish Film Festival over Presidents Day weekend February 2020 with

ARTS & CULTURE (CONTINUED)



The Tobacconist is a tender, heart-breaking story about one young man and his friendship with Sigmund Freud during the Nazi occupation of Vienna

MINIFEST

from PG 21

one film Saturday, three films Sunday, and concluding Monday evening; and another Mini-Fest again in the summer with three films.

Tickets will be available for purchase beginning Wednesday, May 15. Patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets online for the best rate (\$9.50), but may also purchase them at the JCC or by calling (210) 302-6820 (\$10). Tickets at the door are based on availability and will be \$12.

Learn more about the films online at www.jccsanantonio.org/filmfestival.



May 11

Are you the next Trivia Master?

Get ready to flex your mental muscles at Temple Beth-El's Annual Trivia Night on Saturday, May 11 at 7 p.m. Proceeds support TBE's Youth programs. Teams of 8 will compete for prizes and the ability to call themselves TBE's Trivia Masters.

The cost is \$120 per team, or \$15 per person for individuals who want to be joined with a team that evening. The cost includes pop culture trivia, light snacks, and grown-up drinks.

Register online at <https://bethel-sa.formstack.com/forms/trivia>.

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Shower the Community with Love

Federation's 4th Annual Shower the Community with Love Women's Philanthropy event was held on April 15. Melissa K Rosen, MA, Director of National Outreach for Sharsheret shared how women in the community on the ways we can advocate for themselves, as well as care for other women in our community when facing cancer diagnoses.

As a give back to the community, attendees were asked to bring donations of skin care and beauty products to be given to women locally, through the cancer support organization Thrive Well, and to young Jewish women nationally through Sharsheret.

