



Happy Birthday, Israel!

THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

NISSAN - IYAR, 5776

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

MAY 2016



FILM SCREENING: ROCK IN THE RED ZONE

An intimate portrayal of life on the edge in the war-torn city

PAGE 27



PAYING IT FORWARD

Jewish Teens learn about philanthropy and thoughtful giving.

PAGE 7



STRONGER TOGETHER!

Tikkun Olam, education and fun. See What's Happening.

PAGE 16



Partnership teachers met with Jewish educators from San Antonio to share their games curriculum and their newest studies in education. This happened with a Mexican Fiesta dinner on Thursday night and continued with lunches around town with various educational leaders on Friday.

Eleven Western Galilee Educators Visit and Share Curriculum

San Antonio was proud to host eleven educators from the Western Galilee Partnership Region for a special educator's seminar week. The week consisted of a visit to the Anne Frank Inspire Academy for an educational visioning session with the Superintendent Bruce Rockstroh and a session with the education department from the San Antonio Water Authority. Both of these sessions were the catalyst for partnership and conversation between the American leaders and Israeli educators.

The educators made presentations to the students and met with leaders from all of the Jewish Preschools and Synagogue Sunday Schools, along with the Torah Academy of San Antonio (TASA) and Jewish After School (JAS) at the Barshop JCC. The Israeli teachers came with flags and ideas galore to present to our American



children. The American early childhood directors agreed that the most memorable was "The Matzah Ball who runs away from his grandma" skit that the Israeli early childhood educators put on for preschools and at the PJ Library Matzah Pizza Party.

The Israeli educators also met with Jewish professors from Trinity University to

See **PARTNERSHIP**, page 10

Listen Up! a capella group to perform for Yom Ha'atzmaut

The San Antonio Jewish community looks forward to hosting Yom Hazikaron (Israel's Memorial Day) and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) festivities on Wednesday, May 11. The highlight of this year's festivities will be the a cappella show by Chicago based singing group, Listen Up! They will open the Yom Hazikaron ceremony in the Holzman auditorium at 5:30 p.m. and then perform a one-hour interactive show to kick off Yom

See **LISTEN UP!**, page 30

Islamic radicalization fuels 'dire' threat to Jews in Europe

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A congressional human rights commission heard testimony from experts on how Islamic radicalization in Europe has ramped up risk for Jewish communities.

"ISIS especially hates the

See **EUROPE**, page 34

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WHAT'S INSIDE

CANDLE LIGHTING **3**

SENIOR NEWS **25**

CALENDAR **4**

ARTS & CULTURE **27**

IN THE COMMUNITY **13**

PERSPECTIVE **29**

WHAT'S HAPPENING **16**

US & WORLD **32**

YOUTH & TEENS **23**

MAZAL TOV **35**

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 JUNE/JULY 2016 issue of the Jewish Journal is MAY 12, 2016 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 JUNE/JULY 2016 ISSUE:

- Ad space reservations due no later than MAY 12, 2016 by noon;
- Press ready ads due by MAY 16, 2016.

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.

JEWISH JOURNAL EDITORIAL POLICY

The Jewish Journal of San Antonio is a monthly publication created and paid for by the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. The Journal's primary focus is creating awareness and engagement within the local Jewish community about activities, programs and issues with which the Jewish Federation is involved.

As a service to the broader Jewish community, area synagogues and organizations are invited to submit content relevant to the Jewish community at large for publication consideration.

Items selected for publication are done so solely at the discretion of the Journal Editor and the Jewish Federation. Submissions may be edited and/or re-written for content and length.

We aim to fairly reflect the breadth and depth of activities and Jewish life taking place in the San Antonio Jewish community.



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Leslie Kimmelman**

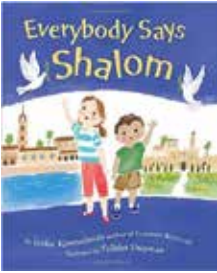
**Yom Ha'atzmaut
Israel Independence Day
PJ Celebration**

Wednesday, May 11th

5:30pm Memorial Service & 6:15pm Celebration

@ The Jewish Campus in the
Wulfe Gymnasium

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JCC



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YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday, May 6, 2016 Light Candles at: 7:56 PM
Shabbat, May 7, 2016 Shabbat Ends: 8:53 PM

Friday, May 13, 2016 Light Candles at: 8:01 PM
Shabbat, May 14, 2016 Shabbat Ends: 8:59 PM

Friday, May 20, 2016 Light Candles at: 8:05 PM
Shabbat, May 21, 2016 Shabbat Ends: 9:03 PM

Friday, May 27, 2016 Light Candles at: 8:09 PM
Shabbat, May 28, 2016 Shabbat Ends: 9:08 PM

Friday, Jun 3, 2016 Light Candles at: 8:13 PM
Shabbat, Jun 4, 2016 Shabbat Ends: 9:12 PM

IN LOVING MEMORY

Milya Bersudsky

Judy Jeschke

Rose Tawil

Turning history into hope

My friend and teacher Abraham Infeld preaches that “There is no Jewish history. There is only Jewish memory.” He explains the difference between history and memory like this: History is knowing what happened in the past. Memory is knowing what happened in the past has to do with who we are today. As a people who have lived through a great deal of history, and as a people who value knowledge as well as action, the Jewish people have memory more than a history.

The concept of Jewish memory is felt most profoundly during this month of May when we commemorate *Yom*



Letter from our CEO

RONIT SHERWIN

Ha'Shoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, on Wednesday May 4th. The Holocaust is more than a tragedy of our history; the Holocaust changed who we are as a people and how we interact with the rest of the world. We have a responsibility to share the tragedies of our past, but also to ensure that such tragedies, do not happen again - to us, or to anyone. That is why we have a Holocaust Memorial and Museum of San Antonio. We honor the

memory of those murdered and we also educate others, particularly the next generation, so that we learn from our memories.

Please join our community in honoring and supporting the work of our Holocaust Memorial Museum on May 18th at *For Hope For Humanity*, a benefit whose proceeds will allow us to expand the operations of our museum and thus further educate our community about apathy, hatred and intolerance. It is our goal to turn history into hope and to create memories of inspiration for the future.

Ronit Sherwin
Chief Executive Officer



Jewish Federation
OF SAN ANTONIO

Guest Speaker

Harold
Gernsbacher



National Campaign Chair, JFNA
Vice Chair, Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas
Member, Jewish Agency Board of Governors
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Special Recognition of the Retirement of
Judy Lackritz

Director of the Community Relations Council
(CRC) and the Holocaust Memorial Museum
of San Antonio (HMMSA)

RSVP strayerc@jfsatx.org | (210) 302-6960

Annual Meeting & Community Dessert Reception

Tuesday, May 31, 2016 | 7:00 PM

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS: MAY 2016

May 1

- Mother's Day & Installation of Officer's Luncheon, 11:30 p.m.
- Sisterhood Honors Luncheon, Temple Beth-El, 12:30 p.m.
- JCC Author & Lecture Series Presents: Leslie A. Kimmelman, The Campus, 1 p.m.
- Agudas Achim Men's Club Outing at UTSA Baseball Game, UTSA, 1 p.m.
- JFS Annual Mother's Day Event, 5:30p.m.

May 3

- Temple Beth-El Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

May 4

- Yom Hashoah, Agudas Achim, 7 p.m.
- Book Club, Rodfei Sholom, 7:30 p.m.

May 5

- Agudas Achim Yom Hashoah Trip to Houston Holocaust Museum, 8 a.m.
- Young Couples Club of Agudas, TBD, 7 p.m.

May 6

- JCC 'Fore the Kids' Annual Golf Classic,

Brackenridge Park Golf, 12 p.m.

- Young Couples Club of Agudas, Mash'd at La Cantera, 7 p.m.

- Women's Torah Study Group, Temple Chai, 7 p.m.

May 7

- Shabbat Lunch Havurah, Temple Beth-El, 11:45 a.m.

May 10

- Sisterhood Book Review with Hazzan Jeremy Lipton, Agudas Achim, 10:30 a.m.
- JCC Open House, The Campus, 4 p.m.

- JFSA Board Meeting, The Campus, 7 p.m.

May 11

- *Yom Ha'atzmaut: Israel Independence Day*
- Yom Hazikaron Service, The Campus, 5:30 p.m.
- Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration, The Campus, 6:15 p.m.

May 12

- Lion of Judah Luncheon, The Tobin Center, 11:30 a.m.
- Israelstock 3, Rodfei Sholom, 5:30 p.m.

- Club Agudas Achim for 40s & 50s, 7 p.m.

- @TBE30s40s, 7:30 p.m.

- *One Man, Two Guvnors*, The Vexler, 7:30 p.m.

May 13

- JCC Block & Dreeben SFYC Shabbat Dinner, The Campus, 6 p.m.

May 14

- NCJW's Magical Mystery Day, 9:30 a.m.
- *One Man, Two Guvnors*, The Vexler, 8 p.m.

May 15

- Alamo Brandeis B'nai B'rith Lodge, The Campus, 10:30 a.m.
- *One Man, Two Guvnors*, 2:30 p.m.
- Rock in the Red zone: Film Screening & Concert, The Campus, 6 p.m.

May 16

- Golden Manor Senior Services Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

May 17

- Jnet Event with Ze'ev Shaked, TBD, 6:30 p.m.
- Get Cookin with Amy Kritzer, The Campus, 6 p.m.

May 18

- HMMSA Hope for Humanity Benefit, Pearl Stables, 6 p.m.
- L'chayim Club, Rodfei Sholom 11:30 a.m.

May 19

- JCC Open House, 10 a.m.
- Brews & Schmooze at Bigz Burger Joint, 5:30 p.m.
- AIPAC Club Event, TBD, 6:30 p.m.
- *One Man, Two Guvnors*, The Vex, 7:30 p.m.

May 20

- Shabbat Dinner, Rodfei Sholom, 7:30 p.m.

May 21

- JCC Nova Troupe Presents, *The Real Story of Little Red Riding Hood*, The Campus, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
- *One Man, Two Guvnors*, The Vex, 8 p.m.

May 22

- Jewish War Veterans Post 753, 9 a.m.
- Rodfei Sholom Sunday Funday, Oak Hill Lanes, 10 a.m.
- *One Man, Two Guvnors*, The Campus, 2:30 p.m.
- Collaborative Learning Opportunity with Avraham Infeld, 4 p.m.

May 23

- Jewish Family Service Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS: MAY 2016

- May 24**
• JCC Open House, The Campus, 4 p.m.

May 25
• JCC Annual Meeting, 7 p.m.
- May 26**
• Lag B'Omer Picnic, Rodfei Sholom, 5:30 p.m.
• *One Man, Two Guvnors*, The Vex, 7:30 p.m.

May 28
• *One Man, Two Guvnors*,
- The Vex, 8 p.m.

May 29
• *One Man, Two Guvnors*, The Vex, 2:30 p.m.

May 30
• *Memorial Day*
- May 31**
• JFSA Annual Meeting, 7 p.m.

June 1
• Young Couples Club of Agudas, Event at the Young Chef's Academy, 7 p.m.
- June 2**
• Simcha Social Club, Agudas Achim, 11:30 a.m.
Heintz Preschool • Graduation, Agudas Achim, 5:30 p.m.
• *One Man, Two Guvnors*, The Vex, 7:30 p.m.

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- June 4**
One Man, Two Guvnors,
The • Vex, 8 p.m.
- June 5**
• *One Man, Two Guvnors*,
The Vex, 2:30 p.m.
- June 7**
• Board Meeting, Temple
Beth-El, 7 p.m.
• Wedding Shower for Rabbi
Ariel Greenberg & David
Platt, Agudas Achim, 7 p.m.

- HOLIDAYS
IN MAY**
All holidays begin at
sundown the evening
before.

Yom HaShoah
(Holocaust
Memorial Day)
May 5

Yom HaZikaron
(Israeli Memorial Day)
May 11

Yom Ha'Atzmaut
(Israeli Independence
Day)
May 12

Pesach Sheni
(Second Passover)
May 22

Lag B'Omer
(33rd day of
counting the Omer)
May 26



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MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

יום הזיכרון



& **ISRAEL**

INDEPENDENCE DAY

יום העצמאות

Wednesday, **May 11th** At the Jewish Campus

5:30pm

Yom Hazikaron Service

Holzman Auditorium

6:15pm

Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration

Wulfe Gymnasium



Israeli food for purchase

Congregation Agudas Achim
Temple Beth-El
Congregation Rodfei Sholom
San Antonio Hillel
PJ Library of San Antonio

Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning
Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of San Antonio
Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services
Barshop Jewish Community Center
Community Relations Council (CRC)

Jewish Family Services
Temple Chai
Congregation Beth Am
Young Adult Division (YAD)
Congregation Israel

*Event coordination done by the Israel and Overseas committee of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio

Young Women bond with vision boarding

The creative juices were flowing at the Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation Young Women's Vision Boarding Party hosted at the home of Sharon Contie on Wednesday, April 6th. The women were treated to a fascinating conversation with Linda Scherzer, a former middle east correspondent with CNN who shared her Jewish journey with them. Following the discussion, the women gathered at tables with poster boards, armed with magazines, glue and scissors.

Vision Board parties are all the rage across America as women gather for a night of camaraderie and wine sipping and work on creating a intentional



Lizette Feld, Sharon Contie, Julie Starr and Aliza Cantu

example of their goals and aspirations. Visualization is defined as the exercise of the mind and as high performance athletes prove

time and again, when you visualize what you want your best life to look like, chances are you get that much closer to your goal.



Teen leaders of B'nai Tzedek welcome and introduce the "round robin" allocations program. President Molly Rosenblatt takes the helm and explains the afternoon's agenda, along with her board and vice president Tori Shiver.

B'nai Tzedek teens allocated funds to area organizations

In March, San Antonio Jewish Teens came together to discuss and allocate B'nai Mitzvah funds that have been contributed to the Jewish Federation of San Antonio in the 2015-2016

year.

The student group, known as B'nai Tzedek, separated into small groups and heard from six non-profit organizations in San Antonio (and one in Israel) that presented projects that vied for their financial support. This day is known as "allocations" to the teens, and is the first step to teaching our students about philanthropy and thoughtful giving.

After the students heard from Jewish Family Services, Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services, the Holocaust Museum of San Antonio, The Barshop JCC Teen Leadership, The Barshop JCC Jewish Journeys Programs, Roy Maas Youth Alternatives Bridge Shelter, and the Merchav Am Israel Negev Dessert teen programming, the students met together privately and decided on the allocations amounts that would be dedicated to each organization. This private dialogue led the students to honor each organization with a small donation, and some of the organizations received what they requested and others even more.

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HMMSA education opportunities

The Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio (HMMSA) is dedicated to educating our community about the dangers of hatred, prejudice and apathy. HMMSA will host two workshops that continue the Museum's mission of educating the San Antonio Community on lessons of the Holocaust.

The first teacher workshop will be with the USC Shoah Foundation and their I-Witness online programming



in June.

This workshop will offer teachers an opportunity to work with the video testimonies of Holocaust

Survivors and civil rights figures to create lesson plans for their classroom.

The second workshop that will be held for teachers is our annual

Echoes and Reflections workshop in cooperation with Yad Vashem.

This workshop will award CPUs along with a free \$100 curriculum.

The Museum is a provider of continuing professional education (CPE) and will give credit for all participating teachers.

The Museum will host docent training in August; we are looking for volunteers interested in teaching the Holocaust to groups that tour our

permanent exhibit.

The training will consist of 8 sessions; 5 weeks with the permanent exhibit, 1 week working with activity sessions, and 2 weeks of special topics training with our scholar in residence.

The June/July issue of the Jewish Journal will have more information on the confirmed dates.

For additional information, contact education@hmma.org.



Israeli teachers from Jewish Federation's Partnership region (including Morah Efrat and Morah Etti) showcased their love for Israel and engaged the children in group dancing.

Western Galilee teachers engage and delight during PJ Library Passover party

PJ Library San Antonio brought families together for a special pre-Passover program on April 17 at Congregation Agudas Achim. Four teachers from the Partnership2gether Western Galilee consortium in Israel led the the group in Israeli songs, dances, spirit, and then gave their own performance of their personally written *The Matzah Ball Who Didn't Want to Be Eaten!*

Children and their families enjoyed making their own felt Matzah covers and baking their own PJ Library Yehuda Matzah pizzas. The PJ program brought together dozens of families who were eager to engage with new



PJ Library children were mesmerized during the performances of the Israeli teacher delegation.

Hebrew words and chants. PJ's emerging readers learned the spelling of the word *Matzah* in Hebrew and how to say "Passover is coming" in Hebrew (*Pesach Baah*). The event consisted of a raffle for PJ Library t-shirts which were won by Sam and James Gorelik, and Louis Maizel.

PJ Library holds monthly events for families with

young children, and will sponsor a children's section at the Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) celebration on May 11 at 6:30 p.m. on the Jewish Campus.

For more information about PJ Library San Antonio, contact Lauren Abraham at AbrahamL@jfsatx.org, and visit Facebook and look for "PJ Library San Antonio."



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SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

Varda Ratner



Varda Ratner is a soulful mother and wife and an accomplished community volunteer. Varda currently serves as the (volunteer) President and Chief Executive Officer of The Patient Institute. Varda is passionate about the mission of the Institute which is to educate seniors and their families about the complexities of aging. Varda has served as President of the Barshop Jewish Community Center and is a past Chair

of the San Antonio Health Literacy Initiative. She serves on the Holocaust Commission, Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio Docent Advisory Council, and the Head Start Health Services Advisory Committee. Varda received her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.B.A. from New York University.

What brought you to San Antonio?

My husband Adam got a position here in San Antonio. I was skeptical about moving to Texas, having always lived either on the East or West Coast. I grew up in the Boston area, and for some reason, I didn't feel a great connection to the Jewish community there. My husband assured me that life would be different in Texas. He was right. Upon moving to San Antonio, I felt the warmth of the Jewish community, and it became central to my life.

Passover was the one holiday our family members always came together! It was always a very warm feeling.

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

My involvement with the Holocaust Memorial Museum. My passion for it started with my mother. My mother was a Holocaust survivor and was speaking in the schools. As she got older it became harder for her to drive so I started to drive her to the schools. I went in and listened to her talk to the students about her experiences and what she went through. What was so special was how she was able to relay her message so perfectly to the students. She would describe the feeling of being victimized by bringing examples that the students could relate to. For example, she said, "Can you imagine if someone came in to this room and said, I would like all those with red hair to stand up and leave. People with red hair are no longer welcome here." She asked the students how they feel when they are teased or singled out. She then related it to some of her experiences. She had such a way with the students. I was so very moved when I heard my mother's talk. This led me to volunteer as a docent at the

Holocaust Memorial Museum and to serve on committees there. After my mother passed away, I felt that it was even more important that I devote my time to the Museum. When I was asked to serve on the Holocaust Commission a couple of years ago, of course, I said yes. In addition to sitting on the Commission, I still docent about once a month.

What is your favorite Jewish holiday?

As I mentioned before, it most clearly is Passover. A very special family time with many, many wonderful memories.

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

I would like to see more "Second Generation" members (second Generation refers to children of Holocaust survivors), involved in the community and involved with the Holocaust Memorial Museum. I would like to see this group grow and include third generation as well. I have recommended calling the group *The Torch*. The future generations that must carry The Torch of teaching the lessons of the Holocaust for their parents who no longer can.



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What is your strongest Jewish memory?

Passover! My mom made Passover very special. The whole family worked together to turn the kitchen around. I remember how we carried all those heavy boxes with our Passover dishes from the basement to our kitchen. Our Seders were very long – we would read every word in the Haggadah.

Community women look forward to Summer Israel trip

The Jewish Federation, in partnership with the Jewish Women's Experience, will be leading 15 women to Israel this July as part of the JWRP-Jewish Women's Renaissance Project. This free* trip to Israel (*does not include airfare), will be a first timers' trip for most of the women. JWRP focuses on women who

still have children under the age of 18 at home and who are looking to expand their Jewish journey with their families. This year's participants include: Joy Cutler, Leslie Komet Ausburn, Emily Petrescu, Lori Stockstiel, Marla Russell, Miranda Sutin, Barb Bikoff, Bonnie Shweiki, Kathryn Davis, Gabriela

Tawil, Jennifer Ricciardi, Nicole Boarnet and Roxilliam Valentin, Danna Half and Amy Sokol.

Julie Schack, Director of Women's Philanthropy from the Jewish Federation and Michal Scheinberg from Rodfei Sholom will be accompanying the group as City Leaders.

YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK



Lori Stockstiel and Lynn Cohodas



Susan Blumenthal and Phyllis Braverman

Women's luncheon features Linda Scherzer

Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation hosted an informal luncheon at the home of Manijeh Nathan on April 6 featuring guest speaker Linda Scherzer. Following lunch, Amy Benedikt, Women's Philanthropy Chair, introduced Linda. She is a former Middle East correspondent for CNN and Israel Television, and is probably best remembered interviewing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wearing a gas mask during the Iraqi scud missile crisis. Linda is currently a media and public affairs consultant and travels the country speaking about the media bias towards Israel. As Linda reminded the group, the issue is 'complicated' but we owe it to ourselves and our children to be educated on the current



Manijeh Nathan, Maggie Singer, Dr. Amy Benedikt and guest speaker, Linda Scherzer

state of affairs, particularly with the anti-Zionist rhetoric that is flourishing on college campuses with the BDS movement. Linda started an organization called Write On For Israel that trains top high school students how to respond to the vitriolic language they could encounter at college.



Partnership teachers presented their games curriculum for the students of the Torah Academy of San Antonio and the Jewish Afterschool program at the Barshop JCC. They also presented for area religious schools.

PARTNERSHIP continued from page 1

brainstorm further potential partnership connections. In addition, during the Thursday night of their visit the Jewish Federation of San Antonio planned and convened a "Mexican Fiesta" to celebrate learning with Jewish educators from San Antonio and Austin! The Israeli teachers each presented their special curriculum that they have been planning, and the American teachers were able to interact and share in this dynamic learning. The evening ended with a group dance session and bonding

between the teachers with future connections to be celebrated.

The Israeli Ministry of Education sent these teachers as emissaries to present the Play2gether curriculum they have been building. American teachers were and will continue to be able to sign up and gain access to these games on line and use them for their classrooms here. The Western Galilee Partnership with our 13 American consortium cities will continue to thrive and grow with guests like these coming to American to foster and grow these connections.

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Maimonides in March

The Maimonides Society held two meetings in March on related topics. Dr. Ilan Troen spoke on BDS in academia from medicine to the humanities.

The other speaker, Dr. Daniel Drucker, spoke about the ethics of medical publishing using as an example the one-sided anti-Israel letter published in the Lancet. His lecture was the 11th Annual Myron B. Zinn M.D. Memorial Lecture.



Bernice Mazer, Barbara Stern and Bette Zinn



ABOVE: Megan Kluger and Jodi Starr greeting each other as they came to hear Dr. Troen. They were his students at the Ben Gurion University in Israel.



AT LEFT: Pat Kalmans and Susan Noorily, M.D. were also in the audience.



Andrew Zinn, Philip Zinn, Guest lecturer Dr. Daniel Drucker, Dr. Mike Stern and Bette Zinn



The leadership of the Maimonides Society of San Antonio includes (l to r) Doctors Mike Stern, Susan Noorily, Mike Ozer, Steve Rosenblatt, Habib Nathan, Stephen Shanfield, Elliot Weser, and Marvin Forland.



Comedy duo *The Bible Players* a hit with young adults

The Jewish Federation's Young Adult Division (YAD) and the San Antonio Hillel hosted a night of comedy with the Bible Players on March 21.

There was a great turnout and plenty of laughs as Andrew Davies and Aaron Friedman from New York shared their humor and Jewish wisdom with the audience.

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YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

JNet SA's changemaker series featured Yuda Doliner

On Thursday, April 7, about thirty people from the JNet SA community gathered to welcome Yuda Doliner at Green Vegetarian Cuisine at the Pearl. Yuda shared stories of his time serving in the Israeli Defense Forces and how his experiences really impacted who he has become today. Yuda is the owner of Fencecrete America as well as the owner of an Israeli soccer team. During his talk, he emphasized the importance of meaningful and influential relationships just as he has in his own business. His hard work and motivation have led him to create meaningful and lasting relationships with people in

the business world. Fencecrete America has grown to about 300 employees today. He left the attendees with the final message, "If you don't do it, no one will do it for you.... Go for it!"

JNet SA's Changemaker Series meets monthly in different venues, featuring successful leaders in their respective fields. It is an outlet for the speakers to share their stories of success, to inspire those in our community, and to teach lessons from the business world. The monthly meetings allow for our Jewish community to have the opportunity to network, build relationships, and strengthen our community together.



Speaker Yuda Doliner



Sharon and Doug Contie



Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg, Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, and Rabbi Levi Teldon



Beldon Library's 2016 Summer Reading Program

Open to K thru 6th graders

Read a total of 16 books (on your grade level) for 8 weeks (2 books per week) beginning Wednesday, June 15, 2016. The program ends Wednesday, August 3, 2016.

Come to the Beldon Library on Wednesdays from June 15th through August 3rd between the hours of 2 & 4:15 p.m. to check-out/return and update your Summer Reading Journal. All participants who complete reading 16 books will receive a certificate and a special prize! Your school will be notified of your accomplishment.

All checked out books **MUST** be returned by August 10th.

For further information contact Lynn Waghalter, Beldon Library Librarian @ (210) 302-6805 or waghalterl@jfsatx.org.

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IN THE COMMUNITY

NCJW Magical Mystery Tour

Are you ready for a fun day of unknown adventures? On Saturday, May 14, National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) will embark on a Magical Mystery Tour.

The event is open to all members and prospective members. The tour will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will last until approximately 5:30 p.m. All participants will meet at The Strand Shopping Center located at 11255 Huebner Road, 78230. Parking will be available there to leave your car.

The group will then caravan throughout the day to a variety of surprise places.

The cost is \$36 per person and includes lunch.

Checks are payable to NCJW San Antonio Section and can be mailed to Marlene Eichelbaum. For her mailing address, email her at meichelbaum@satx.rr.com or call her at (210) 684-7309. Your check will be your reservation and must be received no later than May 9.

Volunteer drivers are also needed. If you are interested, please contact Marlene.

Hadassah brings powerful speakers to San Antonio

The Greater Southwest Region of Hadassah will host its conference in San Antonio, Friday, June 3 through Sunday, June 5, at the San Antonio Airport Hilton. The theme encourages attendees to *Spur the Power Within*.

One of the speakers, **Sarri Singer**, will present her story on Saturday night. Originally from New Jersey, she was moved by the tragedy of 9/11 to go to Israel to help terror victims. She herself was seriously injured in a terrorist attack on a Jerusalem bus in 2003, receiving life-saving treatment at Hadassah Hospital. Sarri is the founder and director of Strength to Strength (www.stosglobal.org), a non-profit organization which focuses on bringing together victims of terrorism from around the world and assisting them with long term psychological needs.

The founder, managing director and editor-in-



KAMARAS

chief of the newly-formed Jewish News Service (JNS), **Jacob Kamaras** will share the stage with San Antonio's **Jonathan Gurwitz**, as they focus on the upcoming U.S. presidential election and its effect on both Israel and American Jewry.

The difficult issue of human trafficking will be addressed by **Sergeant Grant Snyder** of the Minneapolis Police Department. He has spent nearly 30 years focusing on investigations, advocacy and research involving victims of sexual assault, child sexual abuse, and commercial sexual exploitation. A former specially deputized U.S. Marshal, as well as a former task force officer



SINGER



SNYDER

with both the FBI and ATF, he has also trained law enforcement officers and those in the hospitality industry about preventing these crimes.

Rabbi David Komerofsky, who works with national Hillel and serves as the spiritual director of Temple Chai in San Antonio, will present a session about combating the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) movement on campus.

Rabbi-Cantor Robbi Sherwin of Austin will be at the conference all day Saturday, June 4 to conduct morning services and Havdalah, and to entertain that evening.

Hadassah National Vice-President **Carol Luskey Rosenthal**, a native of

Fort Worth, will honor all past regional presidents at Shabbat dinner. She will also present sessions on social media and Hadassah membership in her role as our national Conference Advisor.

The Jewish community is invited to attend. Reservations may be made online at www.hadassah.org/events/2016gsw. The cost to attend the entire conference is \$218 for those who register before May 18. After that, the cost will rise to \$250.

One may also register for specific days or events. For instance, to attend the wine and cheese reception, dinner with speaker Sarri Singer, and Havdalah and entertainment with Rabbi-Cantor Robbi Sherwin on Saturday night is \$65.

For more information, call Roberta Abelman at (210) 394-7405, Esther Friedman at (936) 788-2496, or Hadassah's Greater Southwest Region Office at (972) 707-0507.

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IN THE COMMUNITY

Agudas Achim Lag B'Omer Picnic

Congregation Agudas Achim will host a Lag B'Omer picnic on Thursday, May 26 from 5 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. The picnic is open to all and the admission is \$5/person with children under 2 free. Admission includes carnival games, arts and crafts, inflatables

for big kids and little ones, popcorn, cotton candy to snack on and a kosher hot dog/hamburger dinner.

There will be a clown/balloon artist and lots of surprises and fun for all. RSVP at rsvp@agudas-achim.org or call (210) 479-0307.

Shavuot Services at Agudas Achim

Congregation Agudas Achim and Temple Chai will hold Shavuot services followed by study sessions on Saturday, June 11. Services begin at 9:15 p.m. with three consecutive study sessions led by Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Rabbi David Komerofsky and Hazzan Jeremy Lipton.

This year's theme is "Jewish Heritage and Continuity." Dessert and

coffee will be provided during study sessions.

On Sunday, June 12, Shavuot services will begin at 9 a.m. and the children's service begins at 11 a.m. A Kiddush luncheon and Ice Cream Social will follow.

Shavuot and Yizkor Services on Monday, June 13 begin at 9 a.m. with children's services beginning at 11 a.m. Kiddush luncheon following services.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

The month of May will be another busy month for SA JVV Post 753. activities:

Wednesday, May 11

Post will provide color guard for Yom Hazikaron memorial services at the Jewish Campus.

Thursday, May 12

Post members will serve dinner to the wounded and their families at the Wounded Warrior Facility Ft Sam.

Sunday, May 22

Post monthly meeting at Jewish Campus 9 am- room 277. Post member Lady Arwen Wilson will speak on allergies and the flu.

Sunday, May 29

Post Members to place American flag on grave sites of Jewish Veterans buried in San Antonio (other than Ft. Sam).

Tuesday, May 31

Post members will conduct Bingo and Social time at Audie Murphy CTC from 6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Volunteers besides post members are welcome, especially at the post meeting on May 22. For further information on attending post functions, contact Post Commander Floyd Williams at (210) 651-9835 or Senior Vice Commander Herschel Sheiness (210) 468-5598.

Rodfei Sholom celebrating Lag B'Omer

On Thursday, May 26 from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m., Rodfei Sholom will host its annual Lag B'Omer BBQ

and picnic. The day of fun will include games of volleyball, basketball, cold drinks and friendship along

with the traditional bonfire and music. Contact the synagogue for more info at (210) 493-3558.

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Graduating students pose for a photo after completing The Jewish Course of Why, JLI's Winter course offered by the Chabad Center.

JLI explores lessons in character from biblical stories of kings, judges, and prophets

How do we beat burnout, gain perspective when our judgment is clouded, and make progress on the goals most important to us? The newest course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) offers an interesting twist to dealing with these common challenges—an approach that examines the stories and characters of kings and prophets.

The Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning will offer *Strength and Struggle: Lessons in Character from the Stories of Our Prophets* at two different times: six Tuesday afternoons with Rabbi Chaim Block, beginning May 17, 12 noon-1:15 p.m. at the Law Office of Golden Steves Cohen & Gordon, 300 Convent St., Suite 2600; and six Wednesday evenings with Rabbi Levi Teldon, beginning May 18, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m. at the Chabad Center, 14535 Blanco Rd.

“*Strength and Struggle* is a journey in which we gain insight into our own struggles by examining the lives of inspiring biblical heroes and antiheroes,” said

Rabbi Chaim Block. “For many, it will fill an important gap in knowledge in the area of biblical history, and it provides fascinating wisdom from the Talmud and 3000 years of Jewish literature, to help them deal with life’s struggles on the road to becoming more effective people.”

Strength and Struggle spans six eras in biblical history, to acquaint participants with the nuances of the Israelites’ earliest history and intimate details, as seen in the lives of many of its beloved characters, including David, Saul, Ruth, Jephthah, Elijah, Elisha, and Jonah.

“The course is filled with eternal lessons for life—of struggle and triumph, courage and humility, hope and resilience,” explains Rabbi Levi Teldon. “If you’ve ever wanted to meet King David in person, this is about as close as you’ll come.”

Interested students may call (210) 764-0300 or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and other course-related information.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

DISTINGUISHED LEADERS HONORED AT L'CHAIM EVENT



(L-R) Judge Nelson Wolff, Tracy Wolff, Dennis Nixon, Rabbi Chaim Block, Rivkie Block



Rabbi Chaim Block presents a Shofar from Israel to Dennis & Bavi Nixon, recipients of the 2016 Distinguished Community Service Award.



Raquel Holzman, Mayor Ivy Taylor, Lenny Holzman

The Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning held its Annual L'Chaim Event on Sunday, April 3, celebrating 31 years of service to the San Antonio Jewish community. Dennis and Bavi Nixon of IBC Bank received the Distinguished Community Service Award, and LTC George Alter received the Dor L'Dor Award. World renowned Cantor Yaakov Lemmer wowed the crowd with Hebrew, Yiddish, Broadway and Opera melodies



PURIM CELEBRATION OUT OF THIS WORLD

The Temple Beth-El Staff went all out for their erev Purim Celebration with a Star Wars theme. Pictured from left are Geri Gregory, Rabbi Marina Yergin, Rabbi Mara Nathan, Sara Planto, Iris Berman-Smith, Sam Stern, Rabbi Alan Berlin, and Cantor Julie Berlin.



Oren and Gloria Leff, Lisa and David Abramson

AGUDAS ACHIM HOSTS PURIM BALL

The Agudas Achim Purim Ball included a night of food, food, dancing, entertainment and a silent auction with more than 200 items to bid on. Attendees say the Ball was the whole Megillah! Save the date for next year's Purim Ball on March 4, 2017.



Young Adult Division



Yom Hazikaron Memorial Ceremony & YOM HA'ATZMAUT CELEBRATION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11th
Beginning at 5:15pm

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From 8-9:30pm

*Dessert and wine will be served



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Kelly Klein, YAD Chair



Nicole Porterfield, Engagement Chair

For more info, or to get involved contact Samantha Mazuz at mazuzss@jfsatx.org or (210) 302-6970

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SUNDAY, MAY 15th

Doors open at 5:30pm

*\$15 per person/group rate = \$10

Contact Maya Siler for ticket purchases or questions at silerm@jcc-sa.org or (210) 302-6867



SAVE THE DATE for

DINNER FOR 8 on Thursday, June 30th

*Surveys and more info will be sent out via email

WHAT'S HAPPENING



SENIOR CHEFS PREP FOR PURIM

JCC seniors Ann Brown, Ed Kaplan, and Marge Present display their finished hamantaschen ready for baking.



YEE HAW FOR PURIM!

Rodfei's Western Purim Seudah on March 24 was a big hit, with over 250 attending.

Above, friends Tiki Avigael, Dr. Esther Marcushamer, Gina Meishar, Jack Avigael, and Nim Meishar share a laugh. Below, Joseph Kluger rides the live bull.



ISN'T SHE FANCY?

Rodfei's Sunday Funday took in the production of *Fancy Nancy* at Magik Theatre on April 10. Cast members pose with Tori Benatar, Carlie Benatar, Sari Maizel, and Lauren Abramson



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

PURIM THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES

Gan Gani Preschool students celebrated Purim with a hands-on carnival and magic show. Learn more about Gan Gani Preschool at www.GanGani.org or call (210) 492-1085.



PURIM PALOOZA AND MEGILLAH MADNESS AT AGUDAS ACHIM

Agudas Achim's 2016 Purim Palooza and Megillah Madness featured an array of games, a jump house, music by Barshop/Ollervidez Entertainment, a Kosher hot dog dinner and the Inda Posner Religious School students reading the Megillah.



PRESCHOOLERS AND SENIORS ENJOY A "BARK MITZVAH" CELEBRATION

On March 30, the Yad B'Yad monthly inter-generational program for Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim partnered with Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services for a fun "Bark Mitzvah Service." The event was held for Shabark Shalom, a popular Rabbi Abraham puppet. Each class had an Aliyah as Shabark read from the Torah. Songs were sung and a party was held afterward featuring Scooby Snacks. The children and grandpals also had a presentation from the Humane Society including one of their dog friends. All participants were asked to bring in items to be donated for the Humane Society in honor of the Bark Mitzvah.



IT'S FUN TO LEARN!

TASA Kindergarten students strengthening their motor skills while also practicing Hebrew alphabet during class.

J-SERVE VOLUNTEERS THROUGHOUT COMMUNITY

Josh Behn, Stephanie Stern, Rabbi Marina Yergin, Ray Elias, Christopher Marshall, Allie Grimm, and Shayna Rosenthal were among more than one hundred teens and chaperones who volunteered throughout the community at J-Serve on Sunday, Apr. 10.



Evan Berkowitch and Jordan Wolf assemble furniture for homeless veterans while serving at Furniture for a Cause, a SAMM organization.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



SHABBATON ROAD TRIP

Rodfei Teens participated in a Texas Teen Shabbaton at Camp Young Judea with Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg from March 24 – 26.



THE AGE OF LOVE FILM DRAWS CROWD

On April 7, Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services attended the premiere of *The Age of Love*, a film by Steven Loring. It is a new documentary that follows the adventures of 30 seniors who sign up for a first-of-its-kind Speed Dating event, exclusively for 70 to 90 year olds. From anxious anticipation through dates that follow, it's a comic and poignant tale of intrepid seniors who lay their hearts on the line, and discover how dreams and desires change from a new first love to the far reaches of life. As the movie states, it's never too late to date. The movie's attendance was such a success, it had to be moved to a larger theater.



PURIM YJSA-STYLE

Members of YJSA (Young & Jewish San Antonio) celebrated Purim at a bar in the downtown area with a Megillah reading, Hamantashen and a costume contest. Learn more about YJSA and its upcoming events at www.YJSA.org.



TASA EXPLORES THE WITTE

The entire TASA student body recently took a field trip to the Witte Museum where they learned about bugs, healthy eating and Texas history.



GMJSS CHEERS ON THE SPURS TOGETHER FOR SPIRIT NIGHT

Spurs fans and fans of Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services attended a Spurs watching night at Willie's Grill and Icehouse on April 12. The event was a benefit for GMJSS.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



SA GIVEBACK IN ACTION

SA GIVEBACK, a program of the Community Relations Council, held a dinner for the Wounded Military and their families on Easter Sunday. Pictured are M.H. Levine and Natalie Levine with Eden Miller and Jimmy Toubin in the dessert area.



YAD B'YAD AT ADANTE FOR PURIM

The Yad B'Yad program of Heintz Preschool from Congregation Agudas Achim visited Adante Senior Living on March 22, in celebration of Purim. The students started off the program by singing Purim songs, some of which the residents knew and sang along. The students also made masks with the residents and enjoyed some hamentaschen, homemade by the students. Yad B'Yad is a program that is funded by Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.

IN THE COMMUNITY

President's Service Award winners honored

Temple Beth-El presented 10 President's Volunteer Service Awards from President Barack Obama at a recent Volunteer Shabbat. Pictured, from left, are Kay Stein, Robin Kressbach, Michael Kressbach, Nelson Chafetz (accepting for his mother, Ruthie Chafetz), Amy Strickland, Fred Kanter, Joshua Sutin, Ashley Rosen, and Benjamin Wulfe. Not pictured: Rhonda Grimm and Autumn Sparks.



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Jewish Family Service welcomes new counselor

Jewish Family Service has welcomed Licensed Professional Counselor Warren Grimes to its professional staff.

Grimes has more than 20 years' experience providing professional mental health services to a wide range of clients. Before joining JFS, he provided psychiatric triage services for emergency room clients through the Methodist Hospital system, rapidly assessing the condition and needs of people who were experiencing extreme emotional distress.

He has also provided much needed services to individuals suffering from substance abuse problems at the Patrician Movement and worked with children and adults at the Center for Health Care Services.

Grimes is passionate about providing quality care to JFS clients, stating, "As a therapist, I treat each person as a unique individual worthy of unconditional acceptance. My approach to therapy is client centered and solution focused. I believe in providing a safe, non-threatening place for clients to explore solutions to life's obstacles. I firmly believe in the capacity of my clients to take charge of their lives and relationships."



Warren Grimes

Food Insecure & At-Risk Children to be focus of free summer day camp at Temple Beth-El

For the 7th year, Beth-El Food & Fun (BFF) Summer Day Camp will be offered free of charge to area school children. The Camp works with the San Antonio Food Bank as a "Feeding Site," providing two meals daily for children in the Temple vicinity who rely on free meals during the school year, and do not have access to food during the summer. Temple and other volunteers provide creative and fun activities between meals, for eight weeks, Monday through Friday, June 6 through July 29.

While you are scheduling your summer vacations, don't forget this important project! Volunteers are needed on a



regular, sporadic, occasional, or one-time basis — whatever your time allows! If you have a special talent or program to present, if you have a high school student who needs in-service hours, if you have any

time at all this summer, please contact one of our Camp Co-Directors, Kathi Kardon at (210) 849-6082 or kardon595@gmail.com, or Robyn Rosen, (210) 557-3251 or snr711@aol.com.

Let's celebrate together!

If you are celebrating the birth of a child, a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, or an upcoming wedding, we're happy to share your exciting news. Please send us a short announcement with a high resolution photograph. Life event submissions will be printed (as space allows) at no charge. Submissions may be sent to Editor Leslie Komet Ausburn at JewishJ@jfsatx.org. Please put "Mazal Tov Submission" in the headline.

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Join the JCC in May and save

Members of the JCC often refer to it as a “home away from home.” With a full-service fitness center, heated outdoor pool, tennis facilities, and programs for individuals and families at all stages of life, there is something for everyone.

While prospective new members can join anytime, those who join in May will be met with a few extra incentives and rewards. In addition to saving \$50 off the \$75 enrollment fee, new members will receive a \$25 restaurant.com gift card and a \$25 JCC gift card (some restrictions apply).

Family and individual memberships are available; military, fire, police, and senior discounts are also available.

In addition to use of the

fitness and recreational facilities, membership includes group exercise classes and babysitting, as well as member rates on programs, such as J-Camp.

Tours are available every day; however, the JCC will host several open house events for prospective new members Tuesday, May 10 and 24 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Thursday, May 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Visitors can try select fitness classes, receive tennis assessments, enjoy refreshments, family activities, and more. RSVP online at www.jccsanantonio.org/openhouse.

Contact Director of Member Engagement Aliyah Kuchinsky, at (210) 302-6827, or visit www.jccsanantonio.org/membership for more information.

IDF Veteran who participated in Entebbe Raid to headline Shabbaton at Chabad

The community is invited to attend a two-part presentation the Shabbat weekend of May 20-21 at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning, 14535 Blanco Rd.

Sasson “Sassy” Reuven is a veteran of the Israeli Defense Force, who served in the IDF’s elite Red Beret paratrooper unit and participated in several covert operations in Israel’s struggle with those who seek to destroy her and the Jewish



Sasson Reuven

people. Sassy participated in Operation Raid on Entebbe, considered by many the greatest hostage rescue in history.

Sassy’s story is Israel’s story: one of courage, endurance, defiance, and willingness to sacrifice it all for the right to live in peace as a Jew.

On Friday, May 20, services will begin at 7 p.m. followed by Shabbat dinner and a talk entitled *Hijack of a People* at 8 p.m. A children’s program

during the lecture will be provided. Cost for Friday night dinner is \$20 adults, \$12 children under 12.

Saturday, May 21, morning services will begin at 9:30 a.m., Torah reading at 10:30 a.m. followed by a Kiddush luncheon and a presentation *The Rescue that Stunned the World* at 12:15 p.m. The luncheon and address is free and open to the entire community.

For more information and reservations, please visit www.ChabadSA.com/Entebbe or call (210) 764-0300.



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The 2016 Confirmation class includes Spencer Bowman, Emily Brenman, Carly Diamond, John Friedberg, Elaina Komerofsky, Gabriel Komerofsky, Mikayla Landes, Lexi Magram, Veronica Mitzelman, Marci Peck, Charles Pullen, Jacob Rosenblatt, Megan Siegel, Julia Singer, Emma Sowry, Ethan Weingart, and David Zeldes.



Agudas Achim celebrates 2016 Confirmation class

Congregation Agudas Achim will celebrate their 2016 Confirmation Class at a special Friday Night Kabbalat Service on Friday, May 27 at 6:15 pm in the Alterman Salkind Louis Sanctuary. The students will be speaking on *How Much Should Your Jewish Values Impact Your Life?* or *How Has Your Jewish Education Changed You as A Person?*

This Yom HaAtzma'ut, celebrate red, white, and blue.



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Heintz Preschool graduates 16th Graduating Class and opens enrollment for 2016-2017

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim will recognize its 16th graduating Pre-K class of "Red Birds" (pictured) on Thursday, June 2.

While a couple of students are still undecided for their plans next year, students from the graduating class will be going to Keystone, Great Hearts, Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy, and Blattman Elementary School.

As this school year comes to a close, Heintz Preschool is continuing open enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year. Focusing on Spanish and Hebrew Immersion as well as the highly acclaimed High Scope

curriculum, Director Celina Geidesman says the school is excited to continue all of its success into the next school year.

Enrollment also continues for Heintz Preschool's Summer Literacy Camp. Weekly themes center around beloved children's books. Children will enjoy water activities and a petting zoo, and will learn about dinosaurs, reptiles, transportation, furry friends and nature. Each week is full of stimulating activities, lessons and play.

For more information, contact Director Celina Geidesman at (210) 479-0429 or c.geidesman@agudas-achim.org.

Temple Beth-El welcomes two new educators

This summer, Temple Beth-El will welcome two new educators to the staff: Leah Apothaker, Director of Congregational Learning and Joel Swedlove, Director of Youth Programs and Informal Education.

Leah Apothaker earned a Bachelor's Degree in Community Organizing and Civic Engagement from The John Glenn School of Public Affairs at Ohio State University. The daughter of a congregational rabbi and long-time camper at URJ Goldman Union Camp Institute, Apothaker was raised as an active participant in the Jewish community. In college she worked in many capacities at Temple Beth Shalom in Columbus, Ohio, including song and service leading, teaching, and b'nei mitzvah tutoring. She is a member of Hadassah and of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), for whom she interned in the fall of 2012. In 2015, she was named among NCJW's 40 under 40. Currently, Apothaker lives in Jackson, MS and travels across the Southeast as an Education Fellow with the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life. She has written curriculum, and developed innovative Jewish educational programming, and consulted for 12 congregations through her fellowship.

Joel Swedlove joins Temple Beth-El from the Adelson Educational Campus in Las Vegas, Nevada where



Leah Apothaker, Director of Congregational Learning



Joel Swedlove, Director of Youth Programs and Informal Education he works as a Jewish Music Teacher, Athletics Assistant and Coach. He has gained significant experience in informal education having spent his summers as a song leader, unit head and program director for Camps Alonim, Hess Kramer and JCC Maccabi Sports Camp, respectively. He grew up in the Reform movement from his early summers at Camp Swig and Newman to serving as Religious and Cultural VP on NFTY Southern California's Regional Board. He has served as youth group advisor and director for congregations throughout Southern California and Las Vegas. Swedlove studied film at Arizona State University and Communications at the University of Phoenix. He will be joined in San Antonio by his wife, Stephanie, and their son, Ethan.

Excitement builds at Hillel San Antonio

Excitement has been building at Hillel. After spring break, Hillel got right into the swing of things with a comedy show by the Bible Players.

The hilarious duo made students laugh and learn about the bible. Two days later, students attended a Purim party in conjunction with Chabad on Campus. Over 35 students attended the bowling and costume event.

Also during Purim, Trinity students baked Hamantaschen and learned about the holiday. On April 4th Hillel hosted Assaf Luxembourg, who flew from Israel to talk



Trinity Students bake Hamantaschen during Purim.

to students about innovation and entrepreneurship in Israel.

If you know of any Jewish students in town, please let Alan Yancelson know at (210) 201-5397 or

e-mail him at AYancelson@HillelSA.org. Find "Hillel San Antonio" on Facebook and visit the website at HillelSA.org.

To sign up for the newsletter, e-mail Alan.

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Chabad on Campus Passover matzo mitzvah

In honor of Passover the Students of Chabad on Campus packed and delivered Passover care packages for local Jewish seniors. Each bag contained handmade Shmurah Matzo, grape juice, macaroons, gefilte fish, Passover treats and more.

The project was sponsored by local community members and Golden Manor.

In loving memory of Chaya Sarah bat Yisroel Ber and in loving memory of Jack Carr.

Seniors with the Sunshine Club also enjoyed the Passover gifts.

"Special thanks to Rachel Rosenfield and Cory Weinberg for spending much time in helping organizing the project and to all the Chabad on Campus student volunteers for delivering the holiday packages," said Rabbi Ari Weingarten.

For more information on Chabad on Campus, contact Rabbi Weingarten at (210) 391-3621 or at ariweingarten@gmail.com.

Remembering the Holocaust to prevent future genocides

The UT Hillel's White Rose Society, a genocide prevention and Holocaust remembrance organization, handed out 10,000 roses on the University of Texas Campus on April 6. The 10,000 Roses commemorate 10,000 individuals who died every day during the Holocaust. They group also hosted a talk by Max Glauben, a Holocaust survivor, who will share his inspiring story of hardship, resilience, and humanity. This year the group called particular attention to the human rights crisis in Syria and to the plight of over 4.7 million Syrian refugees.



Rodfei Sholom's L'Chayim Club to meet on May 18

The L'Chayim Club will hold its monthly get-together on Wednesday, May 18 from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. The topic this month will be *Breast Cancer: A Disease; A Journey; An Opportunity* presented by Dale Eastman.

Eastman will discuss how a diagnosis of breast cancer led her to founding the non-profit Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation and the many aspects of how that has changed her life. The

mission of the Foundation is to "end breast cancer by assisting patients, informing health professionals and policymakers, and expanding knowledge through education and community outreach."

The D'var Torah will be given by Rabbi Scheinberg. It will be followed by a delicious home-cooked meal and the opportunity to socialize with friends from throughout the community. All seniors are invited to

attend at no charge, thanks to a generous grant from Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services and co-sponsorship of Rodfei Sholom. Non-seniors are also invited to join at \$5.00 per person. Transportation is available at no cost by calling Lety Vargas at (210) 302-6949. For more information and to RSVP by Monday, May 16, contact the synagogue office at (210) 493-3557 or by email to rodfeisa@gmail.com.

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Main Number: (210) 302-6960 / Holocaust Memorial Museum: (210) 302-6807 / Beldon Library: (210) 302-6805

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SAN ANTONIO CONGREGATIONS

Congregation Agudas Achim (Conservative)

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

Congregation Beth Am (Reconstructionist)

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

Congregation Rodfei Sholom (Orthodox)

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

Temple Beth-El (Reform)

211 Belknap Place, 78212
Phone: (210) 733-9135 **Fax:** (210) 737-8946
E-mail address: Temple@beth-elsa.org
Website: www.beth-elsa.org
Rabbi Mara Nathan, Senior Rabbi
Rabbi Marina Yergin
Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl, Emeritus
Cantor Julie Berlin

Jewish Community of the Hill Country

Kerrville, Texas
For information: (830) 331-8941

Temple Chai (Reform)

2121 Lockhill-Selma
San Antonio, TX 78213
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
website: www.congregationisraelsatx.org
All Faiths Chapel:
5000 Fawn Meadow Drive at Floyd Curl
San Antonio, Texas 78240
Phone: (210) 387-2436
Hazzan David Silverstein, JD,

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. Levenshus Email: jcc@jcc-sa.org
President: Stephen J. Kramer **Website:** www.jccsanantonio.org
A birth through life organization, JCC programs include a nationally-accredited nursery school, after school care and programs, summer camp programs, programming for adults and senior adults, plus cultural, educational and recreational programs open to the community.

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 spaces available to rent for small or large events.

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:** Alice R. Troy
Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) works to enhance the lives of Jewish seniors in the San Antonio Area by providing transportation and direct programming and through partnerships with other organizations for programs that benefit 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:** Marion Bernstein
Jewish Family Service (JFS) offers a wide range of professional counseling, social services, advocacy for victims of crime, and services for seniors including senior living and care options.

National Council Of Jewish Women (NCJW)

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

Hillel San Antonio

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

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

Shmuel Bass Torah Academy

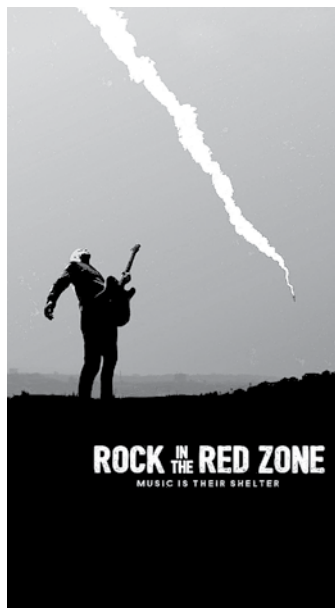
3003 Sholom Drive, Suite #200, 78230 / **Phone:** (210) 607-7261

Rock in the Red Zone: film screening and concert coming to the JCC on May 15

In collaboration with the Jewish Federation Young Adult Division, the Barshop JCC presents a screening of *Rock in the Red Zone*, a documentary focusing on the lives of musicians and their families living in Sderot, a city on the edge of Israel's Negev Desert that for years was targeted by homemade missiles.

The music in Sderot is monumental for its blending of cultures; many of the musicians are children of refugees from North Africa and the Middle East.

This fusion greatly influenced Israeli music by combining Middle Eastern influences with more traditional Western rhythms. Within the film, director Laura Bialis documents the experiences



of musicians living in Sderot whose lives, for several years, were marked by daily visits to bomb shelters to take refuge from missiles targeting the city. Nick Schager of Film Journal International remarks that the film is,

“not only a celebration of music’s capacity to help people process and articulate pain and suffering, but an inspiring portrait of unity and love, flourishing under horrific circumstances.”

The film screening will take place at the JCC on May 15 at 6:30 p.m. with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. Patrons are encouraged to bring cash to purchase kosher food from select restaurant booths from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Following the screening of *Rock in the Red Zone*, Avi Vaknin, a musician featured in the film will take the stage for a concert. Tickets may be purchased by calling (210) 302-6820 or online at www.jccsanantonio.org/rockredzone. \$15/individual ticket, \$10/groups of 10 or more. The film is recommended for ages 13+.

For more information, call Maya Siler at (210) 302-6867.

IsraelStock III at Rodfei Sholom

“If you want to know what Yom Haatzmaut in Israel is like, come to IsraelStock,” said one Israeli last year.

On Thursday, May 12 at 5 p.m. on the grounds of Congregation Rodfei Sholom, 3003 Sholom Drive, the community is invited to a free outdoor live Israeli concert, IsraelStock, to celebrate Yom Haatzmaut. IsraelStock was born from the idea that Congregation Rodfei Sholom wanted to reinforce the importance of and pride in Israel so many in San Antonio feel.

As an addition to the robust programming sponsored by the JCC,

Jewish Federation and all the city’s congregations, the idea emerged that a festive concert, modeled somewhat after that other famous “Stock” concert, would add to the community’s celebration. Israeli musician Motzi BenBassat will be singing Israeli classics. Bring your blankets and chairs to sit on the great lawn to watch the concert. Food will be sold by Texas Kosher BBQ, the only kosher BBQ’er in Texas starting at 4:30 p.m.. Bring your frisbees, beach balls and other outdoor games and enjoy. For more information, contact rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.



Sunday afternoon concert series at Temple Beth-El

On Sunday, May 15 at 4 p.m., Temple Beth-El will

hold its final concert in the Sunday Afternoon Concert Series.

This concert will feature music performed by members of the Temple staff including Rabbi Mara Nathan, Cantor Julie Berlin, Rabbi Alan Berlin, and organists Bob Brewer and Joe Causby.

The previous two concerts featured middle school and high school musicians and adult Temple members.



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Get cookin' with Amy Kritzer of *What Jew Wanna Eat*

The Barshop JCC will welcome a special guest Tuesday, May 17. Amy Kritzer, Jewish chef and author of popular food blog, *What Jew Wanna Eat*, will lead a food demonstration in conjunction with a community dinner. Amy specializes in re-imagining Jewish and Israeli food, and her cookbook, *Sweet Noshings: New Twists on*

Traditional Jewish Baking, will be released this August.

The food demo and kosher dinner will take place at the JCC at 6 p.m., and will include white wine, braised chicken thighs with leeks, tomatoes, and potatoes, spicy Israeli salad, hummus, a tasty vegetable kugel, and a colorful desert. A vegetarian entrée is available with advanced request. All

participants will receive copies of Amy's recipes.

Tickets are \$20 for adults ages 12+, \$9 for youth ages 6-11, and children under 5 are free. In order to have enough food for everyone, RSVPs are required. Reservations may be made by calling Maya Siler at (210) 302-6867, or online at www.jccsanantonio.org/seasons.



One volunteer tutor

Nathan Ratner, coordinator for the San Antonio Jewish Coalition for Literacy (SAJCL), recently read an internet story about a volunteer elementary school tutor in the Washington, D.C. Ratner thinks the story should be shared with the Journal's readers.

The story was written by Charlene Wilburn, a second grade educator at the J.O. Wilson Elementary School. Ms. Wilburn has known the volunteer for almost ten years, but he has been a tutor for 18 years.

This particular tutor starts working with either a second or third grade student and stays with each one for several years until they leave the elementary school. Over the years, he has worked with hesitant students who need assistance in the areas of reading, math, and writing. Through his efforts, he has helped to build each student's confidence and knowledge.

While this tutor has an extremely busy work schedule like many other tutors, including those who are under the SAJCL, this tutor, like the SAJCL tutors, really works with his assigned student. As Ms. Wilburn says, this tutor's efforts have touched her heart.

The tutor is Merrick Garland, who is the Chief Judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the

District of Columbia Circuit. Garland has recently been nominated by President Barack Obama to become an Associate Justice for the United States Supreme Court in order to fill the vacancy left by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia in February 2016.

Ms. Wilburn's states that that in her 29 years as a public elementary school teacher she has never known "a more dedicated volunteer than Judge Merrick Garland." Wilburn adds that she has "come across a lot of people who talk about putting children first. But Judge Garland is someone who puts his words into action."

Ratner points out the SAJCL volunteers are doing the exact same things in San Antonio as Chief Judge Garland is doing in Washington, D.C. in terms of mentoring/tutoring elementary school students. Some have even tutored as long as or longer than Garland. Along with Chief Judge Garland, all of the SAJCL tutor/mentor volunteers are doing their part to "heal the world to make it better." The SAJCL always needs more volunteers to pursue this worthwhile goal. If you are interested in joining up with a great group of people, please contact Ratner at ratner@jfsatx.org or (210) 302-6972.

OFF THE SHELF WITH THE BELDON LIBRARY

The Beldon Used Book Sale has been rescheduled for Sunday, August 21 and Monday, August 22. It will be held in the Beldon Library instead of the Holzman Auditorium. Times for the sale are as follows: Sunday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Monday, 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. There is still time to donate gently used books for adults and children, hardbound as well as paperback; CDs; DVDs; and vinyl.

Librarian, Lynn Waghalter, is looking forward to attending the 51st Annual AJL (Association of Jewish Libraries) Conference to be

held on June 19, 2016 – June 22, 2016 in Charleston, S.C.

"I enjoy attending the annual AJL Conferences," said Waghalter. "I network with fellow librarians and gain knowledge and ideas to bring back to San Antonio. This year will be extra special because I will be able to meet in person, Zilvinas Beliauskas, head Librarian of the Vilnius/Vilna Jewish Public Library."

The Beldon Library has been helping the Vilnius/Vilna Jewish Public Library rebuild their collection of Jewish books. Waghalter reports, "This will be an on-going

Mitzvah project for us!"

The Beldon Library Summer Reading Program for children in grades K – 6th will begin on Wednesday June 15, 2016 and end on Wednesday, August 3, 2016. During this 8 week program, children will check-out and read 2 books per week from the Beldon Library. Reading Journals will be available for the participants. For more information, call (210) 302-6805 or email waghalterl@jfsatx.org.

Beldon Library hours are:
Mondays: 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Wednesdays: 2 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Vex Theatre presents British comedy

The Sheldon Vexler Theatre's seventeenth season will close with Richard Bean's comedy *One Man, Two Guvnors*. Set in 1960s London, the play is about Francis, a hapless fool who gets himself simultaneously employed by two bosses – a local gangster and a high class criminal.

An English adaptation of the 1743 Italian Commedia dell'arte style comedy play, *Servant of Two Masters* by Carlo Goldoni, *One Man, Two Guvnors* had a successful run in London's West End, followed by Broadway in New York City. The Daily Mail called it "The funniest show in the western world." The play was nominated for

a number of honors, including seven Tony awards, winning for Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role, and three Drama Desk Award nominations, winning all three – Outstanding Actor, Featured Actor, and Music in a Play. It was also nominated for four Outer Critics Awards, winning one for Outstanding Featured Actor.

One Man, Two Guvnors opens Thursday, May 12 and runs through Sunday, Jun. 5. Performances are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. To purchase tickets, call the Vex Box Office at (210) 302-6835. Visit www.vexler.org for more information about the show.

The future of the Jewish teen

The most difficult demographic to engage on a religious and social level are our teens. Teenagers can be indifferent, unwilling to cooperate, and more interested in sleeping than having a deep spiritual discussion. Past the Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations, engaging them makes a root canal an easy experience.

How do we engage the future leaders of the Jewish people if they are unwilling to engage?

The answer is C-Teen.

Founded just seven years ago as an organization to get teens more involved in Judaism, it has quickly grown into a mega-grassroots club with more than 2500 engaged and excited teens. I have the privilege of directing the C-Teen San Antonio chapter and have been part of it for the last three years. We have grown locally from 10 teens to 75 in a small Jewish community.

I recently attended the C-Teen International



Rabbi's Voice:

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Shabbaton in New York City with sixteen local teens. As one of the older group leaders who has been involved in youth education for more than twenty years, I can say with confidence that the Jewish people will be alright.

Two thousand plus Jewish teenagers dedicated to do more Mitzvot and live more Jewishly is something more impactful perhaps than the Super Tuesday caucuses, as far as I'm concerned. The sheer pride and excitement of being Jewish, coupled with a passion and commitment to live more Jewishly, is a much needed breath of fresh air.

While sitting on the floor in La Guardia Airport awaiting our plane back home, each participant spoke of their experience and how they pledge to live more Jewishly,



A delegation of 16 teenagers from the C-Teen San Antonio Chapter participated in a 3-day international Shabbaton in NYC led by Rabbi Yossi Marrus. More than 2,000 Jewish teenagers from C-Teen chapters in 23 countries filled Times Square in New York City after the conclusion of Shabbat for a Havdalah ceremony and concert celebrating Jewish unity and pride.

do more Mitzvot, get as many teens involved as possible, and yes, marry Jewish.

In case you're wondering what Jewish teens need today? Forget the fancy flyers, black-tie dance balls,

and save the habitat projects. It is authentic *Yiddishkeit* (Judaism), brought to teens with love, joy and unabashed Jewish pride. And the teens have gone gaga, thirstily taking it in. I, meanwhile,

watched this with tears of gratitude in my eyes.

Read the entire article at <http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/the-future-of-the-jewish-teen>

At Issue: Jews in Robes

If confirmed by the Senate, Merrick Garland would join Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, and Elena Kagan as the fourth Jew on the United States Supreme Court. All the other justices – Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, John Roberts, Samuel Alito, and Sonia Sotomayor – are Catholic. So was Antonin Scalia, whose sudden death led President Barack Obama to nominate Garland as his successor.

Anti-Papist venom is still spewed in miasmic niches of the internet, but the last Protestant, David Souter, stepped down from the Supreme Court in 2009, and being Catholic is now no barrier to appointment to



Perspective:

STEVEN G. KELLMAN

the highest court. Neither is being Jewish, as evidenced by the fact that Garland, chief judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, is the ninth Jew nominated to SCOTUS. It is easier for a Jew to get onto the high court than the PGA Tour.

The White House announcement of Garland's nomination elicited familiar anti-Semitic tropes. David

Duke, former grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, complained that: "You already have three open Jewish members of the Supreme Court. Thirty-three percent. They're only two percent of the population. You can count on those Jews to do whatever the Jewish agenda wants."

However, what is striking is how little the hostility to Garland's nomination was based on the fact that he, the grandson of immigrants who fled anti-Semitism in Latvia, is one of "those Jews." Nor was Garland, a judicial moderate, generally attacked on ideological grounds. Instead, the fierce, unprecedented refusal by Senate

Republicans to even consider him was based, they said, on their belief that, in the final year of his tenure, Obama should not make a consequential appointment. One might wonder whether animosity toward Obama had anything to do with race, and marvel at the historical irony that a capable jurist was being rejected not because he was Jewish but because he was nominated by an African American.

In 1853, Senator Judah P. Benjamin of Louisiana declined President Millard Fillmore's offer to appoint him to SCOTUS; Benjamin

See **ISSUE**, page 30

FROM THE COVER/PERSPECTIVE

Ha'atzmaut. This will begin at 6:15 p.m. This show will be followed up by a private adult only reception hosted by the Young Adult Division (YAD) of the The Jewish Federation. All of Jewish agencies in San Antonio invite the community to come and wear blue and white, enjoy Israeli food, and remember the Israeli soldiers and then celebrate the life of our Jewish peoplehood.

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio had an interview with Listen Up! in hopes that our San Antonio community will get to know them better and be ready to share in the excitement of Yom Ha'atzmaut with them.

Tell us about your group and how you got together.

Steve Singer founded Listen Up! in 1992, when Milli Vanilli, Madonna, and Nirvana ruled the airwaves. In the subsequent 25 years, Listen Up! has continued to re-invent itself as a truly unique Jewish vocal band. Freddie Feldman, a



Listen Up!, a Chicago-based a cappella group, will perform for Israeli Independence Day in May 11

Chicago-based a cappella studio producer, joined the ensemble in 2013 along with Jewish theater impresario, Eli Taylor, and dynamic female vocalist, Shayna Elliott. In 2014, Listen Up! went viral with a parody of Pharrell Williams's Happy set to the ubiquitous Hebrew prayer, Adon Olam. Listen Up! continues to release music and videos that capitalize on their diverse musical tastes—including Say Shabbat Shalom, an upbeat song to welcome the Sabbath and Acheinu, a stirring tribute to the victim of terror attacks

in Israel.

What is your favorite song to perform and why?

Each of Listen Up!'s vocalists would probably answer, "whichever song I get to sing the solo!" But, seriously, we take a lot of time and effort to make sure that our music is familiar, moving and makes people of all ages want to sing along and dance. For sure, Adon Olam is one of our favorites—as everyone knows the lyrics and can't wait to sing along with us.

How would you describe your musical approach?

Nothing is more engaging than voices singing together in harmony. Together with rhythm and percussion, we want to harness that powerful sound in every note to inspire our audiences and share the joy and pride we have in celebrating our special connection to Israel and Jews worldwide. As musicians, we feel strongly that we should possess a "what-you-hear-is-what-you-get" sound onstage. You'll never hear anything in a recording or video that we can't reproduce live on stage.

Who are the Jewish singers that have inspired you and why?

Too many to list! Our inspirations are really varied -- Israeli folk singers and rock stars, American Jewish music heroes like Debbie Friedman, Chazzanim (cantors) and friends that have taught us and challenged us to grow musically. We all have a soft spot for wonderful (and sometimes campy) Jewish

music from Eurovision to the song festivals. Love those songs!

What are your group's aspirations for the future?

We're so thankful for the attention our music is getting... we just want it to continue and enjoy the opportunity to keep trying new approaches. There is one member of our group that has never been to Israel. Personally, I'd love to see us have an opportunity to perform in Israel to make that dream a reality.

You will be performing on Yom Ha'atzmaut, what is your group's connections to Israel and what are your wishes for Israel in the future?

Our connection to Israel is everyday. Part of our family... literally. We have family and friends who live in Israel. We send our children to study in Israel. Israel is a big part of our identity. It inspires us in everything we do.

ISSUE

continued from page 30

would soon become the first Jewish secretary of state . . . of the Confederacy. However, the first Jewish appointment to the Supreme Court occurred 100 years ago, in 1916, when President Woodrow Wilson nominated Louis Brandeis, an ardent Zionist who nevertheless celebrated Christmas and savored ham. Opposition to Brandeis, the son of immigrants from Prague, was immediate, vicious, and unabashedly anti-Semitic. George W. Wickersham, a former attorney general, belittled Brandeis, a social reformer, trust-buster, and champion of workers' rights, as one of "a bunch of Hebrew uplifters." The Brandeis nomination proved

to be the most acrimonious until 1987, when Robert Bork was denied confirmation. The Senate spent an unprecedented four months on Brandeis,

during which the Judiciary Committee for the first time held public hearings on a nominee. The full Senate voted 47-22 in favor of confirmation. Only three

Republican Senators voted to confirm Brandeis. As I write this, three Republican Senators have agreed merely to meet with Merrick Garland.

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

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Partnership in the Western Galilee

By Deb Field

Last year I made my first trip to Israel, and last month I returned for the second time. How lucky I am! My most recent *Aliyah* was a Federation-sponsored trip with our Partnership2Gether region in the Western Galilee. The goal of Partnership is to develop relationships and connections between those of us in the Diaspora and our fellow Jews in Israel. A portion of our Federation campaign dollars support programs in Israel, including specific projects in the Western Galilee.

A highlight of the trip was meeting the Western Galilee Partnership staff and volunteers and learning from them directly about our Federation-funded projects, and more significantly about



Deb Field, far left, along with Ronit Sherwin, David Komerofsky, Lois and Lisa Hamilton.

life in Israel. What is it like to work at a high tech company and raise a family on a *kibbutz* near Nahariya? How does the life of a teacher in Akko compare with a teacher's life in San Antonio? We hear and read so much about Israel back home, but it is filtered through a lens with a particular bias. We had the opportunity to talk one-on-one with many individuals, most of

whom are Sabras (native born Israelis), and others who were transplants from the US or other countries. During a particular lunch on a *kibbutz* that specializes in raising goats and making goat milk products, I had a lively conversation with a young teacher who escaped Russia with her family and now has a family of her own in Israel. She pulled out her iPhone to show me photos

and videos of her students and their fellow Federation student friends Skyping from America. The second evening on our trip, I shared dinner with two of my fellow travelers in the home of a partnership family who lives on a privatized *kibbutz*. The father of the household spoke to us about the evolution of *kibbutzim* and *moshavim* and we helped his twelve year old daughter learn new English words. In addition, we ate a delicious vegan meal prepared by the mother who is a chef at her own restaurant in Haifa. These personal connections are the backbone of Partnership2Gether.

Other highlights of the week included the lecturers who shared with us their perspectives on Israeli politics. Gil Hoffman and

Khaled Abu Toame, both correspondents with the Jerusalem Post, shared general as well as personal stories and information. Col. Kobi Marom took us on a geopolitical tour in the Golan Heights. Neil Lazarus, an internationally acclaimed expert on the Middle East, led us on a bus tour along the seam line and deeper into the West Bank. For me the highlight was a visit to Yad LaKashish, Lifeline for the Elderly, in Jerusalem. Yad LaKashish provides creative work opportunities for almost 300 needy elderly in Jerusalem. Kivunim, another non-profit organization located in the old city of Akko, was another great highlight. Kivunim supports young adults with special needs by encouraging them to become independent, to become involved in the community in which they live, and to achieve control over their lives.

At the beginning of the tour, we were given maps, hats and a book outlining the week to come that had empty pages where we could keep a diary. My pages are still empty because I could not take myself out of the moment to put pen to paper. Our days and evenings were full of extraordinary experiences and I still haven't distilled my observations into words. For me, the message I want to share is the following: Israel is safe; full of a remarkable variety of people; has delicious food; tremendous museums; spectacular scenery; indescribable history; good wine; orchards full of mangoes, avocados, oranges, bananas and dates; and lots and lots of Jews! I eagerly await my next '*aliyah*.'

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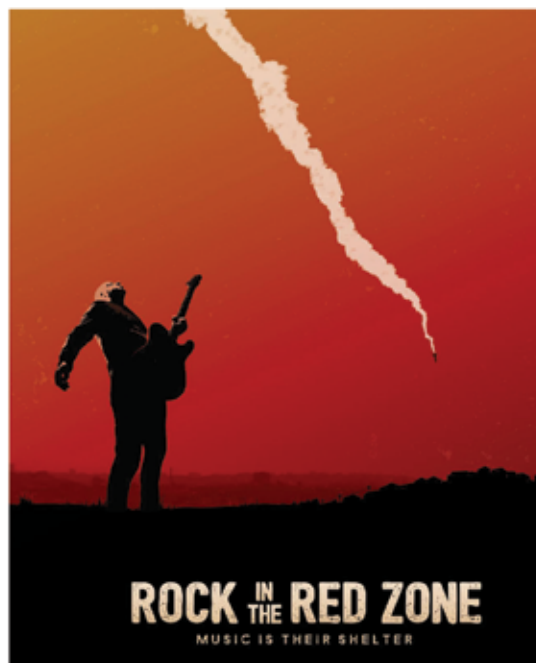
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Questions still abound in Jerusalem bus bombing probe

(Israel Hayom/Exclusive to JNS.org) The Israel Police and the Shin Bet security agency are continuing to investigate Monday's bus bombing in Jerusalem, in which 21 people were wounded. A gag order has been placed on the details of the investigation.

At press time, the nature of the attack left a number of questions to be answered: Where did the bomb come from? Who produced it? Did the terrorist who planted it manage to flee? Or was the unidentified man who was sitting in the seat where the bomb went off, and is now in critical condition at Shaare Zedek Medical Center, in fact the terrorist? Also, were the bus and its passengers the intended targets?

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on April 19, "We will spare



Firefighters and rescue personnel at the scene of a bus bombing in the Talpiot neighborhood of Jerusalem, April 18, 2016. (Nati Shohat/Flash90)

no effort to bring those responsible for the attack and their supporters to justice."

Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon said, "We don't know yet the full details of this attack, but the systematic activities of the IDF and Shin Bet are foiling attacks on a daily basis."

No terrorist group took responsibility for the bombing, but both Hamas and Islamic Jihad called it a "natural response to the crimes of the Zionist occupier." The military wing of the Mahmoud Abbas-led Palestinian Fatah faction also praised the bombing and called for more such attacks.

Ancient Egyptian amulet discovered by 12-year-old girl in Jerusalem

(JNS.org) A 3,200 year-old Egyptian amulet was recently discovered by a 12-year-old Jewish girl who was volunteering at the Temple Mount Sifting Project in Jerusalem.

The amulet displays the name of Thutmose III, the pharaoh of Egypt's 18th Dynasty, who reigned from 1479-1425 BCE, according to the Ir David Foundation. The foundation co-sponsors the Temple Mount Sifting Project, in which volunteers sift through debris removed from the holy site and to try to retrieve as many artifacts as possible.

Prof. Gabriel Barkay and Zachi Dvira co-founded the sifting project in 2004 to identify and document the debris that was discarded by the Islamic Waqf, a religious trust that manages and controls access to the Temple Mount.

"The raised decoration displays a cartouche, an oval frame surrounding Egyptian hieroglyphics bearing the name of the Egyptian ruler. Above the oval framing is the symbol of an eye, and to its right are remnants of yet another hieroglyphic symbol depicting a cobra, of which parts of the head and tail are

preserved," Barkay said.

Thutmose III was one of the most prominent pharaohs in Egypt's New Kingdom.

"He is credited with establishing the Egyptian imperial province in Canaan, conducting 17 military campaigns to Canaan and Syria, and defeating a coalition of Canaanite kings at the city of Megiddo in 1457 BCE," said Barkay.

Canaan and the city of Jerusalem were under Egyptian rule during the Late Bronze Age, which explains why the amulet was found in Jerusalem.

'Outrageous' that college debaters were asked to defend Palestinian stabbing attacks

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Anti-Defamation League said it was "outrageous" that a debate topic at an inter-university debating competition in Atlanta required participants to justify Palestinian stabbing attacks against Israelis.

At the U.S. Universities Debating Championship at Morehouse College in April one of the topics was "This House Believes that Palestinian Violence Against Israeli Civilians Is Justified." The question's wording required half of all participants to argue that perspective.

"It is outrageous and deeply offensive that students participating in the debating championship, some of whom were Jewish, were essentially forced to choose between losing points in the national championship or advocating for violence against Israeli civilians," Jonathan A. Greenblatt, CEO of the New York-based group, said in a news release.

"It is hard to imagine that the organizers would ever have asked students to defend Al Qaeda's attacks

See **ATTACKS**, page 35

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NY mosque hosts Seder for Jews and Muslims

NEW YORK (JTA) — Some 100 Jews and Muslims participated in a Passover celebration at a Manhattan mosque.

Coordinated by the NYC Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee, the gathering took place April 14 at the Islamic Society of Mid Manhattan in New York.

“I don’t believe anything quite like this has happened in New York before,” said Rabbi Allison Tick Brill of Temple Emanu-El, a large Reform congregation in Manhattan.

“It is particularly powerful to celebrate Passover here at this mosque because unfortunately, Muslim Americans are made to feel strangers in their own country,” Tick Brill said at the event, according to News 4.

“Isn’t it beautiful to have our Jewish brothers and sisters in the mosque?” Imam Ahmed Dewidar said. “I think we should be proud of our community here in New York.”



At the pre-Passover Seder, tables were set up on the floor, each holding its own Seder plate. Participants read from a custom-made *haggadah*, which consisted of both traditional Passover texts and modern additions such as Bob Marley’s reggae classic *One Love*.

Michelle Koch, of the NYC Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee, told News 4 New York, “There’s so much hatred and prejudice going on in the world, because people are afraid of each other and are ignorant

of each other. So I think as a committee, you bring people together. You teach people about each other.”

Nabil Ezzarhouni, also of the NYC Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee, said that at the seder, “There was a happiness that could not be translated into words.”

“It’s not just about Jews and Muslims, it’s about the whole society,” he said. “We want to set a standard, and we want to give an example to not just America, but to the whole world.”

A crowdfunding campaign to take Jewish music from the analog past to the digital future

By Debra Kamin
TEL AVIV (JTA) — Tel Aviv is arguably the startup capital of the world — so, at the outset, a story about a new technology initiative might not sound particularly surprising.

But this particular startup is located inside the Beit Hatfutsot-Museum of the Jewish People, an institution that has been archiving and exhibiting the story of Jews across the globe for nearly 40 years.

Unlike the bootstrapping tech hubs that line the city’s Rothschild Boulevard or cluster together along Harakevet Street and Montefiore, this startup isn’t focused on R&D or social-media technology. Here at the Museum of the Jewish People, all of the energy and buzz is devoted to saving the strains of ancient Jewish music.

Its mission is simple: Save the sounds of Jewish music before they die out with the demise of vinyl and cassette.

Inside the museum’s Feher Jewish Music Center is one of the world’s largest archives of Jewish music. The center — a treasure trove for lovers of Jewish song and lyrics — has been collecting and preserving the global musical heritage of the Jewish people for more than 30 years. But today, with that heritage locked into decaying technologies of vinyl records and magnetic



cassette tapes, the museum is on a mission to transfer its sounds online, where it can be safely stored for future generations. www.outube.com, or enable JavaScript if it is our b It’s a gorilla of a process — extracting the sounds of history from old technology and shuttling it safely across a digital highway to a more secure future. So Nurit Gazit, the museum’s chief digital officer, has recruited a small army of tech-minded workers who are up to the task.

The Feher Jewish Music Center consists of more than 25,000 pieces of Jewish music from across the Diaspora. There are songs in Ladino, liturgies in Hebrew, ditties in Yemenite Arabic, Yiddish, Polish and German. Locked inside their melodies is the whole history of the Jewish people, from its traverse through exile toward the Holy Land, its pre-Holocaust glory and its from-the-ashes rise after, and all of the traditions, tongues and travels that marked its evolution in between.

To fund the massive digital undertaking, the museum launched a crowdfunding

See **CROWDFUNDING**, page 35



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U.S. & WORLD NEWS

JDC mobilizes Ecuador, Japan relief efforts

NEW YORK (JTA) — The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee is organizing relief efforts in response to a 7.8 magnitude earthquake in Ecuador that has killed at least 272 people and injured more than 2,500.

The New York-based JDC has begun assessing needs and coordinating relief efforts with the Ecuador Jewish community and Heart to Heart International focusing on medical care, medical supply provision, and water purification efforts.

In addition to the group's response in Ecuador, a \$25,000 JDC grant for emergency supplies including food and non-food items was made to JDC's longstanding partner, the Japanese humanitarian agency JEN, to aid

people impacted by the recent earthquakes in the Kumamoto province.

"As devastating images from Ecuador surface, JDC extends its deepest condolences and joins our partners to deploy a speedy response that ensures relief to survivors at their greatest time of need," JDC CEO Alan Gill said in a statement. "Our response in Ecuador, and in Japan, are proud expressions of the Jewish value of tikkun olam, repairing the world, and are fortuitous as we lead up to the Passover holiday when we celebrate our redemption from great odds. May all those impacted by these crises experience the same solace and strength that can be found in family and community."

EUROPE

continued from page 1

Jewish people and has instructed its followers to prioritize killing them," Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., the chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, said April 19, launching the hearing he called in the wake of recent attacks in Europe, and referring to the Islamic State terrorist group behind some of the recent major attacks in Europe.

John Farmer, a former New Jersey attorney general who now leads a Rutgers University initiative to assess how to protect communities vulnerable to terrorism, said terrorist attacks were threatening the viability of Jewish Europe.

"The situation on the ground has become dire, the challenge to the Jewish communities has become nothing less than existential," he said. "Many stalwart [Jewish] leaders have become ambivalent about remaining in Europe at all."

Paul Goldenberg, the director of the Secure Communities Network, an initiative of the Jewish Federations of North America, described a continuum of anti-Semitic violence over the last 20 years from attacks originating in right-wing extremism to those carried out

by militant Islamists.

"In the span of two decades, we've moved from swastikas on buildings, the desecration of graveyards and simple assaults as well as long-standing institutionalized anti-Semitism to brutal violence, commando-style shooting attacks and even suicide bombings on the streets of Europe by battlefield-trained terrorist cells and organizations," he said.

The experts, answering questions from Democrats and Republicans on the panel, identified the failure of European law enforcement agencies to fully coordinate and engage with Muslim communities as factors hindering bids to prevent attacks.

Farmer said he and Goldenberg would travel to Copenhagen and Brussels soon to meet with authorities and "explore concrete ways in which we might assist the Jewish and other vulnerable communities and law enforcement in working together to enhance public safety."

Farmer also recommended that European law enforcement agencies emulate the FBI and more robustly engage with Muslim communities to enlist assistance in identifying radicals.

Rabbi Andrew Baker, the top official dealing with anti-Semitism at the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, said the reluctance of European authorities to identify anti-Semitism imported from the Middle East as being as toxic as indigenous ultranationalist anti-Semitism was also frustrating treatment of the violence.

"It has eroded the day-to-day sense of comfort and security for many European Jews," said Baker, who is also the American Jewish Committee director of international affairs.

Jonathan Biermann, a former adviser to the Belgian government on anti-Semitism and intolerance, among other issues, counseled the adoption of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's "see something, say something" initiative, which promotes awareness of terrorism warning signs among civilians.

"The collaboration with law enforcement agencies has to be based on trust and confidence, in respect of international laws and rules protecting individual freedom, civil liberties and privacy," Biermann said.

Helsinki commissions are parliamentary bodies affiliated with the OSCE that monitor human rights.



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Morehouse College (Facebook)

ATTACKS

continued from page 32

against the U.S. on 9/11, and this shouldn't be any different," he said, adding that "whoever devised the question exercised extremely poor judgment."

ADL called on organizers of the United States Universities Debate Association, which organized the event, to publicly apologize for the incident.

According to Tablet, students reported that the motion did not immediately arouse controversy.

Jordan Trafton, a student from Claremont McKenna College, who judged at the tournament, told Tablet, "I

look around and nobody is doing anything, and I'm so shocked. This is Morehouse, a historically black college where everyone is up in arms about social justice."

The Claremont McKenna team coach asked organizers to cancel the round, but organizers refused, and four judges walked out in protest, Tablet reported.

While debate competitions are known for controversial topics, according to Tablet, "this appears to be the first time that a major tournament has explicitly addressed justifying violence against a specific civilian population."

Straus honored for her work in historic preservation

Jocelyn "Joci" Straus was honored by the San Antonio Conservation Society at the organization's 2016 on March 23.

Straus was presented with the Amanda Cartwright Taylor Award in recognition of her work to save the Majestic and Empire theatres in downtown San Antonio.

In addition to saving both theaters, Straus has served on the State Preservation Board that oversees the preservation, maintenance and restoration of the State Capitol and other buildings; is an honorary member of the Texas Society of Archi-



ects; serves on the Executive Committee of the Texas Cultural Trust Council; is a member emeritus of the National Council on the

Arts; and has founded the Women's Leadership Council of the United Way, among many other notable achievements.

CROWDFUNDING

continued from page 33

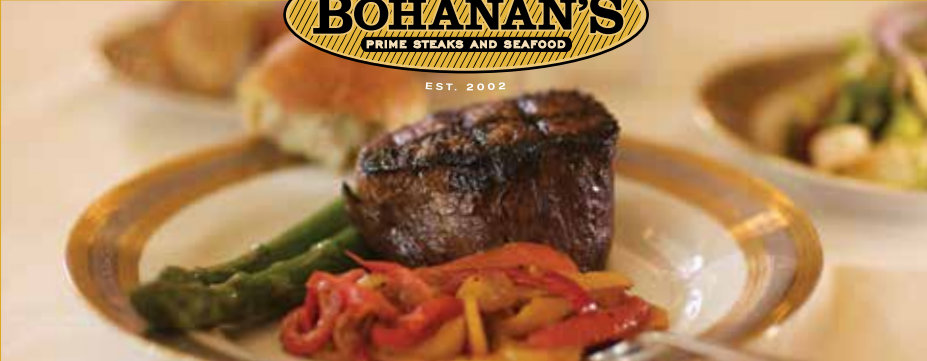
campaign last month on *Indiegogo.com* that it hopes will raise \$250,000 to cover the three necessary

components to get the music catalogued, data-tagged and fully online

"This part is so important," Gazit says. "If your grandfather is the last one from his community who can still sing the specific song from his community,

we definitely want you to be able to upload it and add it to the library to enrich the database. We want this project to be alive and to grow, and we are certain people are going to provide treasures."





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