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THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

TISHREI – CHESHVAN, 5775

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

OCTOBER 2014



HOLD THAT DATE

Save the date for the annual Catholic-Jewish Hanukkah luncheon.

PAGE 8



CELEBRATE!

Enjoy the holidays of Sukkot and Simchat Torah this year! A sampling of events.

PAGE 22



AROUND TOWN

From Challah Days to Holidays, find out what's been happening.

PAGE 16

Mazal Tov, Elaine Cohen

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio congratulates Elaine Cohen for receiving the Kipnis-Wilson Friedland Award at the International Lion of Judah Conference in New York City. "We are thrilled to see Elaine honored in this way for her enormous dedication to the San Antonio Jewish community," says CEO Ronit Sherwin and Women's Philanthropy Director Stacey Kline Schwartz. Elaine joins prior San Antonio KWP Award winners, including Lynn Stahl (2012), Louise Beldon (2010), Elsa Barshop (2006), and Sondra Sugarman (2004).



This award is named for the founders of the Lion of Judah and recognizes philanthropic women from around the country who have exhibited leadership and made a significant impact in the Federation and the Jewish community, displayed initiative in philanthropy, encouraged other women to take leadership roles in philanthropy and Jewish community involvement, welcomed new voices to the table, perpetuated and enhanced the

See **MAZAL TOV**, page 17

COMBATting ANTI-SEMITISM



Condemning the rising tide of anti-Semitism across the world, the U.S. House of Representatives has unanimously passed a resolution sending, what lawmakers said, "a resounding message to the world about America's resolve to confront this ugly and dangerous hatred." **DETAILS ON PAGE 34.**

A new year, a different approach

Now that we are into the first month of the New Year of 5775, let's each ask ourselves what will I do differently this year?

The Jewish calendar gives us an opportunity to start right again with the holiday of Sukkot. Following the solemn atonement of Yom Kippur, our slates are clean and we can act on our commitment to better ourselves and our world. Sukkot, referred to as "the time of our rejoicing," is a time of great happiness. What



Letter from our CEO

RONIT SHERWIN

better way to begin a new year than with a commitment to joy and thanksgiving? Sukkot helps us to take a step outside of our strong, stable homes, so that we might feel the elements more closely and naturally in our sukkah. When sitting in a sukkah in the autumn, we feel the wind,

the coolness and the rain, and see the sun, moon and stars from which we usually hide indoors. Sukkot humbles us to the larger universe and the gratitude that we ought to appreciate every day.

What will I do differently this year? I will commit to an attitude of gratitude. I have plenty. I have health, family, home, happiness and the comfort of a community that supports each others' needs. I have a job that allows me to live my passion every day,

ensuring shared support of the many facets that create a thriving Jewish community. The Jewish Federation of San Antonio is our community institution that makes a difference in all our lives, and I look forward to celebrating our diversity and strength with you in the New Year.

Through the work of the Jewish Federation, we support the work of the entire Jewish community. Whether it is

See **LETTER**, page 15

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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 NOVEMBER 2014 issue of the Jewish Journal is OCTOBER 12, 2014 at noon. All materials submitted after this date will be considered for the following issue.

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

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

ADVERTISING:

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

Ad deadlines for NOVEMBER 2014 ISSUE:

- Ad space reservations due no later than October 12, 2014 by noon;
- Press ready ads due by October, 2014.

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.

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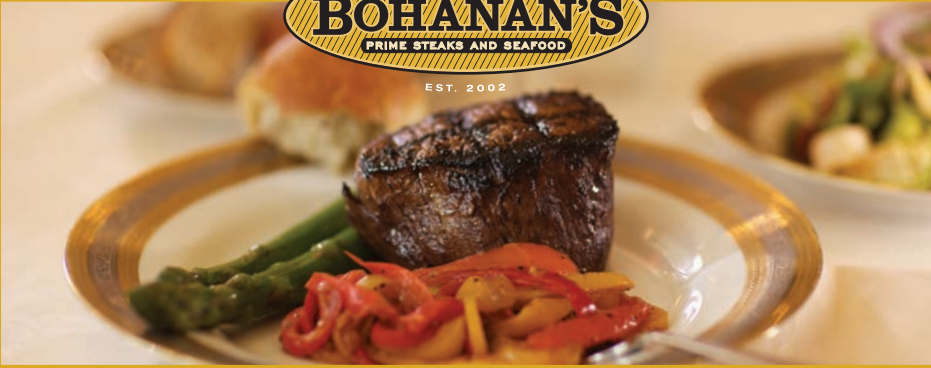
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FOCUS ON FEDERATION

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF THE DIASPORA

Rosh Hashanah 5775

Brothers and sisters, leaders of the Jewish communities of the Diaspora and their friends,

According to Jewish tradition, Rosh Hashanah represents a time of personal, community and national soul-searching. In the shadow of the events of the past months, this year, here in Israel, these days of reflection are reaffirmed and take on a special meaning.

With the kidnapping and murder of the four teenagers Naftali, Gilad, Eyal and Muhammad; and the ongoing campaign in southern Israel in the background, the citizens of Israel and their leaders were faced with difficult dilemmas: the responsibility

to defend our homes and land, alongside the concern of harming innocent people; the commitment to enable a free democratic dialogue, versus the need to set clear limits to restrain manifestations of inflammatory behavior and incitement. Israel had to respond to the threats of terror organizations from the outside, while maintaining its image and values as a Jewish and democratic state that is committed to international law and is dedicated to providing all its citizens with equality and dignity, Arabs and Jews alike.

The resilience of Israel is not based on its military strength, but emanates from the liberal, democratic and

Jewish values on which it was founded. Even at a time when Israel is required to mobilize its military front, it cannot ignore its home front and the surge of violent political manifestations of incitement and hate in its streets.

Israel's leadership and Israel's society are judged not only by their military resiliency, but also by their civil resiliency, not only in normal times, but also in times of crisis.

In the course of Operation Protective Edge, I felt that Israel was not alone in the arena. Leaders of the free world and many of the members of the various Jewish movements and

communities stood shoulder to shoulder with Israel, supporting its duty to defend its citizens and identifying with its efforts to restore peace to Israel's southern communities.

On the threshold of the New Year, I want to thank you, leaders and members of the Jewish communities, for your support of Israel's soldiers and its home front, and especially its southern communities. It is with much anticipation that I hope we shall continue to stand together in the face of the challenges awaiting the Jewish people in Israel and the Diaspora in the future, generated by a sense of mutual responsibility and

partnership.

Dear Friends, the coming year is marked by Jewish tradition as a *shmita* year, a sabbatical year for land and man. The observance of *shmita* serves to slow down the economic race and utilitarianism, and see in others, a human being. I pray that this year the gates of our hearts will open to let in compassion, generosity and mutual responsibility. May the coming year bring the sound of joy, a symphony of miscellaneous Jewish voices that will unite us all as a family, community and people.

*Shana Tova Ve'Metuka,
Reuven (Ruvi) Rivlin*



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Thursday Oct. 16th**
**CTRC Council
Friday Oct. 17th**

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Oct. 2014

OCTOBER 1

- JNetSA 1st Wednesday Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Il Sogno
- Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Sip & Schmooze, 5 p.m.
- Barshop JCC Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., at The Campus

OCTOBER 2

- Barshop JCC Silver Cinema, 1 p.m., at The Campus

OCTOBER 3

- Jewish Federation Offices Closing 1 p.m.

OCTOBER 4

- Barshop JCC Closed

OCTOBER 5

- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Starr Family Campus Dedication, 12 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

OCTOBER 7

- Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood General Meeting & Program, Congregation Agudas Achim

OCTOBER 8

- Chabad Center Community Sukkot Dinner, 8 p.m., Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning

OCTOBER 9

- All Campus Offices Closed
- Temple Beth-El Machar Torah on Tap, 8 p.m.

OCTOBER 10

- Jewish Federation Offices Closed
- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Sukkot Shabbat Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom
- Temple Beth-El Machar After Hours, 8 p.m.

OCTOBER 11

- Barshop JCC Pickleball Tournament, at The Campus

OCTOBER 12

- Barshop JCC Pickleball Tournament, at The Campus

- Alamo Brandeis B'nai B'rith Meeting, 10:30 a.m., at The Campus

- Chabad Center Sukkot Carnival, 12:30 p.m., Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning

- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Pizza in the Hut, 5:30 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

OCTOBER 13

- Barshop JCC Hands-On Sukkot and PJ Library Story Time, 3 p.m., at The Campus
- Chabad Center Sushi in the Sukkah, 7:30 p.m., Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning

OCTOBER 14

- Congregation Rodfei Sholom L'Chayim Club Brunch in the Sukkah, 9:30 a.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom
- NCJW Trashy Book Club, 6:30 p.m., Home of Sandra Grimm

OCTOBER 15

- Barshop JCC Closes Early at 6 p.m.

OCTOBER 16

- All Campus Offices Closed

OCTOBER 17

- Jewish Federation Offices Closed

OCTOBER 18

- Barshop JCC Wheelchair Tennis Tournament, at The Campus

- The Tribe Appeltini Event, 7 p.m., Home of Lizette & Brian Feld

OCTOBER 19

- Barshop JCC Wheelchair Tennis Tournament, at The Campus
- Leah Goot Hadassah Speaker Event, 3 p.m., Adante Senior Living

- AIPAC San Antonio Annual Event, 7 p.m., La Cantera Hotel

OCTOBER 20

- Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus

OCTOBER 21

- Jewish Federation Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus
- San Antonio Symphony Concert, 7 p.m., at The Campus

OCTOBER 22

- Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Book Club, 10 a.m., Temple Beth-El
- Barshop JCC Early Childhood Family Dinner, 6 p.m., at The Campus

OCTOBER 23

- Barshop JCC Comedy Night, 7 p.m., LOL Comedy Club

OCTOBER 24

- Temple Beth-El Machar After Hours, 8 p.m.



The Tribe's "Appletini" Event

Time: Saturday, October 18 at 8:00 p.m.

Location: The home of Lizette & Brian Feld
11810 Mill Rock Rd. (Elm Creek)
San Antonio, Texas

The Tribe would like to invite you to enjoy delicious apple inspired treats and cocktails to bring in the sweet New Year!!!

To RSVP or for more info, please contact
Amy Levine-Reagin at reagina@jfsatx.org



Jewish Federation
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Oct. 2014

OCTOBER 25

• The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents The Trojan Women, 8 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

OCTOBER 26

- Jewish War Veterans Post 753 Meeting, 9:30 a.m., at The Campus
- Congregation Agudas Achim Texas Kosher BBQ Championship, 10 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents The Trojan Women, 2:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

OCTOBER 28

- NCJW Day at the San Antonio Food Bank
- Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Board Meeting, 9:45 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim

OCTOBER 29

• Barshop JCC Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus

OCTOBER 30

- Barshop JCC Beer Tasting, 7 p.m., at The Campus
- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents The Trojan Women, 7:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

NOVEMBER 1

• The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents The Trojan Women, 8 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

NOVEMBER 2

- Temple Beth-El 140th Anniversary Celebration, 9 a.m., Temple Beth-El
- Jewish Federation Super Sunday, 10 a.m., at The Campus
- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents The Trojan Women,

2:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

• Congregation Rodfei Sholom Mother/Daughter trip to see Wizard of Oz, 3 p.m., San Pedro Playhouse

NOVEMBER 4

• Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood trip to Kickapoo Casino

NOVEMBER 5

- JNetSA 1st Wednesday Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Il Sogno
- Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Sip & Schmooze, 5 p.m.

NOVEMBER 6

• The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents The Trojan Women, 7:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

NOVEMBER 7

• Temple Beth-El Machar After Hours, 8 p.m.

IN TRIBUTE

Celebrate, Honor, Dedicate.

Dear friends,
The Jewish Journal of San Antonio, Federation's free monthly Jewish newspaper, is now offering readers the opportunity to honor or memorialize friends and loved ones with tribute donations to JFSA. Tribute donations may be made in honor of a bar/bat mitzvah, the birth of a baby, a graduation or a wedding; in memory of loved ones; or a thoughtful way to say "thank you." Donations of \$36 or more will be acknowledged with a two line tribute in the Jewish Journal unless the donor requests otherwise. To request a tribute ad, contact Sandy Leigh at advertising@jewishj.org. The deadline for the November issue is October 12.

Thank you!

It is with great sorrow that we share the news of Holocaust survivor Sam Cohen's passing. He was greatly loved and will be greatly missed. May his memory be a blessing.

- The Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio Staff

Happy birthday to my wonderful Mother, Alda Epstein, on her 94th birthday!

- Sandy Leigh

Mazal tov to Kelly Kremer and Sam Klein on their recent marriage. Wishing you a lifetime of happiness!

- The JFSA staff and Board of Directors

Happy birthday to Jeff Mendelsohn! Finally, we are the same age. I love you and am so proud of you, Mom



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CANDLE LIGHTING

Oct. 3
Erev Yom Kippur
6:58 p.m.
Candle lighting

Oct. 4 Yom Kippur
8:27 p.m. Havdalah

Oct. 8 Erev Sukkot
6:52 p.m.
Candle lighting

Oct. 9 Sukkot

Oct. 10 Sukkot
6:50 p.m.
Candle lighting

Oct. 11 Sukkot
8:19 p.m. Havdalah

Oct. 12 Sukkot

Oct. 13 Sukkot

Oct. 14 Sukkot

Oct. 15 Sukkot
6:45 p.m.
Candle lighting
(Hoshana Raba)

Oct. 16 Shmini Atzeret

Oct. 17 Simchat Torah
6:42 p.m.
Candle lighting

Oct. 18
Parashat Bereshit
8:11 p.m. Havdalah

Oct. 24
Rosh Chodesh
Cheshvan
6:36 p.m.
Candle lighting

Oct. 25
Rosh Chodesh
Cheshvan
8:05 p.m. Havdalah
Parashat Noach

Oct. 31 Shabbat
6:30 p.m.
Candle lighting

Local man receives critical assistance from JFS

For six years, Michael,* a 63 year old member of the San Antonio community with a debilitating mental illness, made regular appointments with his psychiatrist. With consistent support, Michael flourished, finding full-time work and even adopting a cat. Then, a change to his insurance sent his world crashing down. Forced to find a new psychiatrist, Michael made phone call after phone call, encountering many-

month wait periods and physicians who refused to take new patients. His mental state began to decline.

Twice, he was able to obtain his medication from the emergency room, but the small supply lasted only five days. Struggling at work, Michael was forced to take a leave of absence, and his bills began to grow.

He downsized his apartment, renting a single room, but his small savings

were nearly depleted. The possibility of living on the street with his mental illness terrified to him. In a dark moment, he considered taking his own life.

Instead, he called Jewish Family Services. They were able to locate a place for Michael in an inpatient psychiatric program. They paid Michael's rent, helped him apply for food stamps, and even enrolled his cat in the Daisy Cares Pet Food

Program. Today, Michael is back at work, and back on his medication. And his cat? Thanks to Jewish Family Services, she's doing just fine.



*Name is changed to protect privacy.

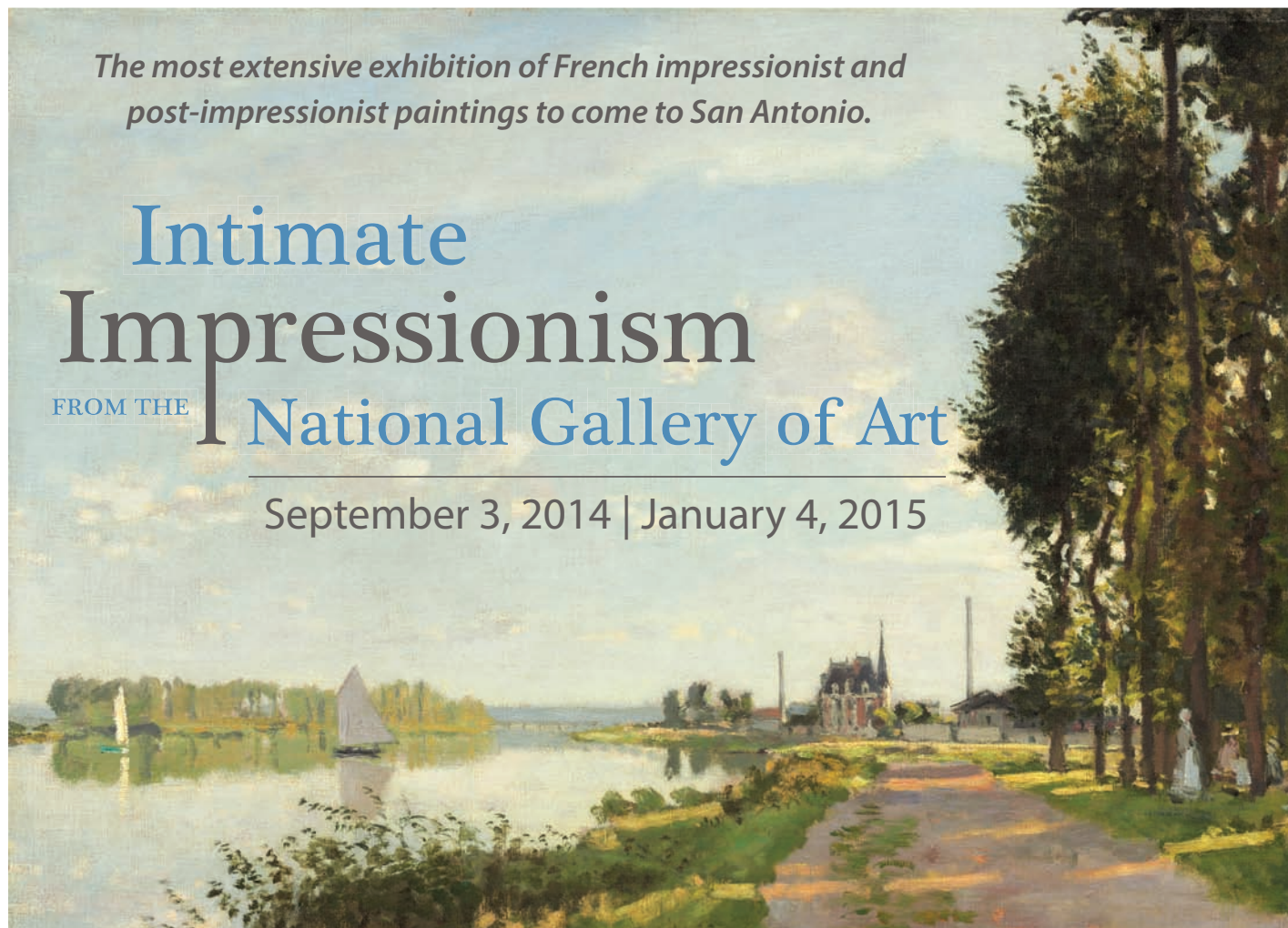
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Claude Monet, *Argenteuil* (detail), ca. 1872.
Oil on canvas. National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC,
Ailsa Mellon Bruce Collection.

The exhibition is organized by the
National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.

Middle East expert addresses Federation Leaders

Jewish Federation leaders gathered on September 3 at the home of Drs. Alice and Sergio Virslov to support the Federation's 2014 Annual Campaign, and to hear from Professor David Pollock, Ph.D. who shared his analysis of the current situation in the Middle East.

Dr. Pollock is the Kaufman Fellow at the

Washington Institute, where he focuses on the political dynamics of the Middle East countries.

He shared the results of his research, with findings from as recent as the last week of August, regarding the sentiments of the various Middle Eastern countries towards the current situation with Hamas.

Dr. Pollock emphasized the importance of a strong American Jewish community specifically in times like these. He applauded the San Antonio Jewish community and encouraged all to "be present."

Board Chair, Richard Planto and CEO, Ronit Sherwin, shared their vision for a strong San Antonio Jewish community. Campaign Chair, Jonathan Gurwitz, gave a campaign update, emphasizing how "we all can make a difference" – how through the Annual Campaign, together as a strong community, we are able to reach out to the most vulnerable members of our community and ensure vitality and vibrancy in the year ahead. Mr. Gurwitz



Middle East expert, Professor David Pollock, Ph.D. , was the guest speaker at a Federation Campaign event on September 3.

thanked all in the room for their generosity and for their leadership.

Honorary Campaign Chairs, Rabbi Samuel and Lynn Stahl, who chaired the event, inspired the guests

with personal stories of their own involvement with the Jewish Federation.

For more photos from the event, please see What's Happening on page 18-19.

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Catholic-Jewish Hanukkah: Save the Date

The Planning Committee for the Catholic-Jewish Hanukkah Luncheon has set the date this year for Thursday, December 18 at 11:30 a.m.

Members shown are Ron Aaron Eisenberg, Barbie

Scharf-Zeldes, Rabbi Sam Stahl, David Komet, Doug Cross, and Judy Lackritz. Not pictured: Henry Gonzales III. Also on the committee are Father Tony Vilano, Louis Sanchez, Bonney Nourani, and David

Kaliski.

The event is co-sponsored by San Fernando Cathedral and the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. For more information call the Jewish Federation at (210) 302-6960.

Super Sunday is right around the corner

Super Sunday, a community-wide phone-athon raising funds for Federation's 2014 Annual Campaign is scheduled for November 2.

Volunteers are needed and welcome. Come join the fun and help us reach our campaign goal.

For more information, see page 21 of this Jewish Journal.



Beldon Library News

From the Desk of Lynn Waghalter

Did you know that the Beldon Library has great books for kids and adults? Come by during library hours and take a look! Sign-up for a library card. Our hours are: Monday, 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.; and Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Mark your calendar for an exciting upcoming event! Last May, talented author, playwright, and actor, Jack Hyman, had a book signing event in the Beldon Library. His book, *Breakfast with the Birds*, is becoming a musical. Hyman will be here on Sunday, Nov. 30 to debut some of the music that has been written for the show! More details will be forthcoming in the

November issue.

Gently used book donations are being accepted for our Spring Used

Book Sale. We are taking children's and adult books as well as CD's and DVD's for the sale.

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Rivkie Block, Director of Gan Gani read PJ Library book *Jumping Jenny* at the Opening PJ Library Family Fun Day in August. After PJ kids heard the story, they were ready to jump around in the obstacle course in the gym.



Directors Aliza Cantu (of Heintz Preschool) and Alissa Levey-Baugh (of Barshop JCC) read and led stories, songs, and crafts to connect to the PJ Library story *Sammy Spider's New Friends*. PJ kids beaded friendship bracelets for themselves and their friends.

PJ Library begins with a blast

By Lauren Abraham,
PJ Library Coordinator

The San Antonio Jewish community saw over 100 attendees (including parents, grandparents, children,

and teenage helpers) at our fantastic kick off event, the PJ Library Family Fun Day (August 17) co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of San Antonio and the Barshop JCC. This event



PJ Library Coordinator, Lauren Abraham, finished Family Fun Day by reading Noah's Swim-A-Thon to PJ Library kids in the pool. The book focused on the idea of a young child who gets over his fears of swimming as he is encouraged to swim laps and gain donations from friends to give as Tzedakah. This was the perfect educational way to end a very warm, but active day.

included special story readings and collaboration from the three Jewish Pre-Schools in town: the Block and Dreeben School for Young Children (at the Barshop JCC), Heintz Preschool (at Agudas Achim), and Gan Gani Preschool (at Chabad). Each director enthusiastically read stories and facilitated

activities around the JCC, including in our very own Beldon Library. A great time was had by all, and the event finale was a storytime in the pool with beach balls as give-aways!

With our hearts and minds on Israel, on September 7, PJ Library hosted our first

See **FAMILY DAY**, page 10

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UPCOMING EVENTS 0-7 YEAR OLDS:

Hands on Sukkot:

PJ Library will be reading stories and crafts at the Barshop JCC's Sukkot experience on Monday, Oct. 13 from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. (Free)

PJ's Ark:

As we read Noah's ark in the Torah, come hear about Noah's ark (in Hebrew and English) at Brackenridge Park (Free) and join us for Zoo time (fee) together to share our love for animals. Sunday, Oct. 19th at 3 p.m.

Global Day of Jewish Learning:

On Sunday, Nov. 16, come meet your favorite Superhero to go with our theme for the year: Heroes, Villains, Saints and Fools: The People in the Book. Our superhero will be ready for action, photos, and to share his favorite PJ book at 3:15 p.m. Following this will be a special family program to brainstorm the meaning of "hero" to our families. (Free)

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FOCUS ON FEDERATION

FAMILY DAY

continued from page 9

ever, PJ Loves ISRAEL “open space Judaism event” (Jewish event held at a public location) at the beautiful Parman Library at Stone Oak. Despite the rain, our children came together to make Sukkah decorations for the IDF soldiers in Israel (in conjunction with our partnership program), make edible Israeli flags out of bread, pretzels, and icing, and sing Hebrew songs and hear stories about Israel. Our “guest reader” Ronit Sherwin, CEO of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, presented the *Dinosaur Goes to Israel*. We ate Israeli snacks, listened to Israeli music, and enjoyed our feature read.

PJ Library has a very busy schedule planned for the fall. Mark your calendars! Please like us on Facebook (PJ Library San Antonio) to get more details.



PJ LIBRARY LOVES ISRAEL

Ronit Sherwin, CEO of Jewish Federation of San Antonio was a special guest reader. She shared *Dinosaur Goes to Israel*, and *Goodnight Israel*. The PJ kids were excited and could not get enough of the books.

Elizabeth Beall decorated Sukkot leaves to be sent to Israel for the Sukkot of IDF soldiers.



Children showed their spirit for Israel at PJ loves Israel as they listened to guest reader, Ronit Sherwin.

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We cannot overstate our gratitude for the outpouring of love and support we have experienced during this difficult time. The response from the community has been so overwhelming that there is simply no way that we can thank each of you individually. We are very grateful for the friendships we share, and your support has helped keep us strong. Thank you.

Sincerely, The Family of Sam Cohen

IN THE COMMUNITY

New members luncheon to feature Heloise

The Agudas Achim Sisterhood new member luncheon will feature special guest, Heloise, whose syndicated newspaper column, many books, television appearances and Good Housekeeping contributions have educated and entertained families for

decades.

The luncheon is on Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 11 a.m. in the Gurinsky Family Social Hall at Congregation Agudas Achim, 16550 Huebner Road. Couvert is \$16 and free to new members. RSVP to Babs Schnitzer at (210) 764-1714.

Texas Kosher BBQ Championship right around the corner

Tickets are now on sale for the 2nd Annual BBQ Championship in the Southwest, hosted by Congregation Agudas Achim. The cook-off celebration will be held on the synagogue grounds at 16550 Huebner Road, 78248 on Sunday, Oct. 26. Gates open at 10:00am. There will be free secure parking offsite with continuously running shuttles. This year, the San Antonio Food Bank will receive 5% of net proceeds.

The fare will include almost a ton of kosher brisket, beef ribs and chicken, donated

by HEB. The event includes all sorts of activities for children and shopping for adults.

Thirty grill teams will be competing for "Best Of" titles in the brisket, chicken, and ribs and beans categories. The winners will be chosen by a panel of celebrity judges and will be announced at 4 p.m.

For more information on team registration or to purchase tickets in advance, visit www.TheTexasKosherBBQChampionship.com or call (210) 479-0307.



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Hadassah presents, *How to navigate the medical system and avoid being scammed*

October will feature meetings of both local Hadassah groups, with speakers offering practical advice.

On Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 11:30 a.m., the Rose Treiman group is planning to hear from a representative of the San Antonio Police Department about scams aimed at seniors. Attendees will learn how to protect themselves from con artists. The presentation will follow lunch at Luce Ristorante & Enoteca, 11255 Huebner Rd. #200. Reservations are required and may be made by sending \$15 couvert to Micki Harris, 463 Shadywood, San Antonio 78216.

The Leah Goot Group will meet at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 19, in the activity room of Adante Senior Living, 2702 Cembalo Blvd. Dr. Adam Ratner will discuss *Taking Control of Your Healthcare*. The presentation will help women understand and navigate the often complex health care system. Reservations may be made by calling Marge Present, (210) 492-5153.

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization, supports programs that provide health care through Hadassah's hospitals in Jerusalem. In this country, it provides information and advocacy

on health care issues like organ donation, breast cancer prevention, and women's heart health. Its current focus is raising the funds needed for the completion of the Sara Wetsman Davidson Hospital Tower, a state-of-the-art facility on its Ein Karem campus.

As Jewish people worldwide say Yizkor prayers on Yom Kippur and Shemini Atzeret, Hadassah reminds us that we can arrange for a perpetual annual reminder and observance of a yahrzeit (death anniversary) through Hadassah. For details, call Kathy O'Neill at (210) 823-8603.



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Your gift to the 2014 Annual Campaign enables us to accomplish all this and more. You are an integral part of all we do. Visit us at www.jfsatx.org or call 210.302.6960.

Jonathan Gurwitz, Chair, 2014 Annual Campaign ☆ Richard Planto, Chair, Board of Directors



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Agudas Achim adult education classes are back

Registration is now open for Congregation Agudas Achim's 2014/2015 adult education classes, which include:

IT'S A MITZVAH III

Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m.
with Hazzan Lipton.
Exploring mitzvot and their relationship to Conservative Jews in the 21st century.
Cost per semester: Free for Members/\$36 for Non-members.

PIRKEI AVOT

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
with Hazzan Lipton. Laying out the founding ideology

of the Jewish people, Pirkei Avot focuses on ethical principles and worldviews expressed by the rabbis in the Mishnah (the first compilation of the oral law).
Cost per semester: Free for Members/\$36 for Non-members.

SEX, WAR, AND BETRAYAL ~ BASED ON THE NEVIIM RISHONIM (FORMER PROPHETS)

Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
with Rabbi Abraham. Ever wonder what really happens in our Hebrew Bible after the Torah ends and Moses passes away? Come learn with Rabbi Abraham about the tales which occur after the Torah. Please bring a Tanakh (Hebrew Bible) to

class. *Cost per semester: Free for Members/\$36 for Non-members.*

INTRO TO JUDAISM

Wednesdays at 8 p.m. with Rabbi Abraham. Come learn or relearn about the basic tenants of being Jewish and our Jewish people. This class is taught in partnership with the Louis & Judith Miller Introduction to Judaism Program at American Jewish University. *Cost per semester: \$70 Members & /\$140 non-members and conversion students.*

ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE - SCHMOOZE IN THE NEWS

Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.
with Rabbi Abraham. Come to discuss, evaluate, and learn more about the global landscape regarding both Israel and the Jewish people in the media. *Cost: Free for Members/\$36 for Non-members per semester.*

TORAH STUDY

Shabbat afternoons after Kiddush lunch with Rabbi Abraham. *Cost: Free for Members & Non-members.*

For more information regarding Adult Education classes, please email Karen Katims, Education Director at k.katims@agudas-achim.org.



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PLEASE JOIN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH FOR THE 2014 GLOBAL DAY OF JEWISH LEARNING



San Antonio will join over 400 communities worldwide, joining together to celebrate community based learning.

This year's theme is
Heroes, Villains, Saints and Fools: The People in the Book

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AND some of San Antonio's own outstanding Rabbis and Educators!!!*

SESSION 1:

(at various local synagogues – membership is not required)

9am - 9:30am Bagels & Schmoozing

9:30am - 11am

Adult Education Sessions
taking place at:

Temple Beth-El:

- "Raising a Mini Mensch," presented by Aliza Cantu;
- "Jewish themes in comics," presented by Paul Benjamin

Congregation Agudas Achim:

"You Have It In You: How to Become Your Own Jewish Superhero," presented by Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham

Congregation Rodfei Sholom:

"Sarah: Hero of Consistency and Self Sacrifice," presented by Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg

Chabad of San Antonio:

"What's a Nice Jewish Boy Doing with a Job Like That?" presented by Rabbi David Komerofsky

SESSION 2:

(at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community)

2pm – 3pm

Keynote session from our guest presenter Paul Benjamin, "The History of Jews in Comics"

Childcare will be provided for ages 4 and older, RSVPs required to Amy Reagin at (302-6960 or at reagina@jfsatx.org)

3:15pm – 4:15pm

Option A: Super Family-Friendly Workshop program hosted by PJ Library and The Kehila Project - leisurely engage with art stations designed to inspire your family to think about its own heroic acts; meet a "real" superhero; lastly, listen to a story that will inspire us all to find our inner heros. Come in costume, if you'd like! Capes optional.

Option B: Adult Education Sessions:

- "Jewish Women as Agents of Change," presented by Ronit Sherwin
- "King David - Poet, Scholar, Warrior," presented by Rabbi Chaim Block
- "Tales of the TANACH—Tabloid or Truth? The Dirt and the Divine, all on the Same Page!," presented by Rabbi Mara Nathan

4:15pm Closing Ceremony and Nosh

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER,
PLEASE CONTACT AMY LEVINE-REAGIN AT
(210) 302-6960 OR reagina@jfsatx.org**

How Happiness Thinks - A new accredited course offered by Chabad

The Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning is offering a new six-week course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute titled *How Happiness Thinks*. The course is being offered at two San Antonio locations:

Six Tuesday afternoons, beginning Nov. 4, 12 p.m.-1:15 p.m. at Golden Steves Cohen & Gordon LLC, 300 Convent St., Suite 2600, with Rabbi Chaim Block.

Six Wednesday evenings, beginning Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. at the Chabad Center, 14535 Blanco Rd., with Rabbi Levi Teldon.

Each week, participants can choose to attend either of the two classes.

How Happiness Thinks is a course of six 90-minute sessions of group discussions, readings, and inspired learning. More importantly, it's a course of action: a Jewish roadmap to finding lasting, deep, and resourceful happiness. You'll learn that happiness isn't just an emotion that visits by chance. Happiness is a state of mind that you can cultivate and nourish with practical steps—based on both Jewish learning and recent scientific

observation—and take to levels you might have thought unimaginable.

Participants can earn up to 15 CE credits from The American Psychological Association (APA), The American Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), and up to 9 CE credits from The National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC).

The course fee is \$99 which includes a student textbook. Interested students may call Chabad at (210) 764-0300 or visit www.myJLI.com for more information and registration.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

Save the date for these upcoming events:

SUNDAY, OCT. 19, 9:30 a.m. Post Meeting
JCC Room 277

Speaker Ginny Funk from the Alzheimer's Association and Jewish Family Services will present an overview on Alzheimer. A business meeting will follow the presentation.

There is no charge for the event, however, reservations are required, call Irwin Barath (210) 341-4502 for further information and reservations. Guests are welcome.

TUESDAY, NOV. 13,
6 p.m. - 7 p.m. Fort Sam Houston

Post members and guests will serve supper at the Wounded Warriors facility. For further information and volunteer to help serve, call Ken Ashworth (210) 647-0330

SUNDAY, NOV. 23 9:30 a.m. Post meeting
JCC Room 277 - Membership Drive

Are you on active duty, retired or discharged veteran? Are you a member of Post 753? If not, call Post Commander, Norton Sheckman (210) 493-6660 for information on how you can become a member of this active post.

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FROM THE COVER

LETTER

continued from page 1

through senior services support, Jewish education, our partnership with the Western Galilee in Israel, Hillel programming for local college students or the countless other ways Federation resources are deployed locally and abroad, the dollars raised through the Jewish Federation make a difference.

I am proud to live in a community such as ours that has so much for which to be grateful. And each one of us plays a role in continuing this legacy.

Let's ask ourselves and each other, what will I do differently this year? One person at a time, we'll change the world together.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

SUNDAY FUNDAY - TOYS FOR YELADIM



Judy Scheinberg, Tamara Weiss, Talia Contie, and Margaret Gofman-Klein get in the crafting spirit at the Toys for Yeladim event.



(L-R) Shea Kluger with mom Megan Kluger, Roxy Carretero, and Sharon Contie with her daughter Maya joined in the Toys for Yeladim project on September 7.

On September 7, children from Congregation Rodfei Sholom donated toys to be sent to children in Israel. Due to the current situation in Israel, the bomb shelters need to be resupplied and Rodfei Sholom took the initiative to help. The children and their families also made Rosh Hashanah cards to be sent with the toys.

TIKKUN OLAM FOR THE NEW YEAR



(Left to right) Madeline Yanover, Gavin Valdez, and Avi Shiver worked with their JAS class at the JCC to create Rosh Hashanah gift bags. Jewish Family Service will deliver the bags to local seniors.

SHABBAT COMES TO LIFE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN



Young children listen intently as Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham and "Moses" teach them about Torah at Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim. Every Friday morning, HPS students and families celebrate Shabbat through joyful prayer, song, and a fun puppet show.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

HAPPY CHALLAH-DAY!



Dr. Jordana Pazin and her son Miles helped out.

Rodfei Sholom Project Challah L'Chayal, which benefits the IDF Lone Soldier Program, continues full force with more challahs being baked and sold.

HEINZ LABOR DAY



During Congregation Agudas Achim's Labor Day Play Day at Hardberger Park, families enjoyed a morning of friendship, play time, and a story by Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham and "Moses."

FROM THE COVER

MAZAL TOV

continued from page 1

values of our community, and embodied the spirit and vision of the Lion of Judah through a commitment to *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam*.

Elaine became the 2nd Lion of Judah in San Antonio, following Esther Vexler. Elaine has been active with the Jewish Federation for decades, having served in numerous leadership positions, including Women's Division Chair, Lion of Judah Chair, General Campaign Chair, Secretary, Vice-President, and President. Elaine has remained involved in the Lion Division for many years and has encouraged others to become involved in Women's Philanthropy, Federation and the community.

In addition to her leadership with the Federation, Elaine has been active as a lay leader throughout the San Antonio Jewish community. She served as head of the Building Committee and Fundraising, Vice-President of Membership, Vice-President of Education, and two terms as President of Congregation Agudas Achim. She also previously served on the Jewish Family Service Board, on its Executive Committee and as Chair of its Mother's Day Luncheon. More recently, she spearheaded the effort to build the Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning in San Antonio.

Elaine has always been a true leader, unafraid to address issues, stepping in where she sees a need, working to bring people together, and putting forth the effort to strengthen our community. She puts her money where her mouth is and actions behind her words. She is a leader who "walks the walk, and talks the talk."

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

FEDERATION LEADERSHIP EVENT (CONT'D FROM PAGE 7)

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio hosted a leadership event on September 3 in support of the Federation's 2014 Annual Campaign. The guest speaker for the event was Professor David Pollock, an expert on the Middle East.

For information on how you can support the 2014 campaign, please call us at (210) 302-6960.



(L to R) – Richard Benedikt, M.D., Susan Noorily, M.D., Sergio Viroslav, M.D., and Allen Noorily, M.D.



(L to R) – Richard Planto, Susan Kariv, Federation Chief Development Officer, Howie Nestel, Super Sunday Co-Chair, Rony Kariv



(L to R) David Pollock, Ph.D., Alice Viroslav, M.D., and Richard Planto, Federation Board Chair



(L to R) Jonathan Gurwitz, 2014 Campaign Chair, Rachel Gurwitz, Jacque McClellan, and Raymond McClellan



Richard Goldsmith and Richard Alterman

WHAT'S HAPPENING



(L to R) Michael Ozer, M.D. and Israel Fogiel



(L to R): Lynn and Rabbi Samuel Stahl, 2014 Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs



(L to R) Jonathan Gurwitz, David Pollock, Ronit Sherwin, Federation CEO and Richard Planto



(L to R) – Joseph Dubrof, Stanley Blend, Ronit Sherwin, and Rabbi David Komerofsky



(L to R) – Bette Vexler, Jack Vexler, Charlotte Sue Alterman, and Richard Alterman



(L to R) – Tibor Ritter, M.D., Israel Fogiel, Marty Wender, Daniella Ritter, and David Pollock

JCC offers array of programming in October

The Barshop Jewish Community Center will offer a wide selection of programs for all ages and all interests throughout the month of October.

On Tuesday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m., the San Antonio Symphony will present an all-Baroque program with works by Bach, Telemann, Geminiani, and Förster. San Antonio Symphony principal horn player Jeff Garza will perform as a soloist with the orchestra under the direction of Akiko Fujimoto. This is a free, all ages concert; in order to accommodate all who want to attend, a reservation is requested. Visit www.jccsanantonio.org/artandmusic to RSVP.

For those looking to laugh, Dov Davidoff will take the stage as the headliner for the JCC's Comedy Night on Thursday, Oct. 23, at 8 p.m. Combining hyper A.D.D., an envious level of self-deprecation, a philosopher's soul, and curiosity beyond measure, Davidoff puts on one high intensity show. Davidoff dissects the irony and problems of the world in a way that makes funny what otherwise isn't and his impeccable ability to find common

ground with everyone makes him a truly great comedian. He does tend to be a little edgier than some of the past acts, so please note his material is for adults only. Tickets are \$15 per person and the show is open to the community. Visit www.jccsanantonio.org/comedy for tickets.

For busy parents, the *10 Ways to Be a More Effective Parent* class will take place on both Oct. 15 at 5 p.m. and 19 at 10 a.m. to accommodate busy schedules. The class's intent is to help make your parenting practices more effective and enjoyable. This one-hour discussion is \$5 per person and free to JCC members.

Wrap up the month with a cold one – beer, that is. The JCC's Beer Night is Thursday, Oct. 30 at 7p.m. in Campus Café. Bring your friends, take a seat, and relax to taste dark beers. Brian Tarver, Certified Cicerone from H-E-B Alon Market, will take you through a selection of six beers as you learn about history, breweries, brands, and taste. Space is limited and reservations are a must. Seats are \$5 per person and the class is open to the community.

GMJSS programs continue to grow

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services just closed their fourth year of the GMJSS grant program and the Fiscal 2013-2014 outcome reports show a significant increase in programming hours for Jewish seniors in San Antonio-surpassing the 10,000 hour mark.

The number of Jewish Seniors served by these programs also increased – up 12% from 687 last year to 778 this year.

“One of the most incredible indirect outcomes of the grant program is the networking and camaraderie we are seeing among the congregations. Congregational representatives meet and network about their senior programming on a regular basis. We are also seeing seniors that attend functions at Chabad, Rodfei, Temple and Agudas,”

stated subcommittee grant chairperson Suzanne Huber.

There were 12 programs or partnerships that were sponsored GMJSS in concert with Congregation Agudas Achim, Chabad Center, Heintz Pre-School, Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Service, The Patient Institute, mmLearn, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, and Temple Beth El. In addition to these partnerships, GMJSS sponsors transportation services for seniors needing rides to religious services, cultural events, or other special programs.

Plus, this year, NESA and San Pedro Playhouse will offer additional transportation services and a theater workshop for Jewish Seniors. For more information call (210) 302-6946 or visit www.goldenmanor.net.

JCC and JFS host Community Health Education Series

Jewish Family Services and the Barshop Jewish Community Center will present a new series of collaborative events aimed at providing educational opportunities for adults and seniors. In partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, these events will serve as an introduction to Alzheimer's disease – how to recognize it, defining characteristics, and beneficial methods of communication in

reaction to the different behaviors exhibited by someone with Alzheimer's.

Together, Jewish Family Services and the Barshop JCC plan to assist adults as they age, providing them with the tools and information necessary to maintain a positive lifestyle.

The events will take place on the first Wednesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. beginning

in October and are free and open to the community. Because space is limited, reservations are required and can be made by calling 210-302-6820.

The first event, *Know the 10 Signs: Early Detection Matters*, will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 1, and is sponsored by Franklin Park Senior Living. On Nov. 5 the topic will be *The Basics: Memory Loss, Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease*,

and the 2014 series will conclude on Dec. 3 with *Communication and Behaviors*.

The events will take place in the Holzman Auditorium at the Campus located at 12500 NW Military Highway at Wurzbach Parkway. For more information, call Maya Siler, Coordinator of Adult and Senior Services, at (210) 302-6860 or Jewish Family Services at (210) 302-6920.



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Jonathan Gurwitz, Chair, 2014 Annual Campaign
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SUKKOT

Celebrate Sukkot Rodfei Sholom style

Kabbalat Shabbat

Congregation Rodfei Sholom's Kabbalat Shabbat services will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 10. Services will be followed by a traditional dinner in the congregation's Sukkah.

NCSY Father - Son Sukkah sleepover

Pack your sleeping bags, flashlights and bug spray and join Rodfei Sholom's youth group for Havdalah followed by Melave Malke in the Sukkah on Saturday, October 11. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the outdoors while sleeping under the stars and awake to Starbucks and fresh bagels.

Pizza in the Sukkah

On Sunday, October 12 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., the congregation will host a community get-together. Pizza (and more) kid- and adult-friendly food will be served in the Sukkah.

For these events, RSVP by October 6 by calling the synagogue office at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

L'Chayim Club brunch in the Sukkah

The community is invited to enjoy a light brunch in the Rodfei Sholom Sukkah on Tuesday, Oct. 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Start the day by learning about the *lulav* and *etrog* and having the opportunity to participate in this beautiful mitzvah. Enjoy the special taste of breakfast in the Sukkah, surrounded by friends. The Sukkah is open to anyone who would like to stop by. This event is co-sponsored by Rodfei Sholom, with a generous grant from Golden Manor. To RSVP by Tuesday, Oct. 7, contact the synagogue office at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

Hands on Sukkot at the J

On Monday, Oct. 13, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., the JCC will host *Hands on Sukkot*. This free, all ages, drop-in event under the 'Ta'am Ha'Ona' (*Essence of the Season*) program banner, will feature crafts, snacks, a reading with Lauren Abraham of PJ Library (a program of the Jewish Federation), the Scholastic Book Caravan, and music too! Visit www.jccsanantonio.org/seasons for more information.

Sukkot and Simchat Torah dinners at Agudas Achim

Fulfill the mitzvah of eating in the Sukkah. Congregation Agudas Achim is hosting a family dinner in the Sukkah on Friday, Oct. 10 following *One Friday Night with Friends*, a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service. Services begin at 6:15 p.m. with dinner following at 7 p.m. The Simchat Torah dinner begins at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16, and is followed by services and

dancing with Sifrei Torah and dessert at 7 p.m. Both dinners and services are open to the community. Dinner prices are \$18/adult, \$11/children 6-11 and tots 5 and under are free.

Contact the synagogue at (210) 479-0307 to make reservations. The dinners will be held in the synagogue Sukkah at 16550 Huebner Road.

Agudas Achim teen camp out in the Sukkah

Congregation Agudas Achim invites high school students to pack their tents, sleeping bags, pillows and flashlights and join USY advisor Eric Steitz for a teen camp out in the Sukkah on Saturday evening, Oct. 11,

beginning at 7 p.m. There will be an outdoor Havdalah service followed by games and snacks. Contact Eric at esteitz16@gmail.com for more information and to reserve your spot.

Explore Sukkot with B'nai B'rith

The Alamo-Brandeis B'nai B'rith Lodge 211 will meet on Sunday, Oct. 12 at 10:30 a.m. in room 227 at the Jewish Campus (B'nai B'rith room). There will be a discussion on Sukkot, along with some tasty food. There is no charge for the program, but reservations are required.

For additional information or to RSVP, contact Irwin Barath at (210) 341-4502.



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SUKKOT

Annual Sukkot Family Dinner at Chabad

The Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning invites the community to attend its Annual Sukkot Family Dinner on Wednesday, Oct. 8, at the Chabad Center, 14535 Blanco Rd. Services will be held at 7 p.m. and the dinner will begin at 7:45 p.m.

The festive event will

be held in the center's spacious Sukkah and will feature a traditional holiday dinner, singing and L'chaims.

Cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children.

Kindly RSVP by calling Chabad at (210) 764-0300 or by emailing info@ChabadSA.com.

Chabad to Host Annual Sushi in the Sukkah - Oct. 13

The Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning invites the community to attend its annual Sushi in the Sukkah event on Monday, Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Chabad Center, 14535 Blanco Rd. The event will be held in the center's spacious

Sukkah and will feature an on-site sushi chef, a Kosher wine selection and lots of socializing. Cost is \$20 per person.

Kindly RSVP by calling Chabad at (210) 764-0300 or by emailing info@ChabadSA.com.



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SIMCHAT TORAH

Simchat Torah at Chabad

The Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning invites the community to attend its Simchat Torah Kiddush and Hakafot on Thursday, Oct. 16, at the Chabad Center, 14535 Blanco Rd. An interactive educational

program for children will begin at 7 p.m.

Hakafot dancing and a Kiddush with light refreshments will begin at 7:45 p.m. No RSVP is necessary.

Rodfei Sholom Simchat Torah

Simchat Torah, or Rejoicing of the Torah, celebrates the yearly completion and recommencement of the reading of the Torah. The Hakafot will begin at Congregation Rodfei Sholom on Thursday, Oct. 16, at 8 p.m. There will be special treats for the children as well as light refreshments and drinks for the adults.

On Friday morning, Oct. 17, services will begin at 9 a.m., and Hakafot will be repeated. Adults will be given the opportunity to be called to the Torah for an Aliyah. All children are called up to the Torah where they will stand under an outstretched Tallit and receive an honorary Aliyah. There will be Hakafot (dancing and celebrating with

the Torah) and special honors of Chasan Torah and Chasan Bereshis. The children will, of course, be an integral part of the services, with dancing, singing, and rejoicing. The children will be given festive flags and special treats to enhance the experience. Following services, there will be a lovely traditional Kiddush/lunch.

Simchat Torah/Shabbat Bereshit At Beth Am

Congregation Beth Am will hold a major celebration of Simchat Torah at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 17, in conjunction with its Kabbalat Shabbat service. As a special part of the service, the congregation will change its Torah's clothing from its holiday white to brand-new garb, including a wimple (belt), m'el (Torah cover) and table cloth.

To encourage parading with the Torah (hakafot) in honor of the holiday, Sara Purcell will provide appropriate music on her accordion.

Following services, those who attend will enjoy a dairy potluck dinner. The congregation encourages everyone to bring a pareve or dairy side dish or dessert to share.



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YOUTH NEWS



During the EKHLA's birthday celebration, students from EKHLA's first graduating class spoke about the many benefits they took away from their graduation trip to Israel.

EKHLA celebrates first anniversary

In August, the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy (EKHLA) hosted a community-wide celebration to mark its successful first year of operation.

The charter school opened its doors last year to 178 students, from kindergarten through eighth grades, as the first and only Hebrew language charter school in Texas. This year, EKHLA welcomed 252 students for the new school year, with waiting lists for many grade levels.

EKHLA's celebration recognized "visionaries" who were an integral part of

making EKHLA a reality for San Antonio including Reuben and Deborah Bar Yadin, Lenny and Raquel Holzman, Shirley Katzman, Bob and Sandi Kolitz, and Raphi Sonsino.

This school year the EKHLA has implemented a new school-wide science curriculum called STEMscopes and has implemented an athletics program in the middle school grades which includes girls' volleyball, co-ed basketball, and co-ed soccer. Additional sports are planned for the future.



Children at TASA honored victims of 9/11 during a special Patriot Day assembly on September 11.

Patriot Day at Torah Academy

On the thirteenth anniversary of September 11, 2001, Torah Academy of San Antonio (TASA) held a Patriot Day assembly commemorating the events of this somber day in U.S. history.

The assembly began with a special prayer delivered by sixth grader, Noah Schwartz, in remembrance of the victims of 9/11.

Kindergarten teacher, Jessica Diric gave a brief overview of why American's remember this date, and have named

it Patriot Day. The kindergarten, first, and second grade students performed a patriotic presentation and special rendition of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Officer Nathan Gershon, of the LaVernia Police department and a member of the local Jewish community, gave a presentation to the students about how police officers, fireman, and emergency medical response teams would have responded to the terrorist attacks in New York City

and Washington D.C.

Officer Gershon was presented with a gift basket full of snacks and goodies in appreciation for his dedication to the community in times of emergency. Donations for the basket were collected from students and teachers at TASA.



TASA receives support from the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

Fall Family Day at the JCC

Last month, families gathered at the JCC Block and Dreeben School for Young Children for an evening of community-building. The evening began with children eating dinner with their teachers in classrooms, while their adult family members spent a brief period in the JCC Holzman Auditorium brainstorming ideas for supporting the Jewish value of Tikkun Olam

(repairing and taking care of our Earth).

This exercise was chosen because Tikkun Olam is such an important value that children can experience in hands-on ways. Just a few of the inventive suggestions included bringing re-usable cups from home for snacks and outdoors, creating playground "toys" by reusing cleaned out items such as yogurt cups, soda

bottles, butter tubs etc., coffee can rain harvesting for a playground garden, and melting broken crayons into new crayons.

Following the brainstorm session, adult family members went to their child's classroom to participate in craft activities with their child such as decorating reusable napkins and reusable snack mats for use in the classroom.





New day for Pizza in the Hut celebration

Heintz Preschool will host a community-wide Pizza in the Hut, a lively annual celebration of Sukkot, on Sunday, Oct. 12 from 5 p.m. to 7p.m. in the Schaffer Courtyard at Congregation Agudas Achim.

Musician Tony Stern will lead attendees in lively family-friendly music as guests dance and eat in celebration of the Festival of the Tabernacles. Tickets for adults are \$10 and

children are \$5. Admission includes a pizza dinner, music, dancing and arts and crafts.

Tips are accepted, as all proceeds support Heintz Preschool enrichment programming throughout the school year.

Reservation deadline is Wednesday, October 8. For more information and to make reservations, contact Aliza Cantu, a.cantu@agudas-achim.org or (210) 479-0429.

San Antonio Hillel kicks off 2014 Semester

San Antonio Hillel is off to a great fall semester. Student leaders have been planning hard to put together an amazing calendar of events for the upcoming months. Lunches are held bimonthly on the UTSA campus to bring the students together for discussions and brainstorming. A citywide Sukkot Shabbat is scheduled for Oct. 10 at the Barshop Jewish Community Center.

"The purpose of this event is to bring all of the Jewish students throughout San Antonio together to celebrate Sukkot with the light of Shabbat," said Samantha Mazuz, Hillel SA Director.

The involvement fair at



(Left to right) JCC Staff Rachel Rustin, new Hillel Director Samantha Mazuz, UTSA student interns Natalie Steiner, Ashley Cuevas, and Alex Stubbs-Trevino.

Trinity University brought students to the Jewish Students Association (JSA)/Hillel table. Trinity University Jewish students came together for a root beer float meet and greet and are eagerly planning out a full fall semester schedule.

Hillel SA is also assisting college aged students interested in traveling to Israel on a

Birthright Israel trip, which creates lasting memories and truly makes a difference in the lives of the participants.

For more information about Hillel, Birthright and other Israel trip opportunities, contact Samantha Mazuz at Samantha@sahillel.org or at (210) 201-JEWS (5397).

Texas A&M Hillel recruits high school students

COLLEGE STATION - Texas A&M Hillel recently hosted more than thirty high school students from throughout Texas for a unique recruiting event. Thirty-one students from San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, Austin and other communities throughout Texas spent the weekend of September 5-6 in Aggieland learning about the growing Jewish community and enjoying an Aggie football game.

Texas A&M System Chancellor John Sharp provided Texas A&M Hillel with complimentary tickets to the A&M-Lamar football game held on September 6 to be used to recruit high school students to visit Texas A&M. This generous gift led to the creation of a weekend devoted to



recruiting high school students to visit Texas A&M.

During the weekend, students participated, along with current Jewish Aggies, in lively musical Shabbat services and a kosher turkey dinner, followed by a discussion panel on Israel, and game night. Friday

evening was topped off with a trip to the recently renovated Kyle Field for the traditional Midnight Yell. Overnight, the students stayed with local student hosts.

On Saturday, the day began with a presentation on admissions with a campus

recruiter. That was followed by brunch, a campus tour and a tailgate event with Sigma Alpha Mu, the Jewish fraternity on campus. Then, students watched the Corps of Cadets march onto Kyle Field and then took their seats for the A&M vs. Lamar football game, which was

Jewish high school students from San Antonio and across Texas got a taste of Aggieland during a recruitment weekend last month.

unfortunately delayed by two hours due to weather. After the game, the students returned to Hillel for a late night havdalah ceremony concluding Shabbat, thus ending their immersion to Aggieland.

For those who missed the weekend, there will be another opportunity to visit Aggieland and the Jewish community at Texas A&M. Aggie Jewish Open House will take place February 13-14, 2015 in conjunction with the campus-wide open house called Aggieland Saturday. Contact Rabbi Matt Rosenberg for information - rabbimatt@tamuhillel.org or (979) 703-1856. For more information about Texas A&M Hillel or the Jewish community at Texas A&M visit aggielhillel.org.

ARTS & CULTURE

The Vex presents a classic tragedy

The Sheldon Vexler Theatre's 16th season of critically acclaimed productions continues with a classic piece dating back to 415 B.C.E., Greek playwright Euripides' well-known tragedy, *The Trojan Women*. Though written thousands of years ago, the piece remains timeless.

In the wake of their devastating defeat, the women of Troy, all now widows, wait on the beach below the ravaged city to be claimed by their Greek conquerors as slaves and

concubines. Though the war is over, exile and degradation lie ahead and the fates of these women including Queen Hecuba, her daughter Cassandra, the doomed, mad prophetess, and her daughter-in-law Andromache, widow of the great Hector, still hang in the balance. The story hints that, beyond defeat, there may come a greater glory than the fortune of the victors.

The Trojan Women, directed by Vex Artistic Director Ken Frazier, opens October 25 and runs

through November 15, with performances on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30pm. Please note, the play is recommended for mature audiences. Tickets, on sale now, are \$15 for students, groups 10+, \$18 for JCC members, Seniors 65+, Military, and \$21 general admission.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call The Vex Box Office at (210) 302-6835, or stop by any of the JCC Courtesy Desks.

Build a Sukkah

If you haven't yet tackled the "sukkah building project" for Sukkot this year, it's not too late. There are plenty of inspirational ideas online! Check out websites such as *Pinterest*, *YouTube*, and *Chabad.org* for design ideas that run the gamut from quick and simple to elegant and a little more time intensive. Building a Sukkah can be a fun family project every age can enjoy.

- Source: *Pinterest*



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YOUTH NEWS

Falafel Dinner shows a strong and united voice for Israel

By Tracy Frydberg,
immediate past president
of Texans For Israel

Austin, Texas – Approximately 100 students, a mix of old and new faces, attended the Texas Hillel Texans for Israel's (TFI) annual falafel dinner event to kick off a new year on Wednesday, Sept. 3.

Texans for Israel, a Texas Hillel group and the largest student pro-Israel organization in the Southwest region, serves as an umbrella organization for UT students looking to connect to or learn about the other "lone star state." The falafel dinner was an opportunity to engage new students and connect them with options for Israel involvement on campus.

Jewish Agency Israel Fellow, Tomer Maron, said the falafel dinner was a great way to activate student involvement. "During the event we discussed the importance of Israel on campus and provided facts and background information about the conflict in Gaza."

"Now we can move into action-oriented programming and create a

positive game plan to make this semester the best one yet through cultural, social, business and advocacy-focused Israel events."

The falafel dinner was also an opportunity to address events in Israel over the summer. At the end of the event, Texans for Israel led a discussion on Operation Protective Edge, the recent conflict that took place approximately three weeks ago between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, and prepared members for possible backlash on campus, arming them with tools to defend Israel both inside and outside of the classroom.

"Because of the events of this past summer in Israel, there has been a large pro-Palestinian presence on campus through rallies and op-eds in local newspapers," Co-President Elan Kogutt said. "TFI is responding by educating UT students with the facts of the conflict and teaching members to advocate for Israel against anti-Israel and anti-Semitic rhetoric."

For Kogutt, the falafel dinner reaffirmed why he advocates for Israel on campus.



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SAN ANTONIO CONGREGATIONS

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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

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)
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Phone: (210) 493-3557 Fax: (210) 492-0629
E-Mail address: rodfeisa@gmail.com
Website: www.rodfeisholom.org
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website: www.templechaisa.org
Rabbi David Komerofsky

Chabad Lubavitch of South Texas
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website: www.chabadsa.com
Rabbi Chaim Block
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COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

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Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) works to meet the needs and enrich the lives of Jewish seniors in the San Antonio area through services that keep seniors connected to the broader Jewish community by providing transportation for Jewish seniors, through direct services, and through grants to other organizations for programs that benefit all San Antonio area Jewish seniors.

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Director: Rachel Rustin
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San Antonio Hillel serves college students throughout the San Antonio area. SA Hillel maintains a presence on the primary campuses (UTSA and Trinity), with students from other campuses invited to join those events or city-wide events.

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

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

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

Torah Academy of San Antonio
3003 Sholom Drive, Suite #200, 78230 / Phone: (210) 607-7261

Opportunities for young adults to travel to Israel

Organized Israel programs can be a deeply meaningful experience for all Jewish people and the benefits of these programs, geared to teens and young adults, help to connect the younger generations to Israel.

There are many programs for young adults looking to travel to Israel. Birthright Israel provides a free ten day trip as a gift to any young Jewish adult ages 18-26. These trips touch on some of the most historical and meaningful places in Israel and provide a special once in a lifetime gift. This gift allows young adults the opportunity to experience Israel first hand at minimal costs. Birthright has changed their eligibility

criteria allowing young adults to travel to Israel as a participant of Birthright even if they have already traveled to Israel previously on an organized trip.

For those looking for a more intense journey, Masa Israel provides longer programs that allow young adults the opportunity to live in Israel from five months to a year. These programs are geared to individuals who are interested in studying abroad, traveling to Israel before college on a gap-year program, interning in various cities and industries throughout Israel, living on kibbutzim, or volunteering with some of the largest non-profit organizations in Israel. All of these programs

include accommodations, staffing, trips throughout the country, Hebrew language classes, and discussion sessions. These programs truly immerse individuals into the culture and daily life of true Israelis.

All these programs, whether 10 days or one year, provide opportunities for young adults to bond with Jewish peers, connect to our homeland, experience the culture of Israel, and come away with a true and deep understanding of their Jewish identities and heritage.

For more information, contact JCC Coordinator of Teen & Young Adult Services, Samantha Mazuz at mazuzs@jcc-sa.org or (210) 302-6867.

Mother-Daughter trip to the Emerald City

Girls in Rodfei Sholom's NCSY youth group will spend an afternoon with Dorothy and Toto on Sunday, Nov. 2, at 3 p.m. at the San Pedro Playhouse, at a showing of *The Wizard of Oz*.

A limited number of seats have been reserved

so RSVPs are requested by Monday, Oct. 13 by emailing rodfeisa@gmail.com or calling (210) 493-3557.

Tickets range from \$14 (12 and under) to \$32. Discounts are available for students, seniors and military.

New Kosher restaurant opens in Cadillac Plaza shopping center

A new Israeli-owned Mediterranean style restaurant, Aroma Grill, has opened at 14375 Blanco Road in San Antonio. Located in a space previously operated by the all dairy Café Roma, the new Kosher* restaurant will feature freshly prepared Kosher meats and non-meat dishes (parave).

The menu also includes fresh sides and salads and

complementary breads, along with desserts and parave dishes prepared with non-dairy creamers.

For more information, contact the restaurant at

(210) 764-0979.

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At Issue: An official language for the Jewish State?

In the days following the American Revolution, some patriots were so intent on flaunting their new freedom from the loathsome mother country that they proposed alternatives to English as the national language. Since a majority of Pennsylvanians in the 18th century spoke German, that seemed a logical choice. Even more logical was French, the principal language of the Enlightenment, as well as the foreign troops who helped the colonists attain independence. Another choice for the New Eden in North America was Hebrew, spoken, it was thought, in the original Garden of Eden and required of all freshmen at Yale and valedictorians at Harvard.

In fact, however, the Constitutional Convention was so busy with more pressing matters that it never got around to establishing an official language for the United States. Spanish, French, Navajo, Hawaiian, Yiddish, Chinese, and Vietnamese, among other tongues, have been widely spoken in various parts of the country, but none ever



At Issue

STEVEN G. KELLMAN

attained the prestige or utility of American English. Particularly during war or burgeoning immigration, some have campaigned for “English-only,” legalizing the status of what is already, de facto, the language of the United States. However, trying to legislate what people speak is the enterprise of those with plenty ofchutzpah and little savoir-faire. It is a tribute to American pluralism and tolerance that we still lack an official language, that languages are allowed to evolve and interact without government interference.

According to an apocryphal quip attributed to George Bernard Shaw, “The United States and Great Britain are two countries separated by a common language.” But Jews are one people separated by dozens of languages. They include several languages distinctive to Jews: Hebrew, Aramaic, Yiddish, Ladino, Judeo-

Arabic, Judeo-Georgian, and Judeo-Malayalam, as well as the many languages of the nations among which Jews have been dispersed: German, Polish, Russian, Arabic, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Romanian, Hungarian, Turkish, Persian, among many, many others. Today, more Jews speak English than any other language.

Reviving Hebrew as a modern spoken language in the Middle East, Zionist pioneers used it to construct and affirm a new identity. Among the baggage to be left behind in the ghettos of Europe was the “jargon” of the Diaspora Jew. In his 1896 manifesto *Der Judenstaat*, Theodor Herzl looked to a future in which Palestinian Jews will have cast aside the vestiges of their demeaning exile: “We will rid ourselves of the ugly and stunted jargons, those ghetto languages of which we now make use. They were the furtive languages of prisoners. Our schoolteachers will turn their attention to this matter. Daily life will see to it that one language becomes established as the primary language, without any coercion.”

For most Zionists, it was crucial that those “ugly and stunted jargons,” particularly Yiddish, be displaced by one language: Hebrew. In 1927, riots broke out in the streets of Jerusalem when the newly founded Hebrew University attempted to establish a Chair of Yiddish Literature. When the film *Mayn Yidishe Mama* opened at the Mograbi Theater on September 27,

1930, members of the self-proclaimed Army for the Defense of the Hebrew Language threw ink at the screen and stink bombs at members of the audience. For years, public events in which Yiddish was spoken were disrupted by stones, firebombs, and rotten tomatoes. Azriel, a printing firm in Tel Aviv, received this threat from the Union for the Imposition of Hebrew: “We have just been informed that you are preparing to publish or print a newspaper in Yiddish . . . We warn you not to do this thing and not to assist those who dishonor the Hebrew language, which would lead to conflict and unrest and bring about the involvement of the police. The responsibility for the consequences will be yours. Stop the typesetting of the newspaper immediately.”

By 1948, Arab armies were more of a threat to Jewish identity than a European remnant who tried to cling to Yiddish. At the time of independence, Israel inherited British law, which mandated three official languages: Hebrew, Arabic, and English. Though it continued to be used on street signs and currency, English was soon stripped from the list. Meanwhile, the ingathering of exiles from all over the world was turning Israel into a laboratory of languages. Hebrew and Arabic dominate, and none of the others has been granted official status.

In 2008, four members of the Knesset introduced legislation that would have made Hebrew the sole official

language of Israel, though Arabic, English, and Russian would have been granted official secondary status. The bill did not pass. But just a few weeks ago, a similar bill was introduced by MK Shimon Ohayon of Yisrael Beitenu and co-sponsored by members of two other right-wing parties. If passed, the law would remove official status from Arabic, the first language of approximately 20 percent of Israel’s population. It is a farkakte idea.

Hebrew is now established securely enough in Israel that its speakers need not fear encroachment from Yiddish, Arabic, or any other language. Delegitimizing Arabic would be a gratuitous insult to one-fifth of the country’s population. A signal of intolerance, it would further exacerbate dangerous tensions. It would confirm for anti-Semites throughout the world their conviction that the Jewish State is insular and intolerant, that the pride it takes in proclaiming Israel the only free society in the Middle East is unfounded. All Arab Israeli schoolchildren are required to learn Hebrew. It would not hurt the nation’s perilous situation if Jewish Israeli schoolchildren were taught Arabic – as well as linguistic tolerance.

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

The views and opinions expressed in Perspective articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Federation.



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LEGACY

The Worthy Willow

The joyous festival of Sukkot follows just four days after the serious and somber Day of Atonement. This joy is a natural progression from the solemnity and introspective nature of the high holidays and an expression of our confidence in G-d's blessing for a happy and healthy New Year.

Sukkot is also a holiday of faith. The Sukkah, temporary dwelling, is symbolic of the clouds of glory that protected the Jewish people during their travels in the desert. Through sitting in the Sukkah we express our faith in the Almighty's providence and protection.

Above all however, the Sukkah is a symbol of unity. We go out of our homes and welcome our guests to join us. Indeed, the Sukkah is the only mitzvah that many people could perform at the same time with the same object. This unity is effected by the surrounding walls of the Sukkah and joy of the holiday which suspends our differences and allows our inherent soul connection that we share with each other to shine forth.

The unity of the Sukkah,



The Rabbi's Voice

RABBI CHAIM BLOCK

facilitates yet a deeper and more impactful unity that is expressed by another mitzvah associated with this holiday - the mitzvah of Lulav and Etrog, the four species.

The Torah commands us to take a willow, myrtle, palm and citron and bring them together and recite a blessing. According to our sages, each species represents another type of Jew. From the simple unlearned Jew symbolized by the willow, to the accomplished scholar represented by the Etrog, they are all taken together to convey the message that not only do these differences not disturb this unity but they actually enhance it. Indeed, the simple Jew has much to offer and the Scholar has much to learn.

The ability to celebrate our differences emanates from the recognition that at our core we are one people united by a common heritage and destiny. This

recognition provides the foundation for us to channel and develop this unity to one which can, not only tolerate but celebrate our diversity.

Moreover, if one has the Etrog-citron which could cost upwards of \$100.00 the Lulav-palm, which could cost close to \$20.00 and the Hadas-myrtle, which runs around \$7.00 but are missing the Arava-Willow, which you can get for around \$2.00 you cannot perform the mitzvah. All are equally integral to the fulfillment of this mitzvah. The Holiday of Sukkot teaches us that every Jew is important and worthy.

There are so many fellow Jews in our community who are unaffiliated and uninvolved for a variety of reasons and there are many others who may belong to a synagogue who still feel distant from and/or intimidated by synagogue attendance and many other aspects of Jewish practice. We cannot just give up on this demographic nor allow them to give up on themselves. The answer is education on all levels. We must provide warm and welcoming, nonthreatening opportunities

for people to experience the beauty and joy of our Jewish heritage and tradition.

This effort is not only the responsibility of our synagogues and formal Jewish organizations. We as individuals could also have a meaningful impact on our friends and acquaintances who may need a little encouragement. Try inviting some people, other than family and close friends, over for a Shabbat and holiday dinner or to

join you for an event at your synagogue or other Jewish organization in town. A personal touch from a lay person could often go further than from a Jewish professional.

May this year be a happy, healthy and more Jewishly involved year for each of us, our families and our community.

*Gmar Chatimah Tova,
Rabbi Chaim Block
Chabad Center for Jewish*



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BAR MITZVAH:

Isaac Bernard Miller



Isaac Bernard Miller will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, Oct. 25 at Temple Beth-El. Isaac is the son of Morris and Deborah Miller and the younger brother of Jacob and Eden. He is the grandson of Marge and Al Miller, and Penny Bonda and Merrill Solomon of Washington, DC.

Isaac has been recognized for his academic achievement at San Antonio Academy, where he plays tennis, and is a member of the robotics team. Isaac also plays the guitar, but he is happiest when reading or playing Minecraft.

Isaac has attended Camp Nebagamon in Wisconsin for the past 5 summers. For his Bar Mitzvah project, Isaac is committed to helping underprivileged kids attend summer camp by supporting Camperships for Nebagamon. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please email deborahsmiller@gmail.com.

Pulman-Anderson Engagement

Jason Ian Pulman and Lindsay Elaine Anderson have announced their wedding engagement.

Jason is the son of Shari and Randy Pulman. He is the grandson of Reesa and Joel Pullen, and Minnie and Jake Pulman (both of blessed memory). Lindsay is the daughter of Reverend Charles and Lydia Anderson. She is the granddaughter of Terry and Helen Anderson of San Antonio, and Janet Scales and Reverend Bill Scales (of blessed memory) of Boerne.

Jason is an administrative assistant at Pulman, Cappuccio, Pullen, Benson & Jones, LLP. Lindsay is a receptionist at the West Field Office of the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services.

A March 2015 wedding is joyfully being planned in San Antonio.



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MAZAL TOV



Welcome Janes twins

Jenn and Peter Janes welcomed twins David Frederick and Eliana Adelheid on August 27 in San Antonio. David weighed 6 lbs., 7 oz., and measured 18.5 inches long. Eliana weighed 7 lbs., 2 oz., and measured 19.5 inches. Grandparents are Harry F. Noyes III of San Antonio, Heidi Denz of San Antonio, and Phyllis and the late Brandon Janes of Uvalde.

A bris and baby naming were celebrated at Congregation Beth Am on September 3.

Peter is an electrical engineer, and Jenn is a social worker with Alamo Hospice.



For her mitzvah project, Peyton Ausburn recently collected more than 1,000 books and donated \$500 to the SAREads campaign of Literacy San Antonio. She's also a member of B'nai Tzedek.

Area teens helping our community

Are you a Bar or Bat Mitzvah working on a mitzvah project? If so, we'd like to know about it. Send us a brief description about you, your project and the organization or cause that you are supporting through your efforts. Include your contact information if you'd like the community to know how to contribute.

And be sure to check out B'nai Tzedek, a youth philanthropy program designed just for you. The

B'nai Tzedek program operates in partnership with the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies of San Antonio, Jewish Federation of San Antonio, Private Donors, Chabad Lubavich of South Texas, Congregation Agudas Achim, Congregation Beth Am, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, Temple Beth-El, and Temple Chai.

You can learn more at www.jfsatx.org under "Ways to Give."

Welcome baby Rochel Leah

Rabbi Berel and Rikal Pewzner of the Cayman Islands are celebrating the birth of their daughter, Rochel Leah. The infant is the granddaughter of Rabbi Chaim and Rivkie Block of San Antonio.



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From Sderot: Praying for a Year of Peace and Security

By Alon Davidi

Last month, I had the honor to usher in the start of the new school year for the students of Sderot in the presence of our nation's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. In that moment, as I looked at the innocence of school children amidst the entourage of our country's most protected leader, I

breathed the deepest sigh of relief that I had allowed myself in nearly two months.

For in that scene I saw the very epitome of Israel's existence- a bright and committed future combined with the strength and resilience that brought us to that place and time.

Let there be no doubt that the last several months of the lives of the residents of

Sderot and the surrounding regions have been wholly defined by tension and uncertainty. I fully admit there were times when I feared I would never have the chance to breathe normally while watching school children head off to their classes.

The situation was so dire that even when we had the rare privilege of making it

through the night without the interruption of sirens, we would always awake without knowing what the day would bring. The sounds of warfare were almost constant and deprived us of all the normalcies that one so longs for during the lazy months of summer.

Indeed, for the residents of southern Israel, there was no summer of 2014.

Instead this was the summer where the word tunnel became a term associated with intense fear.

This was the summer where we became experts in differentiating the sound of a rocket impact from one deflected by the Iron Dome.

This was the summer when we looked on from our homes and were able to see our soldiers advancing towards Gaza to protect our lives.

This was the summer of Tzuk Eitan, Protective Edge.

Sadly, we will never get this summer back and the pain and loss of July and August 2014 will likely remain with us for the rest of our lives.

Yet, weeks after the cease-fire was announced, I feel that the State of Israel can and should take pride in its accomplishments. Indeed, my military and my Government have taken the prudent steps to defend her

See **SDEROT**, page 35

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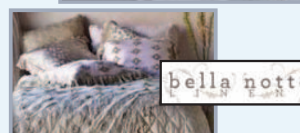
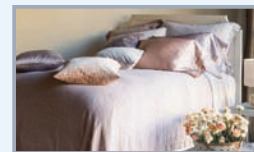
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House unanimously approves anti-Semitism condemnation

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A bipartisan congressional resolution urging increased action by the United States and other countries to address resurgent anti-Semitism passed unanimously.

The non-binding resolution passed Thursday condemns anti-Semitism particularly when it is used “as an acceptable expression of disapproval or frustration over political events in the Middle East or elsewhere.”

It also “decies and con-

demns the comparison of Israel to Nazis perpetrating a Holocaust or genocide as an insult to the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust.”

Reps. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), Peter Roskam (R-Ill.), Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) and Kay Granger (R-Texas) initiated the resolution, which was introduced on July 31.

A wall-to-wall array of Jewish groups backed the resolution.

“This resolution sends a

resounding message to the world about what is best in America and America’s resolve to confront this ugly and dangerous hatred,” the Anti-Defamation League said in a statement. “We deeply appreciate the House’s leadership in providing a moral voice and standing up for the safety and security of those Jewish communities around the world who are once again being threatened by anti-Semitic violence and intimidation.”

Senate passes bill declaring Israel as ‘major strategic partner’

(JNS.org)

The U.S. Senate unanimously adopted the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act on September 18. The bipartisan bill, which declares Israel to be a “major strategic partner,” was authored by Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Roy Blunt (R-MO) and had 81 co-sponsors. “America’s long-standing relationship and strong cooperation with Israel dates back to the presidency of fellow Missourian Harry S. Truman,” Blunt said in a statement.

Get the latest news on Israel and other issues important to our community. 24 hours a day! at www.jfsatx.org.

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Israeli teens' suspected abductors killed in firefight with IDF

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The two Palestinian men suspected of kidnapping and killing three Israeli teens were killed in a firefight with Israeli troops during an operation to apprehend them.

Marwan Kawasme and Omar Abu Aysha were September 23 in Hebron, where Israeli

troops had surrounded the house in which they were hiding, more than three months after the search for the suspects began.

Three other Palestinians suspected of involvement in the kidnapping, all of them members of the Kawasme family, also were arrested during the operation.

Palestinian youths riot on Temple Mount

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Masked Palestinian youths threw stones and bricks and set off firecrackers at Israeli police officers on the Temple Mount.

The riots broke out as

the site holy to Jews and Muslims was opened to visitors on the eve of the Jewish New Year.

The youths set up blockades at the entrance to the Al-Aksa Mosque while

attacking police guarding the Mughrabi Gate, where non-Muslims enter the compound, according to reports.

Four police officers were injured in the attacks.



ARAB BANK HELD LIABLE FOR SUPPORTING HAMAS

A New York jury on September 22 found Arab Bank liable for this Hamas suicide bombing in Jerusalem on June 11, 2003, which killed 16 people, because the bank knowingly processed "martyr payments" to the families of suicide bombers. (Quique Kierszenbaum/Getty Images)

SDEROT

continued from page 33

citizens and for that they deserve our unmitigated gratitude.

Certainly there will remain debates over whether we won this war in the classic sense of a military victory and I know that the future is far from certain.

I am, furthermore, fully cognizant of the fact that we cannot let down our guard and that we the residents of Sderot live under a constant threat that requires special defenses to remain prepared for any possibility. This will require the continued support of our Government and our friends around the world.

The traumas of the last

two months, and indeed the past fourteen years, of often incessant rocket attacks cannot be healed with even the best intentioned agreement or policy paper. There is work to be done, businesses, homes and lives to be rebuilt, and we are committed to doing all that is possible to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our citizens.

And while I am forced to acknowledge that the future is uncertain, I also firmly believe that we deserve to hope. Even with the challenges and doubts that surround our current existence, we must recognize that our nation has given us the ability to believe that a safer tomorrow is possible.

So as I watched these children and looked upon my Prime Minister, I welcomed those dual emotions of optimism and strength represented in both. Because, as intent as our enemies might be on our destruction, I am more convinced than ever that these are ideals of the modern State of Israel that will never be taken from us.

And with that conviction in mind and as we start the New Year, I know we can all be united in the prayer that it will be one of peace and security, not simply for the people of Sderot and Israel but indeed all the Jewish people around the world.

Alon Davidi is the Mayor of Sderot, Israel.

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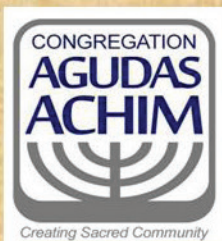
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