



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

CHESHVAN-KISLEV 5775

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

NOVEMBER 2014



MUSIC TO YOUR EARS

A children's book put to music kicks off Jewish Book Month at the Beldon Library.

PAGE 25



Saturday,
November 22

PARTY FOR A CAUSE

It's a casino night and all that jazz for this year's JCC Main Event.

PAGE 10



COMING TOGETHER!

Wondering what these little ones have been up to? Check out What's Happening in the community.

PAGE 15

Demi Dinner honors Federation *Pomegranates*

By Stacey Kline Schwartz

On Wednesday evening, Oct. 1, 2014, philanthropic members of our community gathered at Simone and Jason Kbouti's house for the "Demi Dinner" to celebrate Pomegranate women in our community. The Pomegranate level is a national program that recognizes women who give \$1,800 - \$4,999 annually to their local Jewish Federations. In San Antonio, we have an impressive 117 Pomegranate women,

including 11 new ones in 2013-2014. To date, Women's Philanthropy accounts for over 60% of the current annual campaign.

The theme for the event, "A Taste of Israel" was carried throughout the evening, from the Israeli food and wine to the program and discussion. Participating women prepared many of the dishes served during the evening and created a beautiful array of culinary

See **DEMI DINNER**, page 16



Stacey Kline Schwartz, Former Women's Philanthropy Director; Lauren Stanley, 2014 Israel and Overseas Co-Chair and Demi Dinner Co-Chair; Ilene Franco, 2014 Women's Philanthropy Event Chair and Demi Dinner Co-Chair; Dr. Amy Benedikt, 2014 Women's Philanthropy Lion of Judah Chair and Demi Dinner Committee Member

Canadian Jewish institutions ramping up security following jihadist incidents

MONTREAL (JTA) — Canadian Jewish institutions are stepping up security after the murder of two Canadian soldiers by homegrown pro-jihadist terrorists.

While it is not clear whether the two attacks, which included a shooting October 22 at the Parliament in the nation's capital, were related, they have shaken a country that has experienced few acts of terrorism and has often felt

“The attacks have demonstrated that Canada is no longer immune to the danger of individuals harboring and propagating radical ideologies.”

MICHAEL MOSTYN, B'nai Brith Canada CEO

immune from attack.

While no direct threats were reported against Jewish institutions, they reportedly are heightening security measures in response.

“The Jewish community takes these incidents very seriously,” said Martin Sampson of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs in Ottawa. “We have security

protocols in place and remain vigilant.”

B'nai Brith Canada CEO Michael Mostyn said in a statement, “The attacks have demonstrated that Canada is no longer immune to the danger of individuals harboring and propagating radical ideologies.”

On October 22 in Ottawa, a 32-year-old man identified

See **CANADIANS**, page 18

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



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EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS

The submission deadline for the DECEMBER 2014 issue of the Jewish Journal is NOVEMBER 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 DECEMBER 2014 ISSUE:

- Ad space reservations due no later than November 12, 2014 by noon;
- Press ready ads due by November 14, 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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SHABBAT, NOV. 8	Shabbat Ends 6:19 p.m.
FRIDAY, NOV. 14	Light Candles at 5:21 p.m.
SHABBAT, NOV. 15	Shabbat Ends 6:16 p.m.
FRIDAY, NOV. 21	Light Candles at 5:18 p.m.
SHABBAT, NOV. 22	Shabbat Ends 6:14 p.m.
FRIDAY, NOV. 28	Light Candles at 5:17 p.m.
SHABBAT, NOV. 29	Shabbat Ends 6:13 p.m.
SHABBAT, DEC. 5	Light Candles at 5:17 p.m.
SATURDAY, DEC. 6	Shabbat Ends 6:13 p.m.

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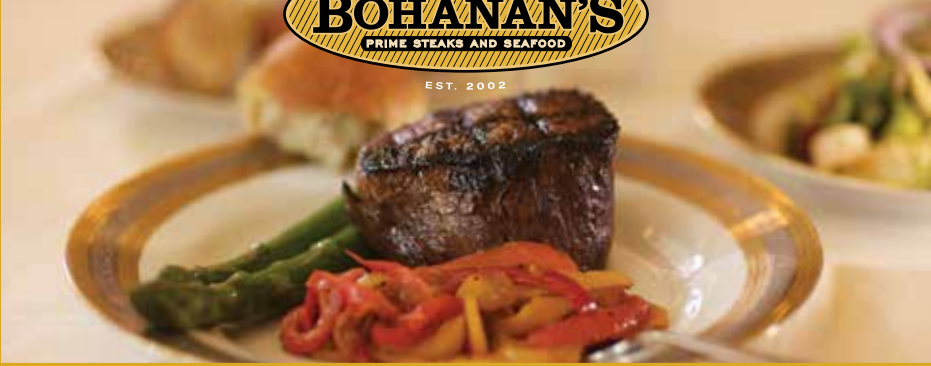
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Giving thanks

Modeh ani l'fanecha – I offer thanks to You. These are the first words of the Modeh Ani prayer, traditionally uttered each morning upon waking. Jewish custom reminds us to be thankful as we begin each new day and to be grateful for every breath each moment after.

While we are now in the Hebrew month of Cheshvan, in which we do not celebrate any holidays, the beauty of Judaism is such that we are constantly reminded of our good fortunes. The American tradition of Thanksgiving is in that same vein. We cherish the celebration because as a people who wandered



**Letter from
our CEO**

**RONIT
SHERWIN**

various parts of the globe for many, many years, we appreciate the liberties of freedom in the United States. We understand what it means to enjoy the freedom to observe our customs and honor our traditions.

As we enjoy the festivities of Thanksgiving, let us be reminded of the great fortunes we are afforded in our own Jewish community. We have a Jewish Community Center, a Jewish Family Service, a Jewish school, Golden Manor Senior Services, and many

more programs through Hadassah, B'nai Brith and Hillel. We are strongest when we work together. All year long our community is available to us when we need it, and we should be grateful for what our institutions do to nurture and sustain Jewish life locally and around the world.

The traditions of Thanksgiving demand reverence for hospitality, bounty and religious freedom. It may not be a Jewish festival, but it is more than worthy of celebration.

Modeh ani l'fanecha – I give thanks for my ability to arise each morning fortunate enough to live in this San Antonio Jewish community.

Hanukkah 2014 begins in the evening of **Tuesday, December 16** and ends in the evening of **Wednesday, December 24**

Looking for the perfect gift to honor a loved one or colleague? Consider a tribute donation to the Jewish Federation in their name. All donations of \$18 or more will be recognized* in our "tribute" section of the Jewish Journal. Contact Sandy Leigh for details at advertising@jfsatx.org.

*donors may remain anonymous if requested.



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Community Day! Mark your calendar for November 11th

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS: November 2014

NOVEMBER 1

- Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Veterans Day Shabbat and Kiddush, 9 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents *The Trojan Women*, 8 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

NOVEMBER 2

- Temple Beth-El 140th Anniversary Picnic, 9 a.m.
- 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.
- Jewish Federation presents *An Evening with Izzy Ezagui: From Birthright Participant to Birthright Soldier* Teen Event, 7:30 p.m., Rosella Coffee Shop

- Congregation Agudas Achim Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Louis Newman, 7:30 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Book Club *The Clothes on Their Backs*, 7:30 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

NOVEMBER 6

- Barshop JCC Silver Cinema, 1 p.m., at The Campus
- Congregation Agudas Achim Brews & Schmooze Family Style, 5 p.m., Bigz Burger Joint
- Jewish Federation Young Adult Division presents *An Evening with Izzy Ezagui: From Birthright Participant to Birthright Soldier*, 7:30 p.m., Holzman Auditorium
- 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.

NOVEMBER 8

- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Movie Night, 7:30 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom
- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents *The Trojan Women*, 8 p.m., Sheldon

Vexler Theater

NOVEMBER 9

- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents *The Trojan Women*, 2:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater
- Leah Goot Hadassah Speaker Event, 3 p.m., Beldon Library

NOVEMBER 11

- Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Book Review, 10 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
- Congregation Rodfei Sholom L'Chayim Club, 11:30 a.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

NOVEMBER 13

- Jewish War Veterans Post 753 Dinner at SAMMC, 5 p.m.
- David Wiessman Bridgebuilder Award Dinner, 6 p.m., Grand Hyatt Riverwalk
- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents *The Trojan Women*, 7:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater
- Temple Beth-El Machar Torah on Tap, 8 p.m.

NOVEMBER 15

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

NOVEMBER 16

- Global Day of Jewish

- Learning, 9 a.m., at various local Synagogues, 2 p.m. at The Campus
- Israel Bonds Reception, 7 p.m.

NOVEMBER 17

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

NOVEMBER 18

- Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Board Meeting, 9:45 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
- Jewish Federation Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus

NOVEMBER 20

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

NOVEMBER 21

- Heintz Preschool Yad B'Yad Grandparents Day, 9 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Speaker Professor

- Stephen Blank, 7 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom
- Temple Beth-El Machar After Hours, 8 p.m.

NOVEMBER 22

- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Speaker Professor Stephen Blank, 11:15 a.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom
- Barshop JCC Main Event, 7 p.m., at The Campus

NOVEMBER 23

- Congregation Agudas Achim Installation of Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, 11 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Sunday Funday/NCSY Event, 2 p.m., at The Rollercade
- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Women's Rosh Chodesh Group, 7:30 p.m., Home of Manijeh & Dr. Habib Nathan

See **CALENDAR**, page 5



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Dates set for Heart to Heart 2015

JFNA National Women's Philanthropy welcomes area women to register for *Heart to Heart 6*: a life-changing women's mission to Israel. The mission trip to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem is scheduled for February 1-5, 2015. Participants will learn about how Israeli women and their families are moving forward after last summer's conflict, and how the U.S. Jewish community can continue to support them.

Spend five brilliant days

traveling Israel and meeting with women who are making their world a better place. Participate in hands-on programs that are changing the face of Israeli society and helping those most at risk. The hope is that participants will return home invigorated and empowered, ready to put into action what they've learned in their respective communities.

Mission Highlights include:

- Participation in a workshop and fair with

artists from Southern Israel

- Meeting the spouses of IDF commanders and learn about their daily lives
- Meeting with female combat soldiers in the desert
- Taking part in a Heart-to-Heart-Style "Amazing Race" around Jerusalem, meeting female artists, chefs, designers and entrepreneurs along the way
- Learning from Israeli women who are in the forefront of some of the world's most interesting

scientific achievements

- Seeing some of the unbelievable programs and projects that are changing and saving lives, thanks to support by Jewish Federation dollars and our overseas partners. The cost for the trip is \$2500 for double occupancy or \$3000 for single occupancy.

For more information, visit <http://www.jewishfederations.org/heart-to-heart.aspx> or contact Stacy Katz at (818) 922-7121 or stacy.katz@jewishfederations.org.

CALENDAR

continued from page 4

NOVEMBER 24

- Barshop JCC Fall J-Camp

NOVEMBER 25

- Barshop JCC Fall J-Camp

NOVEMBER 26

- Barshop JCC Fall J-Camp
- Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Book Club, 10 a.m., Temple Beth-El

NOVEMBER 27

- All Campus Offices Closed

NOVEMBER 28

- Jewish Federation Offices Closed
- Barshop JCC Sports & Recreation Open 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

NOVEMBER 30

- Beldon Library Author Event, 2 p.m., at The Campus

DECEMBER 2

- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Film Screening *Beneath the Helmet*, 7 p.m., Santikos Embassy 14

DECEMBER 3

- 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., Room 277 at The Campus
- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Book Club *The Woman Who Defied Kings*, 7:30 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

DECEMBER 5

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

DECEMBER 6

- STARZ presents *Beauty & the Beast*, 7 p.m., at The Campus

DECEMBER 7

- Barshop JCC Dance Showcase, 1 p.m., at The Campus
- STARZ presents *Beauty & the Beast*, 2 p.m., at The Campus
- STARZ presents *Beauty & the Beast*, 4:30 p.m., at The Campus

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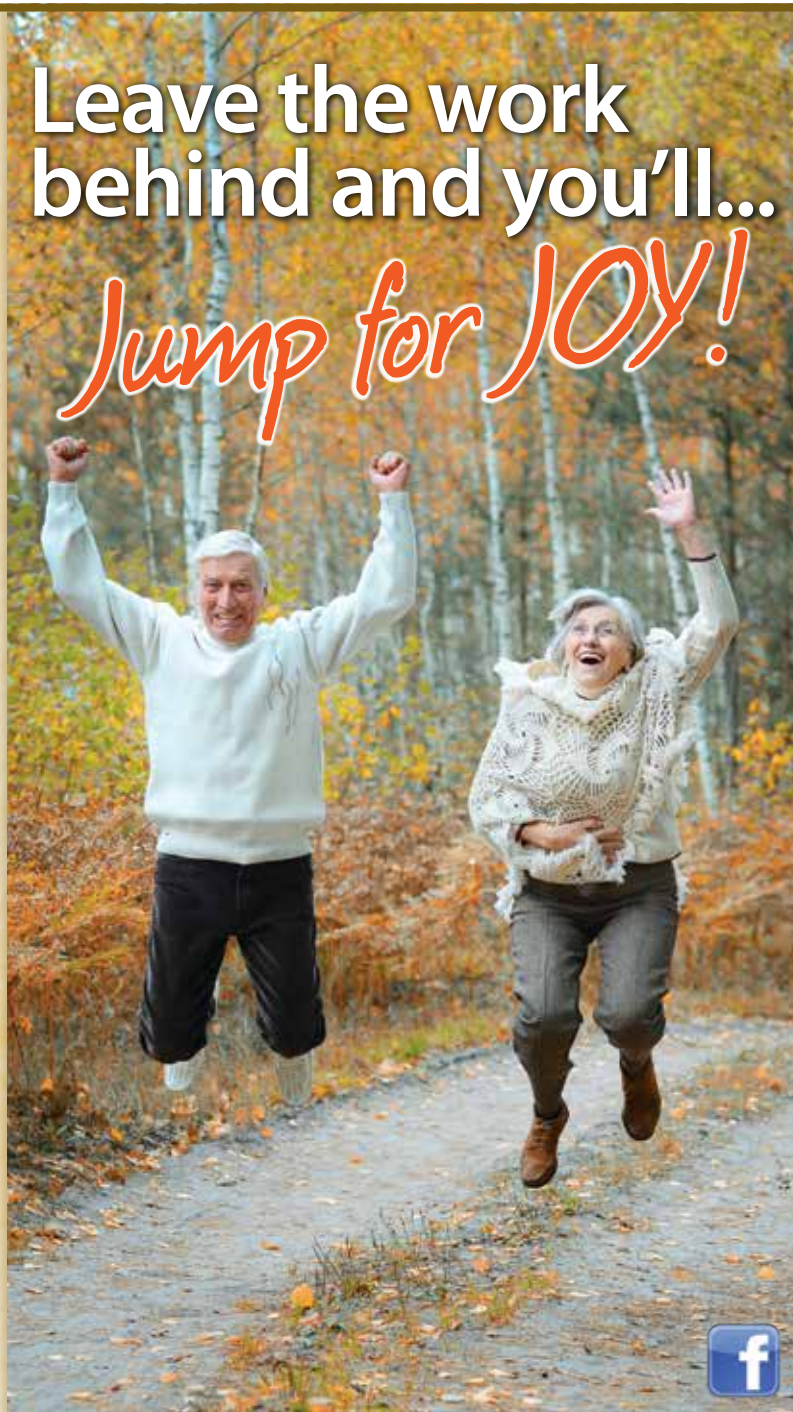
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PJ Library spreads joy of reading at *Hands on Sukkot*

By Lauren Abraham,
PJ Library Coordinator

On Monday, Oct. 13, PJ Library hosted a special table and story time at the *Hands on Sukkot* event at the Barshop JCC. Director of Arts and Culture at the Barshop JCC, Aliyah Kuchinsky, said more than 70 children walked through the doors of the JCC to partake in the excitement of the holiday.

The children, along with their families and friends, enjoyed fruit drinks and snacks, and participated in a variety of Sukkot related activities (including making a popsicle shaped Sukkah). PJ Library led a story time with newer Sukkot selections such as *Sadie's Sukkah Breakfast* and *A Watermelon in the Sukkah*. PJ Library also led a healthy edible Lulav and Etrog station that included a make your own lulav and etrog activity with lettuce, cucumbers, green beans, and citrus fruit. The students tried their hands at shaking the lulav and etrog and then got to eat their delicious work.

PJ Library is a program of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio designed for children ages 6 months to 7 years. For more information, give us a call at (210) 302-6960.

PJ Library friends work together to make their own edible Lulav and Etrog



Two PJ Library friends shake and bless the real lulav and etrog after making their very own edible lulav and etrog combo.



Mother and daughter Vanessa Alejos and Olive Sayers read PJ Library Sukkot book, *A Watermelon in the Sukkah*, together in the PJ Library reading corner.



PJ Library Coordinator Lauren Abraham (far left) reads new PJ Library book, *A Watermelon in the Sukkah*, to PJ Library friends. This book encouraged the listeners to think about their favorite fruits and vegetables, and to brainstorm ways they could bring them to the Sukkah. In our story, the watermelon (Avatee-ach) proved to be the most challenging as it needed a special net to keep it hanging from the Sukkah.

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Jerusalem Post Chief Political Correspondent Gil Hoffman to headline Shabbaton



Gil Hoffman

The Chabad Center for Jewish Life will host Shabbat weekend with special guest Gil Hoffman, Chief Political Correspondent and Analyst for *The Jerusalem Post*, on the weekend of November 7-8 at the Chabad Center, 14535 Blanco Rd.

On Friday, Nov. 7, services will begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Shabbat dinner and lecture at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Hoffman will speak on the topic of *Peace, Politics, & Plutonium: A Maven's Guide to the Mayhem in the Middle East*.

A children's program during the lecture will be provided. Cost for Friday night dinner is \$25 adults, \$12 children under 12.

Saturday, Nov. 8 morning services will begin at 9:30 a.m., Torah reading at 10:30 a.m. followed by a Kiddush luncheon at 12:15 p.m.

During lunch Mr. Hoffman will address the topic *Red States, Blue States, and the Jewish State: An Insider's Perspective*.

Well-connected to Israeli and Palestinian leaders, Gil Hoffman has interviewed

every major figure across the Israeli political spectrum, has been interviewed by top media on six continents and is a regular analyst on CNN, Al-Jazeera and other news outlets.

Called "The most optimistic man in Israel" by Israel Television, Hoffman's writing and TV appearances provide a behind the scenes look at the intrigue and humor in the Israeli political arena.

Hoffman, who was raised in Chicago, graduated Magna Cum Laude from

Northwestern University's School of Journalism and wrote for the *Miami Herald* and *Arizona Republic* before moving to Israel.

A reserve soldier in the IDF Spokesman's Unit, he has lectured in nine countries and all 46 contiguous states not named Dakota. He lives in Jerusalem with his wife and two children.

This weekend is generously sponsored by Stephen & Elaine Cohen.

For more information and reservations, please call (210) 764-0300.

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JFS Annual Latke Party honorees announced

Jewish Family Service invites you to join us in honoring outstanding community leaders Ilene Kramer, Marcia Schwartz, and Michael Swanson, at the JFS Annual Latke Party on Sunday, Dec. 14 at the home of the Dr.

Mel Cohen.

These honorees are well-known for sharing their time and talent in the Jewish and wider communities and all have a special place in their hearts for JFS.

"We are happy to honor

these wonderful folks who have done so much for the community and JFS," said board president Marion Bernstein.

The Latke Party will help JFS continue their work in the San Antonio community.

Attendees will enjoy schmoozing with familiar friends, making new ones, eating a delicious dinner highlighted by homemade latkes prepared by guest chefs, Steven Butler, Daniel Laser, Harry Levy and Mitch Michelson.

To make your reservations, send your check for \$36 per person payable to Jewish Family Service, 12500 NW Military Hwy, Suite 250, San Antonio, TX 78231.

If you are unable to attend but wish to honor Ilene, Marcia and Michael with a donation to JFS, you may submit it by mail, by calling (210) 302-6921, or making an online donation at www.jfs-sa.org.

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Congregation Agudas Achim installment and celebration luncheon for Rabbi Abraham

Congregation Agudas Achim will celebrate the installation of Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham on Sunday, Nov. 23, at 11 a.m. in the Alterman Salkind Louis Sanctuary. Recently relocating from New York City, Rabbi Abraham has impacted Agudas Achim with creative services and programming and secured a firm leadership position in the San Antonio Jewish community.

His installation will be immediately followed by a celebration luncheon in the Gurinsky Family Social Hall which promises to include a few surprises by Rabbi Abraham's family and friends.



Temple Beth-El hosts installation weekend for Rabbi Nathan

Rabbi Mara Nathan, the new senior rabbi of Temple Beth-El, will be installed at a special service on Friday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Wulfe Sanctuary.

Participating in the installation will be Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism; Rabbi Jeffrey J. Sirkman, Senior Rabbi of Larchmont Temple; and Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth-El.

The ceremony will be followed by an Oneg Shabbat reception in the Barshop Auditorium.

As part of the installation weekend, Rabbi Jacobs will present a keynote address at Saturday



morning worship services at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 8.

Brighten up your holiday with Temple Beth-El's Chai Lights

Need a new menorah, candles or dreidels? How about a decorative serving plate or hostess gift for that latke party you'll be attending? You can find them all at Chai Lights, a display of all things Hanukkah at Temple Beth-El on Sunday, December 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Barshop Auditorium.



A display of all things Hanukkah will be at Temple Beth-El on Sunday, December 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Barshop Auditorium.

November 12 and 19 and December 3, 10 and 17, the gift shop will open from 3 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

From chocolate *gelt* to pieces of Jewish decorative art, organizers say there will be something for every taste and every pocketbook.

For those who cannot attend, the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood gift shop is open on Friday evenings before services and on Sundays during religious school. Additional hours have been added for the Hanukkah season. On Wednesdays –



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JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

HONORING OUR LIVING VETERANS THIS VETERANS DAY

The members of Jewish War Veterans Post 753 invite you to join them in remembering and honoring all living veterans by observing the traditional two minutes of silence at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 11. Veterans Day is the annual United States holiday to honor all living military veterans. The federal holiday, Tuesday, Nov. 11, marks the anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended World War I. Major



hostilities were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 with the German signing of the armistice. In some parts of the world it is referred to as Armistice Day.

In the United States the significance has changed from honoring those who died in World War I to a day to remember, thank

and honor living military veterans as opposed to Memorial Day when deceased military veterans are remembered and honored.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JWV POST 753:

Sunday, Nov. 23 – Post meeting at Jewish Community Center, Room 277-Board Room, starting at 9:30 a.m. with light breakfast, followed by business meeting.

Thursday, Dec. 25 - Post members will assemble at the recreation room of the main building at Audie Murphy

VA Hospital at 12:45 p.m. to walk the wards of the hospital and distribute ice cream and cookies to the patients and personnel on duty. Want to volunteer to bring cheer to patients and staff on duty? Contact Ken Ashworth at (210) 647-0330.

Sunday, Dec. 28 - Post election meeting at Jewish Community Center, Room 277 – Board Room, starting at 9:30 a.m. with light breakfast. Business Meeting will include election of post officers for 2015.

Tuesday, Dec. 30, - Post members will conduct Bingo/

Social at Audie Murphy CTC starting at 6:45 p.m. Want to bring some cheer to the patients? Volunteer by calling Ken Ashworth at (210) 647-0330.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Post membership drive for 2014 is over and the start of the 2015 drive will begin shortly. Membership is open to those who have served in the armed forces of the U.S. for at least 30 days and received an honorable discharge. A person does not have to serve during a war to be eligible for membership.

Train a dog, save a warrior program

In the news lately are stories of how dogs are used to assist veterans in overcoming certain mental problems. In 2010, the agency TADSAW (The Train a Dog-Save a Warrior) was founded. The program's mission is to provide service dogs, as designated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines, for any wounded warrior, active duty/veteran, surviving with Post Traumatic Stress (PTSD), Military Sexual Trauma (MST) or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The dogs, known as Battle Buddies, are trained to help restore and improve the warrior's quality of life.

The Department of Defense noted in 2011 that at least 20% of Warriors returning from deployment are affected by the symptoms of PTSD or TBI during the first year at home. At least 3 out of 5 Female warriors will be survivors of MST. In October 2012, the VA reported that the associated suicide rate rose to 18 to 20 deaths daily. The suicide deaths have surpassed the total combat deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan. As of April 2013, the reported suicide rate has increased to at least 22 daily.

The TADSAW program serves the Warrior, the family and the community, by providing the Warrior and

the canine Buddy with the training and tools necessary to become an accredited Warrior/Service dog team. TADSAW also provides for the training of a service dog for any Warriors immediate family who are dealing with compassion fatigue, secondary PTSD, or any other mental health issue diagnosed while the warrior was deployed or on active duty.

The program lasts from 15 to 20 weeks to train the Warrior/Service dog team. Even after the official training period is over with, the training period continues. The service dog is in training every day that the team goes out into the public, long after the final lesson. TADSAW's program includes obedience training and learning how to interpret and proactively respond to the dog's body language.

To learn more about the program visit www.tadsaw.org contact Bart Sharwood, Director of TADSAW, at (210) 643-2901 or bart@tadsaw.org.

JCC selected for pilot program serving Jewish veterans

The Barshop Jewish Community Center is one of six JCCs across the country selected to pilot a new initiative called *Project Welcome Home*, a JCC Association initiative that aims to assist in and promote community engagement for U.S. Jewish service men, women and their families. These six represent a cross-section of JCCs by size and location.

The project, which will be steered by JWB Jewish Chaplains Council, a program of JCC Association, incorporates the needs of veterans, their families and caregivers, as it helps ease their way back into community. Each selected community sent a representative to an intensive training in New York to learn about the program, the needs of veterans and their families, and resources available to launch the program in their local communities.

"These JCCs applied to participate in this exciting initiative, recognizing the presence of returning veterans and military families in their communities," said Rabbi Abbi

Sharofsky, JWB deputy director for programming at JCC Association. "They understand how important it is to reach out and connect this population to the community."

Over the past few months, the Barshop JCC has created a Project Welcome Home Advisory committee, chaired by Dr. Michael Piesman, which has begun meeting to develop programming that will engage Jewish military individuals and families into the Jewish community.

Maya Siler, JCC Adult/Senior Adult Coordinator and coordinator of San Antonio's Project Welcome Home said, "One of our first tasks is to identify active duty and/or post-9/11 Jewish men and women vets in our community and invite them to let us know which programs and services would be of interest and how the JCC can be helpful."

To provide input, or for more information about Project Welcome Home, contact Maya Siler at silerm@jcc-sa.org or (210) 302-6860.



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JCC Main Event Set for Saturday Nov. 22

It's November, which means the JCC is gearing up for their annual fundraiser, *The Main Event*, taking place Saturday, Nov. 23 at 7 p.m. at the JCC. This year, the JCC will honor Pat Kalmans and Mike Ozer, along with The Gladys and Ralph Lazarus Foundation and The Lazarus Foundation Fund of the San Antonio Area Foundation.

Each of the honorees has worn "many hats" in our community supporting and serving in a variety of roles. Pat and Mike have devoted

countless hours of service to our local synagogues, Jewish Federation, JCC, Day school, and Jewish Family Service throughout the years. They have been loyal supporters of Jewish causes, Jewish education, and Israel, as well as arts and culture events and activities throughout San Antonio and beyond.

In addition, this year's Main Event Corporate honorees, the Gladys and Ralph Lazarus Foundation and the Lazarus Foundation Fund of the San Antonio Area

Foundation, have provided generous and ongoing support of community initiatives, including the JCC Summer Camp Inclusion program, JCC early childhood "Ethical Start" program, and the JCC Jewish Film Festival. Their vision and leadership has proved to be invaluable as they have helped shape the way the JCC serves our community and impact the lives of individuals and families in need.

The goal of the Main Event is to generate funds to

specifically support Youth and Senior Services, and provide financial assistance for families and individuals in need through the Walter and Reba Viner Charitable Fund.

This year's Main Event will feature live music provided by local favorite *The Merchants of Jazz*, casino gaming, the silent auction, and a diverse menu of culinary specialties provided by a variety of San Antonio's preferred food purveyors, including H-E-B Alon

Market, Sushihana, and more with a martini bar once again hosted by Myron's Prime Steakhouse. All food served at the Main Event is Kosher.

Tickets, just \$50 per person, are available online at www.jccsanantonio.org/mainevent, at any JCC Courtesy Desk, or by calling (210) 302-6820. Sponsorship opportunities begin at \$150. For more information and updates on participating restaurants, visit the JCC online, or call Carisa Heiss at (210) 302-6866.

Professor to speak on women's roles in Jewish worship throughout history

On Thursday, Nov. 6 at 7 p.m., Professor Chad Spigel, Associate Professor of Religion at Trinity University in San Antonio, will speak at Temple Beth-El on "Why Did She Spit in the Rabbi's Face? Women and Ancient Synagogues."

Today it is common for women to be active participants and even leaders in many synagogues in America. A perfect example is Temple Beth-El, which currently has two female rabbis and a female cantor.

However, prior to the origins of Reform Judaism in the 19th century, medieval and early-modern synagogues tended to be very similar: male clergy, separate seating and a lack of female participation in worship. But what about the earlier period? What roles, if any, did women have in synagogues when they were first developing as places of Jewish worship in the first few centuries

of the Common Era? In this presentation, Professor Spigel uses archaeological and literary evidence to show that in at least some ancient synagogues women were not only active participants, they also had leadership roles.

Professor Spigel teaches courses in Hebrew Bible

and Jewish history. He earned his B.A. from Brandeis University (1997), spent a year at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1995-1996), and earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in Ancient Jewish History from Duke University (2008). He is currently working with Dr. Jodi Magness (University

of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) on the excavations of the ancient synagogue and village of Huqoq in the northern part of Israel. In addition to teaching and digging, Chad's article "Reconsidering the Question of Separate Seating in Ancient Synagogues" was published in the Journal

of Jewish Studies (Spring, 2012), and his book, *Ancient Synagogue Seating Capacities: Methodology, Analysis and Limits*, was published by Mohr Siebeck (September 2012).

This is the final presentation in Temple Beth-El's 140th Anniversary Speaker Series.

SAVE THE DATE FOR MAH JONGG!

Brighten up your February & attend the Annual JFS Mah Jongg Tournament Sunday, February 15, 2015, at the Campus of the Jewish Community located at 12500 NW Military Hwy.

..... Early Bird Registration is \$40.00 by December 31, 2014.

..... Regular Registration is \$50.00, deadline is January 31, 2015.

For reservations, more information or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Cheryl Hayes at 210-302-6921 or go to www.jfs-sa.org.

For information on rules and play, e-mail us at jfsmahjongg@gmail.com.

CONGREGATION AGUDAS ACHIM UPCOMING EVENTS

GAMES DAY RETURNS

Agudas Achim Sisterhood will host the 17th annual Games Day on Tuesday, Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. in the Gurinsky Family Social Hall. Games Day is open to both men and women. Sisterhood will provide the tables, chairs and food. Participants bring their own group and game. The cost of the event is \$12 which includes lunch and snacks. Reservations are required. Contact Linda Aboloff at (210) 479-3612 or Babs Schnitzer at (210) 764.1714.

SISTERHOOD RUMMAGE SALE

The annual Agudas Achim Sisterhood Rummage Sale is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 10-Thursday, Dec. 11 from 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. each day. Items include gently used housewares, books, toys, furniture and clothes.

A popular corner of the rummage sale, Marguerite's Boutique features designer clothing, hand bags and shoes. All sales are final; cash and carry only – no checks or credit cards. For more information or to set up rummage drop off (through November 25), call Bernice Mazer at (210) 341.8226. Proceeds benefit several programs at Congregation Agudas Achim as well as the broader San Antonio community.

AGUDAS ACHIM WELCOMES SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

Congregation Agudas Achim will host Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Louis Newman, on Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 7:30 p.m. The program, *Our Money and Our Values* focuses on our complicated relationship with money, whether we have a lot or a little. Come discover what Judaism

teaches about the values that can guide our financial choices--how we spend money, save it and/or give it away. This event is free and open to the community.

Dr. Newman is one of the country's leading scholars of Jewish ethics. He has been thinking, teaching and writing about Jewish ideas for over 30 years. Louis Newman is the John M. and Elizabeth W. Musser Professor of Religious Studies, Associate Dean of the College and Director of Advising at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota.

For more information and to RSVP, please call (210) 479-0307.

SAVE THE DATE FOR HANUKKAH PROGRAMS

Agudas Achim is creating new, fun and exciting programs for Hanukkah including:

- Hands On Hanukkah Program at the Vineyard at Whole Foods, December 14 at 12 p.m. - 2 p.m., FREE

- Meet "David the Dreydel," eat latkes and treats, play Hanukkah games, create Hanukkah crafts, enjoy music, and much more. Congregation Agudas Achim is one of 20 institutions to receive a prestigious grant from the Big Tent Judaism Organization to host this community program.

- Hanukkah Storytime with Rabbi Abraham at Barnes and Noble La Cantera, Monday, December 15 at 4:30 p.m., FREE Hanukkah stories, gelt and fun activities Hanukkah gelt, and much more!

- Lots of Latkes Dinner for the entire family, December 17 at 6 p.m.

Celebrate Hanukkah with Fried Chicken, Latkes, plus some healthy options, too. Watch for details in the December *Jewish Journal*.

RODFEI SHOLOM ROUNDUP

ROSH CHODESH GROUP FOR WOMEN

Rodfei Sholom's Rosh Chodesh Group will welcome the month of Kislev on Sunday, Nov. 23, from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the home of Manijeh Nathan. There will be a D'var Torah honoring Kislev, which is

also known as "the month of dreams." Manijeh Nathan, an experienced life coach and therapist, will give insights into dreams and how they impact people's lives and are a reflection of who they are. If attending, please RSVP by Wednesday, November 19, to rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

SENIOR FELLOW AT AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY COUNCIL

Congregation Rodfei Sholom invites the community to hear Professor Stephen Blank, Senior Fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council in Washington. He will speak on Friday, Nov. 21, at a special Shabbat dinner and Saturday, November 22, after Shabbat *Musaf* services at 11:15 am.

Professor Blank's topic on November 21 will be *Dilemmas of U.S. Strategy in the Middle East*; and on

November 22, *The Jewish communities of Russia and Ukraine in the Midst of the Conflict*.

Stephen Blank has been Professor of National Security Affairs at the Strategic Studies Institute since 1989. He has published over 1,000 articles and monographs on Soviet/Russian, U.S., Asian, and European military and foreign policies; testified frequently before Congress on Russia, China, and Central Asia; consulted for the CIA, major think tanks, and foundations; chaired major international conferences in the USA and abroad in Florence, Prague,

and London; and has been a commentator on foreign affairs in the media in the United States and abroad.

He has published several books focusing on Russian foreign, energy, and military policies and on International Security in Eurasia.

Prior to his appointment as Senior Fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council, Dr. Blank was Associate Professor for Soviet Studies at the Center for Aerospace Doctrine, Research, and Education of Air University at Maxwell AFB. Friday night Shabbat services start at 5:15 p.m., followed by dinner and the lecture. Saturday services start at 9 a.m. Babysitting will be available. For more information and for reservations for the Shabbat dinner contact Rodfei Sholom at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557. The Israel Public Action Committee of Rodfei Sholom is sponsoring the program.



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IN THE COMMUNITY: COLLEGE

Hillel holiday happenings

San Antonio Hillel has had a busy fall season, including events like Rosh Hashanah Tabling and giving out apples and honey on campuses, a Yom Kippur Break the Fast, building a sukkah on the Trinity University Campus, and a citywide Sukkot Shabbat at the JCC.

If you know of a college-aged student in San Antonio looking to get involved and meet other Jewish students, contact Samantha Mazuz by email at Samantha@sahillel.org or by phone at (210) 201-JEWS (5397).



Professor Jack Leifer, Rachel Rustin, student David Herman, Samantha Mazuz, and Professor Chad Spigel at Trinity University's Sukkah.



Yom Kippur Break the Fast at Trinity University Professor Betsy Tontiplaphol's home.



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



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SUKKOT CELEBRATIONS

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME



Agudas Achim Club volunteers, with a little help from their friends, erected the synagogue's sukkah in record time this year. Along with congregational dinners, onegs and kiddush lunches, Agudas held a teen camp-out in the sukkah.

Seeking your Hanukkah recipes

The Jewish Journal will have a special Hanukkah section for the December issue.

The section will include Hanukkah recipes. Do you have a family favorite recipe or two that you would like to share with the community?

Please Send your recipes(s) typed into the body of an email to jewishj@jfsatx.org.

Please type "Hanukkah recipes" in the subject line. We'll print a selection of submitted recipes next month.

Let's get cooking!

Medicare Annual Enrollment: HELP IS AVAILABLE!

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November 4 and 12 - GMJSS Office
November 19 - Temple Beth El
November 25 - Congregation Agudas Achim

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AREA COLLEGE STUDENTS CELEBRATE SUKKOT



Jim Morris Neklin shakes the lulav before entering the sukkah at Hillel's City-Wide Sukkot Shabbat Dinner at the JCC on October 10.



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SUKKOT CELEBRATIONS

JAS HOSTS FAMILY SUKKAH DINNER

Sandra and Tory Wadiche pose with the edible Sukkah they made at the JAS (Judaics After School) @ the J Sukkot dinner.



HEINTZ PRESCHOOL PIZZA IN THE HUT



Families enjoyed dancing, fun, and great food at Heintz Preschool's annual Pizza in the Hut celebration held at Congregation Agudas Achim during Sukkot.

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For more information please visit www.jfsatx.org or call (210) 302-6960. We welcome you to join us!



2014 DEMI DINNER

DEMI DINNER

continued from page 1

options. The Demi Dinner Co-Chairs: Elizabeth Friedman, Ilene Franco, Lauren Stanley and Sandy Weingart, along with their dedicated committee members: Dr. Amy Benedikt, Sherry Braslau, Lizette Feld, Dr. Daniella Fisher, Linda Fisher, Monica Litzka-Miller, Tania Lubetzky, Janice Penner, Shari Pulman, and Jennifer Rosenblatt planned and executed a fabulous evening of fun, friends, food and philanthropy.

Some of the program highlights included:

- Elaine Cohen, who recently received the Kipnis-Wilson Friedland Award at the International Lion of Judah Conference;
- Tania Lubetzky who was presented with her Pomegranate pin as a new 2014 Pomegranate;
- San Antonio Hillel Intern Ashley Cuevas who inspired the group with her remarks about how the dollars we raise through our Annual Campaign enable young people like Ashley to participate in programs at the JCC, on Taglit-Birthright Israel trips and Hillel activities on campus;
- 2014 Campaign Chair Jonathan Gurwitz, who highlighted some of the wonderful programs we are able to support locally through the generous support of our community including: PJ Library, which sends Jewish books every month to over 300 local Jewish children; The Tribe and JNet which provide social, educational and networking opportunities for area young adults; the Holocaust Memorial Museum that welcomed over 20,000 visitors this year and educated them about tolerance, bullying and genocide; and the list goes on;
- 2014 Israel and Overseas Co-Chair Lauren Stanley who gave an impassioned presentation about her experience being in Israel this summer - along with Chief Development Officer Susan Kariv and Chief Executive Officer Ronit Sherwin - when the war with Gaza broke out.

- Dr. Daniella Fisher spoke from her heart about why it is important to her to be involved in Federation and to make her own annual gift.

Guests left the event in high spirits excited about upcoming events and the positive energy in Federation and the community today.



Dr. Jimmy Franco; Ilene Franco, 2014 Women's Philanthropy Event Chair and Demi Dinner Co-chair; Simone Kboudi, 2014 Demi Dinner Host



Leslie Tramer and Elizabeth Friedman, 2014 Demi Dinner Co-chair



2014 Demi Dinner Committee Members: Dr. Amy Benedikt and Lizette Feld



Jonathan Gurwitz, 2014 Annual Campaign Chair and Elaine Cohen, 2014 San Antonio Kipnis-Wilson Friedland Award Winner



Ronit Sherwin, Federation CEO and Susan Kariv, Federation CDO



Dr. David and Linda Fisher, Event Committee



Hannah Margolis and Pat Kalmans

2014 DEMI DINNER



Ilene Franco



Sonia, Sioma and Tania Lubetzky, 2014



Ronit Sherwin and Jodi Starr



Joanie Schwartz and Rachelle Neuman



Ashley Cuevas, San Antonio Hillel Intern and
Samantha Mazuz, Barshop Jewish Community Center
Coordinator of Teen & Young Adult Services



Adam Zeldes and Barbie Scharf-Zeldes



Pat Kalmans, 2014 Community Relations Council
Chair and Judy Lackritz, Federation Community
Relations Council Director



Simone and Dr. Jason Kboudi, 2014 Demi Dinner
Hosts

SUKKOT CELEBRATIONS

SUKKOT CELEBRATION AT RODFEI



Members of Congregation Rodfei Sholom gathered under the synagogue's Sukkah for Pizza in the Hut on October 12 as part of their Sukkot celebrations. Joining in the fun was the Bass family (L-R) Talie, Ronen, Aviva (standing), Eitan, Shira, and Orah Bass (standing) with baby Sammy.

DINNER IN THE SUKKAH



Rivi Ashlag and friends enjoy dinner in the Sukkah at Rodfei Sholom to celebrate Sukkot.

CANADIANS

continued from page 1

as Michael Zehaf-Bibeau stormed a war memorial just off Parliament Hill and shot dead a reservist soldier standing guard with an unloaded weapon. Zehaf-Bibeau, described by some as wearing a keffiyah-like head covering, invaded the main building on Parliament Hill before being shot dead by the Parliament's sergeant-at-arms.

Two days earlier, Martin Rouleau of Quebec ran over two soldiers in a Montreal suburb, killing one before he was fatally shot by police.

News reports described Rouleau and Zehaf-Bibeau, both recent converts to Islam, as "radicalized" Canadians. The two were among 90 Canadian-born citizens being monitored by domestic security authorities for their expressed sympathies toward extreme Islam.



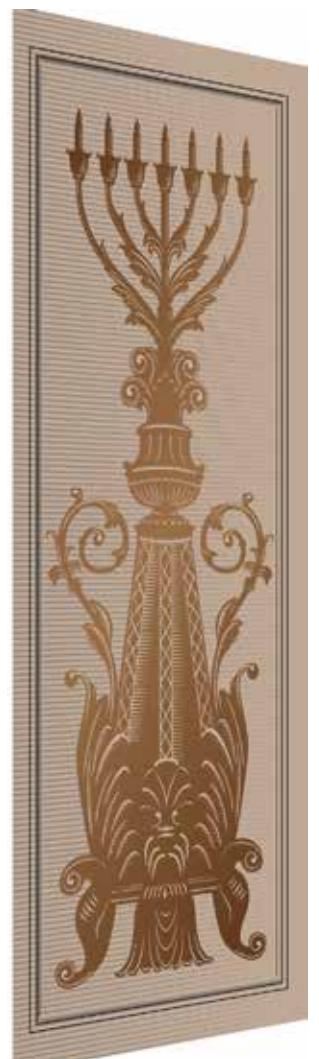
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

HELPFUL HINTS

Agudas Achim Sisterhood's new member luncheon was "for the dogs," benefiting the San Antonio Humane Society. The featured guest speaker was helpful hints columnist, Heloise.



Heloise (center) was the featured speaker at Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood's new member luncheon. She is joined by (l to right) Lauren and Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Hazzan Jeremy Lipton and Marilyn Karren.

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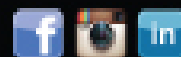


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WHAT'S HAPPENING

RODFEI SHOLOM DEDICATES STARR FAMILY CAMPUS



On Sunday, Oct. 5, members of Congregation Rodfei Sholom attended the dedication ceremony of the Rodfei Sholom Starr Family Campus. In honor of the event, the Starrs dedicated a Tree of Life monument to the Congregation - "dedicated to all those who enter the gates." The purpose of the gift was to strengthen the Congregational family in the present, while building for its future; to transmit the Rodfei vision of Torah, tradition, chesed, tzedakah, respect for others, and responsibility for others, to future families and generations.

ROSH HASHANAH SERVICES FOR SENIORS AT GOLDEN ESTATES



In September, Golden Estates Rehabilitation Center residents enjoyed Rosh Hashanah services hosted by Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services. For the third year in a row Rachel Walsh helped read and sing the prayers, and Dan Klein blew the shofar. Shabbat services are held at Golden Estates Friday evenings at 4:30 p.m. and Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. All are always welcome to join.

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Assistance with Medicare open enrollment available

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services, (GMJSS) is hosting Certified Benefits Counselors from AACOG's Bexar Area Agency on Aging to help with Medicare open enrollment questions and concerns this year. The counselors can explain your options for prescription drug plans, health plans and supplements through free and impartial counseling.

Whether you have original Medicare, a Medicare Advantage plan, or a Part D prescription drug plan, you have one opportunity each year to make changes. This opportunity is Medicare's annual enrollment period, which this year is October 15 – December 7, 2014.

Appointments can be

scheduled at several locations in the San Antonio area including the GMJSS office at the Campus on November 4 and 12, Temple Beth-El on November 19, and Congregation Agudas Achim on November 25. Call the Alamo Service Connection's Health Information Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) at (210) 477-3275 to schedule an appointment at a location near you, or to speak to a certified benefits counselor to get more information and free local help.

You can also compare plans in your area or enroll in a new plan by visiting www.medicare.gov or by calling 1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227).

Help NCJW provide Thanksgiving dinner for seniors

The National Council of Jewish Women is collecting donations to help distribute Thanksgiving Day meals to area seniors.

A \$25 donation to NCJW's Thank a Senior program provides a complete Thanksgiving dinner delivered by Jewish

Family Services along with a holiday social visit that might otherwise not occur.

Tax deductible donations made out to NCJW may be mailed to Pat Campbell at 31627 Wildcat Drive, Bulverde, Texas 78163.

L'Chayim Club hosts Thanksgiving program

Area seniors are invited to attend the L'Chayim Club's monthly event on Tuesday, Nov. 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Rodfei Sholom. A traditional, home-cooked pre-Thanksgiving luncheon will be served. As a special treat, there will be a Thanksgiving program presented by students of the Torah

Academy of San Antonio. There is no charge for seniors, thanks to co-sponsorship of Rodfei Sholom and a generous grant from Golden Manor. Others are welcome and encouraged to attend at \$5 per person. If planning to attend, please RSVP by Tuesday, Nov. 4, to rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

GMJSS looks to 2015 growth

As 2014 nears its close, Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) is busy planning for new growth, goals and ideas for the year to come. In 2014, GMJSS served seniors throughout the San Antonio area with transportation, one-on-one connections, agency partnerships, direct programming, kosher meals and much more.

Among its goals for 2015, GMJSS would

like to extend services by reaching more households to keep fighting isolation, continuing to provide more rides to Jewish community events and religious services, and helping to address the needs that seniors today face.

For more information on GMJSS and its programs and services, please call (210) 302-6946.



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GAN GANI CHILDREN EXPLORE AT HIGH HOLIDAY EXPO



On Friday, Sept. 19, Gan Gani Preschool students and moms enjoyed a pre-Rosh Hashana Expo that featured an animal horn Shofar exhibit, a beekeeper presentation, Apples with Ima, and Rosh Hashanah crafts.

Sunday Funday at The Rollercade

Rodfei Sholom will host a community-wide Sunday Funday for all ages at The Rollercade, 223 Recoleta,

from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 23. The cost is \$8 per skater. Please remember to wear

socks!

RSVP by Wednesday, Nov. 12 to rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

JCC offers 3-Day Camp

The JCC will offer Fall Camp for kids in Kindergarten to 6th grade November 24-26. Campers will engage in activities including arts and crafts, gym, playground, games and field trips in our general camp.

Camp will run Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday Nov. 24-26 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Early and late stay options are also available for an additional fee. Camps will not run on Thursday,

Nov. 27 or Friday, Nov. 28.

“Fall Camp provides the perfect solution for families looking for activities and child care during these school-out days,” said Lisa Guerrero, JCC director of youth and camp services.

Register online at www.jccsanantonio.org or by calling (210) 302-6859 by November 19 to avoid late fees. Camps are open to the entire community; JCC members receive discounted rates.

Kids4Kids benefit program at The Playhouse

Kids4Kids, a benefit performance to raise funds and awareness for unaccompanied refugee and immigrant children, will take place on November 8 at The Playhouse San Antonio. According to organizers Tova Rubin and Melinda Tucker, children are fleeing extreme violence, oppression, trafficking, and abuse in unprecedented numbers, with more than 66,000 minors crossing the Southwest border illegally in fiscal

year 2014, a dramatic 88% increase over the prior year.

With a program made up entirely of youth performances, *Kids4Kids* aims to not only serve as a benefit, but also to aid area children in developing qualities of compassion, charity, and empathy. Acts will include a wide variety of cultural and ethnic demonstrations, singing, dancing, dramatic performances and visual arts.

Funds raised during *Kids4Kids* will directly benefit St. PJ's Children's Home and RAICES, two charities on the front lines of this immigration crisis. The funds will support housing, clothing, counseling, nutrition, education, legal process and other services.

Performances will be held at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. in the Russell Hill Rogers Theatre at The Playhouse San Antonio. Tickets can be purchased online at ThePlayhouseSA.org/Kids4Kids or at The Playhouse box office.

For more information, contact Melinda Tucker at (432) 230-1881 or melinda.g.tucker@gmail.com.

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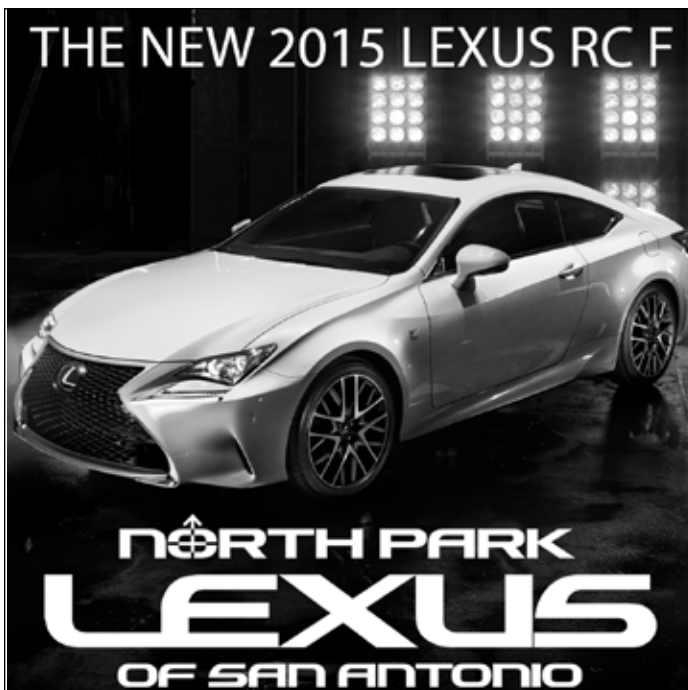
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

STARTING THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER



On September 29, Congregation Rodfei Sholom hosted a Tashlich Pizza dinner. Guests included: (above right) Lizette Feld, Megan Kluger, and Dr. Jordana Pazin with their children and (above left) Gabriela Tawil and her children.

ARTS & CULTURES

Fiddler on the Roof coming to The Playhouse San Antonio

Watch one Jewish father's struggle to preserve his family's happiness and his religious traditions as 1905 Tsarist Russia transforms around them as The Playhouse San Antonio presents *Fiddler on the Roof* from December 5 - 22, 2014 at the Russell Hill Rogers Theater, 800 West

Ashby Place.

The production is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.theplayhousesa.org or at the box office. For more information, call (210) 733-7258.

The Trojan Women at The Vex

The Sheldon Vexler Theatre's 16th season continues with Euripides' classic drama, *The Trojan Women*, on stage now through November 15. While audience members will see the original story on-stage with a Vex twist, the production will actually be Artistic Director Ken Frazier's adaptation of this centuries-old script.

The cast, which includes a number of "Vex Vets" and newcomers alike, had the unique opportunity of rehearsing the script as

one might a new show on Broadway. That is to say that Ken, who is also co-directing the production with Tami Kai, continued to adapt the script during the rehearsal process. It is important to note that the story audiences will see has not changed at all; however, the beauty of producing a play that was written in 415 B.C.E. is having the freedom to adapt as needed for one's particular space and audience.

Euripides' drama is about the surviving women of Troy

who, as they look upon the remains of the kingdom, struggle with the aftermath of a war that has left Troy in ruin. The story hints that, beyond defeat, there may come a greater glory than will be the fortune of the victors.

Performances are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Tickets, which are \$15-21 depending on type, may be purchased by calling The Vex Box Office at (210) 302-6835 or at any JCC Courtesy Desk.

PLEASE TELL OUR ADVERTISERS YOU SAW THEM IN *THE JEWISH JOURNAL*!

Hadassah examines Jewish books in November

Both local groups of Hadassah will be looking closely at books in November.

On Sunday, Nov. 9, at 10:30 a.m., the Rose Treiman Group will meet at the home of Shirley Alexander for a book review presented by Sandra Wartell. She will be discussing is *The Storyteller*, a novel by Jodi Picoult. A light breakfast will be served. The event is free.

Reservations may be made by calling Micki Harris, (210) 824-2178.

The Leah Goot Group will meet at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 9, in the Beldon Library of the Jewish Campus, 12500 NW Military Hwy. Lynn

Waghalter, librarian at the Beldon Library, will discuss “hidden” treasures of the campus collection. 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. 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. Those who contribute at least \$100 to the Tower campaign will receive a silver heart necklace. For details, call Kathy O’Neill at (210) 823-8603.

Agudas Achim Sisterhood kicks off book review season

Dr. Ervin Mendlovitz will help kick off the 2014-2015 Book Review season for Agudas Achim Sisterhood with a review of his own novel, *Galveston 1900: A Story of Twin Flames*. The book review will take place in the congregation’s

Gurinsky Family Social Hall on Tuesday, Nov. 11 beginning at 10 a.m.

The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Suzan Mendlovitz at (210) 344-1108.

Beldon Library welcomes children’s author as part of Jewish Book Month

By Lynn Waghalter, Beldon Librarian

Come celebrate Jewish Book Month at the Beldon Library. Jewish Book Month, an annual event that occurs this year from November 16 – December 16. This yearly event is celebrating its 89th year! It began in 1925 as a week-long event by Fanny Goldstein, a librarian in Boston, MA. By 1927, it became so popular that other communities around the United States adopted the event. In 1940, the date

for *Jewish Book Week* was moved to coincide with the holiday of Hanukkah to promote the sale of Jewish books as Hanukkah presents. In 1943 the Jewish Book Council became its national organizing committee and the event was extended to be Jewish Book Month.

This year, the Beldon Library is hosting a very special event on Sunday, Nov. 30. Native San Antonian, Jack Hyman, will be returning to the Holzman Auditorium, the Campus of the Jewish Community

Center, at 2 p.m. to present the debut of the *musical* version of his book, *Breakfast with the Birds*. This exciting event is free and will delight people of all ages! Please join us for this special occasion!

Hope to see you on Sunday, Nov. 30 as well as the other times the Beldon Library is open (Monday, 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.; and Wednesday, 1:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.).

The Beldon Library is a program of Federation.

Rodfei Sholom Book Club

The Rodfei Sholom Book Club will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss *The Clothes on their Backs*, by Linda Grant (short-listed for the Man Booker Prize). Vivien Kovacs, the bookish, sensitive protagonist of this novel grows up sheltered from the world by her timid, Hungarian refugee parents, “mice-people” who moved to England in 1938. After a personal tragedy, she uncovers their concealed past-against her father’s wishes-through a relationship with

her notorious slumlord uncle who, in his old age, wishes to share his life story. Plot-driven and artfully constructed, this book about identity and belonging leaves the reader to think about serious themes, universal and timeless, and the perils of hypocrisy which, when clothed in a decent suit, might well be overlooked.

The following month, on Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m., the Book Club will meet to discuss *The Woman Who Defied Kings: The Life and Times of Dona Gracie*

Nasi by Andree Aelion Brooks.

The Rodfei Readers invite the community to attend the electronic conversation with the author of this comprehensive biography of Dona Gracie Nasi, a Jewish international banker during the Renaissance, who used her wealth and connections to operate an underground railroad which saved many of her fellow Portuguese and Spanish *conversos* from the Inquisition. If attending, please RSVP to rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

Movie night at Rodfei Sholom

Rodfei Sholom will host a special movie night on Saturday, Nov. 8, showing the Israeli drama, *Fill the Void*, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The 2012 film was written and directed by Rama Bursh-tein.

It tells the story of an Orthodox Hassidic family from Tel Aviv. Hadas Yaron stars as Shira Men-

delman, an 18-year-old girl who is pressured to marry her deceased older sister’s husband following the death of her sister in childbirth.

The film won several Israeli Academy Awards, including Best Feature film, Best Director, Best Actress, Best Screenplay, and Best Cinematography. Lead

actress Hadas Yaron won Best Actress for her portrayal of Shira at the Venice Film Festival.

Rama Burshtein became the first Orthodox woman to direct a film intended for wide distribution.

RSVP by Wednesday, Nov. 5 to rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

Cost is \$5 per person.



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Let a smile be your umbrella

During my senior year of high school, my English teacher assigned his students a unique project. We each had to choose a season of Broadway shows and analyze them and see how they were related to what was happening in the United States and the world at that time.

I choose the Best Plays of 1942-1943, smack in the middle of World War II. I was certain the theatrical offerings would be dismal, upsetting and filled with the rising fears the American public was experiencing.

But to my surprise, it was quite the opposite. The Great White Way mostly offered light comedies and musical reviews and a few replays of classic dramas. There was not even a hint of the turmoil the American public was hearing about or the fact that thousands of our young men were being shipped across the seas to participate in a World War.

The above came to mind as I listened to Rabbi Nathan tell the congregation that the Vilna Gaon was asked which was the most difficult of the 613 commandments that pious Jews were to follow. He said it was to always be joyful during the Sukkot festival week. How could one be joyful for 8 days when there was such suffering in the world?

But maybe that's when we most need to find something to be joyful about.

I once read a quote by author Saul Bellow who said, "Oppressed people tend to be witty." If that comment is true, it would explain the preponderance of Jewish comedians in our country and the reason why Jewish have such a talent for comedy.

Though the Jewish people have not had an easy time in their 5000-year history, they have never forgotten how



Mishugas:

LINDA KAUFMAN

to laugh or poke fun at the absurdities of everyday life.

An old pop song sums it up best: "Let a smile be your umbrella on a rainy, rainy day/ And if your sweetie cries, just tell her/ that a smile will always pay/ Whenever skies are gray/Don't you worry or fret/A smile will bring the sunshine/And you'll never get wet/ So let a smile be your umbrella on a rainy, rainy day." Of course, Jewish composer, Sammy Fain, wrote it.

Even Dr. Sigmund Freud studied the roots of humor and declared that humor is related to unconscious thinking and provides an outlet for forbidden thoughts and feelings. It can be self-deprecating as well as a way to poke fun at others and we use it as a great leveling device, making us more comfortable in our present situation.

I wonder if the Vilna Gaon, who lived from 1727-1797

and was considered one of the most brilliant Jewish scholars of all time, could have laughed at some of the Jewish jokes that we find funny? Of course, they would have to be adapted to the world he lived in.

Could he laugh at our modern humor that blends our American culture with our Jewish one? What would he think of a joke I read online that listed Ben & Jerry's new flavors? How about: "Cherry Bim, Cherry Bom, Mi Ka-mocha, Bernard Malamint, Wailing Walnut and, my favorite, Mazel Toffee?"

Or another that "deals" with the issue of assimilation: "The rate of Jewish intermarriage is a big problem. If it doesn't stop, in 100 years, the Jewish people will be reduced to a race of tall, thin gorgeous blonds."

Or what would he think of the joke about the New York man who visits a Chinese congregation in Hong Kong? When he introduces himself to the Chinese rabbi at the end of the service, the rabbi asks him, "Are you Jewish?"

See **MISHUGAS**, page 31

The Jewish dressmaker FDR turned away

Was the Jewish "lady tailor" who ran a Prague dressmaking shop a potential Nazi spy?

The Roosevelt administration apparently thought so. The Jewish Museum Milwaukee recently opened a

remarkable exhibit about the late Hedy Strnad, a Jewish-Czech dressmaker who with her husband, Paul, were denied admission to the United States on the eve of the Holocaust.

The exhibit is open through February 28.

Brainstorming a Bat or Bar Mitzvah? There's a room for that!

The Campus has a variety of rooms available for rent which are perfect for events large and small. For more information, visit www.thecampustx.org or call Mike Griffin, 210-302-6801 or Carisa Heiss, 210-302-6866.



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B'NOT MITZVAH:

Claire Madeline Weingart and Lindsay Brooke Weingart



Claire Madeline Weingart and Lindsay Brooke Weingart will celebrate their B'Not Mitzvah with family and friends on Saturday, Nov. 8 at Congregation Agudas Achim. Claire and Lindsay are the twin daughters of Dan Weingart and Amy Sugarman and the sisters of Ethan Weingart. They are the granddaughters of Kenneth and Carol Sugarman and Mel and Sandra Weingart. Claire enjoys dance, baking, and spending time with friends. Lindsay is involved in volleyball, swimming, playing the piano and the ukulele. Both girls are seventh grade students at the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy and enjoy going to sleep away summer camp.

BAT MITZVAH:

Rachel Aliya Solomon



Rachel Aliya Solomon will be called to the Torah for her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, Nov. 15. She is the daughter of Marvin and Andrea Solomon and the granddaughter of Seymour and Barbara Thum of Dallas and Bernard and Grace Solomon of The Villages, Florida.

Rachel and her family moved from Chicago last July and have been diligently working with her support team at

Congregation Agudas Achim to prepare for her Torah readings.

Rachel excels in mathematics, enjoys dance and volleyball and competes in Academic UIL at Eisenhower Middle School where she also volunteers for various activities regularly. She has been an active volunteer at the Heinz Preschool Camp and will be donating to Family Violence Prevention Services.



ENGAGEMENT:

Hannah Shimra Zeevi & Aaron Michael Wright

Josef & Lisa Zeevi of Cedar Park, Texas are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Hannah Shimra Zeevi, to Aaron Michael Wright. Hannah is the granddaughter of Howard and Carolyn Glick of San Antonio, Texas and Shimshon (of blessed memory) and Galila Zeevi of Israel. Aaron is the son of Chuck and Kristie Wright of Cedar Park, and grandson of Robert and Barbara Wright of Carthage, Texas and J.A. & Louetta Darden (of blessed

memory). Hannah and Aaron graduated from Vista Ridge High School in Cedar Park. Hannah received her Child Development Certificate at Austin Community College and plans to continue working on a degree in Child Development. Currently she works at Kids R Kids in Round Rock. Aaron serves in the United States Navy and is currently stationed in Jacksonville, Florida. The couple plans a May 31, 2015 wedding in Fredericksburg, Texas.

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U.S.-based Helmsley Trust awards Israeli institutions over \$9 million

(JTA) -- The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust is giving more than \$9.6 million in new grants to four Israeli institutions.

The grants are being awarded to the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the Weizmann Institute of Science and the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.

A \$1.5 million grant will allow the Technion and south China's Shantou University to collaborate on field studies in China and train Chinese post-doctoral students studying pollution solutions at the Technion in Haifa, as well as support Technion collaborations with scientists in China. A \$2.2 million grant will support the recruitment of science faculty at Hebrew University and provide laboratories for neurobiology and structural biology research.

Two grants to the Weizmann Institute will fund research in the Department of Biomedical

Sciences on Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and the purchase of a superconducting magnet for the Department of Biological Chemistry.

A \$191,000 grant to the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, in conjunction with the Center for Jewish Community Studies, will fund "an unbiased, educational report that accurately details what transpired before and during the 2014 Gaza war,"

according to the trust. The report will be distributed widely.

The New York-based trust, which began awarding grants to Israel in 2009 and holds more than \$4 billion in assets, has committed over \$131 million to organizations in the Jewish state. It also funds a range of education, health care and environmental projects in the United States.

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

Jewish Community of the Hill Country
Kerrville, Texas
For information: (830) 367-2000

Temple Beth-El (Reform)
211 Belknap Place, 78212
Phone: (210) 733-9135 Fax: (210) 737-8946
E-mail address: Temple@beth-elsa.org
Website: www.beth-elsa.org
Rabbi Mara Nathan, Senior Rabbi
(July 1, 2014), Rabbi Elisa Koppel,
Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl, Emeritus
Cantor Julie Berlin

Temple Chai (Reform)
Meets at the Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community
12500 N.W. Military Hwy., 78231
Office: 7410 Blanco Road, Suite #340
San Antonio, TX 78216
Office phone: (210) 340-2090
website: www.templechaisa.org
Rabbi David Komerofsky

Chabad Lubavitch of South Texas
14535 Blanco Rd., 78216
Phone: (210) 492-1085 Fax: (210) 493-9460
website: www.chabadsa.com
Rabbi Chaim Block
Rabbi Yossi Marrus
Rabbi Levi Teldon

Congregation Israel of San Antonio (Conservative, Covenantal Judaism in Prayer and Practice)
Office & Mailings:
16320 Huebner Road at St. Andrew
San Antonio, Texas, 78248
All Faiths Chapel:
5000 Fawn Meadow Drive at Floyd Curl
San Antonio, Texas 78240
Phone: (210) 387-2436
Hazzan David Silverstein, JD,
Founding Ritual Leader
Rev. David Miron UMC,
Accompanist and Choral Director

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Barshop Jewish Community Center
12500 NW Military Highway, Suite 275, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6820 Fax: (210) 408-2341
Executive Director: Saul F. Levenshush Email: jcc@jcc-sa.org
President: David Palans Website: www.jccsanantonio.org
Programs include a nationally-accredited nursery school, an after-school center for school age children, a variety of summer camp programs, weekly programming for senior adults, and many cultural, educational and recreational programs.

Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community
12500 NW Military Hwy, Suite 100, San Antonio Texas 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6801 Fax: (210) 408-2322
Director of Operations: Mike Griffin
President: Alice Viroslav Website: www.thecampustx.org
The Campus features a variety of unique spaces available to rent for small or large meetings, conferences, seminars, bar & bat mitzvahs, weddings, quinceañeras, birthday parties and more. Spaces available at The Campus include (but are not limited to) the Holzman Auditorium www.thecampustx.org/holzman-auditorium.html with a capacity to hold up to 500 people depending on event layout as well as an assortment of Meeting Rooms www.thecampustx.org/meeting-rooms.html, the Pool www.thecampustx.org/pool-facility.html and Gymnasium www.thecampustx.org/wulfe-gymnasium.html facilities.

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services
12500 N.W. Military Hwy. Suite 260, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6946 Website: <http://www.goldenmanor.net>
Executive Director: Daniel L. Laser President: Shari P. Pulman
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.

Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Antonio
P.O. Box 780264 San Antonio, TX 78278 Phone: (210) 736-4352
Non-profit organization offering interest-free loans to members of the San Antonio Jewish community in need of temporary assistance

Jewish Family Service
12500 NW Military Highway, Suite 250, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6920 Fax: (210) 302-6952
Executive Director: M. H. Levine President: Ilene Kramer
Jewish Family Service (JFS) offers a wide range of professional counseling, social services, advocacy for victims of crime, and services for seniors including senior living and care options. JFS maintains the highest level of confidentiality at all time.

San Antonio Hillel
Website: www.sahillel.org Director: Samantha Mazuz
Phone: (210) 201-Jews Email: Info@sahillel.org
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.

After School Judaics (JAS @ The J)
12500 NW Military Hwy., 78231 / Phone: (210) 302-6969

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

Netanyahu vows to secure Jerusalem against terror, international 'weakness'

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Attempts to attack Jerusalem residents "will be met with a sharp reaction," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu held a security consultation October 23 at Israel Police headquarters in Jerusalem a day after a terror attack on the city's light rail killed a 3-month-old girl and injured seven.

"United Jerusalem was -- and will remain -- Israel's eternal capital. All

attempts to attack its residents will be met with a very sharp reaction; we will restore quiet and security to Jerusalem," Netanyahu said following the meeting.

Netanyahu said he has ordered additional security for Jerusalem, including more Border Police units, lookouts, intelligence and enforcement measures.

"These, along with other steps that I will not detail here, can and will

restore quiet to the capital," Netanyahu said. "We have proven that with determination and patience we can achieve these goals in all parts of the State of Israel."

Netanyahu again charged that the attacks in Jerusalem are supported by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, "who both extols the murderers and embraces the organization that the terrorists belong to,

Hamas."

He also condemned the international community for showing "weakness" against Abbas' actions.

"They are not prepared to utter so much as a word of criticism against him. We have no such weakness," Netanyahu said. "We will insist on our rights and on our obligation to defend our capital. We will do strongly -- and we will win."

European rabbis seek laws singling out anti-Semitic hate speech

(JTA) — European rabbis called on governments throughout the continent to pass laws targeting hate speech against Jews.

The call was made in a resolution passed October 24 by the standing committee of the Conference of European Rabbis, or CER, which convened this week in Tbilisi, Georgia.

"We call on additional countries to follow the example set by France and Germany, and devise legislation that targets hate speech against Jews specifically," CER President Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt told JTA.



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Am Yisrael Buy: Pro-Israel app aims to counter flurry of BDS ones

The latest Israel technology wasn't developed at the Technion, nor was it hatched by a startup in Tel Aviv. In fact, it didn't come from Israel at all.

Am Yisrael Buy, a new app (available on Apple, Android and Windows Phone) designed to help users locate and buy Israeli products, is the brainchild of Rabbi Daniel Cohen, 49, the spiritual leader at Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel in South Orange, New Jersey.

After learning this past summer about apps being developed to advance the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, the rabbi said he "went looking for a pro-Israel app and couldn't find one that was



Two New York University students participate in an Israeli products "buycott" to combat Israel Apartheid Week, March 2010. (Courtesy of The David Project)

standing up to BDS."

So Cohen, who sees BDS as a movement geared toward "isolating and destroying the Jewish state," took it upon himself to create Am Yisrael Buy, which launched just before Rosh Hashanah. Some 2,500 users have downloaded it so far; it includes a list of Israeli products for purchase, as well as links to Israeli media outlets and Israeli

organizations.

For now, the effort pales compared to the technology on the other side. Using the Buycott app, which catalogues products and their affiliations and lets users set up campaigns to either support or avoid certain products, pro-Palestinian activists created a "Long live Palestine, boycott Israel" campaign, which now has over 400,000 users.

MISHUGAS

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You sure don't look Jewish."

I often wonder what these great sages who lived in centuries past laughed about. They, too, must have been aware of the comical aspect of life and found a way to express it.

Who in America hasn't laughed at the humor of Mel Brooks, Carl Reiner, Jerry Seinfeld or Woody Allen, all Jewish comedians? I just revisited the famous comedy sketch by Mel Brooks who plays a 2000-year-old man being interviewed by Carl Reiner. Throughout the recording, Brooks answers with a Yiddish accent.

He tells his interviewer that he has had 42,000 children in the 2000 years, and "None of them ever call or come by to see me."

Did Mel Brooks' comment make you smile even though the world is fraught with countless problems and maybe your children don't call you either?

If so, you are fulfilling the Talmudic request to be joyful, even when things aren't working out. As I said earlier, let a smile be your umbrella on a rainy, rainy day.

(Linda Kaufman is a local writer, musician and realtor)



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