

# The Jewish VOICE

Informing and Connecting Jews in El Paso-Las Cruces

Shevat/Adar 5779  
February 2019



## The Leadership Issue

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Jewish Federation  
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# FEDERATION

## The Mindful Leader



Janet Kent Wechter

Most individuals become leaders because they want to make a difference in people's lives. As I look around at our Jewish organizations here, we are so fortunate to have dedicated leaders – both volunteers and professionals – who give so much of their time and talents to us. They are passionate about tikkun olam, making the world a better place.

When I contemplated accepting the chairmanship of the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso, I was humbled. I wanted to do my part and make a difference in our community, but I would be following in the footsteps of many JFED presidents like my husband, Randy, my father-in-law, Aaron, and my dad, Sidney Kent, who all were great Jewish community leaders and those would be big shoes to fill. What could I bring to the table? I thought about what tools I would need to be a transformative leader and I thought I would work on becoming a “mindful” leader.

Mindfulness is the basic human ability to be fully present. We all have a capacity to lead, but staying on task, listening and finding creative solutions can be challenging. It's imperative that we take time in our busy lives to slow down and pause. A mindfulness practice improves clarity, stimulates creativity, and helps us make good decisions. Organizations need effective leaders, mindful leaders, leaders who listen and build trust within board rooms and communities.

This type of leadership takes practice, dedication and commitment. I hope to bring more compassion and kindness to this kind of service to others, whether it is chairing an outreach committee at your synagogue, organizing a special event, or leading the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso.

There's a story I'd like to share with you – it's one of the many interesting tales I've heard listening to Tara Brach, a psychologist and meditation teacher. It begins with a good king who is growing old and, having no children, realizes he needs an heir to the throne.

This king decides he will invite all those interested in becoming the next king to come to his palace. Always being an egalitarian and democratic sort, the king wants to provide everyone an equal opportunity to look their best. He sets up a room with gorgeous clothing and jewels with a feast to enjoy along with spirits and games while dressing.

The King and his minister wait patiently in his chambers and could hear his subjects having a good time, admiring themselves, flirting and criticizing others. Hours pass and the good king sends his minister downstairs to see what is keeping them. The minister sadly reported to the king that everyone had left, taking with them the remaining food, the clothing and the jewels they had garnered. They were full and tired – and they forgot why they came.

This is really a story about all of us, and how we take much for granted and forget why we are here, each day, each hour. I tell this story because it is tough being mindful. By becoming self-aware and taking time to listen, we respond rather than react and make better decisions. It's challenging being a leader, but by developing a mindfulness practice, we can improve our positive leadership skills and remember why we are here.

My journey toward greater awareness and appreciation of the moment began many decades ago when I started a yoga practice, but my journey to become a more mindful leader began with a daily meditation practice.

Observing Shabbat is a good example of mindfulness; it's a time of rest, focused reflection, prayer and meditation in the present tense, without distractions. Being mindful “out in the regular world” sounds simple and it is, until it's not. So, however you choose to pause, do it daily; it takes practice and constant reminders, but once we are aware of the benefits, we can begin our journey to be mindful.

Obviously, mindfulness, being present, is easier when we are on

vacation, but the true test is being mindful throughout our day, at home, at work, in the car and in the non-profit board room. As we leaders focus on our various agendas, being mindful leaders helps us be more focused participants and, most importantly, better listeners.

At your Jewish Federation, we are listening – and responding. Join us in focusing on building our Jewish community and making a difference for Jews, both here and abroad. We're better together!

This month, a great committee with representatives from different

congregations is working together to build our sense of community during the Sun City Shabbat celebration on the February 21-23 weekend with a few new activities for you and your family and friends. I hope you will all decide to join in on a family challah bake, a “sip and bake” session, or a Shabbat dinner in someone else's home, all designed to bring the community together and celebrate life. See you soon!

Janet Kent Wechter  
President

Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso

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# Eat. Pray. Schmooze.

## Sun City Shabbat

Thur., Feb.21 - Sat., Feb.23

**Thursday**  
5:30 - 7:00 PM  
Family Challah Making  
Light supper

7:30 - 9:00 PM  
Challah Sip & Make  
Wine & appetizers

**Friday & Saturday**  
Shabbat dinners, worship,  
food, family & friends

RSVP by Friday, Feb.15  
[jewishelpaso.org/SunCityShabbat](http://jewishelpaso.org/SunCityShabbat)

## The Jewish VOICE

A publication of the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso

The Jewish Voice of El Paso, published ten times a year, is dedicated to informing, educating, and uniting the Jewish community by providing news items of local, national, Israeli and international concern.

The Jewish Voice will consider for publication any materials submitted that support the mission of the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso and have relevance and appeal to the El Paso Jewish community. Articles are subject to editing at the editor's discretion and are subject to space limitations. Letters cannot be longer than 150 words and articles must be kept to a maximum of 300 words. Please email to [thevoice@jfedelpaso.org](mailto:thevoice@jfedelpaso.org)

Opinions are those of individual writers and not necessarily those of the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso. The Jewish Voice is not responsible for the kashrut of any product or eating establishment advertised herein.

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*Save the Date*

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Will you join us in doing a world of good?

# Good Deeds Day

**Sunday, April 7, 2019**

**Deadline for the March issue of the Voice: February 11**  
**Deadline for the April issue of the Voice: March 11**

# FEDERATION

## Sun City Shabbat: Feb 21-23

The Jewish Federation invites you to its Sun City Shabbat, a community-wide program to celebrate life – and loaves! The event is a spin-off from the national Shabbos Project held each fall that our community took part in during 2016 and 2017. In light of busy fall schedules and the High Holidays, we are adapting the concept for El Paso and Las Cruces in the spring and adding some fun.

Sun City Shabbat committee co-chairs Caren Szanton and Dani Hamicha and their committee – Stephanie Calvo, Ellen Goodman, Rabbi Larry Karol, Audrey and Eitan Lavi, Rabbi Scott Rosenberg, Denise Tolentino, and Rabbi Ben Zeidman – have been organizing the event to be as inclusive as possible and to broaden

the sense of Jewish community here. The weekend starts at the Galatzan Recreation Center at 650 Wallenberg Drive on Thursday, February 21, with preparing challahs to take home and bake for Shabbat.

Never made your own challah? “No experience necessary,” says Caren. “We’ll start from square one.” The first session from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. will appeal to families and those who don’t want to be out late. A light supper will be provided. The second session at 7:30 p.m. includes wine and appetizers for the young professionals and everyone else ready to schmooze while braiding challah.

On Friday night ElPasoConnect (for those of us in our 20s, 30s, and

40s) and Borderland Cafe Europa (our seniors’ program) will hold Shabbat dinners, respectively, at a private home and at Congregation B’nai Zion, while Federation Board members and other volunteers will host Shabbat dinners in their homes. Guests will be matched with hosts. “In Washington, D.C., where I lived before moving here, these home dinners were a big hit,” adds Caren. “We called it ‘Mystery Shabbat’ because you got to meet new people.”

To sign up for a Challah bake session, host a Shabbat dinner, or be a guest at one, visit [jewishelpaso.org/SunCityShabbat](http://jewishelpaso.org/SunCityShabbat) by noon Friday, February 15.

*Cindy Graff Cohen  
Editor, The Jewish Voice*

### These We Honor with Our Tributes

**Borderland Café Europa**  
To: Sylvia Cohen with Best Wishes for a Complete and Speedy Recovery  
From: Rochelle Saks  
From: Sue Bendalin

**Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso**  
To: Felicia Rubin with Best Wishes for a Complete and Speedy Recovery  
From: Sue Bendalin

To: Allan Goldfarb and Aaron Goldfarb in Honor of their Partnership/Law Firm  
From: Janet and Randy Wechter



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# FROM THE EDITOR

## Lola May: Happy 106<sup>th</sup>

Born January 28, 1913, Lola May is not only the oldest member of our Jewish community, but one of the oldest citizens in our region. Yet her age is not the most amazing quality of my dear friend. Lola is one of the best-read, best-informed, and funniest people I know.



Lola May at Monte Vista

Having lived through two World Wars and seen many cycles of history and sentiment about Jewish people before and after the Holocaust, Lola remains a keen observer of current events. With her dry wit and sometimes irreverent approach to life – a gift that age brings us all – we always enjoy a few laughs when I visit her at Monte Vista.

Monte Vista, where Lola has lived for nearly 22 years since her husband, Trube, died in 1997, held a birthday party for the retirement community's January birthdays. Lola, a regular attendee of Monte Vista's "Taste of Shabbat" Friday afternoons with our rabbis, took part in the celebration with her son, Bob May, a retired doctor of internal medicine, and daughter-in-law, Susie May, a retired teacher. Members of Temple Mount Sinai's executive committee attended along with Rabbi Ben Zeidman, who presented her with

a certificate honoring her as the oldest-ever member of Temple. A copy will be displayed at Temple Mount Sinai in perpetuity.

### A different world

Lola grew up in Philadelphia as the first child of Fannie and David Medoff, Russian immigrants who escaped pogroms and pre-Revolution political danger to make the crossing with family members. The pair met and married in the United States and had two more children: Harold and Gloria.

At the age of 15, Lola enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania and graduated as a teacher at 18. She met the love of her life, Trube May, from Muskogee, Oklahoma, who was attending Penn's Wharton School of Business. They married during the Depression in 1935.

Shortly after, they moved to Trube's hometown, Muskogee, with only about 50 Jewish families, was a shock at first for city-born Lola! Bob was born in 1937 and daughter Carol was born in 1942 and she stayed busy raising them while Trube ran a men's clothing store, one of several owned by his family.

The town did not have its own rabbi, but Trube or his father would lead Friday night services. Rabbi Morton Fierman (brother of Temple Mount Sinai's Rabbi

Floyd Fierman) came over occasionally from Tulsa 60 miles away for second-night seders and other holidays.

In 1955, the Muskogee store closed and the family moved to El Paso to be close to Lola's sister and brother-in-law, Gloria and Harold Levy. (Lola's brother, Dr. Harold Medoff, became a pediatrician in Philadelphia.) Trube began working for Union Fashion and they lived in the Kern Place area. Immediately they joined Temple Mount Sinai; Lola has been affiliated with Temple for 64 years.

### The importance of reading

In El Paso, Lola taught at a few schools, but spent most of her career teaching reading at Jefferson High School. To help those teenagers become better readers, Lola earned a master's degree in reading at UTEP.

Lola has had a lifelong love of words. Although she recently stopped working the New York Times crosswords puzzles, she solves other crosswords and word puzzles every day and enjoys playing the UpWords game – similar to Scrabble – with friends at Monte Vista.

A voracious reader her entire life, she now reads books on her Kindle. She has recommended many good books to me over the years – including the

800-plus-page biography of Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow which we



Lola with Bernie May, one of her seven grandchildren, and two of her twelve great grandchildren, Jax and Lola May, her namesake



Lola grew up in Philadelphia



Trube and Lola May



Trube and Lola May

enjoyed discussing.

I'll never forget the afternoon when Burton and I visited a couple years ago and I finally had the chance to recommend a book to her. I told her she had to read "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles. "Wasn't that a great story!" she immediately exclaimed. She had already read it, of course. She had even stayed in the Metropol Hotel, the setting for most of the novel, when she and Trube visited Moscow in the 1960s and shared her memories of the once-luxurious hotel.

I have learned much from my wise friend, a gracious conversationalist who unflinchingly asks me about my family and always leaves me feeling better about life and about myself. Thank you, Lola, and thank you for the smiles and laughter. Please join me in toasting the marvelous Mrs. May at 106!

Cindy Graff Cohen  
Editor, The Jewish Voice

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# COMMUNITY

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FEDERATION

# Pacesetters lead the way



**Board members and staff attend Pacesetters: Back row - Julian Gonzalez-Herrell, Scott Stevens, Hal Ettinger; Middle row - Said Buhaya, William Bass, Deb Kanof, Leslie Beckoff, David Kern; Front row - Steve Lanski, Sue Bendalin, Robin Furman, Loree Furman, Janet Wechter, Robert French, Stephanie Calvo (Board members not pictured: Monika Kimball, Eitan Lavi, Ophra Leyser-Whalen, John Moye, Debra Pazos, Mitchell Puschett, Neal Rosendorf, Dan Sonnen, Bill Stein, and Peter Svarzbein)**

To kick off the Federation's 2019 Campaign year, the Pacesetters – those community members who each give an annual donation of \$1800 or more – once again showed their philanthropic leadership by signing their pledge cards in January. Held at the elegant 1930s home of Dr. Steve and Wendy Lanski and co-hosted by Tony and Robin Furman, the evening also included the Federation's board members, who joined in the 2019 Campaign launch with 100 percent participation in signing early pledge cards.

The event focused on the work of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), one of the recipients of our community's Campaign funds. JAFI is a huge nonprofit with close to a \$400-million budget; about \$100 million comes from Jewish Federations in North America.

The keynote speaker was Arielle di Porto, longtime director of the JAFI program coordinating the Aliyah program for Jews moving to Israel. Arielle was also one of the main speakers at the Federation's Lion of Judah conference in Florida earlier this month. She landed in El Paso on the afternoon of the event and left the next day on an eight-day speaking tour in Atlanta, Los Angeles, and San Diego.

Arielle, who has worked for JAFI

for more than 25 years, moved to Israel herself in 1993. She shared her insider's perspectives on the precarious state of Jewish communities around the world, with special attention to the dangers for Jews in Syria, Iran, Tunisia, and Venezuela. In her native Morocco, a country once friendly to its population of 250,000 Jews in the 1950s and 1960s, there are fewer than 2,000 Jews remaining. In other countries, such as Yemen, fewer than 100 Jews remain and the need to get them to safety is strong.

Arielle was introduced by the JAFI senior vice president for global philanthropy, Morton Naiman, a good friend to our own Federation. Mort, a child of Holocaust survivors, spent more than 20 years working on his hometown Federation's campaign in Minneapolis. Prior to the dinner event and speaker, Mort spent almost an hour with our Federation board bringing them up to speed on just four of the many JAFI programs that support Israeli soldiers, newcomers to Israel, and others in need.

Many thanks to Wendy Lanski and Robin Furman for coordinating this educational evening and to all those who give generously to the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso.

*Cindy Graff Cohen  
Editor, The Jewish Voice*



**Pacesetters chairs Robin Furman and Wendy Lanski**



**Sue Bendalin and Randee Mansfield**



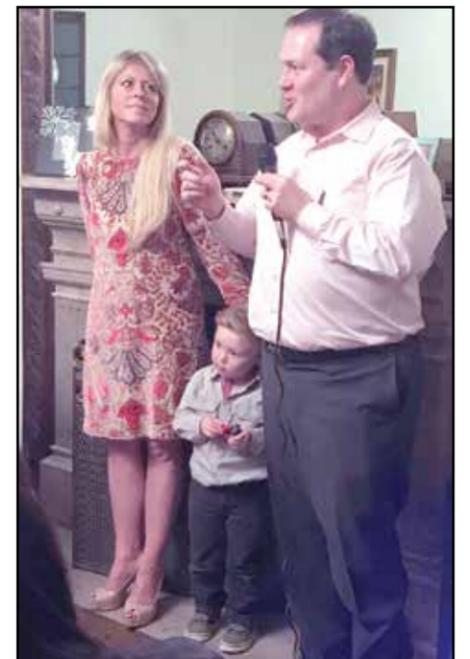
**Robert Beckoff and Randy Wechter**



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**Elaine and Bob Krasne**



**Host Wendy and Steve Lanski with son Liam**



**Bob and Sara Shiloff**



**Sue and Charlie Zaltz, with Stuart Schwartz and Janet Wechter**



**Rabbi Yisrael and Chana Greenberg**



**Jon and Arlene Sonnen**



**Stuart and Nancy Shiloff, Adam Rosenfield and Lauren Eisenberg**



**Arielle di Porto, Mort Naiman, and Steve Lanski**



**Martha Eisenberg and Jackie Gulbas**

COMMUNITY

# Why become a Jewish leader?

Anyone can be a leader and all leaders bring different talents and experiences to their roles. Leaders in our Jewish community serve their organizations and causes for different reasons, but there are many common threads. We asked a small number

of our leaders for their favorite leadership quote and why they chose to step up and take on leadership responsibilities. Two people picked the same quote, but everyone's reasons were unique. Here's what they said:



**Alan Cohen**  
Scoutmaster

**Troop 613,  
Congregation  
B'nai Zion**

I stepped up to take a leadership role because I saw the need, and if not me, then who? If not now, then when? I became a Scout leader for much the same reason, there was a need, and there was a void that needed to be filled. Children these days spend too much time in front of an electronic screen. On TV, computers, and phones, kids are playing in their virtual worlds.

Ironically, many of those worlds simulate the outdoors! Camping, hiking, and learning to cook outside are much more challenging and satisfying activities in real life. Let's take the time to show our children the rewards of an outside adventure!

*"Anyone, anywhere can make a positive difference."*  
-Mark Sanborn



**Cliff Eisenberg**

**President,  
El Paso  
Jewish  
Community  
Foundation**

I have taken leadership roles in the community because this is where I was born, raised and lived my entire life. My roots are here. The El Paso Jewish community has been so good to my family and me that I felt the need, desire and even the obligation to give back to this great community.

My involvement with the El Paso Jewish Community Foundation is my attempt to ensure the preservation and perpetuation of Jewish life in El Paso by providing ongoing financial support to local Jewish institutions and organizations.

*"No man will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself, or to get all the credit for doing it."*  
- Andrew Carnegie



**Jack Heydemann**

**President,  
Temple  
Mount Sinai**

I strongly believe that we must support our Jewish religious centers to maintain our Jewish community. It is community that holds us together as a people. Each generation must continue to plant the seeds for the next.

*"No man will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself, or to get all the credit for doing it."*  
- Andrew Carnegie



**Steven Lanski**

**Board Chair,  
El Paso  
Jewish  
Academy**

I initially became involved with the EPJA as I believe Jewish education is a foundational element of any Jewish community. I took on an increasing role in leadership this year to aid our school in serving our community and its children.

*"At the heart of Judaism are three beliefs about leadership: We are free. We are responsible. And together we can change the world."*  
- Rabbi Jonathan Sacks



**Shane Lipson**

**President,  
Congregation  
B'nai Zion**

Being a part of the Jewish community has always been important to me and I enjoy working with others who share a love of Judaism and a commitment to sustaining our spiritual and community life. I joined the Board of B'nai Zion after I moved back to El Paso seven years ago because I am passionate about continuing to be a part of the Conservative movement and its manner of religious observance that melds the tradition's beliefs and rituals into the context of our modern lives.

*"Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality."*  
- Warren Bennis



**Sarah Heller Pena**

**Board Chair,  
J Center for  
Early  
Learning**

I was both thrilled and humbled when asked to be chairman of the J Center for Early Learning board. The school we are striving to build is the one our community deserves. I am dedicated to working hard so El Paso has a quality Jewish preschool today, tomorrow, and beyond. I am supported every step of the way by an amazing team, which makes my role that much more enjoyable.

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."*  
- Margaret Mead



**Scott Stevens**

**Commander of  
the Dept. of TX,  
AR, LA, and OK,  
Jewish War  
Veterans of the  
USA**

I was a soldier for 30 years and I have been a member of Jewish organizations for many years as well. In 2001, I joined Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America and have held various positions in our local Maurice Kubby Post 749 of the Jewish War Veterans, including Post Commander and Vice Commander. I recognized a need to rebuild the Post and expand its membership.

Over that time I grew to appreciate the honor of serving a cause greater than myself.

Currently, I work with eleven Jewish War Veterans Posts in Texas and three other states. These posts serve approximately 770 Jewish veterans.

*"Don't find fault, find a remedy."*  
Henry Ford



**Ellen Torres**

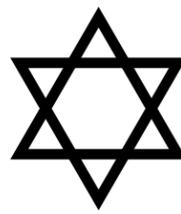
**President,  
Temple  
Beth-El**

When I accepted the responsibility of being our Temple President, I believed that I had a lot of solid leadership experiences under my belt already, having been an educator and school administrator, a good organizer, and a responsible, ethical human being. But when I stepped into the role of President, there was so much more I needed to learn.

I began to understand the need to know "my why" for being involved—to make our Temple a more welcoming place of worship and to focus on community engagement in everything we do. Most prominently, I learned to value and extend the significance of building Sacred Partnerships and to instill the "sacred" in all of our relationships. I learned that Sacred Leadership requires a commitment to Torah, both our ancient texts and our own personal Torah. Developing and articulating our personal Torah, the values that guide us in our daily lives, grounds us with the Jewish values to lead our communities and serves as a model for other congregational leaders.

*"Leadership is both a privilege and a responsibility. As Jewish leaders, we must seize every opportunity to bring people together to share the hope our tradition teaches."*

--Rabbi Rick Jacobs,  
President of the Union  
for Reform Judaism



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# COMMUNITY

## Exciting News at the EPJA

Over the last year, members of the EPJA Board have met with Jewish families from our community. A significant number of these families felt that having diversity within a school's student body was an important factor when deciding which school to send their children. In wanting to better meet the needs of our community, the EPJA Board has decided to open the enrollment to both Jewish and non-Jewish children starting with the 2019-2020 school year.

While the school will maintain its excellent secular and Jewish education, it will now be open to children of all religious backgrounds. With this decision, the Board intends not only to maintain a solid Jewish educational experience, but to enhance the social environment of the school as well. By combining open enrollment with new curricular developments, we have much to look forward to in the coming school year.

~Steven Lanski



For the seventh year, members of Temple Beth-El Las Cruces served a hot breakfast on the morning of December 25 to residents of Camp Hope, a tent city for the homeless, which is housed on the grounds of Mesilla Valley Community of Hope. Congregants donated funds, food, and supplies beforehand and came to serve the meal and talk with those who came to enjoy the breakfast. Several members sang holiday songs.



Rose Kupfer celebrates her 85th birthday at the Jewish Federation's Cafe Europa lunch in January. Cafe Europa coordinator Sylvia Cohen, right, joins her at the cake table.



Members of the Temple Beth-El Las Cruces choir, Kolot Bamidbar, participated in a musical project to mark the 30th anniversary of Women of the Wall/N'shot Hakotel. On January 3, the choir gathered to record audio tracks and a YouTube video of "Kumi Ori," a song written for the occasion (based on verses from the book of Isaiah) by singer/songwriter Shimon Smith. The video has been posted on the Women of the Wall Facebook page.



Janet Wechter, Federation president, visits with some of the lunch attendees at one of the Federation's Cafe Europa lunches in January.



Rabbi Scott Rosenberg of Congregation B'nai Zion gives the D'var Torah message to the Jewish Federation Board meeting at the Temple Mount Sinai library.

## Hadassah welcomes new officers

On Sunday, January 13, Hadassah El Paso held their 2019 Executive Board Installation and Annual Givers Recognition event at the home of Charlotte Roth. Carol Bernstein, our Desert-Mountain Region Adviser, joined us. Haidi Appel conducted the installation and gifted each officer with a bucket filled with various goodies including a magnetic notepad with the heading "Inspire Today."



- Officers:
- Co-Presidents: Audrey Lavi and Cherryll Lieberman
  - VP Communications: Joyce Gronich
  - VP Membership: Mindy Dember
  - Co-VPs PRAZE (Programs, Advocacy, Zionism, Education): Debbie Cohen and Marcia Schwartz

- Recording Secretary: Lisa Mitchell
  - Treasurer: Jane Warach
- Debbie and Marcia recognized our Annual Givers and presented each with a filled Bucket List pail including a 2019-20 planner. Acknowledged for their annual commitment contributions:

- Chai Society (\$180): Mindy Furman, Miriam Gladstein, Audrey Dember, Ruth Erlich, Mira Goldstein, Lavi, Charlotte Roth, and Marcia Schwartz
- Silver Chai Society (\$360): Joyce Gronich, Denise Hakilman, Elaine Krasne, Beth Lipson, and Gail Slater
- Keepers (\$1000) – Haidi Appel, Holli Berry, Barbara Ettinger, Cherryll Lieberman, Shari Schwartz, and Kacy Spivack

COMMUNITY

# The Four Steps to Leadership



Rabbi Yisrael Greenberg

Who is worthy of being a leader? The narrative of our nation's earliest leaders provides us with a template to emulate and apply.

Abraham was the first to be anointed king of humanity. There are several references in the Torah (explained and articulated in the Talmud) to the fact that he enjoyed the respect and admiration of everyone and was considered the undisputed leader of civilization.

He did not achieve this through brute force or intimidation, nor did he gain popularity through pandering to the diverse tribes that comprised civilization. On the contrary, Abraham was diametrically opposed to every idealism in existence at the time because he had discovered the truth of G-d at a young age. But unlike his ancestors, he passionately shared his cherished belief with everyone and anyone through his famous hospitality tent.

Abraham introduced the concept of caring for one another in a material and spiritual sense equally. To feed the hungry and educate the ignorant is Abraham's eternal legacy to humanity.

The iconic first leader of the Jewish nation, Moses, was rescued from the Nile River by the Egyptian princess

Batya, and was later raised in Pharaoh's palace sheltered from the horrors of slavery occurring throughout the land. When he was appointed to a position of influence in the government, Moses ventured out to his people to relate to their terrible plight.

Witnessing an Egyptian viciously beating an Israelite slave, while everyone turned away and ignored the travesty, Moses took the law into his hands and killed the vile man. He paid dearly for his bravery and was forced to flee for his life to Midyan.

In Midyan he noticed another injustice. Young women shepherds drawing water from the well for their sheep, were harassed, bullied and taunted by the male shepherds. Notwithstanding his newcomer status and ignorance as to the background of the feud, Moses heroically beat the men away and helped the women water their flocks. Another example of his empathy for the oppressed.

The episode which brought Moses to the threshold of leadership was his encounter with the burning bush. The Torah makes a specific mention of the fact that when he saw a bush was burning but not being consumed, he

felt the need to investigate the strange phenomenon.

And finally, Moses was instructed to gather the Israelite leaders and communicate G-d's message of redemption through them, who were considered the Jewish leaders at the time. To ensure that the work quotas were met each day, the Egyptians appointed Jewish taskmasters at each work site to oversee the labor. If the tally at the end of the day did not match expectations, the Jewish taskmasters were viciously beaten, in the hope that they would in turn beat their Jewish underlings to fill the quotas. But these special Jews did not turn on their fellow Jews and they absorbed daily beatings on their behalf instead.

Here we have four lessons in the qualities of leadership.

- a) Discover the truth, passionately share it with others and be ready to care for their material needs as well.
- b) When you see a fellow Jew in trouble, be helpful even if you may suffer as a result.
- c) If you encounter something unusual, pay close attention. Nothing happens by chance.
- d) A true leader suffers on behalf of

the community and protects them.

The venerable Talmudic sage, Rabbi Yochanan Ben Zakkai once appointed two of his students to leadership. They refused the appointments protesting that they feared their power would go to their heads. The Rabbi responded, "Don't think I am offering you honor and fame. Leadership is a difficult and painful service!"

True leadership is all consuming. True leaders place the needs of others before their own.

We are all leaders and our mission is to mature and grow into the part as our ancestors would expect of us.

*Good luck!*  
Rabbi Yisrael Greenberg  
Chabad El Paso

## Jewish Leadership: Lay leader's perspective

What is a lay leader? I'm sure we all have a personal definition. It has been my experience in the past 15 years, especially the last 6, to arrive at the following traits. As we mature, especially our children, we realize that attempting to change their behavior using advice can be fruitless. The best way to affect a change in a child or anyone for that matter, begins with

our own setting the proper example. What we do behind the scenes is the secret. We become better for ourselves and others when we develop inwardly. This begins with following a Jewish path beginning with morning prayers when we awaken in the morning, setting a time for study/learning after we have breakfast or return from the gym. This can simply be

reading the aliah and Psalms for that day before we leave for work.

In addition, we can adapt a habit of attending weekly services, not just Shabbat. Yes, this might take a slight rearranging of the schedule, but it can usually be done. We can support the local Jewish organizations, pledge to ourselves to give more tzadaka, teach our children,

and support others. If you need a guide, the last paragraph of the "morning blessings" tells it all. While most of these endeavors happen behind the scenes, don't expect any overtly presented plaques but a place in olam habbah will be in your path. I believe these principles.

*Ed Solomon*

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 5, Tuesday**

Temple Mount Sinai and the El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center in cooperation with the UTEP music department present "Forbidden Music in the Third Reich," a moving performance by award-winning concert pianist Sophia Hase. Born in Stuttgart, Germany, Hase has impressed audiences around the world during tours to Barcelona, Brussels, New York City, Prague, Rio De Janeiro, and other cities and has performed in a number of chamber music ensembles. The free concert will be held at Temple Mount Sinai at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by a dessert reception.

**February 6 and 13, Wednesday**

Temple Beth-El Las Cruces presents "Immigration to the United States and New Mexico (How Did We Get Here, Anyway?)" – a two-night series of talks running from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on two consecutive Wednesdays. The first program will feature Nan Rubin from KTAL radio discussing Emma Lazarus and her poem "The New Colossus" engraved below the Statue of Liberty and what those words mean for immigration. The second program brings a historical look at immigration to the United States from Neal Rosendorf, associate professor of politics and international relations at NMSU.

Attendees will also hear a panel

discussion including a federal public defender, a federal prosecutor, a federal district court judge and an officer from Customs and Border Protection. For information, call Ned Rubin, chair of Temple Beth-El's Social Action committee, at 414-331-3405.

**February 8-9, Friday-Saturday**

Temple Mount Sinai hosts singer and musical scholar Elana Arian for a variety of events focusing on the work of Jewish composers. She will be helping lead Friday night services at 6:15 p.m. and Saturday morning services at 10:30 a.m., followed by Kiddush lunch (reserve your spot by emailing [info@templemountsinai.com](mailto:info@templemountsinai.com)) at 12:15 p.m. The evening Havdallah concert begins at 5:30 p.m.

**February 9, Saturday**

All are invited to Congregation B'nai Zion's annual Casino Night, a highlight of the Jewish community's spring that combines fun, food, music, auction items, and lots of poker and blackjack. Time to pull on your cowboy boots, dust off your hat, and practice your two-step for this year's "Wild West Casino Night." Doors open at 7:15 p.m. Buy your tickets now at 833-2222.

**February 15, Friday**

Jewish Children's Regional Service (JCRS), the oldest and only regional Jewish children's social service agency

in the U.S., offers a limited number of financial assistance grants for Texas families seeking to send children to Jewish overnight camp in the summer of 2019. Camp scholarship applications are due Friday, February 15. Visit [www.jcrs.org](http://www.jcrs.org) for information and applications to send electronically to the JCRS office. The family must provide financial information and documentation, as the primary factor in grant distribution is financial need.

**February 21-23, Thursday-Saturday**

The Jewish Federation's "Sun City Shabbat" brings together the entire Jewish community for challah baking

sessions on Thursday, Shabbat dinners on Friday and Havdalah on Saturday. Visit [jewishelpaso.org/SunCityShabbat](http://jewishelpaso.org/SunCityShabbat) for information on neighborhood dinners and the ElPasoConnect Shabbat dinner for those of us in our 20s, 30s, and 40s.

**February 24, Sunday**

Temple Mount Sinai presents "YidLife Crisis," a comedy night fundraiser, with the silent auction and refreshments starting at 6:00 p.m. and the comedians' show at 7:15 p.m. Reserve your space for \$36 at 532-5959 or [templemountsinai.com/donate](http://templemountsinai.com/donate).

**Forbidden Music in the Third Reich**

Performed by acclaimed concert pianist

**Sophia Hase**

Tuesday - February 5, 2019  
6:30 pm

Temple Mount Sinai  
4408 N. Stanton

Free Admission

Dessert reception following performance

Presented by Temple Mount Sinai and El Paso Holocaust Museum & Study Center  
in collaboration with University of Texas at El Paso's Department of Music

Information:  
[www.templemountsinai.com](http://www.templemountsinai.com) / 915.532.5959  
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**Temple Mount Sinai's Annual Fundraiser Featuring: YIDLIFE CRISIS**



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2019**  
**6:00 Reception & Silent Auction**  
**7:15 Performance**  
**\$36 per person, open seating**  
**(includes light hors d'oeuvres, wine & beer)**

Reservations:  
[templemountsinai.com/donate](http://templemountsinai.com/donate)  
 or call 915-532-5959

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Temple Mount Sinai Presents

## ELANA ARIAN

**Friday, 2/8**  
 Elana will bring her soulful melodies to help lead our congregation in joyful song and prayer

**Saturday, 2/9**  
 -Morning services at 10:30am  
 -Kiddush lunch at 12:15pm (Kindly RSVP to [info@templemountsinai.com](mailto:info@templemountsinai.com) or 915-532-5959)  
 -Evening Havdalah concert at 5:30pm-6:30pm

**At the Kiddush lunch...**  
 Elana will help us explore the ways in which Jewish composers interpret and re-interpret our ancient texts to make new meaning out of our liturgy. Much in the same way that the Rabbis write midrashim to explain and interpret our collective Jewish narrative, contemporary Jewish composers create new melodies to shine a fresh light and new perspective on our sacred texts.

[www.elanaarian.com](http://www.elanaarian.com)




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**To: New Recruits**  
**CC: Jedi Council**

**Training date: 2 March 2019**

**RE: Jedi Training Overnight Academy**  
 Recruit information

The Jedi council would like to acknowledge your acceptance into the academy and congratulate you on being chosen as an honorable Jedi recruit. There is a great disturbance in the force and you bring us great hope!

- ◆ Camp setup at 5:30 PM
- ◆ Be prepared for a special Havdalah led by Rabbi Zeidman of the Jedi council at 6:30 PM
- ◆ Families are encouraged to celebrate Havdalah and enjoy dinner with their recruits
- ◆ Recruits will enjoy "training" games and a "documentary" movie of one of the great Jedi warriors
- ◆ Breakfast will be served before heading to the final briefing, aka Tefilah. Pajamas and bed head hairdo will be the uniform of the day.

Please contact the Jedi council for additional information:  
 Nathan Stevens [ndshyundai@yahoo.com](mailto:ndshyundai@yahoo.com) 915-799-8937  
 Iran Brown [ibrown@templemountsinai.com](mailto:ibrown@templemountsinai.com) 915-532-5959

For RSVP please visit the donate page @ [Templemountsinai.com](http://Templemountsinai.com) or call 915-532-5959

There is a \$10.00 fee per child for overnight security and supplies. All children under 8 years of age require a parent or guardian to stay the night. If you are not able to stay the night, please join us for Havdalah and games from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Tents are allowed but cannot be staked. We ask that you provide sleeping bags and/or air mattress, pillows and blankets. Registration forms **MUST BE COMPLETED** and returned to Temple Mount Sinai.



Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso Presents

## Hatikvah-Hope Reborn

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**Sunday, March 31, 2019 | 5:00 PM**  
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**Ticket prices:**  
 Adults - \$10 | Family of up to (5) - \$20  
 Senior, students or military - \$5 | Door - \$15

More info coming soon at [JewishElPaso.org/Hatikvah](http://JewishElPaso.org/Hatikvah)

"A national treasure, gigantic achievement!" -(Shimon Peres, President of Israel)

# Jewish life in El Paso is definitely headed in the right direction.

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