

Federation wishes you a joyful Passover, **April 3-11, 2015**



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

NISSAN - IYAR 5775

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

APRIL 2015



NOW THAT YOU KNOW...

When was the last time you visited the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio?

PAGE 8



HELPFUL HEALING

Israeli physicians share details on their important work in war torn Syria. (Photo: Elad Gershgoren)

PAGE 10



WHAT'S HAPPENING

From Purim parties to special speakers, don't miss out! Find out what's happening in your Jewish community.

PAGE 20

Joel Rutman to speak on Evolution at 10th Annual Zinn lecture

Joel Rutman, M.D. returns to San Antonio on Thursday, April 16 to present the 10th Annual Myron B. Zinn Lecture. His topic will be *How Can God Have Created the World When Evolution Says Everything Just Happened?* The program, which is sponsored by the Maimonides Society of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, will start at 7 p.m. at the Campus for the San Antonio Jewish Community, 12500

N.W. Military Hwy.

A graduate of Brandeis University and of Harvard Medical School with certification in Pediatrics and Neurology and Psychiatry with Special Competence in Child Neurology, Rutman was engaged in clinical care and teaching for many years at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio.

See **RUTMAN**, page 14



Joel Rutman will speak on Thursday, April 16 at 7p.m. at the Campus.



Remembering the past, sharing hope for the future

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio welcomes the community to join together for the following annual memorial services and celebrations:

Holocaust Memorial Day – April 15

San Antonio's annual Yom HaShoah commemorative service will be held at 7 p.m. on April 15 at Congregation Rodfei Sholom, 3003 Sholom Drive.

The observance memorializes all who died in the Holocaust and pays tribute to those who survived. The service is free and open to the public.

The memorial service is sponsored by the Holocaust

See **REMEMBER**, page 14

INSPIRATION AND CAMARADERIE

Women from the San Antonio Jewish community gathered to make *mishloach manot* Purim boxes to be distributed to elderly individuals and others who are homebound. The February event was sponsored by the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
see pages 6 & 7.



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



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OF SAN ANTONIO

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EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS

The submission deadline for the MAY 2015 issue of the Jewish Journal is APRIL 12, 2015 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 MAY 2015 ISSUE:

- Ad space reservations due no later than APRIL 12, 2015 by noon;
- Press ready ads due by APRIL 16, 2015.

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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OPEN SUNDAYS

FOCUS ON FEDERATION

CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday, April 3

Eve of First day Passover,
Light Shabbat Candles: 7:36 p.m.

Shabbat, April 4

Eve of Second day Passover,
Light Holiday Candles
after: 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 5

Holiday Ends: 8:31 p.m.

Thursday, April 9

Eve of Seventh day Passover,
Light Holiday Candles: 7:39 p.m.

Friday, April 10

Eve of Eighth day Passover,
Light Shabbat /
Holiday Candles: 7:40 p.m.

Shabbat, April 11

Shabbat / Holiday Ends:
8:35 p.m.

Friday, April 17

Light Candles at: 7:44 p.m.

Shabbat, April 18

Shabbat Ends: 8:39 p.m.

Friday, April 24

Light Candles at: 7:48 p.m.

Shabbat, April 25

Shabbat Ends: 8:44 p.m.

Friday, May 1

Light Candles at: 7:53 p.m.

Shabbat, May 2

Shabbat Ends: 8:49 p.m.

We are not truly free until all are free

This month we recall and relive our exodus from slavery to freedom. It is during the holiday of Passover that we re-enact our journey out of Egypt, on the way to our rebirth as the People of Israel in the Land of Israel. The celebration of Passover is more than a story. Passover is a collective memory that informs how we live and act in the world. We were slaves, and now we are free. And it is this narrative that drives our sense of compassion for each other as Jews and for all humanity.

We Jews know what it means to be enslaved and mistreated. We know what



**Letter from
our CEO**

RONIT
SHERWIN

it means to be oppressed and abused. And we also know and can appreciate liberation. We know not to take freedom for granted. More than just a celebration of our freedom, Passover compels us to work for the freedom of all people. This is one of the many lessons of the Passover Haggadah.

This April begins with the eight day celebration of Passover. In the middle of the month we commemorate

Yom Ha'Shoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, recalling the darkest tragedy of our people. Then we celebrate *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, Israel's Independence Day, the miracle of our Jewish State. In just a matter of weeks, we move through a range of emotions that evoke a sense of pride and strength as a Jewish people. We are a people with a responsibility to know and to do. Our *Seder* meal begins a month of reflection that opens in slavery and ends with a modern liberation of which hundreds of generations of our people could only dream.



**Honoring
Karen Katims
and**

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Barbara Arnow	Thelma Lettman
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Jean Karren	Dorothy Jo Weiss
Marilyn Karren	Joanne Zaike
Helen Kerman	Esta Zucker
Caryn Landes	

Women of Valor Honors Evening

Sunday, May 17, 2015
7:00 p.m.

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YOM HASHOAH

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015

CEREMONY BEGINS AT 7:00P.M.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS: April 2015

April 1

- Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Sip & Schmooze, 5 p.m.
- JNetSA Changemaker Series, 6 p.m., Luna

April 2

- Barshop JCC Silver Cinema, 1 p.m., at The Campus
- Congregation Agudas Achim Pre-Passover Pizza Party, 5:30 p.m., Congregation Agudas Achim

April 3

- Barshop JCC DayTripper Youth Day Camp, 9 a.m., Barshop JCC
- Community First Night Seder, 7 p.m., at The Campus

April 4

- Barshop JCC Closed

April 7

- Jewish Family Service/AACOG Volunteer Recognition Event, 8 a.m., Holzman Auditorium at The Campus

April 8

- Jewish Federation Community Relations Council Meeting, 12 p.m., at The Campus
- Barshop JCC Kosher for Passover Dinner, 6 p.m., at The Campus
- AIPAC Club Reception, 7:30 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

April 9

- Temple Beth-El Machar Torah on Tap, 8 p.m.

April 10

- Barshop JCC Closed
- Jewish Federation Closed
- Temple Beth-El Machar End of Passover Bread Fest

April 11

- Young Couples Club of Agudas Post Passover Pizza & Beer Night, 9 p.m., Franco's

April 12

- Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Board Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Temple Beth-El
- 4th Annual Walk Against

- Genocide, 2 p.m., at The Campus
- Agudas Achim Movie Night, Woman in Gold, 3 p.m.

April 13

- Barshop JCC & Green Vegetarian Cooking Demo, 7 p.m., at The Campus

April 14

- Jewish Federation Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus

April 15

- Yom Hashoah Community Service, 6:30 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom
- NCJW Trashy Book Club, 6:30 p.m.

April 16

- Community Trip to Houston Holocaust Museum, 8 a.m.
- Barshop JCC Silver Cinema, 1 p.m., at The Campus
- Maimonides Zinn Lecture, 7 p.m., Holzman Auditorium at The Campus

April 19

- Leah Goot Hadassah Speaker Event, 3 p.m., Adante
- NCJW Spring Tea, 3 p.m.

April 20

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

April 22

- Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Book Club, 10 a.m., Temple Beth-El
- Community Yom Hazikaron Service & Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration, 5:30 p.m., at The Campus

April 23

- Barshop JCC Beer Night, 7 p.m., at The Campus

April 24

- Barshop JCC DayTripper Youth Day Camp, 9 a.m.,

Barshop JCC

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

April 28

- Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Board Meeting, 9:45 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
- Leah Goot Hadassah Speaker, 7 p.m.

May 1

- Barshop JCC Fore! the Kids Golf Tournament, 12 p.m.
- Congregation Agudas Achim Family Friendly Friday Night Service & Shabbat Potluck Dinner, 6:15 p.m., Congregation Agudas Achim

May 2

- Young Couples Club of Agudas Cinco De Mayo Party, 7:30 p.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents *Rumors*, 8 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

May 3

- Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Installation & Mothers' Day Luncheon, 11 a.m.
- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents *Rumors*, 2:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater
- Jewish Family Service Mothers' Day Event, 6 p.m., at The Campus
- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Sisterhood Documentary Screening *Tim's Vermeer*, 6:30 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

May 6

- Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Sip & Schmooze, 5 p.m.

May 7

- Barshop JCC Silver Cinema, 1 p.m., at The Campus
- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents *Rumors*, 7:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

It's not manna from heaven, but this Passover, provide something just as crucial to the survival of the Israeli people.



In a country where terrorism and sporadic rocket barrages are an all-too-frequent occurrence, your gift to Magen David Adom ensures Israel's national paramedic organization has the medical supplies it needs to save lives. So this year, while you recount the story of the Jews' redemption from slavery, your gift will help modern-day Israelis survive the threats they face today.

Thank you for making a gift today. And we wish you and your family a *Pesach kasher v'sameach*.

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YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS

National Federation leader offers inspiration to area women



(l to r) Sara Planto, Leslie Tramer, and Linda Hurwitz

Linda Hurwitz, National Campaign Chair for the Jewish Federations of North America, was the guest speaker at a special Thank You luncheon at the home of event Chair Leslie Tramer on Monday, Feb. 23. Women who are Pomegranates and Lions of Judah were thanked for their commitment



Charlotte Sue Alterman, Linda Fisher, and Barbara Spigel

to the Jewish Federation of San Antonio's recent 2014 Annual Campaign and to *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world). The Pomegranate giving level is a national program that recognizes women who give individual gifts of \$1,800 - \$4,999. The Lion of Judah giving level is an international



(l to r) Sara Planto, Charlotte Sue Alterman, Ronit Sherwin, CEO Federation, Elaine Cohen, Dr. Amy Benedikt, Janet Westheimer, Terry Davis

program, recognizing women who give individual gifts of \$5,000 and up. San Antonio is proud to have more than 180 women who are Pomegranates or Lions.

Hurwitz inspired the women with her personal story of involvement and shared the stories of people she

has met throughout her worldwide travels who have been helped in some way through Federation services. She shared her recent experience visiting a survivor of the horrific terror attack in Paris.

See **PARIS**, page 8

Scholarship Applications NOW AVAILABLE

For Camperships, Jewish High Schools, Undergraduate and Graduate Studies, and Study in Israel

Jewish Sleep-Away Camp

Scholarships are available to students entering grades 2-12. Eligibility for scholarship is based primarily on financial need.

Jewish High Schools

Scholarships are available to students attending a Jewish High School outside of San Antonio. Eligibility for scholarship is based primarily on financial need.

Undergraduate Studies

Scholarships are available to individuals seeking to further their undergraduate education. Eligibility for scholarship is based primarily on financial need.

Graduate Studies

Scholarships are available to individuals seeking a postgraduate degree in Jewish education, Rabbinical, or Cantorial studies. Eligibility for scholarship is based primarily on financial need.

Elmer and Sally Cooper Scholarship

Scholarships are available to Jewish students whose university studies are in pre-med in the United States. Eligibility for scholarship is based primarily on financial need.

Beady Berler Scholarship for Study in Israel

One scholarship is awarded annually to a student enrolled in a college or university within the state of Texas. This is a merit-based scholarship for an academic course of study in Israel as part of a degree program.



Applications must be received no later than Thursday, April 9 2015
Applications are available online at www.jfsatx.org or by contacting Amy Levine-Reagin at:
The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio
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Deborah Denker,
Darcy Hoberman,
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Inspiration and camaraderie bring young women together

Young women came together for an evening of *Inspiration and Camaraderie* at the home of event Chair, Simone Kbouti. The women enjoyed wine, hors d'oeuvres and desserts and then participated in a special mitzvah project. Susan Avitan Kariv, Federation's Chief Development Officer, spoke about the essence of the holiday of Purim and the special mitzvah of giving *mishloach manot*, a basket of food items to others. The women brought food items and helped to assemble *mishloach manot* boxes to be distributed by Jewish Family Service to elderly individuals and others who were homebound. Kariv spoke about the work of Jewish Family Service and how, through its counseling and mental health services, it offers safety net services and literally save lives. Jewish Family Service receives funding from the Federation's Annual Campaign.

To close the evening, guest speaker, Linda Hurwitz, National Campaign Chair for Jewish Federations of North America, shared her story of how she got involved with the Federation as a young wife and mother. She shared her passion for the Jewish people and stated, "As much as I volunteered for many



(l to r) Ronit Sherwin, CEO of JFSA and Micah Davies



(l to r) Simone Kbouti, Event Chair, and Linda Hurwitz, National Campaign Chair, Jewish Federations of North America

hours over many years, I got so much more out of my experiences, than what I put in." Linda encouraged the young women to identify their own passions and then to get involved in areas that are meaningful to them.

The women at both events were encouraged to get involved, stay involved and invite others to join them. For further information on ways to get involved with Federation's women's division, contact Susan Avitan Kariv, Chief Development Officer, at (210) 302-6968.

YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS

SPOTLIGHT ON...

HMMSA volunteers change the world one student at a time

by Sophia Cathcart

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart." – Elizabeth Andrew

Each day the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio touches someone's life – through stories of hope and resilience, education to empower against prejudice and bullying, and the profound act of standing up to injustice. These lessons are often taught to the wider community by our volunteer docents, who give countless hours to the Museum's mission. Below, one of HMMSA's newest docents, Dr. Steven Rosenblatt, offers his unique and personal perspective on his work on behalf of the HMMSA.

Q: What first inspired you to become a docent?

A: I cannot say that I was inspired to be a docent. I see teaching the Holocaust as a responsibility. I believe that as a first-hand witness to the life of a survivor, I have a unique and creditable ability to present the stories.

Q: What do you think the Museum could accomplish with more volunteers like yourself?

A: I am new at this but I suspect that there are schools who cannot take the time to come to us. With more volunteers, we could go to them...It will take a village to tell the story every day that it is requested.

Q: What is the best experience you've had with a tour group?

A: I think that I [truly] reached at least one individual: a mother of a disabled ... came up to me after my presentation and said that her son had said to her, "You mean that I would have been killed also, not just the Jews?"

Q: What advice would you give someone who is interested in volunteering with the Museum?

A: I am not a natural teacher. I have to work hard to find ways to reach these young people who think that this is just a day off from school for an excursion. You have to find ways to draw them in. You want to make them feel for just a moment what it might have been like to have lived (or died) as a Jew in the Holocaust.

The Holocaust Memorial Museum is a program of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer and joining the HMMSA team, please call (210) 302-6807 or email info@hmmsa.org.

WWII documentary screened to sold out crowds

In January, San Antonio became one of just three cities around the globe to screen *German Concentration Camps Factual Survey*, an official British documentary film on the Nazi concentration camps, based on footage shot by the Allied forces in 1945. Restored by the Imperial War Museum, the film premiered at the Berlin Film Festival before traveling across the pond to Los Angeles, and San Antonio.

The screening, organized by the Holocaust Memorial Museum's special program's manager Sophia Cathcart, garnered national



Taken from original shot sheet. Smiling children through barbed wire, photo Courtesy IWM Film.

attention as more than 500 community members attended two sold-out screenings. Says Cathcart, "Having worked with the staff of the Imperial

War Museum during my time in London, I knew the scholarship and quality of the film would be

See **DOCUMENTARY**, page 9



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DOCUMENTARY

continued from page 8

unparalleled. Our hope now is that others will understand the true horror of the Holocaust, and the role every day people played in it.”

Indeed, as IWM curators and editors put together footage for the film, they were overwhelmed with what they saw, asking themselves why people would go to the lengths they did to cause harm to their prisoners. “This documentary doesn’t just condemn the Germans,” said IWM’s senior curator Dr. Toby Haggith. “We are all responsible for all atrocities such as the Holocaust.”

To learn more about the Holocaust Memorial Museum of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio please visit www.hmmsa.org.

PJ Library and JCC host Purim celebration for young children

Lauren Abraham,
PJ Library and
Partnership Coordinator,
and **Aliyah Kuchinsky**

The annual *Celebrate Purim* program presented by the Barshop Jewish Community Center and PJ Library was a huge success!

While the program is typically held outside to accommodate being dog friendly, the rainy and damp weather called for Fido to stay home and for the fun to be moved indoors. Purim was still celebrated with delicious hamantashen, professional face painters, frisbee decorating, crown



Children get their faces painted at the 2015 Celebrate Purim event at the JCC. Photo courtesy of Warren Lieberman.

making, and fun games like “knock the hat off Haman,” as well as a book sale managed by The Twig.

In addition to Purim, the event celebrated literacy as the occasion marked the start to the Read-a-Thon for the Block and Dreeben School and headlined PJ Library author Tracy Newman as part of the Barshop JCC’s Author and Lecture Series.

Newman read her book *Shabbat is Coming*, in which a family and their beloved dog prepare for Shabbat. At the conclusion of her reading, PJ Library

hosted a dog mask making craft for children while Newman signed books and took photos with the emerging readers.

The joy of reading aloud continued with Miss Anastasia, a local favorite, as she engaged the children with books about dogs, Shabbat, and Purim. The event concluded with some very lucky winners receiving PJ Library books and videos, and JCC Fogiel Gift Shop gift cards in an exciting raffle.

“This event really got to the core of what PJ Library and our Jewish community



Kelly Maizel and daughter Sari Maizel enjoyed decorating and putting together a Purim dog mask to represent the main character of the dog in the featured PJ Library book, *Shabbat Is Coming*.

stand for: bringing reading to life in a fun Jewish way! Early literacy is such an important piece of child development, as we are always helping to enhance our child’s vocabulary and word development. Meeting and hearing from real authors and teachers was such an amazing aspect of the program!” said Suzanne Patrick, PJ Library Advisory Committee Member.

We all look forward to continuing the joy and learning of our Purim celebration throughout the year.

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Drew Glick, Dr. Ohad Ronen, and Dr. Mike Ozer



(l-r) Israel and Overseas committee chairs David Komet, Lauren Stanley, Federation CEO Ronit Sherwin, Robert Stanley, Rabbi David Komerofsky, Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Lauren Abraham, and guest speakers Dr. Ohad Ronen and Dr. Arie Eisenman

Israeli physicians share stories about helping those in need in war torn Syria

In March, the Jewish Federation of San Antonio presented an Israeli Physicians Panel Discussion on *The Treatment of Syrian Casualties in Israel*. The panel was moderated by two leaders of the San Antonio Maimonides Medical Society, Dr. Michael Ozer and Dr. Mike Stern. The panel featured Dr. Ari Benov

(currently residing in San Antonio), along with Drs. Arie Eisenman and Ohad Ronen (from the Western Galilee of Israel in San Antonio's Partnership Region).

The program was brought to San Antonio by the Maimonides Society, Partnership2Gether, Israel and Overseas Committee,

CRC Israel Task Force, and Hadassah San Antonio Chapter.

The doctors shared passionate stories about the tremendous work that Israel is doing to help its Syrian neighbors.

Here are some of the reactions from voices of our community who attended the moving event:

It is hard to put into words how strongly I feel about the work these doctors do. Being called Satan. Knowing that you are saving the life of someone who wants to kill you. I cannot help but think about how often we are presented with the opportunity to perform the mitzvot of Tikkun Olam. Rarely are we faced with the dilemma of coming to the aid of an enemy.

The medical professionals of the Galilee Medical Center selflessly and without prejudice save the lives of Arabs, Druse, Christians, Syrians and Jews every single day. They go to great lengths to provide every patient with equal quality of care while respecting cultural differences. I am in awe.

- Lauren Stanley, Co-chair, Israel and Overseas Committee

What struck me is that Israel's position to offer not just some care but the EXACT care that its own soldiers and civilians receive is nothing short of astounding. Their commitment to do the right thing even in the face of overwhelming hardship makes me proud of my profession and proud to be a Jew.

The next part of the talk that impressed me was the sheer number of obstacles facing the hospital - cultural, religious, language, and constant danger from war violence. And yet - they not only persevere - they seem to be thriving. (It is) a testament to the will of the people and the optimism people in that region have for a better future.

-Dr. Michael Baumholtz, Maimonides Society Member

I was so impressed by Israel's willingness to care for those who bear so much animosity towards them in the hope of a future of greater understanding. They present a model of service above self that is worthy of emulation.

- David Komet, Co- chair, Israel and Overseas Committee



Dr. Arie Eisenman, Jean Karren and Marge Present.

PARIS

continued from page 6

"I went to Paris with a delegation from Federation, so that I could just give this survivor a hug," Hurwitz said. "She simply went shopping for a challah in her local kosher supermarket, and as she described it, she walked in the store and found a dead body at the entrance.

"She was pulled in by a gunman, but thankfully survived. I needed to give her a hug. I needed to tell her and all the Parisian Jews, that they are not alone. The Jews around the world care. We all care,

and we are here for you."

Dr. Amy Benedikt, National Women's Philanthropy Board member and San Antonio's Lion of Judah Chair, shared personal thoughts about her own involvement locally and nationally, and encouraged women to continue their involvement with the Federation and the community with pride and with strength. The afternoon ended with renewed friendships, and with inspiration.



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Alissa Levey Baugh, Lauren Abraham, Rivkie Block, and Lisa Litman of PJ Library Goes to School

PJ Library Goes to School

San Antonio is proud to be the 19th PJ Library community in the United States to be accepted into the esteemed PJ Library Goes To School program. PJ Library Goes to School is a process for integrating Jewish values into your early childhood curriculum through PJ Library books and other children's literature. PJ Library Goes to School program director and educator, Lisa Litman, from the National PJ Library offices in Agawatham, Massachusetts visited

San Antonio to lead an introductory workshop with the directors of the local Jewish preschools: Block and Dreeben School for Young Children at the JCC, Gan Gani Preschool of Chabad, and Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim.

The day included tours of each preschool and an educational session to delve into the nuts and bolts of the program. PJ Library will have a presence in all three schools beginning in August 2015.



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4th Annual Walk Against Genocide on April 12

The Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, which is a founding member of the San Antonio Coalition Against Genocide (SACAG), is hosting San Antonio's fourth annual Walk Against Genocide. The walk will be held at the Campus for the San Antonio Jewish community on Sunday, April 12 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The event will include music by Dana Clark. Participants of all ages are invited to the walk with genocide survivors and to hear their stories of renewal and hope.

Prior to the walk, the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio, also a founding member of SACAG, will be open to the



public from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. For more information, contact the Community Relations Council office at (210) 302-6960.

San Antonio Jewish teachers gather for a day of learning

The Jewish Federation hosted a citywide teacher in service on February 1 for 45 teachers from across the city who work with Jewish after school programs. While the San Antonio Jewish community is small, many of these teachers do not know each other but share many of the same experiences. The in-service included a keynote session about answering tough questions in the classroom, as well as a series of electives the teachers could choose including Technology in the Classroom, Promoting Positive Behavior in the Classroom, Communicating with Parents, and a Purim Text Study.



Organizers say the in-service not only brought teachers together, but also showed the importance of continuing education for teachers. "The more we invest in our teachers and show them that they are valued, the better the quality of education will be for our students," said Rachel Stern. "It's a win-win and a program that we will surely continue."

The event was planned by the Educator's Council which is made up of Rachel Stern (Jewish Federation), Karen Katims (Congregation Agudas Achim), Rochel Teldon (Chabad of San Antonio) Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg (Congregation Rodfei Shalom), Lisa Goldstein (Temple Beth El), Rachel Rustin (JCC) and Lauren Abraham (PJ Library).

Your Federation team expands

Amy Levine-Reagin, who is often the person you first speak with when calling the Federation office, has been promoted to Accounting Associate in the Federation's Finance Office.

Caitlin Strayer has joined the JFSA staff as the Office Manager. Her duties will include

providing support for the Community Relations Council, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, PJ Library and other programs as needed.

We welcome you to stop by to welcome Caitlin to San Antonio, and congratulate Amy on her new position.

At issue: Life in the Fast Lane

In his famous short story *A Hunger Artist*, Franz Kafka depicts a master of fasting, a man who makes a public exhibition of his refusal to eat. Crowds gather each day to stare in awe at his spectacular feat: five days without any food or water. ten days. thirty days, forty days . . . the Hunger Artist loses track of time, while the fickle public loses interest. Eventually, as no one cares enough to notice, the Hunger Artist wastes away, replaced by a healthy, hungry panther, who delights the crowds with his hearty appetite.

Kafka's story has been interpreted in many ways, most often as an allegory of the starving modern artist alienated from a vulgar public indifferent to the work of creative genius. However, Kafka, who spent almost his entire life in Prague and died in 1924, a few years before anti-Semitism morphed into genocide, was Jewish, and it is tempting to see the fate of the Hunger Artist as foreshadowing the destruction of European Jewry. It is true that Kafka, who ended his formal Jewish education with his bar mitzvah, wrote in his journal: "What have I in common with Jews? I have hardly anything in common with myself and should stand very quietly in a corner, content that I can breathe." But it is also true that he took an intense interest in Yiddish theater and, in the final months before his death from tuberculosis, was studying Hebrew with the intent of



Perspective:

STEVEN G. KELLMAN

emigrating to what was then Palestine.

With only a hazy notion of the afterlife, Judaism is a worldly religion that places its emphasis on savoring this world. Asceticism (avoidance of all forms of indulgence, typically for religious reasons), and celibacy are not Jewish values, and Jews do not withdraw into monasteries or nunneries. Though "*Ess, ess, mein kind!*" is not a Biblical injunction, it has been uttered by enough Jewish mothers to enough Jewish children to assume the force of an Eleventh Commandment. Since the Talmud insists that "there can be no joy without food and drink," is not the very idea of a Hunger Artist profoundly goyish? If Tay-Sachs, colorectal cancer, and neurosis are Jewish diseases, anorexia would appear to be Gentile. One of the Five Pillars of Islam is Ramadan, an entire month of fasting. Mormons abstain from food on the first Sunday of each month. In Northern India, Hindus fast every Thursday; in Southern India, every Tuesday. Ash Wednesday is a fast day for Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists, Anglicans, and Presbyterians. Jews, it seems, prefer to nosh.

Nevertheless, the Hebrew calendar is speckled with more fast days than a bagel is with poppy seeds. One,

Ta'anit Bechorot (The Fast of the First-Born), is observed on the 14th of Nisan, which falls this year on April 3. It is the day preceding Passover, and every first-born Jewish son is supposed to refrain from food and drink as a reminder of how first-born Israelite males were spared the Tenth Plague that slew Egyptian sons.

Most first-born Jewish men do not observe and are probably not even aware of *Ta'anit Bechorot*, but it is hard to claim ignorance of Yom Kippur, the only fast day mentioned in the Torah. A solemn day of atonement, it is the holiest day of the year, in which victuals are a distraction from spiritual reflection. But for the pious, Yom Kippur Kattan (Little Yom Kippur) is no small matter either. It is a monthly fast observed before each Rosh Chodesh in the year, unless it falls on Shabbat. Add to

those several Jewish fast days four more: the Fast of Gedaliah (in observance of the assassination of the Jewish governor of Judah); the Fast of Tevet (in observance of the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar); the Fast of Esther (in observance of Queen Esther's preparation to plead with her husband to spare Persian Jews from Haman's genocidal plot); and the Fast of Tammuz (in observance of the breach of Jerusalem's walls).

It is Jewish custom for the bride and groom to fast on their wedding day and for an entire community to refrain from food for 40 days if someone drops a Torah scroll. Fasts often memorialize misfortune, and Tisha b'Av - the ninth day of Av - has become an all-purpose purge of grief; it commemorates the destruction of the First Temple, the destruction of the Second Temple, the

Roman defeat of the Bar Kokhba rebellion, the AMIA bombing in Buenos Aires, and, for good measure, the Holocaust. But Jewish history has been so fraught with *tsuris* (the Kishinev pogrom, the Munich Olympics massacre, the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the attack on a kosher market in Paris, the retirement of Sandy Koufax, etc.) that no Jew ought ever to feel right doing anything on a full stomach.

In days of yore, before refrigeration, microwaves, fast-food franchises, and Ziploc bags, it might have been much easier to refrain from *fressing*. If there's nothing in the cupboard, you might as well fast. But in an overfed culture in which eating comes too easily, the discipline of resisting might bring benefits to body, mind, and spirit. Perhaps in part because its title was

See **FAST LANE**, page 13

Gary S. Gossen, M.D., F.A.C.G.
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Rodfei introduces *Getting to Know the Service* minyan

Every other Shabbat, Rodfei now offers an introductory *minyan* for those trying to get more out of the Shabbat service. Led by Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg, the *minyan* focuses weekly on a different part of the service. Each prayer is given a translation, historical background, and in-depth commentary before being sung together. All backgrounds and levels are welcome.

“Attending the Shabbos morning ‘Getting to Know the Service’ breakout sessions at Rodfei has helped me better understand the purpose behind the service’s structure and the meaning of the prayers,” said Barbara Powell.

“I particularly enjoy the way Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg walks us step-by-step through each section of the service, answering questions along the way,” Powell added. “I now have

answers to questions I hadn’t thought to ask, such as why we say Kaddish so many times and why the repetition of the *Shmona Esrei* (*Amidah*) is different from the silent version. I feel much more confident and comfortable in services since attending the sessions.”

The service is at 10:30 Saturday mornings. For dates, contact rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

Young couples social club announces upcoming events

The Young Couples Club of Agudas will host a number of events in the coming weekends including:

- **April 11th:** Post Passover Pizza and Beer Night. 9 p.m. at Franco’s Italian Restaurant and Lounge, 10003 NW Military Hwy, 78231.
- **May 2nd:** *Cinco De Mayo* Party and Games Night at Agudas Achim at 7:30 p.m.
- **May 27th:** Couples Cooking Class at Young Chefs of San Antonio in Stone Oak. 7-9 p.m.

For more information on these programs, including the cost, email Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham at rabbi.abraham@agudas-achim.org or RSVP on Congregation Agudas Achim facebook page.

Hebrew Free Loan Association elects new officers and board members

Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Antonio (HFLA-SA) has announced its 2015 officers:

-Marianne Kestenbaum has been elected HFLA-SA President. Kestenbaum assumes the top position after fourteen years on the Board, including prior stints as Secretary and Treasurer.

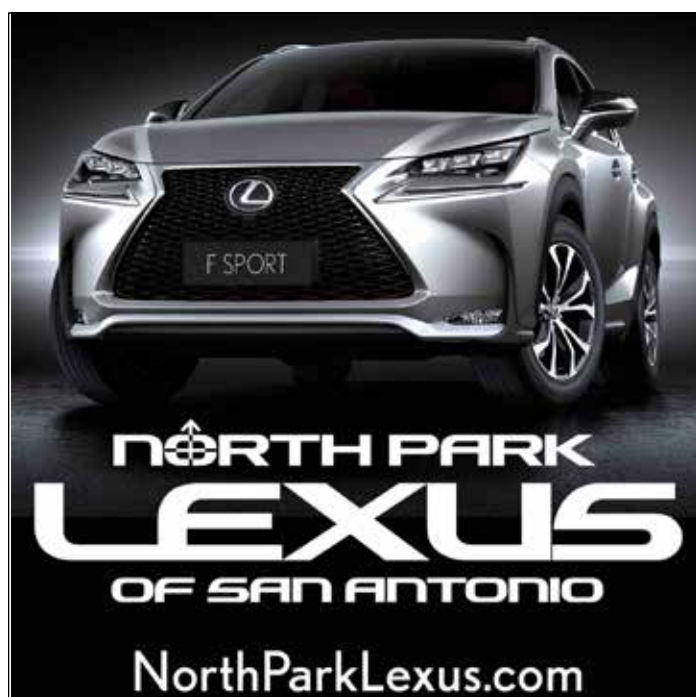
-San Antonio attorney and HFLA-SA Past President, Michael Robbins will return as Vice President and Chairperson of the Loan and Collections Committee.

-In addition to her role as Immediate Past President, Shari Markowitz assumes the duties of Secretary. Markowitz has served as HFLA-SA Director for more than a decade.

-Past President and Treasurer, Greg Meyer, has been elected Treasurer.

HFLA-SA also announced three additional new Directors: Dr. Stephen Cohen, Tim Grossman and Rivka Schechter.

The HFLA-SA mission is to provide financial assistance in the form of interest-free loans and foster self-sufficiency among members of San Antonio’s Jewish community. For more information, visit www-hfla-sa.org.



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 Kelly Smith, MD
Habla Español

FAST LANE

continued from page 12

so ingenious, a book called *Fasting – The Ultimate Diet* was a huge bestseller in the 1980s. As for Kafka himself, he was a vegetarian. And when a colleague at the insurance company he worked at offered to share his lunch, a sausage, the author of “A Hunger Artist” replied: “The only fit food for a man is half a lemon.”

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

FROM THE COVER

RUTMAN

continued from page 1

Rutman has had a second career as Hazzan (cantor) following graduation from Orthodox Jewish institutions in Cleveland Ohio. For many years he served as Hazzan at Congregation Rodfei Shalom.

For the past 13 years, he and his wife Hedy have made their home in Zikhron Ya'akov Israel during which time he wrote his recent book: *Why Evolution Matters: A Jewish View*. All four of the Rutman's children are graduates of Alamo Heights High School. Two of them now live in Israel and two on the west coast of the United States. The Rutmans have ten grandchildren, 6 Israelis and 4 Americans.

The Maimonides Society is composed of Jewish physicians, dentists and

other medical practitioners who contribute to the Jewish Federation of San Antonio Annual Campaign.

The Myron B. Zinn, M.D. Memorial Lectureship was established in his memory by his family, professional colleagues, patients and friends.

Myron Zinn was an adjunct clinical professor of Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio for more than thirty years as well as maintaining a private practice. He had a deep and continuing interest in the quality of medical education and medical ethics.

Rutman's lecture is open to the public, but reservations are required at (210) 302-6960 or at www.jfsatx.org. The program is \$20 per person, which includes dinner (dietary laws observed).

REMEMBER

continued from page 1

Memorial Museum of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio in partnership with Congregation Agudas Achim, Congregation Beth Am, Congregation Israel, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, Temple Beth-El, Temple Chai and Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning.

Israel Memorial Day / Israel Independence Day – April 22

On April 22 beginning at 5:30 p.m., the Jewish community will gather for a Yom Hazikaron service to honor Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror.

At 6 p.m. that evening, the somber mood will turn to celebration, as the community celebrates

Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel Independence Day. The program will include an Israeli dinner, live music, PJ Library activities for young children, and a performance by the children's choir.

Both events are presented by the San Antonio Jewish Community: Barshop Jewish Community Center, Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning, Federation's Community Relations Council, Congregation Agudas Achim, Congregation Beth Am, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services, Hadassah San Antonio Chapter, Jewish Family Service, Jewish Federation of San Antonio, Partnership 2Gether, Temple Beth-El and Temple Chai.

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Agudas Achim Lag B'Omer picnic

Congregation Agudas Achim will be hosting a Lag B'Omer picnic on Thursday, May 7, 2015 from 5 p.m. to 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, popcorn, cotton candy, Italian ices to snack on and a hot dog/hamburger dinner. There will be balloon artists and other entertainers, lots of surprises and fun for all. RSVP at www.agudas-achim.org or call (210) 479-0307.

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New Course *Decoding Judaism* to tackle origins and evolution of Jewish tradition

Have you ever questioned the authenticity of our Jewish tradition? Do we have any evidence that the Bible text is divine and true? Who has the right to interpret the Bible – and adapt biblical law for modern times? Is there any evidence supporting the veracity of Judaism as we practice it today?

The Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning will present *Decoding Judaism: The Origins and Evolution of Jewish Tradition*, a new six-session Spring course being offered at two locations:

- Six Tuesday afternoons with Rabbi Chaim Block, beginning May 5, 12 p.m.-1:15 p.m. at the Law Office

of Golden Steves Cohen & Gordon, 300 Convent St., Suite 2600.

- Six Wednesday evenings with Rabbi Levi Teldon, beginning May 6, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m. at the Chabad Center, 14535 Blanco Rd.

Judaism Decoded tackles the toughest questions about the nature and legitimacy of rabbinic law. How do we know our interpretation is true? If it is true, why is it subject to differences of opinion? And with so many interpretations, how do we know which one reflects its original intent?

"From commandments engraved in stone to microchips and self-driving cars--a lot can change in

3,000 years," said Rabbi Levi Teldon. "The journey *Judaism Decoded* represents the inner story of our lives and of our people. We invite you to join us for the ride."

The course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of Jewish knowledge, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

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

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

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IDF officer to speak at Rodfei Sholom

An officer from the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) will speak at a special Israeli-style brunch at Congregation Rodfei Sholom in honor of Israel's 67th birthday on Sunday, April 19, Rosh Chodesh Iyar. His topic will be *"The Unique Spirit of Tzahal (the Israel Defense Forces)."*

In addition to the speaker, there will be a special program for children of all ages to include arts and crafts, Israeli flag making, storytelling, and more.

Students are encouraged to attend the lecture. The program starts at 10 a.m., and the speaker will address the

community at 11 a.m.

This is part of Rodfei Sholom's week-long celebration of Yom Ha'Atzmaut.

On Shabbat, Rabbi Scheinberg will speak about *Israel, Deleted but Not Defeated*.

All the programs will be on the synagogue grounds at 3003 Sholom Drive. For more information, contact Rodfei Sholom at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

The program is coordinated by the Israel Public Action Committee of Congregation Rodfei Sholom.

Comedienne Wendy Liebman to perform at Agudas Achim

Congregation Agudas Achim will be celebrating their Women of Valor – Eshet Chayil: the CAA Sisterhood Board and Education Director, Karen Katims on Sunday May 17 at 7 p.m.

Performing at the program will be comedy headliner, Wendy Liebman, who has been a regular on late night television, including Carson, Fallon, Letterman, Kimmel, Ferguson and Leno. She has done 1/2 hour specials for HBO and Comedy Central, and a Showtime comedy special, *Wendy Liebman Taller on TV*.

Agudas Achim Sisterhood is being recognized for their commitment, talents and contributions to the welfare of Agudas Achim. Karen Katims, long-time Education Director, will be acknowledged for her service and dedication to the

congregation's Inda Posner Religious School.

For ticket and tribute book greetings, please visit www.agudas-achim.org or call (210) 479-0307.



Henry Cisneros featured speaker at JFS Mother's Day Event on May 3

The Jewish Family Service annual Mother's Day Event will be held on Sunday, May 3. A reception for this year's honorees Harry Levy, Dennis Noll, and Lauren Stanley will begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner. The event will be held at the Weinberg Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community, 12500 N.W. Military Hwy.

Keynote speaker for the event will be former

U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros.

The annual fundraiser supports JFS programs that provide services and advocacy for seniors as well as the JFS Mental Health Program, which includes psychiatric services.

The event is open to the public. For reservations, or to place an ad in the event program, contact Cheryl Hayes at JFS at (210) 302-6921.

Rodfei Sholom's Sunday Funday trip to Israel

Area children can take a "trip" to Israel on Sunday, April 19, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in celebration of Yom Haatzma'ut.

Beginning with a Israeli breakfast, the group will "travel" to different parts of Israel and have a wide variety of experiences ranging from shopping at a "shuk" to going on an archaeological dig. NCSY teens will be the tour guides and will help with the children so that parents can hear the guest speaker.

The cost is \$2 per child. Please RSVP if attending by Wednesday, April 15, to rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

Israelstock II at Rodfei Sholom

On Thursday, April 23, Congregation Rodfei Sholom will host an outdoor live Israeli concert to celebrate Yom Haatzma'ut. Bring your

blankets and chairs to sit on the lawn to watch the concert. There will also be Israeli food, including *shwarma*, *falafel*, and beer. Bring your Frisbees and

other outdoor games and enjoy. Admission is free.

For more information, contact rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

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Hadassah San Antonio Chapter
Jewish Family Service
Jewish Federation of San Antonio
Partnership 2Gether
Temple Beth-El
Temple Chai

Hadassah deals with waste and waists

The Leah Goot Group of Hadassah will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, at Adante Senior Living's activity room, 2702 Cembalo Blvd. The guest speaker is David McCary, director of Solid Waste Management for the City of San Antonio. There is no cover charge, and refreshments will be served. For reservations or more information, call Kathy O'Neill at (210) 823-8603.

April 1 is the kickoff for Every Step Counts: Hadassah's Walking Program. The road—from Hadassah's New York headquarters to its hospitals in Jerusalem—is virtual, but the challenge

is real. Sign up at www.hadassah.org and track your steps for six months. You will be amazed how much ground you cover. Milestone pop-ups will encourage you along the way. No need to be an athlete (there are three levels to choose from.) Every step you take while shopping for your Seder, setting the table, or hiding the afikomen, counts. It's fun and healthy for your heart.

Also this month, the "Fab Five" western regions of Hadassah will meet in Los Angeles, April 24-26. For more information, please call Kathy O'Neill at (210) 823-8603.

Let the JCC cook you dinner for the 6th night of Passover

Are you nervous about having enough food and creativity to make dinner for each night during Passover? Give yourself a break for one night and make a reservation for the inaugural Barshop JCC Kosher for Passover Style Dinner to be held Wednesday, April 8 from 6 – 8 p.m. in the Holzman Auditorium. Perfect for a party of one or the whole family, this casual and relaxed dinner is great option during the holiday.

Whether you choose to drop-in for a quick dinner or to linger for a while, there will be a few activities for children, but no formal program. The menu (subject to change) will include Matzah Lasagna, Fresh Salad and Dressings, Sweet

Carrots, Cake, and Fruit. The meal will be prepared in a Kosher Dairy kitchen that is under Vaad supervision with ingredients that are Kosher for Passover.

Adults 12 and older are \$15, Children ages 6 to 11 are \$10, and children ages 5 and under are free.

Reservations may be made online at www.jccsanantonio.org/seasons or by calling (210) 302-6828. Capacity is limited, so be sure to register as soon as possible. The J needs to commit to Campus Catering, therefore no refunds will be granted. Please bring your own high chair or booster seat. For more information, contact Aliyah Kuchinsky at (210) 302-6827 or kuchinskya@jcc-sa.org.

Rabbi in Residence at Chabad

Hundreds of people enjoyed Chabad's Schaffer Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat weekend with Rabbi Benjamin Blech on February 27-28. The Rabbi, who is a professor of Talmud at Yeshiva University, presented 3 lectures over the Shabbat weekend including *If God is Good, Why is the World so Bad?*

The weekend was sponsored by Dr. Eric and Adah Schaffer in loving memory of Dorothy and Alfred Schaffer.



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David Brog to speak at Rodfei Sholom in honor of Yom Ha'Atzmaut

Congregation Rodfei Sholom has invited David Brog, Executive Director of Christians United for Israel (CUFI), to address the congregation at a celebratory Shabbat dinner in honor of the 67th anniversary of the re-establishment of the State of Israel. The San Antonio community is invited.

Brog's topic will be *Winning the War Against BDS*. Kabbalat Shabbat Services will start at 7 p.m., dinner will be at 7:45, followed by Brog's lecture.

Before joining CUFI, Brog



worked in the U.S. Senate for 7 years, rising to be Chief of Staff to Senator Arlen Specter and Staff Director of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He has also served as an executive

at America Online and practiced corporate law in Tel Aviv and Philadelphia. Brog is the author of *Standing with Israel: Why Christians Support the Jewish State* (2006).

For information about the dinner and/or to make a reservation, please contact the synagogue office at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

The program is being coordinated by the Israel Public Action Committee of Congregation Rodfei Sholom.

JCC's Annual Golf Classic on May 1

The JCC will hold its annual *Fore! The Kids* Annual Golf Classic on Friday, May 1 at SilverHorn Golf Club, 1100 W. Bitters Rd. Registration will open at 11 a.m. and shotgun start at 1 p.m.

The JCC hosts its annual Golf Classic each spring to support youth and inclusion programs, including, but not limited to Summer Camp, Inclusion Camp, and After School programs.

The success of these and other programs is enhanced by

the funds raised through the community's support of the JCC's annual golf tournament. Golfers may choose to participate as individuals or through a sponsorship. Non-golfers may choose to purchase a hole sponsorship or make a contribution to the silent auction.

To learn more or to register, visit www.jccsanantonio.org/forethekids or contact Carisa Heiss at (210) 302-6866 or heissc@jcc-sa.org.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

B'NAI TZEDEK SHARES CONNECTIONS WITH PARTNERSHIP REGION IN ISRAEL



Lainey Komerofsky (at left) and Molly Rosenblatt decorate a torch for the Partnership2Together program. At the B'nai Tzedek allocation event, the teens finished the evening drawing their personal relationships with Israel and the Jewish people. The torches that they decorated will be sent to Federation's partnership cities in order to showcase our connections and share our flames of passion with the other 12 cities in our US/Israel partnership with the Western Galilee region. For more information about B'nai Tzedek, a youth philanthropy program of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, call (210) 302-6960.

PESACH PAINTING PARTY

The Rodfei Sholom Rosh Chodesh Group for Women celebrated the month of Adar at The Painted Plate on February 19 making special pieces for Pesach.



(l to r) Nola Marx, Judy Scheinberg, Susan Furman, Barbara Powell, Araselia Carlson, Jennifer Cohen, and Mikki Shectman.

TASA OBSERVES HEBREW READING MONTH

In an effort to boost Hebrew reading skills and have students practice their Hebrew at home, Torah Academy of San Antonio designated February as being a Hebrew Reading Month.

Students were encouraged to read every night and track their progress, by counting the amount of words read.

"As this was a brand new and untested initiative, I really expected the participation to be rather low, considering all the other events and programs at school," said Rabbi Yossi Marrus, Judaic Studies Director of TASA. "But... even with the busy Purim



holiday preparations and multiple programs and activities going on at school, approximately 66% of students participated in the voluntary initiative. I am

incredibly proud of our students who read 47,690 words."

To learn more, visit www.torahacademysa.com.



CHABAD YOUTH CELEBRATE PURIM AT ADANTE

On Sunday, Feb. 22, close to 30 children from Chabad Youth Zone traveled in a stretched Hummer limousine to Adante Senior Living. The children delivered Purim Shalach Manot food packages decorated by the students of Gan Gani Preschool and packed by the Women's League of Chabad. The children showcased their talents in front of the seniors and did an arts and craft project together.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



HAVING A BALL!

Rodfei Sholom teens headed out for a night of bowling with Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg February 21.

CONGREGATION AGUDAS ACHIM SISTERHOOD 96TH ANNUAL TEA

Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood honored (l to r) Gloria Cohen, Sylvia Cohen and (in front) Esther Vexler at their 96th Annual Tea. The ladies were honored for their dedication and commitment to Agudas Achim Sisterhood.



INT'L. TEEN SHABBATON



On March 26, 1500 Jewish teenagers gathered in NYC for the International CTeen Shabbaton. A delegation of 12 teenagers, led by Rabbi Yossi Marrus and Chana Block, returned energized, uplifted and inspired to bring the joy of Judaism with them back to San Antonio. The highlight of the weekend was a Havdalah ceremony and concert in Times Square with Israeli superstar Gad Elbaz broadcast live on 10 jumbo screens on the American Eagle building and streamed live on the internet.

MASTERING THE ART OF BEING A PARENT



More than 2 dozen participants graduated from *The Art of Parenting: Jewish Wisdom and Insights for Raising Children*, a six-week course by the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) offered at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

SAN ANTONIO CELEBRATES PURIM IN STYLE

Throughout our Jewish community, there were Purim celebrations galore!



Seniors who attended a Purim-themed Sunshine Club luncheon at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning on March 3 had loads of fun visiting with friends, sampling wines, making hamantaschen and more.

The Sunshine Club is a joint program of the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning & Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services. All Sunshine Club events and activities are complimentary. In addition, transportation to and from all events are available upon request, free of charge. For more information call (210) 764-0300 or visit www.ChabadSA.com/SunshineClub.



Students from universities across San Antonio joined together at the Chabad Jewish Student Center to celebrate Purim together. For more information about Chabad on Campus, visit www.ChabadonCampusSA.com.

Thirty young adults in their 20's and 30's enjoyed Prohibition Purim at The Green Lantern, a speakeasy bar in Stone Oak. The event was hosted by Nicole Porterfield, Rabbi Levi Teldon, Rochel Teldon and Ben Wind, and was sponsored by YJSA (Young & Jewish San Antonio) and The Tribe.



(l-r) David Feld, Saadyiah Leff, Madeline Yanover, Lilah Yanover and Hannah Feld enjoyed dressing up for the Purim program at JAS @ the J.



SAFTY, Temple Beth-El's youth group, hosted its annual Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 1. The event included carnival games, bounce houses, hamantaschen and other treats, plus plenty of fun.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Face Painting was just one of the activities during the 2015 Celebrate Purim event held at the JCC on Sunday, March 1. Read more about it page 9. (Photo courtesy of Warren Lieberman.)



It was pure fun and games at this year's Purim Palooza, Agudas Achim's annual Purim Carnival. Like many families, the Glazier-Piesman Family got into the holiday spirit by dressing up in costume.



More than 250 people attended Rodfei Sholom's Mexican themed Purim party, including Megan and Jacob Kluger and their children Shea, Jonathan, and Ganessa.

Gan Gani Preschool celebrated Purim with a masquerade, carnival and play put on by the preschool teachers.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

SHABBAT A LA DR. SEUSS AT THE HEINTZ

The Cat in the Hat and his friends were the order of the day for a special Heintz Preschool Shabbat whose rhyme ensured a good time.



PLAYTIME!

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim students enjoyed a little Spring Break fun during a playdate at Big'z Burger Joint.



FOR THE LOVE OF PINK!

Rodfei Sholom's Sunday Funday February 15 included a trip to see Magic Children's Theatre's *Pinkalicious*.



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JCC seniors celebrate Purim

Senior adults can now attend “Senior Chefs”, a new class offered as part of senior programming at the Barshop JCC. In March the class had one goal in mind—hamantaschen.

Maya Siler, coordinator of Adult & Senior Adult Services, and Rachel Rustin, Director of Jewish Journeys, distributed dough and different flavors of fillings to each participant while explaining why we eat hamantaschen on Purim. Throughout the room, experienced bakers helped hamantaschen novices in folding each side to create the characteristic triangle shape. As the fillings got passed from table to table, seniors remarked on their favorite flavor of hamantaschen as well as recounted stories of past holidays.

Each senior took home their own bag of hamantaschen to share with family and friends. “Senior Chefs is great because it allows seniors to participate in a cultural project without having to worry about



Helen Pollack with the hamantaschen she made at the first Senior Chefs class.

supplies or equipment. It’s also nice for them to have a homemade product to take away from the program,” said Maya Siler.

The next Senior Chefs, which will feature a Passover treat, will be held at the JCC on Tuesday, April 7. Contact Maya at (210) 302-6860 to reserve a spot in the class or for more information.

JCC partners with Texas Public Radio for Silver Solutions Fair

Event geared toward seniors - May 18 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The JCC’s senior adult programming offers something for everyone, from meals and transportation, to the arts and fitness classes. This year, the JCC has established a new partnership with Texas Public Radio’s Silver Solutions Senior Resource Fair.

Presented for the fifth consecutive year, Texas Public Radio’s *Silver Solutions* is a free event spotlighting programs and services provided by local organizations that support San Antonio seniors and their caregivers. It will also serve as a conduit for private consultations with a variety of experts on topics related to aging, caring for elders, and elder health.

This year’s event will take place on Monday, May 18 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Holzman Auditorium at the Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community. Attendees can gather information pertaining to their health, their resources, their faculties, their passions, and their independence. In addition, senior-friendly pets will be available for adoption at the event.

Texas Public Radio and the JCC have made it a priority to help seniors in our community age in place and live life to its fullest. To learn more about this event, contact Cindy Alleman at Texas Public Radio by calling (210) 801-8244, or find more information at www.tpr.org.

NCJW hosting a High Tea on April 19 for honorees

On Sunday, April 19 at 3 p.m., the National Council of Jewish Women will be hosting a High Tea to honor Janet Neuenschwander and Ruthie Wurzburg.

Neuenschwander has served both on the local

section of NCJW and now the national board. She has traveled around the world learning about the needs of women and sharing her observations. Wurzburg has been President of the San Antonio section and

continues to serve as the long time leader of the Presidium.

The cost is \$18. For location, more information, and to RSVP to Marilyn Berkowitz at marilynn31@sbcglobal.net.

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IN THE COMMUNITY: SENIORS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

National Healthcare Decisions Day is April 16

None of us wants to think about being unable to make decisions about our own healthcare.

Unfortunately, there are times when, due to illness, accident or the end of our journey in life, we must rely on others to make decisions for us. It is critical that you plan ahead for such events.

Everyone should have a will, a power of attorney, and a durable medical power of attorney. There are also other documents that your attorney

can explain and help you with that will direct those making the decisions for you based on what your wishes are, including organ donation, resuscitation and more.

No matter your age, it is a good idea to get the conversation started so that you can have confidence that, when the time comes, unexpected or not, you have your decisions in order and they have been made clear.

One conversation can make all the difference.

National Healthcare decisions day, April 16, is a day designed to help get this conversation started. There are resources available to help both start and guide you down the path to creating the documents necessary and also how to talk with loved ones. A few of these resources include: www.practicalbioethics.org and www.theconversationproject.org.

Please feel free to call the Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services office at (210) 302-6946 if you feel we can also be of assistance to you in any way.

*Daniel Laser, GMJSS
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CLOSED SABBATH

IN THE COMMUNITY: YOUTH

JCC Summer Camp registration now open

JCC Summer Camp registration officially opens to the community on Wednesday, April 1. The JCC offers a variety of camps varying from 4-week to 1-week offerings to kids entering grades K-10 (as of Fall 2015).

Two sessions of 4-week traditional camps will be offered in addition to a vast series of 1-week Academy Camps including Exploration for children entering grades 1 through 2, Discovery for kids entering grades 3 - 6, Sports for kids entering grades 2 - 9, Tennis for kids entering grades 3 - 9 and Navigator for teens entering grades 7 - 9. One-week camps provide families with maximum flexibility in making their summer plans.

Teens entering grades 9-10 are encouraged to enroll in the JCC

Counselor in Training program where participants will work closely with counselors and specialist to learn leadership skills, how to work with children and build skills in a variety of areas.

In addition to the camps mentioned above a series of Pre and Post Camp offerings will also be available providing families with an entire summer of activities for their children.

Visit www.jccsanantonio.org/camp for details and to access online or hard copy registration forms. Many camps do have limited spaces available; families are encouraged to register soon to secure places.

For further information contact the JCC Camp Office at (210) 302-6859.

Camp SEED now accepting applications

Registration is now open for Camp SEED 2015 at Rodfei Sholom. The Jewish Summer camp includes daily swimming, weekly trips, and a trip to Six Flags Fiesta Texas. Camp will be held June 22 through July 31. Scholarships are available. Contact Rodfei at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557 for more details.

Heintz Preschool Yad B'Yad Fiesta celebration is April 15

Yad B'Yad Intergenerational program will join in the fun of the largest annual San Antonio city-wide party, Fiesta.

On April 15, the students of Heintz Preschool and their grandparents and grandpals will enjoy a morning of San Antonio traditions.

They will learn about the Fiesta royalty and create their own Fiesta crowns, medals and fiesta flowers. The celebration will include music and dancing with Ms. Mindy, and a traditional Fiesta snack.

The program will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude by noon at Congregation Agudas Achim, 16550 Huebner Rd.

The Yad B'Yad program is made possible through a grant from Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.

All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact the Heintz Preschool office at (210) 479-0429 or email yadbyad.heintz@gmail.com.



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Safety first!

Officers from the San Antonio Police Department's SAAFE unit recently visited Gan Gani Preschool as part of the school's safety curriculum.

Heintz Preschool now open for enrollment

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim is currently accepting enrollment for children ages 18 months to 5 years.

"Heintz Preschool teachers use a variety of creative methods to engage students in science, math, reading, writing, and art," said Director Aliza Cantu. "To further enhance their preschool experience, these little ones are enveloped in Jewish celebrations and traditions via activities such as prayers, clergy-led Kabbalat Shabbat services and Havdallah services."

The school's Yad B'Yad program, underwritten by Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services, fosters intergenerational relationships between Heintz preschoolers and local Jewish seniors through specially-themed monthly programming.

The preschool also offers enrichment programs such as Israeli dance, music, Spanish, and yoga.

The preschool offers two-, three-, and five-day options and an extension of core school hours from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Contact Preschool Director Aliza Cantu for a tour and registration packet, at (210) 479-0429 or a.cantu@agudas-achim.org.

BBYO Regional Kallah

Seventeen teens represented San Antonio BBYO at this year's Lonestar Regional Kallah in Houston, participating in a variety of leadership programs and activities. The highlights of the weekend were participating in a range

of creative Shabbat services as well as in various chapter related programs.

The Lonestar region is made up of boys and girls chapters from Austin, Houston, and San Antonio. BBYO is open to all Jewish high school students.

Membership opportunities are available year-around.

If you would like to learn more about BBYO, please contact Dylan Ashworth, City Director, at (210) 302-6869, or visit www.jccsanantonio.org/bbyo.

Jewish Federation's teen philanthropy group donates \$5000 to charities

On Sunday, Feb. 22, Jewish teens throughout the city and ranging in ages from 7th grade through seniors in High School, gathered for the Annual B'nai T'zedek Allocations Event.

This event is Bnai Tzedek's showcase event of the year as it gives the teens the chance to learn about all kinds of organizations and have the opportunity to decide how and where to spend their money. The B'nai T'zedek fund is a fund in which members contribute \$250 after their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. The fund is matched and managed, producing a pot of money that the participants can then allocate into the community where it is needed. This event mirrors the adult allocations process of the Jewish Federation. We do this so that from the start, these teens understand the Jewish



commandment of helping others. Our hope is that this value of supporting the Jewish community will stay with these teens throughout their lives.

This year the agencies that presented were:

The Jewish Community Relations Council, the Holocaust Museum, the Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Services, OROT (Akkó Food Shelter), the Bridge Youth Emergency Center,

and MOJI (Mobile Jewish Museum).

After the presentations, the teens discussed and voted on where the money should go. The deliberation was led by Bnai Tzedek co-presidents Molly Rosenblatt and Justin Zeldes.

If you have a Jewish teen who would like to get involved, please contact Rachel Stern for more information rpstern@gmail.com.

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The new documentary Crossing The Line 2 depicts rising anti-Semitic activity on North American campuses.

Movie brings attention to anti-Israel activity on college campuses across America

In an effort to combat growing anti-Semitism and anti-Israel activities on college campuses across North America today, Jerusalem U has released a new documentary called *Crossing the Line 2*.

The documentary reveals the rise of anti-Israel activity and anti-Semitic rhetoric on North American university campuses, and demonstrates when reasonable criticism of Israel 'Crosses the Line' into anti-Semitism.

The video can be accessed and shared for free online at <http://ctl.stepupforisrael.com/watch>.



Hillel students engage in activity from San Antonio to Austin

San Antonio Hillel students have had great experiences in the past couple weeks.

A brunch was held with Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg, allowing students to meet him, learn about his background and what it is like to be a Rabbi in San Antonio.

Students traveled to the University of Texas in Austin for Shabbat 500, a special and unique experience. At this event, more than 500 students and Jewish professionals

filled the UT Recreation Center Gymnasium where multiple Shabbat services were offered, including reform, conservative, and orthodox. Additionally, a communal dinner, which included Kiddush and songs, was served. Finally, multiple Oneg options followed the dinner, ranging from a variety of discussion topics, song sessions, and more.

Students also celebrated Purim on various occasions, including gathering to bake

hamantaschen (pictured), and celebrating the holiday by going to a two-step venue called Wild West.

For more information on how to get involved, or if you know of a young adult between the ages of 18-26 that would like to travel to Israel this summer, either on a free Birthright Israel trip or on one of the many other available Israel programs, please contact Samantha Mazuz at samantha@sahillel.org

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Farewell/Lag B'omer bonfire with Chabad on Campus

Chabad on Campus will be hosting an end of semester Farewell/ Lag B'omer Bonfire on Thursday, May 7 at 7 p.m. at the Jewish Student Center, 13210 Hopkins Glade, San Antonio, Tx 78249.

Students will enjoy an elaborate BBQ and bonfire

with hamburgers, s'mores and all the trimmings as they celebrate the accomplishments of the 2014-2015 school year.

Chabad will be honoring their graduates with a special ceremony at the event and initiating them as proud alum

of Chabad on Campus of San Antonio.

Current high school seniors and future San Antonio university students are invited to this event to get a taste of the Jewish student community in San Antonio.

Tim's Vermeer screening at Rodfei Sholom

Rodfei Sholom Sisterhood will host a screening of Sony Pictures Classics hit documentary from Penn & Teller *Tim's Vermeer* on Sunday, May 3.

Seating will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Rodfei Sholom. Light refreshments will be served.

Tim Jenison, a Texas-based inventor, attempts to solve one of the greatest mysteries in all art: How did 17th century Dutch Master Johannes Vermeer (*Girl with a Pearl Earring*) manage to paint so photo-realistically 150 years before the invention of photography?

The epic research project Jenison embarks on to test his theory is as extraordinary as what he discovers. Spanning 8

years, Jenison's adventure takes him to Delft, Holland, where Vermeer painted his masterpieces, on a pilgrimage to the North coast of Yorkshire to meet artist David Hockney, and even to Buckingham Palace to see a Vermeer masterpiece in the collection of the Queen.

Jenison will attend the screening and will hold a Q & A after the film. There is no admission charge. However, no one will be admitted without a reservation.

Please RSVP to janicefagen@gmail.com with your name and those of all members of your party no later than April 30.

Rumors encore at the Vex

Neil Simon's hilarious farce *RUMORS* returns to The Sheldon Vexler Theatre this May. The Vex opened its doors in 1999 with this amusing evening of theatre by America's favorite playwright. The show returns, featuring an all new cast and director, with performances from May

2 to May 31. Show times are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets, ranging in price from \$15 to \$21, go on sale Thursday, April 6. For tickets call (210) 302-6835 or visit www.vexler.org for more information.

Cooking demonstration at the J

After Passover, bring back the bread in style with a cooking class on Monday, April 13 at 6 p.m. at the JCC in the Holzman Auditorium.

Green Vegetarian Cuisine Chef Mike Behrend will

demonstrate the preparation and cooking of a post-Passover kosher, vegan, bread-themed meal.

Recipes will be provided, and attendees will enjoy a 3-course meal.

Tickets are \$25 per person and must be purchased in advance online at www.jccsanantonio.org/adultservices. Space is limited and tickets are non-refundable.

Area organizations selling Fiesta parade tickets

San Antonio B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO) is currently selling Fiesta parade tickets for the Battle of Flowers on Friday, April 24 and the Fiesta Flambeau night parade on Saturday, April 25. Proceeds from this annual fundraiser support BBYO scholarships and programming for San Antonio high school Jewish youth on a local and regional level.

Tickets may be purchased over the phone by calling Lauri Batey at (210) 302-6859, or in person at the JCC Youth & Camping Office, located on the upper level of the Campus. Find out more information about San



Fiesta Flambeau Parade. Photo courtesy VisitSanAntonio.com

Antonio BBYO online at www.jccsanantonio.org/bbyo.

The Alamo Brandeis B'nai B'rith 211 Lodge is also selling tickets for Fiesta parades this month. B'nai B'rith will use funds raised to

support Hillel programming in San Antonio, Austin and College Station, as well as projects of Jewish Family Service and Jewish Federation. For more information call Lydia at (210) 928-1188.

Used book sale at the Beldon Library

The Used Book Sale will take place from Sunday, April 26 through Tuesday, April 28 in the Holzman Auditorium.

The hours for the sale are:

Sunday, April 26, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Monday, April 27, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

and Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Donations of gently used books, CD's, and DVD's are being accepted. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Beldon Library.

Regular library hours are Monday, 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.; and Wednesday, 1:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

YOUR JEWISH COMMUNITY

JEWISH FEDERATION OF SAN ANTONIO

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

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Coordinator B'nai Tzedek and The Tribe
Rpstern@gmail.com

Caitlyn Strayer, Office Manager

Lynn Waghalter, Librarian Beldon Library
waghalterl@jfsatx.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Congregation Israel of San Antonio (Conservative, Covenantal Judaism in Prayer and Practice)
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San Antonio, Texas, 78248
All Faiths Chapel:
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San Antonio, Texas 78240
Phone: (210) 387-2436
Hazzan David Silverstein, JD,
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Accompanist and Choral Director

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

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

Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus
of the San Antonio Jewish Community
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President: Alice Viroslov 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: Shari P. Pulman
Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) works to meet the needs of Jewish seniors in the San Antonio area by providing transportation and direct services, and through grants to 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: Ilene Kramer
Jewish Family Service (JFS) offers a wide range of professional counseling, social services, advocacy for victims of crime, and services for seniors including senior living and care options.

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.

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

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

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

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

New Jewish patient advocacy program launched in San Antonio

Jewish patients seeking assistance navigating the health care system will now have a new resource through Ohr Lanu Foundation, a new patient advocacy program recently established in San Antonio.

The foundation, created and supported by a Jewish philanthropist who wishes to remain anonymous, will provide guidance and assistance with their care with the help of community volunteers and area physicians, and through referrals

from area rabbis.

“Our fundamental belief is that every patient should be well cared for, and that no one who is ill should feel lost, alone, neglected or left behind,” said spokesperson Margaret Gofman-Klein. “Our goal is to ensure that those in need will have their medical needs met by a dedicated team within the community.”

Patients in need of mental health services will be referred to Jewish

Family Service.

“Our goal is to take care of the patient across a continuum of care,” added Gofman-Klein. “Some patients will require guidance and referrals to specialists, while others will be in need of second opinions. We will take care of the referrals and the scheduling. We will offer transportation to patients to and from doctors’ appointments. In those instances where needed, a volunteer will be able to accompany

the patient during an appointment, to serve as the liaison. Volunteers will be available to pick up patient prescriptions from pharmacies and deliver them to patients’ homes. We will also be able to assist with filing medical claims, completing medical forms and verifying insurance benefits.”

For more information on services or to volunteer, contact Margaret Gofman-Klein at (210) 973-7172 or mgksolutions@sbcglobal.net.

Speak out against anti-Semitism, actor Michael Douglas urges in Op-Ed

(JTA) — Actor Michael Douglas spoke out against anti-Semitism in an Op-Ed in the Los Angeles Times.

Douglas recalled that last summer his son, Dylan, was verbally assaulted at a pool at a resort in southern Europe because he was wearing a Star of David necklace.

“Afterward, I sat down with my son and said: ‘Dylan, you just had your first taste of anti-Semitism.’” Douglas wrote in the piece published March 14.

The Academy Award winner said he began reconnecting with Judaism since his son began to connect with the faith several years ago through friends. Dylan started attending Hebrew school and studying for his bar mitzvah, he said.

Douglas, who has a Jewish father — the famed actor Kirk Douglas — and a non-Jewish mother, as does his son, wrote, “While some Jews believe that not having

a Jewish mother makes me not Jewish, I have learned the hard way that those who hate do not make such fine distinctions.”

“It is time for each of us to speak up against this hate,” Douglas asserted. He called on religious leaders, political

leaders and citizens to speak out against anti-Semitism.

“So that is our challenge in 2015, and all of us must take it up. Because if we confront anti-Semitism whenever we see it, if we combat it individually and as a society, and use whatever platform

we have to denounce it, we can stop the spread of this madness.”

Douglas will receive the 2015 Genesis Prize, which carries a \$1 million honorarium, in June in Israel. The award recognizes an internationally renowned

individual who is a role model in his or her community and whose actions and achievements express a commitment to Jewish values, the Jewish community and Israel, and who can inspire the younger generation of Jews worldwide.

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British security stalwarts in record demand following Paris, Copenhagen attacks

By Cnaan Liphshiz

LONDON (JTA) — On a nondescript street in the London suburbs, guards with earpieces stand watch outside a brown building with blast-resistant doors and windows.

The building does not advertise the identity of its occupants, and the guards do not appreciate loitering by individuals curious to find out.

Though it resembles a secret government facility or money vault, the building is actually the headquarters of the Community Security Trust, widely considered the best-organized Jewish defense force in Europe and one of British Jewry's most admired institutions. With an annual budget of \$7.5 million, the CST has served for 20 years as the Jewish community's shield, research service and anti-Semitism watchdog.

In the United Kingdom, the CST has become the

natural address for record numbers of volunteers who have inundated the group with applications following the slaying of five Jews in two Islamist attacks earlier this year in Paris and Copenhagen. Within weeks of the attacks, the group had dispensed the entirety of its annual budget of matching funds for community security upgrades.

Outside Britain, Jewish groups from across Western Europe have sought CST's assistance in developing the sort of skills in crisis management, training and outreach honed by the group over the years.

"We're sort of CST copycats," said Michael Gelvan, the Copenhagen-based chairman of the Nordic Jewish Security Council, a regional security network set up in 2010. "For us, CST's structure and capabilities are absolutely the standard."

In March, JTA gained rare



A Community Security Trust guard keeps watch over a Hanukkah celebration in 2014. (Blake Ezra Photography)

access to CST's London-area headquarters, which comprises a buzzing situation room, a large gym area for briefings, a self-defense training room and conference rooms fitted with video equipment that link with CST's two other centers, in Leeds and Manchester.

The organization employs a staff of about 60 and a corps of 3,000 volunteers. Its budget comes almost entirely from donations.

After four people were gunned down at the Jewish Museum of Belgium last year, CST was the only foreign Jewish security service that sent a delegate to the situation room set up by the European Jewish Congress in Brussels.

Sending delegates "allows CST to share its experience with other communities when it counts, but also to learn from the situations they encounter," said Mark

Gardner, CST's director of communications.

In 2003, CST sent representatives to Istanbul after the bombing of two synagogues left 27 dead and 300 wounded. The representatives learned that most of the injuries from the attack were caused by shards of glass from broken windows. Subsequently, Gardner said, CST installed anti-shatter film "literally on every community-building window."

In the past, Jewish communal defense in England was the responsibility of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. But following Palestinian terrorist attacks against European Jews in the 1990s, British Jews decided in 1994 to establish CST as a stand-alone agency responsible for tactical security as well as its own budget and fundraising.

CST's chairman, Gerald Robinson, said last year that the danger of jihadist terrorism dominates his organization's work. But as he noted in CST's 2014 report, the effort to defend against that threat draws from decades of experience in dealing with fascists and neo-Nazis.

Today, the group's volunteer guards in CST vests are ubiquitous in Jewish neighborhoods standing sentry outside synagogues and at large communal gatherings. But in the wake of several deadly terrorist attacks against Jewish targets in Europe in recent months, CST resources have been put to the test like



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See **SECURITY**, page 33

Final election results keep Netanyahu far ahead of challengers

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party garnered 30 Knesset seats, and the left-center coalition Zionist Union received 24 seats in the final results of the national election.

The Central Election Committee

released the final vote count on March 19, after the tabulating of an additional 200,000 absentee ballots from diplomats serving abroad, soldiers, prisoners, and hospitalized and seriously ill voters.

Some 4,253,336 citizens voted, 72.3 percent of the electorate.

It was the highest voter turnout since 1999, according to the Israel Democracy Institute.

The number of votes required to pass the minimum threshold of 3.25 percent was 136,808. The number of votes for each seat came out to 33,482.

UCLA student government passes resolution condemning anti-Semitism

(JTA) — The undergraduate student government of UCLA unanimously passed a resolution condemning anti-Semitism.

On March 10, the Undergraduate Students Association Council voted 12-0 for the measure after more than 100 students spoke in support of it, The Daily Bruin student newspaper reported.

The resolution calls on the student government to fight anti-Semitism

and condemns recent incidents of anti-Semitism on University of California campuses, including the questioning in February of Rachel Beyda, a Jewish member of the UCLA student government, by fellow members about whether she can be impartial because of her religious ties. It also noted swastikas painted on the door of a Jewish fraternity at UC Davis.

Also, the resolution also

calls for diversity training for student government members and an end to the demonization of Israel, but leaves room for "appropriate and acceptable criticism of Israel."

Members of the campus Hillel and Council President Avinoam Baral drafted the resolution, according to the Daily Bruin.

The Jewish Voice for Peace organization in a statement issued after

the vote said it was "deeply concerned" that the resolution "further enshrines long-standing political efforts to silence legitimate criticism of the state of Israel by codifying its inclusion in the definition of anti-Semitism."

The student government voted to make the video of the Feb. 10 hearing that included the questioning of Beyda available on YouTube.

Christians United for Israel presses uncommitted Dems on Iran bill

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Christians United for Israel published full-page newspaper ads in the home states of four Democratic senators urging them to back a bill that would mandate congressional approval of any Iran nuclear deal.

The ads appeared March 16 in the Billings Gazette in Montana, the New York Post, The Star-Ledger in New Jersey and the Richmond Times-Dispatch in Virginia. They targeted Sens. Jon Tester of Montana, Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Cory Booker of New Jersey and Mark Warner of Virginia.

CUFI, whose leader, Pastor John Hagee of Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, has been sharply critical of the Obama administration, also canvassed followers in the states to call and email the senators.

President Barack Obama has said he will veto the bill, arguing that its passage could scuttle nuclear negotiations now underway between Iran and the major powers.

SECURITY

continued from page 33

never before.

Within three weeks of the killing of four Jews on January 9 at a kosher supermarket near Paris, CST had pledged all of the \$750,000 it had set aside this year for the Security Enhancement Project, an initiative in which the CST matches funding for security upgrades provided by individual communities. Some \$7.5 million has been allocated through the project since 2008.

"Schools, synagogues and

other institutions that we had already advised long ago to up their security arrangements rushed to ask us for funding," Gardner said.

Along with the requests for help came an unprecedented flood of volunteers. More than 150 people seeking to enlist as card-carrying security guards for CST approached the organization in the aftermath of the Paris attack. The rush broke a record set only last summer, when 150 people stepped forward following an uptick in anti-Semitic attacks tied to Israel's war in Gaza, according to Gardner.

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Reports: U.S. may no longer block anti-Israel U.N. actions

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Obama administration may reconsider shielding Israel from critical actions in international forums, according to reports.

Politico and the New York Times on March 19 each quoted unnamed senior administration officials as saying that the United States may back a U.N. Security Council resolution that would set the parameters for a two-state solution according to the 1967 lines.

The change comes after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in the lead up to the March 17 elections, pulled back from endorsing a two-state solution, saying there would be no Palestinian state on his watch.

In the past, the Obama administration has shielded Israel from critical resolutions,

even when such resolutions hewed with administration policy; one famous instance was a 2011 U.S. veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution on Israeli settlement expansion that was in line with President Barack Obama's opposition to settlement building.

Administration officials, asked by JTA for comment, pointed to statements March 18 by spokesmen for the White House and State Department.

Those spokesmen did not say that the United States would now back, or at least not oppose, Israel-critical actions in international forums, but they did say that a change was possible.

"We are not going to get ahead of any decisions about what the United States would do with regard to potential action at the U.N. Security Council," Jen Psaki, the State

Department spokeswoman, said in her briefing for reporters.

"I will reiterate that it has long been the position of the United States under Republican and Democratic presidents, and it has been the position of successive Israeli governments, that only a two-state solution that results in a secure Israel alongside a sovereign and independent Palestine can bring lasting peace and stability to both peoples," she said. "The prime minister, as we all know, in his comments (before the election) indicated that he is no longer committed to pursuing this approach. Based on the prime minister's comments, the United States is in a position going forward where we will be evaluating our approach with regard to how best to achieve a two-state solution."

Israel criticized for women's rights violations

(JNS.org) At the March 20 annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW),

Israel was the only country the commission criticized for alleged women's rights violations.

A CSW report titled Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women criticizes Israel for what it calls "high levels of unemployment and poverty" among Palestinian women due to Israel's control over territories including the West Bank, Gaza, and eastern Jerusalem. (Gaza is governed by the Hamas terrorist group.)

Noting that Israel was the only U.N. member criticized by CSW, Israel's Foreign Ministry slammed the report, saying it was "fighting the decision, which was yet another testimony to the hypocrisy of U.N. members," Ynet reported.

The report ignores Hamas, which has routinely violated women's rights in recent years.

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Reform, Conservative streams condemn Netanyahu's warning on Arab 'droves'

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The two largest American Jewish religious streams criticized Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for an election day appeal in which he warned that Arabs were voting in "droves."

"Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu indicated that Israel was endangered by

Israeli Arabs exercising their right to vote," the Conservative movement's Rabbinical Assembly said in a statement March 19. "This statement, which indefensibly singled out the Arab citizens of Israel, is unacceptable and undermines the principles upon which the State of Israel was founded."

Netanyahu in a video posted on Facebook urged Likud voters to cast ballots saying "droves" of Arab voters were being bused to the polls in a campaign he said was funded from abroad.

Rabbi Rick Jacobs, the president of the Union for Reform Judaism, in his [criticism](#) also noted

Netanyahu's election eve renunciation of a two-state solution; post-election, Netanyahu has walked back those comments, saying a two-state solution is still his goal.

"The final hours of the campaign Jewish groups look to calm post-election U.S.-Israel tensions — including the prime minister's

renunciation of his commitment to a two-state solution as well as his naked appeal to his hard-right bases' fears rather than their hopes — were disheartening," Jacobs said. "Israel deserves better, especially from a prime minister who holds himself out as the leader of the entire Jewish people."

Hate messages painted on Florida synagogue

MIAMI (JTA) — Vandals defaced a synagogue in Hollywood, Florida in March.

Hate messages and cryptic warnings including "I'm watching you," and "[expletive] Jews" appeared on B'nai Sephardim, a Sephardic synagogue, the Miami Herald reported. The synagogue serves about 700 families, according to the B'nai Sephardim website.

Hollywood Police Chief Frank Fernandez said that his department takes "any type of

hate messages very seriously," and promised a thorough investigation.

The gate of the synagogue had been left open overnight because construction crews were working late.

The Anti-Defamation League decried the incident. Hava L. Holzhauer, ADL's Florida regional director, said that the vandalism "is damaging to the community. It is physical damage to a place of worship, and it's also emotional damage."

Standing Strong for San Antonio



Left to right: Albert Estrada, SVP; Michael Molak, San Antonio Region Chairman; Jack Roney, SVP; Mayra Mendoza, Bank Officer; Sarah Pendley, VP; Shahid Abdulla, SVP; Chris Davenport, SVP; Connie Gilbert, SVP; Alvin Shenk, VP; Marco Gonzalez, SVP

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Remembering deceased Jewish military veterans

Jewish War Veterans of America San Antonio Post 753 asks you to remember these Jewish military veterans whose *yahrzeit* (anniversary of the individual's death) occur in the month of April and who are buried in a local cemetery. [If you know of a name that is missing please contact Herschel at (210) 494-8768.

Altman, Richard	Goldberg, Sydney	Mittler, Earl
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Bailey, Billy	Hoot,Morton	Naranjo, Humberto
Beanstock, Sam	Isgur, Irving	Nossov, Morris
Bennett, Victor	Kamrass, Samuel	Passur, Morris
Berkie, Louis	Kanter, Melvyn	Pilloff, Lawrence
Berler, Alvin	Kaufman, Jack	Pusin, Bernard
Bitterbaum, Bertrand	Kelman, Dave	Pyles,Thomas
Brenner, Alan	Kislin,Benjamin	Reich, Mendel
Cohen, Leonard	Kleiman, Paul	Rimmel, Louis
Cohen, Sam	Kline, Sidney	Rosenfeld, Robert
Cohn, Wilton E	Koplin, Marvin	Rosenthal, Moss
Dictor, Bernice	Kraft, Al	Seeliig, Billy
Edelman, Robert	Lachman, Melin	Siegel, Abram
Feinstein, Morris	Lang, Jack	Silverman, Howard
Feldman,Herbert	Lawson, Charles	Spiro, Herbert
Finkel, Philip	Lifshen, Sheldon	Sterling, Jules
Forman,Samuel	Logan, Marcia	Tarver, Sylvia
Friedlander,Dorothy	Love, Alan	Weiner, Joseph
Friedlander Darwin	Malina, Abraham	Weiss, Henry
Garrett, Ernest	Maltz,Albert	Wolfe, Alexander
Glickman, Ralph	Maltzberger, Robert	Wyant, Michael
Goldberg, Issac I	Maze, Albert	Zausmer, Bert
Goldberg, Mack	Miserocchi, Louis	

MAZAL TOV

BAT MITZVAH: Addison Nicole Lamb

Addison Nicole Lamb will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, May 2 at Temple Beth El. She is the daughter of Stephen Weber and Lisa Lamb Weber, and sister to Taylor and Cameron.

Addie is a seventh grader at Stinson Middle School where she is on the A Honor role. She plays the Euphonium in the symphonic band and qualified for All Region band. She enjoys music and basketball.

For her Mitzvah project Addie volunteered her time to the Special Education Department at school and at the NISD Adapted Physical Education/Special Olympics.



Ehrenberg Chesler honored by UCSA

Laura Ehrenberg Chesler was honored in March at the 61st Annual Brotherhood/Sisterhood Dinner of the United Communities of San Antonio (UCSA). Ehrenburg Chesler is a past chair of the San Antonio Holocaust Memorial Museum and United Communities of San Antonio, and has chaired numerous committees of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. She is the current chair of the Federation's Investment

Committee. She has also served as a board member of the Arthritis Foundation, San Antonio Library Foundation, and the UTHSC Advisory Council.

She is a current board member or active volunteer of the UTHSC Nursing Advisory Council, UTHSC Center for Medical Humanities and Ethics, San Antonio Holocaust Memorial Museum, San Antonio Area Foundation, and UCSA.



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Not all have had the blessing of being cared for by compassionate or empathetic medical practitioners, but the fact that these individuals can speak for themselves, gives them the power to speak in favor of professional care or in protest of unprofessional care..." - Dr. Elisheva Placeres Nawroci

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MAZAL TOV

Rabbi Barenblat named to leadership position in Jewish Renewal Movement

Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, a San Antonio native who now serves as the Reform Rabbi for Congregation Beth Israel, a reform congregation in Massachusetts, has been named co-chair of ALEPH, the Alliance for Jewish Renewal. She along with co-chair, Rabbi David Evan Markus, have been tapped to lead the movement forward.

In her blog the Velveteen Rabbi, Barenblat describes the Jewish Renewal Movement as “a grassroots, transdenominational approach to Judaism which seeks to revitalize Judaism by drawing on the immanence-consciousness of feminism, the joy of Hasidism, the informed



do-it-yourself spirit of the *havurah* movement, and the accumulated wisdom of centuries of tradition.”



Welcome, Baby Davis

Liz Rockstroh and Greg Davis are proud to announce the birth of their son, Gilad Nathan Rockstroh Davis. Gilad was born February 21, 2015, weighing in at 6 pounds, 14 ounces, measuring 19 inches long. Gilad is the brother of Maggie, Claire and Norman Davis. His grandparents include Russell and Terry Davis, Lana Rockstroh, and Bruce Rockstroh and Kelly Masters. He is the great-grandson of Geraldine Blaschke.

Laser receives Certified Senior Advisor certification

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services' Executive Director Daniel Laser was recently awarded his Certified Senior Advisor (CSA®) designation from the Society of Certified Senior Advisors (SCSA).



As the leading provider of certification for professionals serving seniors, SCSA's Certified Senior Advisor (CSA) credential requires CSAs to uphold the highest ethical standards for the benefit and protection of the health and welfare of seniors.

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Through a comprehensive

educational program, SCSA helps professionals understand the key health, social and financial issues that are important to the majority of seniors.

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services says Laser's professional designation reflects the agency's ongoing mission to serve San Antonio's Jewish senior population.

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BAR MITZVAH:

Aidan Paul Sowry

Aidan Paul Sowry will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, April 25, at Congregation Agudas Achim. Aidan is the son of Molly and Michael Sowry, and brother to Emma. Aidan's grandparents are Linda and Marvin Aboloff of San Antonio and Earl White of Dallas.

His great grandmother is Merle Polunsky. Aidan remembers his grandmother, Renee White of Dallas, great grandparents, Sam Polunsky of San Antonio, Rose and Sam Aboloff of Philadelphia, and Sarah and Maurice Mizrahi of Cairo, Egypt.

Aidan is a 7th grade honor student

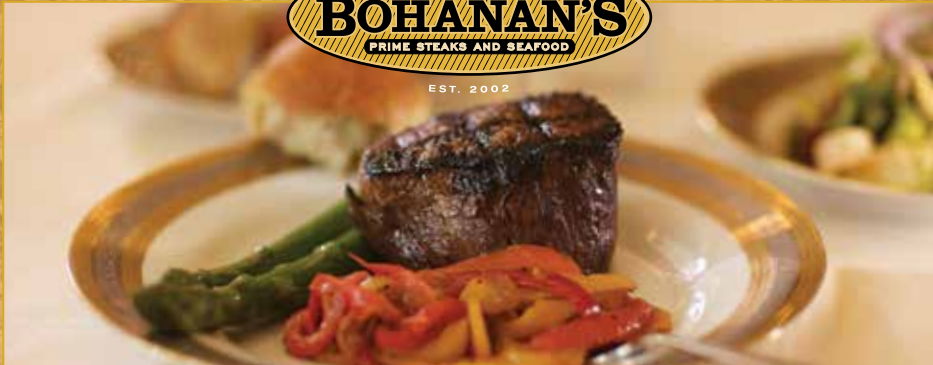
at Eisenhower Middle School, where he plays football and basketball, and runs track. Aidan also enjoys reading, spending time with family and friends, and traveling to Wimberley, Texas each summer to Camp Young Judaea.

For his Mitzvah project, Aidan has chosen to contribute to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Aidan wants to focus on their programs supporting physical health and wellness which are designed to reduce stress, combat depression, and promote an overall healthy and active lifestyle by encouraging participation in fun, educational activities.



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