

The Jewish VOICE

Informing and Connecting the Jews of the El Paso-Las Cruces Area

THANKFUL FOR ALL THAT IS GOOD

Cheshvan/Kislev 5779
November 2018

BETTER TOGETHER



- El Paso mourns Pittsburgh victims *Page 2*
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Two days after the tragic deaths of eleven Jews in Pittsburgh, on October 29, the Jewish community held a vigil at San Jacinto Plaza. Speakers from all faiths shared their grief and words of hope with the crowd. Among those attending were Imam Bilal Acikgoz, volunteer executive director, Turkish Rainbow House; Bishop Mark J. Seitz, Diocese of El Paso; Rabbi Stephen Leon, Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation, B'nai Zion; Carlos Gamez, Music Director, Temple Mount Sinai; and Fifi Heller-Kaim (Photo by Janet Kent Wechter)

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Jewish Federation
OF GREATER EL PASO

FEDERATION

Jewish Community Relations Council: Statement condemning anti-Semitic hate crime

*(Written and approved by JCRC,
October 27, 2018)*

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater El Paso and Las Cruces (JCRC) strongly condemns the horrific and violent hate crime that took place this morning at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. During Saturday morning Shabbat services, a gunman armed with an assault rifle burst into the synagogue shouting anti-Semitic statements and opened fire killing eleven people and injuring six others, including four police officers responding to the gunfire. The attacker Robert Bowers, a 46-year-old

taken into custody after a gun battle with police.

Robert Jones, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Pittsburgh field office, stated: "This is the most horrific crime scene I've seen in 22 years with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Members of the Tree of Life synagogue conducting a peaceful service in their place of worship were brutally murdered by a gunman targeting them simply because of their faith." Attorney General Jeff Sessions called the shooting "reprehensible and utterly repugnant to the values of this nation," and stated "the Department of Justice will file hate crimes and

other criminal charges against the defendant, including charges that could lead to the death penalty."

The peace of Shabbat was shattered and innocent lives tragically lost with a crime of unspeakable hatred against humanity. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Pittsburgh Jewish community.

All of us stand with our brothers and sisters there, especially with the friends and families of the eleven



Attendees carried messages of inspiration (Photo: Brian Kanof)

innocent people killed and the six others seriously injured in what the Anti-Defamation League is calling "likely the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in the history of the United States." In the face of this senseless act of hate-motivated violence, we hereby reaffirm our strong, unwavering and unconditional opposition to any and all hate crimes against humanity. We also call for the strict and swift punishment of the perpetrator to the fullest extent of the law.

We wish to join the many others who have expressed gratitude for the actions of the Pittsburgh Police Department and the other first responders whose swift intervention

prevented even greater carnage. We urge all public officials and law enforcement, including those in El Paso and Las Cruces, to continue to take the threat of violent hate crimes seriously and to spare no effort in preventing and stopping would-be perpetrators.

May the memories of those whose lives were lost in Pittsburgh this morning be a blessing to us all and may the injured be swiftly healed.

*David Kern, Chair
Jewish Community Relations Council*

Janet Wechter, President

Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso

Robert French, Executive Director

Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso

Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso



Rabbi Levi Greenberg of Chabad El Paso talks with a Muslim woman (Photo: Robert French)

white supremacist with a long history of making virulently anti-Semitic statements online, was wounded and



Community leaders stand behind Rabbi Scott Rosenberg of Congregation B'nai Zion before lighting eleven candles (Photo: Cindy Graff Cohen)



More than 300 people attended the vigil at Santa Jacinto Plaza (Photo: Robert French)



Jan Dreher, Lee Schwartz, Jacqui Spier, and Susan Novick answer a reporter's questions (Photo: Brian Kanof)

Deadline for the December issue of the Voice: November 12
Deadline for the January issue of the Voice: December 10

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

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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FEDERATION

Hinei Mah tov u-mah na-im, shevet achim gam yachad – how good it is for us to be together

I want to begin by thanking you all. You have guided me, shared your wisdom with me and have opened your hearts and your homes to me these past three months and made me feel so welcome, especially over the holidays which I very much enjoyed here. I really appreciate it and thank you.

I recently asked a group of leaders in El Paso... Who do you think was the best financier in the Bible?

My answer... Noah. As he floated his stock while the whole world was in liquidation.

Corny, right? But a good lead in to one of last month's Torah portions, parshat Noah. Noah, under G-d's direction, saves himself, humanity and all the world's creatures by building an ark as the world is destroyed by flood. After the flood, a rainbow appears.

A Rainbow...a symbol of hope. ...

as a promise to never flood the earth again. It was a symbol of hope that whenever we would look at the sky we could trust in G-d's promises.

Somewhere over the rainbow, way up high

There's a land that I've heard of once in a lullaby.

Somewhere over the rainbow, skies are blue

And the dreams that you dare to dream,

Really do come true.

I have spent these past months meeting with and listening to many members of the community. Some are involved, some are uninvolved. Some are current leaders. Some used to be much more active. Professionals. Colleagues. Millennials. Seniors. And everyone in between.

It has been interesting, eye-

opening and very informative for my understanding of the landscape of Jewish El Paso, and my ability to play a role in helping to partner with you to drive the next steps forward. There's more on that to come as I continue my journey here.

Somewhere over the rainbow, way up high – well, who knew that El Paso's elevation was so high? I certainly did not! It definitely has made it a good excuse for not going hiking or exercising.

There's a land that I've heard of once in a lullaby – well, it wasn't exactly in a lullaby that I first heard about El Paso. It was actually in the movies Kill Bill 1 & 2 since the wedding/chapel scenes were purported to take place here...

Somewhere over the rainbow, skies are blue – yes. Right on. Apart from a couple of days so far, the skies have been decidedly blue. Nice and warm, and now a beautiful autumn just as I was promised.

And the dreams that you dare to dream, Really do come true –

In my many conversations I have heard you talk of your past, how your families dreamed and created this community that you know and love, and I have also listened to your dreams for a better and brighter future, to build upon your successes and to turn around some of the trends and issues that concern some of you.

Janet Wechter, who has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Federation and this community, has stressed



Robert French

the importance of Better Together. This has become her mantra. To our community and or leadership, I urge you to reflect, that in this time of America's Flood of Inharmoniousness and Discord that there is a place for an Ark of Unity, and we can begin and model it here in El Paso, by coming together, working together and dreaming together.

I thanked you already for what has been. And now I am going to thank you from the bottom of my heart for what I know, for what we know can be envisioned and enacted here. We have the talent, we have the minds and we have the resources to do it.

Hinei Mah tov u-mah na-im, shevet achim gam yachad – how good it is for us to be here together.

Robert French
Executive Director

Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso
Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso

These We Honor with Our Tributes

Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso

To: Leslie and Robert Beckoff in Honor of the Marriage of their daughter Jordan to David Feiner

From: Janet and Randy Wechter

To: Robin and Tony Furman in Appreciation of Your Hospitality

From: Robert French

To: Becky and Keith Myers in Appreciation of Your Hospitality

From: Robert French

To: Tammy and Barry Karch in Appreciation of Your Hospitality

From: Robert French

Borderland Café Europa

To: Elisa and Tom Given in Memory of her Beloved Mother Irene Osborne

From: Robin and Tony Furman

From: Sue Bendalin

Camp Kadima Memorial Scholarship Fund in Memory of Leona Goldfarb and Minna Frank

To: The Family of Bud Ramenofsky in Memory of their Beloved Father and Grandfather

From: Bobby Goldfarb

To: The Family of Frank Silberman in Memory of their Beloved Father and Brother

From: Bobby Goldfarb

Bar or Bat Mitzvahs? Graduations? Weddings? Babies?

Share your happy news with your Jewish community.

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to thevoice@jfedelpaso.org

For December Jewish Voice: due Monday, November 12

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COMMUNITY



Rabbi Scott Rosenberg

Rabbi Menahem Mendel of Kotsk, taught: “Whoever believes in miracles is a fool and whoever doesn’t believe in miracles is an atheist.” Why a fool? Because Judaism as a faith is not defined by supernatural miracles. Jews, in fact, have always been very suspicious of such miracles. We value

Gratitude for the miracles of life

what is real and what is normal. We don’t need supernatural events to anchor our faith. In fact, the Rabbis often interpreted passages in the Bible, which dealt with miraculous events, as metaphorical or symbolic. For us what is normal can be seen as miraculous. The second part of the Kotzker’s teaching is also important: “If you don’t believe in miracles, then you are an atheist.” Why? Because, as we know, life is not what it appears to be on the surface. Our world is filled with miraculous events and moments. Often the challenge is being able to recognize these moments and appreciate them. The challenge is really to broaden our understanding of what Judaism means by miraculous. For me, the best definition of a Jewish miracle is found in a story told about the great Rabbi Abraham

Joshua Heschel of blessed memory. Rabbi Heschel was invited to deliver a lecture. Upon arriving he declared: “I just experienced a miracle.” And there was dead silence. After all, this was Abraham Joshua Heschel, one of the great spiritual figures of this century – surely, he must have experienced something spectacular. And then Heschel continued: “The miracle was that the sun rose this morning. And if you can’t see that as a miracle, then you don’t have a Jewish understanding of the miraculous.” Rabbi Heschel was teaching us to view the ordinary as extraordinary. That is how Judaism understands miracles. A child’s smile, the voice of the wind in the trees, the morning light, a rainbow, these are the real miracles of life and Judaism teaches us not to miss their significance. That

is why there is a bracha, a blessing for everything. No blessing in life should go unappreciated. This month we as Americans are focused on gratitude. We will be celebrating Thanksgiving, a day devoted to appreciating our blessings. As Jews, we understand the importance of gratitude not only on Thanksgiving day, but each and every day. Miracles surround us all the time. How wonderful life would be if we could pause to appreciate our blessings and the many miracles God has placed all around us. Miracles truly do surround us! Let’s not keep this a secret. Rabbi Scott Rosenberg
Congregation B’nai Zion



Cindy Graff Cohen

At press time, two weeks after November Jewish Voice articles were

We have much to be thankful for

submitted, we are holding off to incorporate the community’s response to the October 27 tragedy at the Tree of Life Synagogue on our cover and page 2. The deaths of eleven Jews peacefully worshipping on Shabbat, the country’s largest mass murder of Jews in history, have shook us to the core. We wonder what is in our future when we see our cemetery desecrated with swastikas or read that the Anti-Defamation League reported 60 percent more anti-Semitic incidents in 2017, the largest single-year increase since ADL tracking began in 1979. As we mourn, we pray we are not entering a more violent phase of

growing anti-Semitism.

Pressing on

However, we press on and honor our traditions even in the face of tragedy. In this month of national thanksgiving, we remember that so many of our Jewish prayers focus on gratitude, day in and day out, not just in November. From being thankful upon rising for our bodies and beating hearts to saying prayers of thanks for our evening’s rest, Jews of all denominations continuously thank our Creator for the gift of life and this beautiful world. So much of our gratitude comes from how we frame our daily lives. The following is part of an email that circulates around occasionally. This message may have come from a Unitarian church in New York or it may have some other origin, but it certainly offers great examples of how we can reframe life’s annoyances and burdens to positive blessings. • I am thankful for the mess to clean after a party, because it means that I have been surrounded by friends. • I am thankful for the parking spot I find at the far end of the parking lot, because it means I am capable of walking.

• I am thankful for my huge heating bill, because it means I am warm. • I am thankful for the income taxes I pay, because it means that I’m employed. • I am thankful for the alarm that goes off in the early morning hour, because it means that I have another day in front of me. Acknowledging our blessings runs through centuries of Jewish thought. The Talmud (Menahot 43b) tells Jews to say 100 blessings every day, to find 100 things to be grateful for. It’s probably faster and easier to find 100 things to complain about! However, I can see that taking the time to look for 100 good things every day and say a quick prayer of praise and gratitude for each could change one’s life. I’m going to try this for a day or two in November. Research studies indicate that increased gratitude correlates with increased happiness. Simplistic, I know, but I think it would be interesting to follow this commandment from the Talmud. If you run into me this month, don’t be surprised if I’m scribbling in a notebook. I may be counting up 100 ways that I have been blessed!

Cindy Graff Cohen
Editor, The Jewish Voice

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COMMUNITY

Celebration of Jewish music a success

Nearly 100 fans of Jewish music, from newborn to not-so-young, were treated to a lovely afternoon at Yom Hashir on October 7, 2018, at the Keystone Heritage Park Botanical Gardens in the Upper Valley of El Paso, Texas. This year's celebration marks the second biennial Yom Hashir coordinated by co-chairs Alison Westermann and Kristin Kimmelman. The beautiful weather complemented the desert southwest scenery of the gardens—the perfect setting for the musical extravaganza particularly given the coinciding parshah, Breishit.

The local artists, reflecting the deep pool of talent of our city, delighted the audience as they brought our rich Jewish traditions and culture to life in the forms of music and dance. Lety Briones enthralled the audience with her swaying and mesmerizing Moroccan dance, followed by Neorah Garcia carrying on the tradition from the time of Miriam with vocals and drums.

Bill Radcliffe brought a new twist to

familiar-sounding prayers with his guitar and rich tones. Alison Westermann and Emil Chaparro moved everyone with their harmonies and provocative lyrics. Dora Roe had everyone dancing to Israeli music—in their chairs and on stage. Dr. Larry Lesser rounded out the local talent with his deep, thoughtful and sometimes funny songs.

The headliner, Chava Mirel from Seattle, energized the crowd with her rhythmic music. Chava was selected to headline Yom Hashir after community members rated artists during two “listening parties” in 2017. Chava was a perfect choice. Her music brought forth themes of gratitude, self-acceptance, balance and responsibility for each other in musical expressions of prayers as well as her original works. She touched everyone and capped a perfect day.

Yom Hashir was the culmination of a busy weekend for Chava who

thoroughly enjoyed her first visit to El Paso. On Friday, she led Shabbat services with Alison Westermann at the J Center for Early Learning, performed at the El Paso Jewish Academy, and participated in Kabbalat Shabbat at Temple Beth-El in Las Cruces. On Saturday, she entertained toddlers and adults at a special Tot Shabbat at Congregation B’nai Zion, and she later led a musical Chava-dalah Harmonies in Felicia Rubin’s backyard.

Yom Hashir was possible thanks to talented performers, countless volunteers, and a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso, supporting its mission to promote Judaism and Jewish culture. Hope to see you at Yom Hashir 2020!

David J. Kimmelman



Chava Mirel performing at Yom Hashir
Photo by Ed Dubowitz



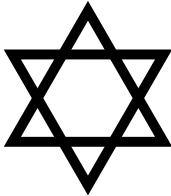
Chava Mirel with Rabbi Larry Karol at Temple Beth-El



Kristin Kimmelman and Alison Westermann with Dr. Larry Lesser
Photo by Marco Briones



Neorah Garcia on vocals and drum
Photo by Marco Briones



Picture of the Month



Temple Beth-El worshippers gather around Rabbi Larry Karol under the Sukkah during Sukkot



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We hope to see you!






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RSVP: jewishelpaso.org/topchef

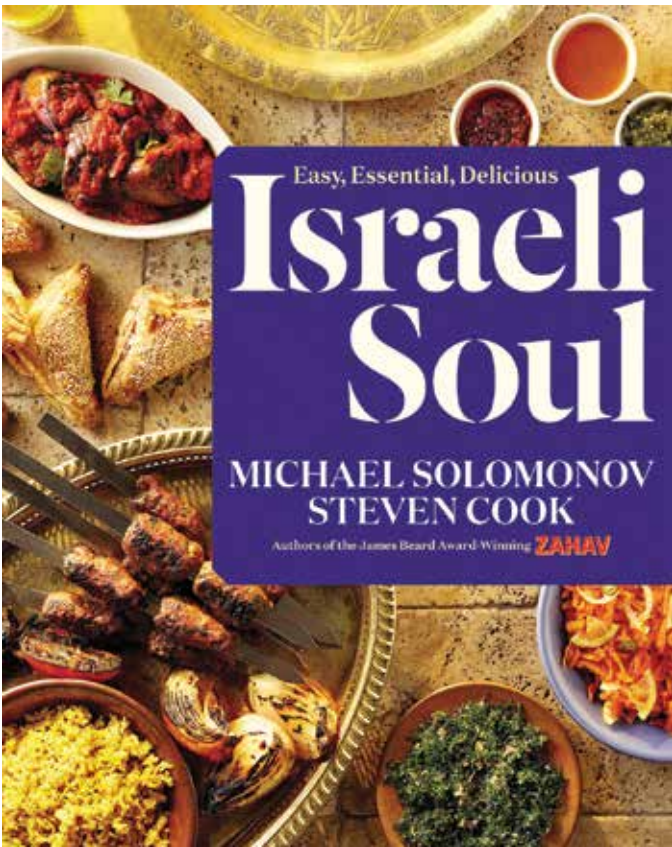
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COMMUNITY

Brand new Israeli food cookbook from top restaurant



If you haven't completed your menu plans for this year's Thanksgiving feast and would like to add a bit of "zip" to the meal, check out "Israeli Soul,"

of the 40 most important restaurants of the past 40 years. For this book, the authors traveled all over Israel visiting

a new cookbook by Michael Solomonov and Steven Cook (Rux Martin/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). Published last month, the book is a remarkable collection of flavor-filled recipes from the many food traditions brought to Israel by immigrants from all over the world over the past 70 years.

Michael Solomonov is the executive chef and co-owner with Steven Cook of Zahav, an Israeli restaurant in Philadelphia which opened in 2008. This year the restaurant was recognized by "Food & Wine" as one

of the 40 most important restaurants of the past 40 years. For this book, the authors traveled all over Israel visiting busy cities and sleepy towns eating foods from market stalls, bakeries, restaurants, street carts and even beach vendors. Collecting the "best of the best," Chef Solomonov perfected or adapted his favorites for the home kitchen.

When talking about Israeli food, most people think of hummus or falafel. But the food "soul" described by the authors is so much more: think of German Jews arriving with their Schnitzel recipes – chicken or turkey, Kubbe (soft semolina dumplings) made by Kurdish grandmothers, Persian meatballs with Beet Sauce (enhanced with tamarind and pomegranate molasses), Bulgarian Kebabs (sweet or spicy depending on the cook), Tunisian Grilled Tuna (slathered in harissa sauce – a mildly hot sauce), Khachapuri (bread made with pita dough brought by Georgian-Jewish immigrants) or Ashkenazi Jewish Rugelach made with a yeast dough and doused with syrup after baking!

The book's recipes for "Spice Blends and Sauces" are phenomenal; wonderful flavors can be created using just a few spices. The authors suggest substitutes (or online sources) for

ingredients that may not be available locally. Lots of hand-held foods: think chicken schnitzel stuffed in a pita or smoked salmon, avocado and labneh (soft cream cheese made from strained yogurt) on a bagel or pita. No pita? Try a tortilla! A fantastic assortment of salads, including chopped, grated or cooked can make entertaining a breeze. Big plus: chatty entertaining writing enhanced with brilliant color photos by Michael Persico of finished dishes, including superb step-by-step preparation photos, along with "tasty" views of markets, restaurants and street vendors in assorted Israeli cities and small towns.

Below are two easy recipes to consider for Thanksgiving guests – or whenever you're in the mood for a tasty snack. These recipes are adapted from "Israeli Soul" by Michael Solomonov and Steven Cook (2018) with permission of Rux Martin Books/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Ruth Taber
Member of the International Association
of Culinary Professionals
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5-Minute Hummus with Quick Tehina Sauce

For the uninitiated, hummus is a dip/spread made from cooked, mashed chickpeas blended with tehina (tahini in the U.S.), tehina is a ground paste made from hulled sesame seeds, olive oil, lemon juice, salt and garlic. Israelis don't usually make hummus at home because they can run down to their local "hummissiya" for excellent fresh hummus. Proud of his simple recipe, Chef Solomonov's believes the "5-Minute Hummus" to be a medium step forward for mankind!"

Quick Tehina Sauce ("Tahini" in U.S.)

Recipe makes 4 cups and is made entirely in the food processor: no bowls, pots, measuring cups to clean!

- Juice of one lemon
- 1/2 garlic clove
- 1 (16-ounce) container/jar of tehina (available at Whole Foods)
- Scant tablespoon kosher salt (adjust to your taste)

- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 cup ice water – (up to 1/2 more, if needed)

Hummus ingredients

- 2 (15-ounce) cans of chickpeas, drained and rinsed

- Squeeze lemon juice directly into food processor. Add garlic clove piece, contents of tehina container, salt and cumin. Process until mixture looks peanut buttery – about one minute.
- With food processor running, stream ice water in - a little at a time; process until mixture is smooth and creamy. Mixture will lighten to color of dry sand. This is your Quick Tehina Sauce!
- Add drained chickpeas to tehina sauce and process about three minutes, scraping down sides as you go until chickpeas are fully blended. Hummus will be smooth and uniform in color.



Sesame Brittle

For a sweet treat after a big dinner, Israel Soul offers a variation on the popular wrapped miniature hard Sesame Crunch candies. The recipe makes 64 one-inch pieces. As an aside, I cut the recipe in half and made it without tehina. I used a 6-inch square silicone pan, lightly sprayed with olive oil. Spreading the seeds in the smaller pan yielded thinner candies. After sliding the mixture onto my cutting board, I cut about 35 small rectangles; delicious!

- 1 cup sesame seeds
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup sugar
- Pinch kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon tehina

- Coat an 8-inch square dish with vegetable oil.
- Combine sesame seeds, honey, sugar, salt in saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat; cook about two minutes, stirring vigorously all the time.
- Add tehina, return mixture to a boil and cook about 2 (or less) minutes – or, until thickened, stirring continuously.
- Scrape mixture into prepared dish, spreading evenly across the bottom. Let cool slightly.
- Slide the brittle onto a cutting surface and cut into 1-inch cubes. At this point it's chewy; if you prefer hard candies, wait about an hour. Brittle will keep at room temperature in a covered container for two weeks.

COMMUNITY

TMS Consecration

Temple Mount Sinai had a beautiful consecration ceremony in September that welcomed new students with an inspiring service. May this step of consecration be just the first of many that our community’s students will take in creating a strong foundation of Jewish living. The Temple welcomed the following students:

- Rylee Berry

Tamsyn Hertel

Tova Hertel

Victor Hertel

Jacob Kaufman
- Zachary Kaufman

Judah Leaser

Benjamin Roth

Jillian Sears

Derrick Small
- Jacob Stevens

Ainsley Walker

Oliver Zeidman



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COMMUNITY

The J is truly thankful for you!

At The J Center for Early Learning (JCEL) we have so very much to be thankful for. Our school is thriving, with enrollment at an all-time high and many of our classes completely full! We are continuing to enhance our curriculum, our amazing teachers are constantly going above and beyond for our students, and there is an overwhelming sense of pride and joy that can be felt upon entering our gates. We owe so much of this to our wonderful El Paso Jewish community. You have supported us from the start and we cannot express our gratitude enough.

During this time of year, we begin to reflect on everything we have to be thankful for. Our preschool has been on an incredible journey in such a short time. We have received so much support from our community in monetary form, in expertise and guidance, and most of all in the heartwarming love we feel. We want to say a special thank you to Temple Mount Sinai, The Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso, and the Jewish Community Foundation of El

Paso. These are just a few of our amazing partners who have made an impact at our institution.

We are also so deeply thankful that a very special visitor came to Shabbat on October 5 and delighted us with her gorgeous musical talents. Chava Mirel graciously joined our students and made Shabbat a wonderful treat for all.

Last year we began a new tradition and held our first Grateful Gathering. Our students, families, and friends gathered together the week before Thanksgiving for a no-host luncheon. Everyone came together to share a meal, and more importantly revel in the festivities and really take time to see all the blessings we have to be thankful for. We cannot wait to continue this tradition, and plans for this year's luncheon are already underway. I know as a parent I am eagerly awaiting this year's gathering: it was such a special afternoon spent with smiling children and ended with full bellies.

On this Thanksgiving, and always,



Families at the J Center for Early Learning are thankful for their children

we at the J Center for Early Learning are very aware of how much we have to be thankful for. Our hearts are full of gratitude to those who entrust us with their children, those educators we are so blessed to have teaching our children,

and our community who are investing in the continuation of Jewish education for El Paso. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!

*Sarah Heller Pena
President of JCEL Board*

EPJA welcomes new board members

Raziel Hertel

Raz is new to El Paso, having relocated in May 2018 with his wife and four children. He feels that the El Paso Jewish Academy has been and should continue to be an integral part of the El Paso Jewish community. It is an educational initiative with the potential to be a beacon of pride within our Jewish community, as well as the community at large. It should be where Jewish identities are fostered and Menschen are made. Raz is optimistic about what the future holds for the EPJA, and is honored to have the opportunity to serve as a Board member.



Ellyce Kimmelman

Ellyce received her BA from UT, manages family real estate, and is a member of B'nai Zion. She believes in Jewish education for our El Paso community. Ellyce was an EPJA board member before her three children attended as well as almost each year while they were students.

The EPJA was one of most significant parts of her family's life. She received the Federation's young leadership award in 2007, around the time she was president of the board. Ellyce has lived in El Paso since 1988 and raised her three children here. Ellyce is interested in rebuilding a Jewish day school with community involvement that we can all be proud of.



Dan Sonnen

Dan is a wealth advisor at Lauterbach Financial Advisors. Raised in El Paso, Dan loves to call this jewel of a city home. After graduating from high school, Dan spent 12 years away, earning a couple degrees, launching his career in corporate finance and wealth management, and marrying the love of his life and Dallas native Vanessa Sonnen. They moved back to El Paso in July 2017 and welcomed a baby boy, David Samuel Sonnen, in March 2018.

Dan sits on the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso as well as the Building Committee of Temple Mt. Sinai and enjoys volunteering with Junior Achievement.



Randy Wechter

Randy Wechter works in the family's real estate business started by his late father, Aaron Wechter. Randy and Janet's son and daughter graduated from the El Paso Jewish Academy. Randy is a past president of the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso and serves on the El Paso Jewish Community Foundation Board and EPJA's finance committee. He cares about the future of the Jewish community and he and Janet have a fund with the Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso to help cover the costs for a local delegate to attend the JFNA Annual General Assembly. He and Janet and eight other delegates just returned from the 2018 GA in Tel Aviv.



Attention Parents and Grandparents of 2018 Babies!

Share a photo of your new baby or grandchild in the December Jewish Voice.

We're celebrating the 2018 Baby Boom with a special page, featuring photos and family names.

Due Monday, November 12

- One clear good quality color photo of the baby
 - Name of Baby and date of birth in 2018
 - Name of Parents (can live in El Paso or elsewhere) and, if applicable, name of Grandparents who live in El Paso (no need to list out-of-town grandparents)
- Submit to thevoice@jfedelpaso.org

FEDERATION

PJ Library, Pool, Pizza — and Giving Thanks!

On a chilly, grey evening in October, PJ Library families gathered at the Armijo Pool to learn about water safety from Claire Cowan of the El Paso Drowning Prevention Coalition and to explore the amazing splash pool! All was warm and cozy as we swam, ate pizza, and read through a story book from PJ Library’s extensive collection of carefully selected Jewish books for children.

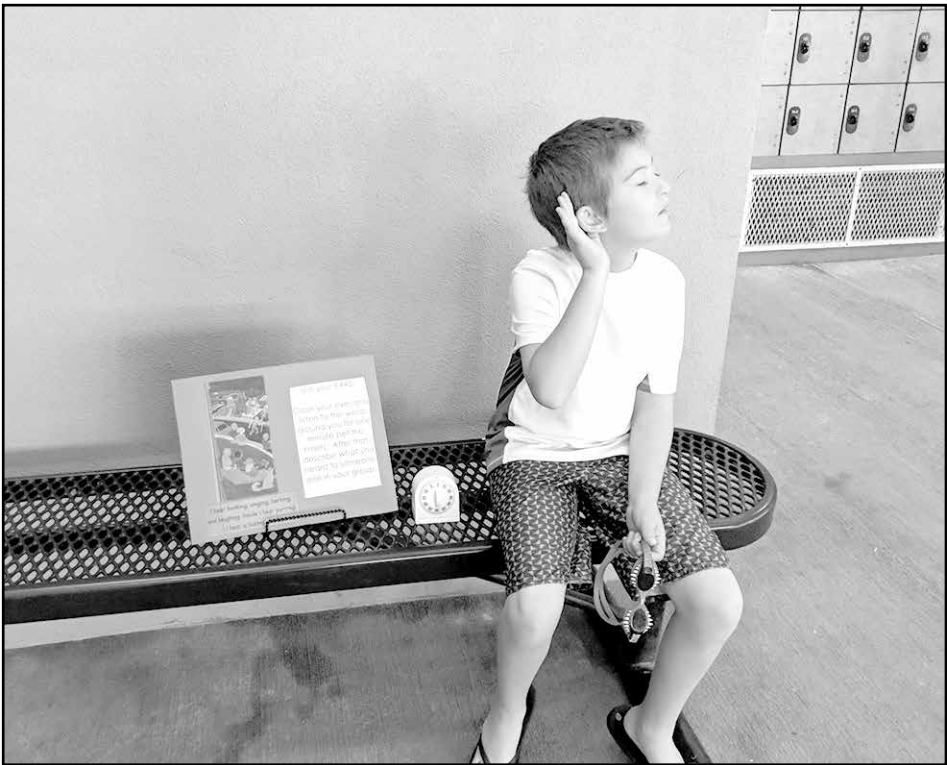
The book was “All of Me: A Book of Thanks” and we walked through the book’s message of gratitude by bringing the story to life. There were stations set up around the pool to allow participants to discover the wonderful things their bodies are capable of -- feet that jump, eyes that see, ears that hear, and so on. The children learned that we all have much to be grateful for. We had a terrific time, and each family

went home with a new book to read together, too.

See you in November for “Top Chef El Paso” on Monday, November 12, at 9:30 a.m. at the Whole Foods store at North Mesa and Pitt Street. Kids from kindergarten through third grade are invited to take the day off (due to Veterans Day) and spend time with their families as everyone learns to cook a new treat to take home. We’ll also be learning about the wonderful holiday of Hanukkah and reading from a book or two. Please RSVP to jewishelpaso.org/topchef before Thursday, November 8.

Our area’s PJ Library book program is made possible by a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso.

*Alison Westermann
Program Professional, Pj Library*



Sammy Westermann stops at the learning station teaching children to appreciate their ears



Claire Cowan of the El Paso Drowning Prevention Coalition works with Dena Westermann



Kristin Kimmelman and her son Samuel read “All of Me: A Book of Thanks”

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12420 Edgemere
6205 Upper Valley Rd.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 4, Sunday

B’nai Zion Sisterhood presents Afternoon Tea and Tupperware at 2:00 p.m. at B’nai Zion, 805 Cherry Hill. Prepare for Hanukkah! Please RSVP to Debbie Cohen 249-6505 debcoh@aol.com.

November 8, Thursday

Temple Mount Sinai invites the community to hear Susan Stamberg at 7:00 p.m., with a dessert reception following. The first woman to anchor a national nightly news program, Susan Stamberg has won every award in broadcasting, including a place in the Broadcasting Hall of Fame and the Radio Hall of Fame. After 14 years as co-host of NPR’s award-winning “All Things Considered” and three years as host of NPR’s Weekend Edition/Sunday, she continues to host programs and report for the public radio network.

Stamberg will speak on the “Jews of Shanghai,” a little-known Holocaust story about 23,000 Central European Jews who fled Hitler during World War II but only got as far as Shanghai, China

when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. Trapped there for nearly 10 years, they lived under terrible conditions in the slums of Shangai, where they slowly built up a “Little Europe” with cafes, radio programs, symphony orchestras and newspapers. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person in advance at templemountsinai.com/susanstamberg and \$10 at the door.

November 12, Monday

PJ Library, a program of the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso, is hosting “Top Chef El Paso” at 9:30 a.m. at Whole Foods (100 Pitt Street) upstairs in the community room. Elementary school-age PJ Library subscribers and family members are invited to spend Veterans Day baking up a new recipe from the PJ Library Parent Choice book, “Jewish Holidays Cookbook.” Participants will receive a special gift, in addition to going home with their creations, unless their baked treats get eaten on the spot! To RSVP, visit jewishelpaso.org/topchef

November 18, Sunday

Hadassah invites you to bring cookies (homemade or store bought), canned goods, and turkeys to Lisa Mitchell’s home after 12:30 p.m. for the organization’s “Baking for Hospice” project. For her address, contact LDM4165@aol.com or call 494-9775.

November 29, Thursday

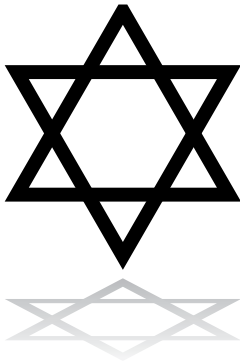
Joan Korn will lead a women’s book review of Elizabeth Poliner’s “As Close to Us as Breathing” at B’nai Zion at 7:00 p.m. Join members of B’nai Zion Sisterhood, Temple Mount Sinai’s Women of Reform Judaism, and Hadassah to discuss this acclaimed novel which takes its title from a Jewish prayer and “casts a spell” over readers.

January 22, Tuesday

Mark your calendars now for a memorable Pacesetters event for those who donate \$1,800 or more toward the Federation’s 2019 campaign. At this kickoff event at the beautiful new home of Dr. Steve and Wendy Lanski, attendees will hear from Arielle Di-

Porto, a leader in relocating families to Israel, and Mort Naiman, senior vice president of global philanthropy for the Jewish Agency for Israel.

In her work with the Jewish Agency over the last 30 years, Di-Porto has worked with highly sensitive, sometimes risky, often clandestine Aliyah missions from the Middle East and NorthAfrica. She will share the Agency’s successes in relocating Jews to Israel from Albania, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Tunis, Yemen, and other countries where Jews can live very precarious lives.



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FEDERATION

ANNOUNCING 2019
JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



Act of Defiance

Sunday, January 6



(English)

The historical drama, *Act of Defiance*, tells the story of Nelson Mandela, his Jewish attorney, and others as they face a possible death sentence for conspiracy against the apartheid South African government.

Three Identical Strangers

Sunday, January 20



(English)

Three Jewish strangers are reunited by astonishing coincidence after being born identical triplets, separated at birth and adopted by three different families. The fairy-tale reunion takes a dark turn when the unimaginable is revealed.

1945

Sunday, January 27



(Hungarian, English subtitles)

In 1945, an Orthodox man and his son return to a post-Holocaust village in Hungary while the villagers prepare for a wedding. The townspeople, guilt-ridden, fear the men may be heirs of the village's deported Jews, and expect them to demand their property back.

CO-SPONSOR: EL PASO HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND STUDY CENTER.

The Insult

Sunday, February 10



(Arabic, English subtitles)

The Oscar-nominated *The Insult* starts with a minor incident between a Palestinian refugee and a Lebanese Christian that explodes into a dramatic trial, dividing the two communities. The film depicts the tensions in Lebanon that profoundly impact Israel and the Middle East.

LUNCH SERVED PRIOR TO FILM AT 12:30. PM.

Be a Sponsor!

Executive Producer: \$500
Producer: \$250
Director: \$100

All sponsors receive two tickets for each film.

Screenwriter:

\$10/ ticket or \$36 for the series of 4 films

Seniors, Students and Military Personnel:

\$7/ ticket or \$25 for the series of 4 films

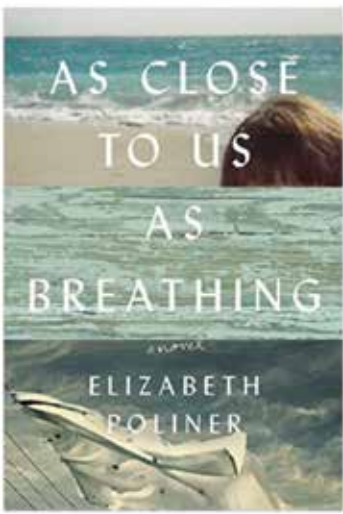
Tickets

No Reserved Seating

Films begin promptly at 2:00 PM.
Alamo Drafthouse Cinema

Online: JewishElPaso.org/films
Checks: JFed of Greater El Paso
7110 N. Mesa,
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Call: (915) 842-9554 with CC info.

Join CBZ Sisterhood,
TMS Women of Reform
Judaism, and Hadassah
for a Review of
As Close to Us as Breathing
by Elizabeth Poliner
Thursday, November 29
7:00 p.m.
Congregation B'nai Zion
Discussion led by Joan Korn



NPR Special Correspondent
Susan Stamberg



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