

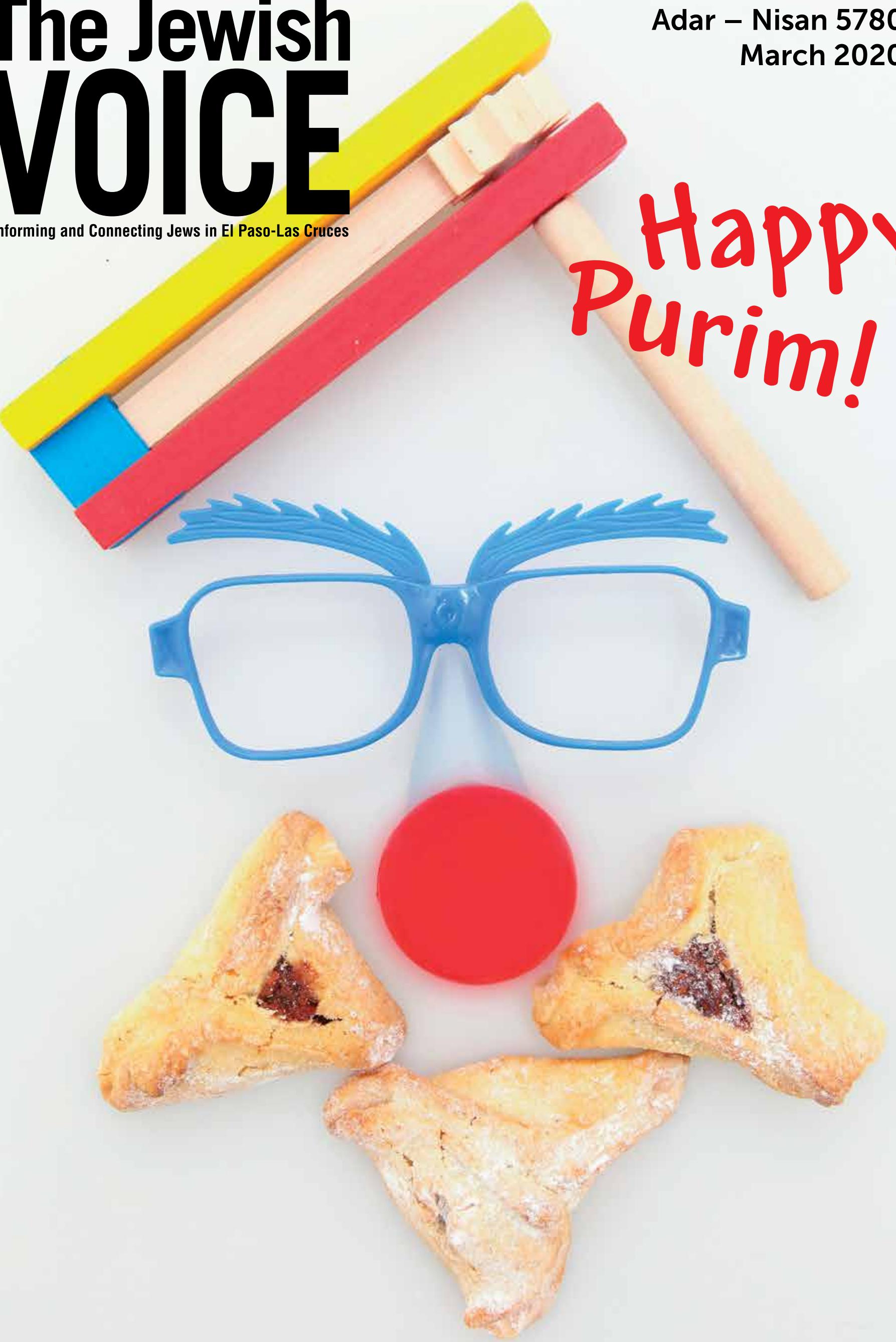
The Jewish VOICE

Informing and Connecting Jews in El Paso-Las Cruces

Adar – Nisan 5780

March 2020

Happy
Purim!



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
7110 N. Mesa
El Paso, Texas
Permit No. 1256

Jewish Federation of El Paso
7110 N. Mesa
El Paso, Texas 79912
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER EL PASO

Up Close: Debra Kanof

The Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) has been called "our vehicle to pursue justice together, as a community." Seeking justice is a way of life for this year's JCRC chair: Debra Kanof, who has been a key member of the U.S. Attorney's office since 1987 and was El Paso's first career female prosecutor.

While her parents might have preferred that she follow other family members' footsteps and become a physician, by the time Debra Kanof was seven, she knew she wanted to go to law school.

Growing up, she lived in El Paso, Germany and Italy, wherever her father, a 30-year Army veteran who retired as a colonel, was posted. Her parents made sure she received a proper Jewish education and when she lived in El Paso, she and two brothers attended Sunday School at the Jewish chapel at Fort Bliss. When her oldest brother, Stuart, died in a car accident in his freshman year of college, the loss left a lasting impact on the family, even changing their approach to Judaism.

Her passion at Burgess High School had been speech and drama classes, where she learned to excel in extemporaneous speaking and debating. She graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in speech communication.

Her class at the University of Houston Law School was the school's first class with a significant number of women – almost one-third – yet only two women served on the faculty. Deb became the first woman to win the John Black Memorial Moot Court competition, besting one of the law school's brightest stars, a man who had been courted by some of the state's most prestigious law firms.

After working for a small Houston firm and Shell Oil Company, Deb pursued her dream of working in a prosecutor's office in El Paso and became the legal advisor to the juvenile court diversion and prosecution programs in 1980. In 1982, she moved to the El Paso District Attorney's Office to handle the Rape and Child Abuse special prosecution unit.

Since 1987, she has served in many federal prosecutorial positions, including Chief of the El Paso Division, Chief of Major Crimes and Chief of Organized Drug Crimes. As a Senior Litigation Counsel, she currently maintains a line position as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas.

As a civil rights prosecutor for 30 years, Deb sees the Federation's work as very important today. She notes that it is stunning to see how many more crimes are committed against Jews than any other religious sects including, for instance, against Muslims. It is time for the Jewish community to unite to educate others on tolerance and civility.



What do you value the most in your friends?

Their ability to accept me as I am and forgive my many imperfections.

What might we be surprised to learn about your interests?

On doctor's orders 23 years ago, I began lifting weights and learned: 1). I like it, and 2). I have a genetic predisposition for strength. I get a real kick out of lifting more than any other woman (and many men) in the gym, even at my advanced age of 66.

I also crochet, design and complete needle point, and spend an inordinate amount of time cuddling with my dog. Can going to Vegas be considered a hobby? It's definitely an interest!

Who's your favorite Jewish hero?

Ruth Bader Ginsberg! (no surprise)

What made you decide to get involved with the Jewish Federation and serve on the board?

As a young lawyer, I was very involved in many nonprofit organizations until my work in pursuing white-collar offenders began to complicate my volunteer work. Later I was on the El Paso Holocaust Museum board for ten years and served as its president. I served on the Federation's JCRC for several years as the Holocaust Museum representative.

When I got a call from Janet Wechter inviting me to join the Federation board, I gladly accepted. As I'm speeding toward retirement, I wanted to get more involved in the Jewish community. I get comfort from attending Jewish services and look forward to becoming part of a congregation.

What are some plans for the JCRC this year?

Part of (physical) security is knowing and having relationships

with the community around you, so one of our goals is developing partnerships and increasing communication and education with the interfaith community. We plan to develop community volunteer projects that enhance our commitment to Tikkun Olam throughout the year, not just on one designated day, such as periodic, routine collections for the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank.

What is your favorite Purim memory?

Purim was always my mother's favorite holiday. Her true name was Esfira, but was later "Americanized" into Elsie. Esfira was the Russian word for Esther and like Queen Esther in the Purim story, my mother was very beautiful. So she claimed the holiday and the hamantaschen.

What's the best thing about being part of El Paso's Jewish community?

Developing a sense of ethnic and religious belonging that I never had and making new friends. Our Jewish identity is very, very important especially in light of what is going on in the world today.

Born: Queens, Long Island; moved to El Paso when she was four

Parents: Irving Lee Kanof, born in Brooklyn to Ukrainian immigrants, and Elsie Rawlson Kanof, who immigrated with her family from Ukraine when she was three. All four of Deb's grandparents fled the pogroms, travelling to the United States in steerage with only the clothes on their backs.

Siblings: Brian N. Kanof and the late Stuart R. Kanof

Don't Miss in March!



Jewish Federation
of GREATER EL PASO

March 12, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
EIPasoConnect

For those of us in our 20s, 30s, and 40s

Top Golf and Dinner

Two hours of golf and vegetarian buffet
\$5 donation to Jewish War Veterans of America
Funded by Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso
Register at jewishelpaso.org/EIPasoConnect

March 8, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

PJ Library

For pre-schoolers and their families

Courage Climb at X-Zone

4563 Doniphan Drive

Climb and read about Jewish perspectives on courage
Register at jewishelpaso.org/PJLibrary

March 4 and 18, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Borderland's Café Europa

For those of us over 65For those of us over 65

March 4 Speaker: Debra Kanof
"40 Years of Faith-Based Prosecution"

March 18 Speaker: Melanie Benjamin

Together with Congregation B'nai Zion Book Zone
Funded by Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso
Request Shalom Shuttle Ride at 842-9554

Israel Trauma Coalition: What El Paso needed

On August 3, Jewish Federations of North America leadership reached out to Robert French, our Federation's executive director, to provide support and resources. Among those resources: paying for Israel Trauma Coalition professionals to spend time in the city to work with those on the front lines of post-traumatic reactions: therapists, first responders, and faith leaders.

Two highly trained trauma experts stayed in El Paso for a week in February, working with Celeste Nevarez and other professionals at Emergent Health Care, El Paso County's Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities Authority. For more information, read the February Jewish

Voice cover story at jewishelpaso.org/voice.

The Israel Trauma Coalition training was exactly what our community needed six months after the Wal-Mart shooting on August 3. The training was empathetic, educational, and uplifting.

Emergence Health Network invited therapists from the community to attend a three-day clinical workshop to learn new skills and strengthen their resilience. One day was dedicated to faith-based leaders and community leaders in order to develop a "leadership in crisis" approach to serving the community. And one day was dedicated to law enforcement and first responders to provide a space for them to process their

experiences and broaden their skill set.

The participants reacted positively and shared feelings of relief to process their own vicarious trauma in a safe space. They also reported that they took away new interventions, approaches, and viewpoints in responding to crisis and trauma. The Israeli facilitators, Tal and Vanessa, took the time to understand the needs of each training group in order to provide precise educational methods.

I have worked as a therapist for nearly ten years, and I was impressed with how effortless the ITC approach was to address such a substantial topic as trauma. The interventions taught were simple, accessible, and effective.

Every attendee was able to walk away with a new set of tools to utilize



should another crisis arise. This training was like no other because it normalized the feelings of the participants while honoring the efforts they have made to help serve the El Paso community.

Thank you again for this absolutely amazing training. El Paso is indebted to the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso and the Jewish Federations of North America.

Celeste Nevarez, LPC-S, LPHA
Chief of Clinical Services
Emergence Health Network



Todah Rabah to Our Volunteers

Jewish Film Festival 2020

Jennifer Ehrlich and Dana Frank, Co-Chairs
Joyce Anenberg, Wendy Axelrod, Mike Batkin, Oscar Beltran,
Brenda Ehrlich, Romaree Herbert, Rebecca Krasne,
Joan Korn, Lowry Martin, Wendy Siegel

Pacesetters

Jon and Arlene Sonnen, Co-Chairs
Wendy Lanski and Robin Furman, Campaign Co-Chairs
Debra Kanof and Monika Kimball
Brian Kanof, photographer

Rise Against Hunger

Lee Chayes and Noel Hollowell-Small, Co-Chairs
Joyce Davidoff, Naomi Estrada, Holly Hernandez,
Steve Newcomb, Meagan O'Toole-Pitts, Harriet Roth,
Marcia Schwartz, Marilyn Silverstein, Judy Weiser

Café Europa

Scott Stevens
Paul Geneson and Guy Hauptman

These We Honor With Tributes

FEDERATION

TO: Amanda and Adam Levine in Honor of the birth of their Daughter Olivia
FROM: Janet and Randy Wechter

TO: Sam Ellowitz in Honor of his 90th Birthday
FROM: Janet and Randy Wechter

TO: Susie and Eddie Goldman in Honor of the birth of their Grandson Nathan Pretiger
FROM: Sue Bendalin

TO: Cindy and David Metrikin in Honor of the birth of their Granddaughter Olivia Levine
FROM: Janet and Randy Wechter
FROM: Sue Bendalin

TO: Amanda and Adam Levine in Honor of the birth of their Daughter Olivia
FROM: Janet and Randy Wechter

TO: Sam Ellowitz in Honor of his 90th Birthday
FROM: Janet and Randy Wechter

TO: Susie and Eddie Goldman in Honor of the birth of their Grandson Nathan Pretiger
FROM: Sue Bendalin

Camp Kadima Memorial Scholarship In Memory of Leona Goldfarb and Minna Frank

TO: Sam Ellowitz in Honor of His 90th Birthday
FROM: Bobby Goldfarb



NOW LEASING
GREAT RETAIL SPACE THROUGHOUT EL PASO
915-225-5700

The Jewish VOICE

A publication of the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso

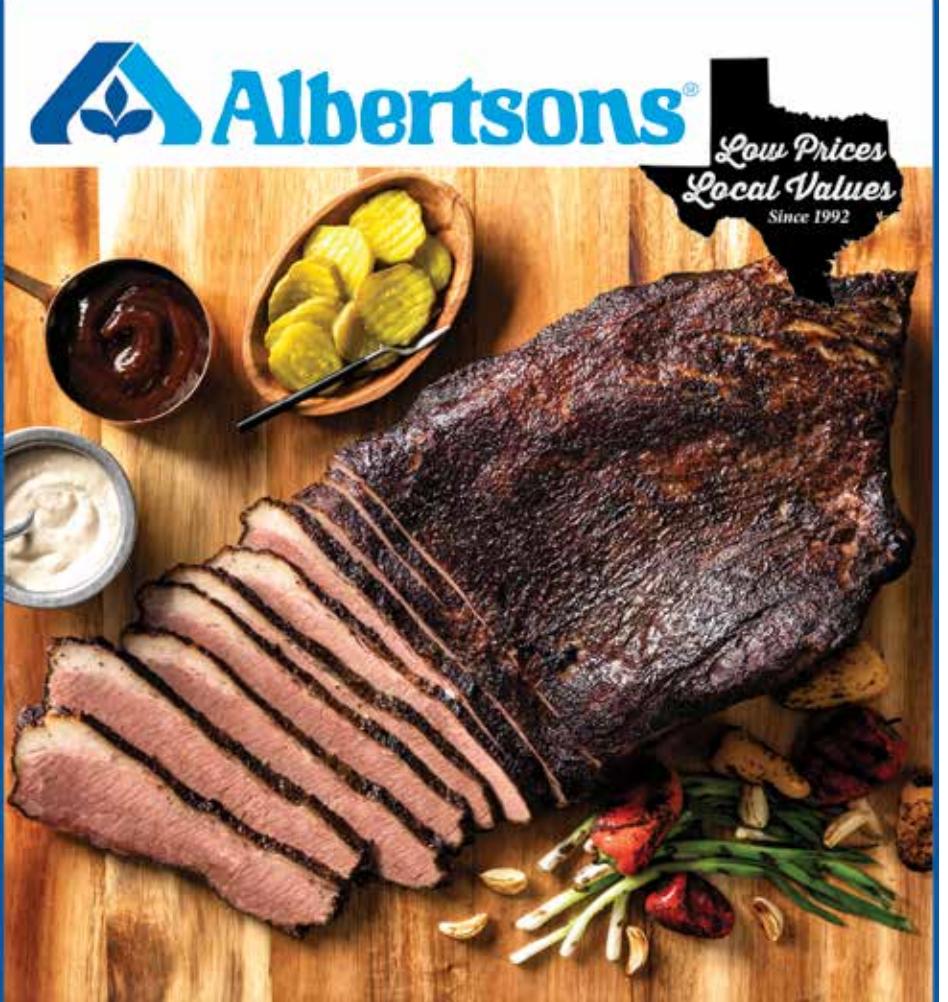
The Jewish Voice of El Paso, published ten times a year, is dedicated to informing, educating, and uniting the Jewish community by providing news items of local, national, Israeli and international concern.

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@jfedorpaso.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.

Executive Director: Robert French
Campaign Director: Sue Bendalin
President: Janet Kent Wechter
Office: 915-842-9554
7110 North Mesa, El Paso, TX 79912

Editor: Cindy Graff Cohen
Layout and Design: Beatriz Garcia
Advertising Rep: Robert Piñon
Printing: PDX Printing



Proudly serving El Paso since 1992



Jewish Film Festival: Dinner with Chef Michael Solomonov

*Fa
&
G*



Pacesetters 2020 at Globo Rojo Car Collection

Photos by Brian Kanof





Rise Against Hunger

*ces
Places*



Celebrating Tu B'Shvat

Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces

Borderland's Cafe Europa

Chaplain's Catering

Gerry Chaplain

3950 Doniphan, Suite P
El Paso, Texas 79922

(915) 585-0595
goodfood@whc.net

NEED PRINTING?

WE ARE A FULL SERVICE
PRINTING SHOP



FLYERS • BUSINESS CARDS • POSTCARDS • CATALOGS
ENVELOPES • COUPONS • TICKETS • AND MANY MORE



100 Porfirio Diaz • El Paso, TX 79902
915.544.6688 • www.pdxprinting.com

Want to submit an ad?

Call (915) 842.9554

GOOD DEEDS DAY



WHEN
March 29th
9:30 am - 12:00 pm

WHERE
Schwartz Hall
Temple Mount Sinai

4408 N. Stanton St. El Paso, TX 79902

It's well known that helping one single person won't change the whole world, but you can definitely change somebody's world. This year Temple Mount Sinai will have an opportunity for everyone to get involved in different ways.

FLOYD S. FIERMAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

ALL AGES EVENT

BENEFITTING ORGANIZATIONS:

*Kelly Memorial Food Pantry
*Borderland Rainbow Center
*CASFV Center Against Sexual & Family Violence
*Reynolds Home

ACCEPTING

For Birthday Bags: Cake mix, frosting, paper plates, birthday napkins, disposable cake pan, and granola bars.

For School Supplies: pencil box, crayons, scissors, glue, erasers, notebooks, folders, and rulers.

For toiletries: shampoo, conditioner, lotion, tooth-brush, toothpaste, floss, bar soap, razors, and deodorants.

Clothes: Used shirts, sweaters, jackets, pants, and shoes. New socks and underwear.

TOGETHER

With:
 Jewish Federation*
OF GREATER EL PASO



ART CENTER
3101 E. Yandell Dr. El Paso, Texas 79903
(915) 566-2410



EARN 10,000 BONUS POINTS GECU REWARDS CREDIT CARDS*

Cash back. Travel. Merchandise. The rewards never end when you use your GECU Rewards credit card and earn 1.5 points for every \$1 spent on everyday purchases, those special items in your online shopping cart or a dream vacation!

EARN 10,000 BONUS POINTS WHEN YOU SPEND \$1,500 IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS

SAVE UP YOUR POINTS AND REDEEM THEM FOR ANYTHING



Apply for a GECU Rewards or GECU Pickaxe Rewards credit card at gecu.com; by calling 778.9221, toll-free at 1.800.772.4328; or by visiting any GECU location.




WE'RE WITH YOU

gecu.com

*Subject to credit qualification and approval. Other conditions apply. Cash advances, balance transfers, ATM transactions and transactions with the use of convenience checks are not eligible to earn points. Offer applies to new GECU Rewards credit cards opened between February 1, 2020, and March 31, 2020. You will only earn 10,000 bonus points when you spend up to \$1,500 on qualifying purchases within the first three months of opening the account. Other limitations apply. The GECU Pickaxe Rewards credit card is not a UTEP-sponsored affinity program. Learn how to become a member at gecu.com.

And they lived happily ever after...

In many Jewish communities Purim jesters visit homes to enliven the festivities and collect money for worthy causes. They sing a famous Yiddish song-song that roughly translates to this: "Today is Purim, tomorrow no more. Give me a dollar and throw me out the door."

Once the last crumbs of Hamantashen

Haman was killed, the Jews lived happily ever after...

That's not what happened. Haman cast his lots two days before Passover and scheduled the Final Solution for eleven months down the line. Mordechai and Esther swiftly sprung to action and within three days Haman was hanging from the

gallows, but his murderous decree was still very much alive. Since it was signed with the king's signet ring, so long as

Ahashveirosh remained in power the Jews still faced a terrifying end.

Even after Esther begged and pleaded that he rescind the decree, the mighty king demurred claiming it was against "the process." Once a decree was stamped with the royal signet ring

it was unchangeable. For two months Mordechai and Esther petitioned incessantly, until Achashveirosh agreed to issue a counter decree that the Jews should defend themselves on the day they were condemned to death. By no means had the danger passed until they were victorious the next year.

The decree had an interesting loophole since it only targeted "Yehudim" which referred specifically to Jews who refused to become heathens. A Jew who would forsake his or her faith in G-d would be spared death but no one used this escape.

The entire Jewish nation faced the ultimate test of faith and they passed it with flying colors. For a full year, every single Jew clung to Judaism under penalty of death.

It emerges that the miracle of Purim did not only unfold in the halls of power, but in the behavior of every Jewish man, woman and child for the duration of

an entire year. Their deepest connection to G-d was on full display - every single day.

More than any other holiday, Purim illustrates that Torah and Mitzvot are not exclusive to special times and places. Judaism is not only relevant on Shabbat and Festivals, in the synagogue, around the seder table or next to the menorah. We are Jews every moment of the day, wherever we are. Turns out that every day is Purim.

Best wishes for a joyous Purim!

Rabbi Levi Greenberg
Chabad El Paso



Be sure to celebrate Purim by fulfilling the four Mitzvahs of Purim.

1. Hear the Purim story as it is read in the original text from a genuine scroll - and be sure to bang out Haman when he is mentioned - on March 9 in the evening and on March 10.
2. Give generously to (at least) two charitable causes throughout the day of March 10.
3. Share gifts of food with your friends and acquaintances throughout the day of March 10.
4. And of course - partake in a delicious festive meal 'till you can party no more.

disappear and the costumes get stored away is Purim truly no more?

Upon studying the Megillah closely many are surprised to discover that the miracle of Purim was an episode that extended for close to a year. Often storytellers make it seem as if once

Ahashveirosh remained in power the Jews still faced a terrifying end.

Even after Esther begged and pleaded that he rescind the decree, the mighty king demurred claiming it was against "the process." Once a decree was stamped with the royal signet ring

Congregation B'nai Zion

MEGILLAH READING & PURIM PARTY

Friedman Social Hall
Monday, March 9th
6:00 pm
805 Cherry Hill Lane

COME ONE • COME ALL

STEP RIGHT UP AND JOIN THE FUN!

PURIM CARNIVAL

Temple Mount Sinai

SUNDAY 8th MARCH

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

4408 N. STANTON ST. EL PASO, TX 79902

ADMISSION: FREE COSTUMES ENCOURAGED

FOOD SALE by Religious School: Hot Dogs, Nachos, Corn In a Cup, Popcorn, Snow Cones, Cotton Candy & more!

Silent Auction benefitting The Center for Early Learning play. love. learn.

NAT HOLZER, RMP

5400 N Mesa Suite G
El Paso, Texas 79912
915-581-4900
FAX 915-581-1026
www.rentalnetworkep.com

LINDA HOLZER, RMP
Texas & N.M. Licensed

RENTAL NETWORK
Property Management, Inc.
Network Real Estate

ROBERTA L FENNIG D.O.
Psychiatry & Osteopathic Therapy

Phone: 915 494-1237
Fax: 575 332-4545

LOCATION: 5290 McNutt Rd
Suite 106
Santa Teresa, NM 88008

ROBERTA L FENNIG D.O.

TEXAS NEURODIAGNOSTIC, HEADACHE & SLEEP DISORDERS CENTER, P.A.

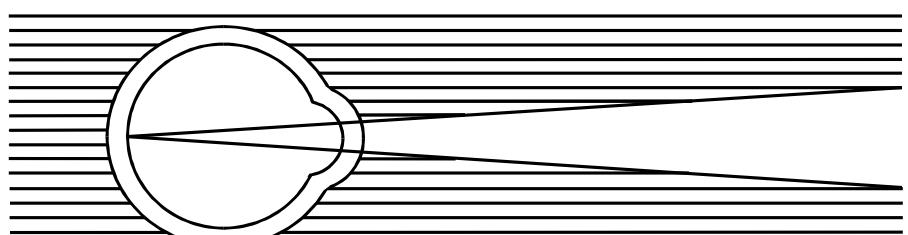
BORIS KAIM, M.D. F.A.A.N., FAASM

Board Certified in Neurology, Psychiatry and Sleep Medicine

PRACTICE LIMITED TO CONSULTIVE NEUROLOGY,
PSYCHIATRY, ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY,
NERVE CONDUCTION, EMG, SLEEP DISORDERS,
AND TESTING FOR DIABETIC NEUROPATHIES.

2311 N. Mesa, Bldg. F • El Paso, Texas 79902
Phone: (915) 544-6400

THE CATARACT & GLAUCOMA CENTER™



LOUIS M. ALPERN, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S.
DIPLOMATE OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

4171 N. Mesa, Bldg D, Ste 100 (915) 545-2333
El Paso, TX 79902 Fax (915) 544-4808

1030 N. Zaragoza Rd., Ste Y
El Paso, TX 79907

**We've supported
Jewish education,
fed the world,
developed young
Jewish readers,
engaged young
professionals,
served delectable
dinners,
inspired you
at the movies,
and
2020 has only
just begun...**

Invest in YOU
www.jewishelpaso.org/give