More than $119,000 raised in a single day to change the world throughout the year

By Susan Kariv
Chief Development Officer

Toda Raba! Thank you to the many community volunteers who collectively raised a record $119,098 at Super Sunday, held on November 2 at The Campus. Super Sunday was truly a day of “Community”, where volunteers from all parts of the community came together to reach out to their fellow Jewish community members – all for the sake of doing Chesed (acts of loving kindness) to fulfill the mitzvah of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). “This year’s Super Sunday exceeded our expectations. I am grateful to all the donors who answered the call, but especially to the dozens of volunteers who gave their time to strengthen our community,” said The Jewish Journal of San Antonio

Happy Hannukah! Celebrate the Festival of Lights at these events! Page 28-30

Joint Hanukkah program spotlights Catholic-Jewish relations today

On Thursday, Dec. 18, at 11:30 a.m., members of the San Antonio-area Roman Catholic and Jewish communities will gather for an interfaith Hanukkah celebration. The event, co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of San Antonio and San Fernando Cathedral, will be held at San Fernando Cathedral Hall, 231 West Commerce. This marks the 13th year San Antonio area Catholics and Jews have jointly celebrated Hanukkah. Two speakers from each of the two faith communities will speak on Catholic-Jewish Relations. See HANUKKAH, page 11

While Obama says Palestinians ‘want peace,’ factions glorify synagogue attack

U.S. President Barack Obama, who “strongly” condemned the murder of four Jewish worshippers and an Israeli police officer in a Jerusalem synagogue on November 18, also said that “the majority of Palestinians and Israelis overwhelmingly want peace” despite the fact that various Palestinian factions have expressed support for the terror attack. Two Arab terrorists from eastern Jerusalem attacked Jewish worshippers inside the Kehilat Bnei Torah synagogue with butcher knives, axes, and guns, killing four rabbis - three of whom were American-Israeli citizens - and a police officer. “There is and can be no

See ATTACK, page 36
The Michelle Kuri Foundation is increasing awareness.

Each day, “this voiceless population of children and adults goes unnoticed and unheard because they are noncommunicable, cannot speak. Because they cannot speak, they are not spoken to; they are placed in the shadows, become invisible… Only awareness and education can help us change their lives. Giving tzeddakah/charity can avert the severity of their suffering. Please help us speak for them; teach others how to care for them.”

Dr. Elisheva Placeres Nawrocik, Founder

The submission deadline for the JANUARY 2015 issue of the Jewish Journal is DECEMBER 12, 2014 at noon. Any materials submitted after this date will be considered for following issue.

How to submit: Email submissions to jewishj@jfsatx.org

• Articles & Announcements - Email as word documents. Articles submitted for consideration are subject to editing.
• Photos - Email high resolution images (300 dpi) in jpg attachments only. (NOTE: No photos from smart phones, please.)

To place an advertisement or request ad rates, contact Sandy Leigh at (240) 498-8999 or advertising@jfsatx.org.

Ad deadlines for JANUARY 2015 ISSUE:
• Ad space reservations due no later than December 12, 2014 by noon;
• Press ready ads due by December, 2014.

Please include a contact name and phone number with all submissions.

The Jewish Journal is a free publication of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, and is published in print and online 11 times a year as a public service to the community. Donations to offset production and mailing costs are always welcome.
FOCUS ON FEDERATION

Message from the Federation’s Annual Campaign Chair

By Jonathan Gurwitz
Chair, Annual Campaign

The end of the Jewish year, in later summer or early fall, is a time of introspection and repentance. Ten Days of Awe aren’t enough. The entire month of Elul, preceding Rosh Hashanah, is intended to put us in the proper frame of mind and heart to search for forgiveness.

The end of the secular year, in winter, is a time of merriment — and the occasional tax-motivated transaction. In the United States, the festival of Hanukkah — far from preparing us for forgiving — has become an exercise in gift-giving. Yet there’s something about the turn of the calendar, even in the secular world, that forces people to reflect upon their accomplishments and failures, and make resolutions to do better in the New Year.

As 2014 draws to a close, the Jewish community of San Antonio certainly has reason to revel. Two of our local congregations have welcomed new senior rabbis. The Jewish Federation has a new CEO and senior staff. Our Jewish institutions and agencies are strong.

We can, of course, do more. There’s one more meal we can provide to a local Jewish senior in need. There’s another event we can add to San Antonio’s Jewish cultural calendar. There are more people who could benefit from counseling here in San Antonio, more Jews in the former republics of the Soviet Union who need assistance, more victims of terrorism in Israel who need our help.

No matter the amount, your donation to the Jewish Federation of San Antonio’s annual campaign can help meet all these needs, and more. And no, it’s not too late. As the year draws to a close, the campaign books remain open, and our Federation staff is prepared to work with you to make giving both easy and advantageous.

This year, we will be closing the Annual Campaign with a community celebration on December 18, coinciding with the third night of Hanukkah. At this communal celebration, we will have a chance to thank our donors and volunteer campaigners, showcase the vitality of San Antonio’s Jewish Community, celebrate Hanukkah and enjoy a free concert with renown musical artist, Sam Glaser.

Finally, I want to offer my personal thanks to all the staff and volunteers who make the Jewish Federation and its constituent agencies function so well. We are dependent on both the financial contributions of generous donors and the time commitment of dedicated individuals to succeed.

This year has been one of many challenges for the Jewish community — locally, elsewhere and in Israel. It has also been a year of growth and success. With continued community support, may we go from strength to strength and have even greater reason to celebrate next December.

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DECEMBER 3
• JNetSA 1st Wednesday Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Il Sogno
• Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Sip & Snowmooze, 5 p.m.
• Barshop JCC Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus
• Congregation Rodfei Sholom Book Club The Woman Who Defied Kings, 7:30 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

DECEMBER 4
• Barshop JCC Silver Cinema, 1 p.m., at The Campus
• Congregation Rodfei Sholom Film Screening Beneath the Helmet, 7 p.m., Santikos Embassy 14

DECEMBER 5
• Congregation Agudas Achim Family Potluck Dinner and Scholar-in-Residence Nick Kotz, 6:15 p.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
• Temple Beth-El Machar After Hours, 8 p.m.

DECEMBER 6
• STARZ presents Beauty & the Beast, 7 p.m., at The Campus

DECEMBER 7
• STARZ presents Beauty & the Beast, 2 p.m., at The Campus
• STARZ presents Beauty & the Beast, 4:30 p.m., at The Campus

DECEMBER 9
• Jewish Federation Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus

DECEMBER 10
• Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Estate/Thrift Sale, 8 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim

DECEMBER 11
• Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Estate/Thrift Sale, 8 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
• Barshop JCC goes to the McNay, 6:30 p.m., McNay Art Museum
• Temple Beth-El Machar Torah on Tap, 8 p.m.

DECEMBER 13
• Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Hanukkah Party & Gift Show, 6 p.m., Temple Beth-El
• NOVA Presents The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley, 7 p.m., at The Campus

DECEMBER 14
• Chai Lights: Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Hanukkah Gift Show, 9 a.m., Temple Beth-El
• Congregation Rodfei Sholom Sunday Funday, 10 a.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom
• Congregation Agudas Achim Hand-On Hanukkah, 12 p.m., Whole Foods at The Vineyard
• Barshop JCC Dance Showcase, 1 p.m., at The Campus
• Jewish Family Service Latke Party, 4 p.m., at the home of Dr. Mel Cohen
• NOVA Presents The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley, 4:30 p.m., at The Campus

DECEMBER 15
• Congregation Agudas Achim Hanukkah Story Time with Rabbi Abraham, 4:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble La Cantera
• NCJW Trashy Book Club, 6:30 p.m., at the home of Susan Butler
• Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus

DECEMBER 16
• Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Games Day, 11 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
• Congregation Agudas Achim Lots of Latkes Hanukkah Dinner and Party, 5:30 p.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
• Hadassah Hanukkah Party, 7 p.m., Congregation Agudas Achim

DECEMBER 17
• Congregation Rodfei Sholom L’T’chayim Club Hanukkah Event, 11:30 a.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom
• Jewish Heritage Night at the Spurs, 7 p.m., AT&T Center

DECEMBER 18
• Jewish-Catholic Hanukkah Celebration, 11:30 a.m., San Fernando Cathedral
• Barshop JCC Silver Cinema, 1 p.m., at The Campus
• Barshop JCC Hands-On Hanukkah, 3 p.m., at The Campus
• Jewish Federation Hanukkah Celebration & 2014 Annual Campaign Closing Event, 7 p.m., at The Campus

DECEMBER 19
• Temple Beth-El Machar After Hours, 8 p.m.

DECEMBER 21
• Hanukkah on the River, 1 p.m.

DECEMBER 22
• Barshop JCC Winter J-Camp, through January 2
• Congregation Rodfei Sholom Winter Camp, through January 2

DECEMBER 23
• Congregation Rodfei Sholom Women’s Rosh Chodesh Group, 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 24
• Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Book Club, 10 a.m., Temple Beth-El
• PJ Library Pajama Pizza Party, 5 p.m., Beldon Library at The Campus
• Barshop JCC Closes Early, 7 p.m.
• Barshop JCC Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus

DECEMBER 25
• All Campus Offices Closed
• Barshop JCC Sports & Recreation Open 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

JANUARY 1
• All Campus Offices Closed
• Barshop JCC Sports & Recreation Open 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

JANUARY 7
• Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Sip & Snowmooze, 5 p.m.
• Barshop JCC & San Antonio Symphony Strauss Panel Event, 7 p.m., at The Campus

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RODFEI SHOLOM PRESENTS ITS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

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To purchase ads in the tribute book or to purchase tickets please contact us at rodfeigala2015@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557
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2014 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN CLOSING EVENT & HANUKKAH CELEBRATION
FEATURING A FREE CONCERT WITH SAM GLASER

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 @ 7 PM
at the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community
12500 NW Military Hwy., 78231
RSVP REQUESTED
to Amy Levine-Reagin at reagina@jfsatx.org / 210.302.6960
Regrettably, the Fountainheads have had to cancel all US tour dates in December

JOIN US AS WE THANK OUR DONORS AND OUR CAMPAIGNERS – AND CELEBRATE OUR COMMUNITY’S ACHIEVEMENT
Jonathan Gurwitz, Chair, Annual Campaign
Richard Planto, Chair, Board of Directors

LATKES DESSERTS CANDLE LIGHTING AND FUN!!

ABOUT SAM GLASER
Sam Glaser’s soulful music has become part of the fabric of Jewish life worldwide. He performs in over fifty cities a year, including on Broadway and the White House. His style is energetic and passionate and never fails to ignite the spirit of his audiences.
We are better together

“Kol yisrael arevim zeh l’zeh – all the people of Israel are responsible for each other.”

This concept of collective responsibility and commitment to each other is the very foundation of Jewish tradition and Jewish community.

Last month, I had the honor of attending the General Assembly (GA) of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), along with JFSA Board chair Richard Planto, board member Brian Feld and Lizette Feld in National Harbor, Maryland.

We spent two and a half days with a couple thousand Jews from across North America, learning, discussing and challenging how we organize and provide for our individual communities. We heard from politicians, dignitaries and celebrities such as Vice President Joe Biden, Justices Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan and actress Marlee Matlin. We listened to the voices of Israeli soldiers, Russian immigrants, Holocaust survivors and university students battling anti-Israel sentiments on campus.

We reflected on how far we have come in the last fifty years as a Jewish people and strategized on the work we still have to accomplish in the future.

For all our differences and disagreements amongst us as a collective Jewish community, we concluded that we are better together. This is not a catchy phrase or a clever marketing campaign, it is simply the truth.

We are better together. As the Jewish Federation of San Antonio – staff and our many volunteers - is working tirelessly to close the annual campaign, I want to remind us all why we do this work. We are responsible for each other. And we are better together.
FOCUS ON FEDERATION

The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies of San Antonio now accepting grant applications

The Grant Distribution Committee of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies of San Antonio invites area nonprofit 501(c)3 organizations to apply for a grant for programs and projects designed to ensure and/or promote the vitality of the Jewish community.

Categories of funding may include: Education, Youth Arts & Culture, Conservation/Preservation, Medical/Science, Religious, or Social/Human Service. Grants will be made primarily for new projects or programs. There is a two year limit of funding for grants. Programs that receive funding should not have any expectation of continued funding for the second year and must resubmit a grant application in accordance with the guidelines.

Proposals that will benefit Bexar County residents generally are given first priority, then Texas, national, and then Israel. Grant funds will not be awarded for capital expenditures although proposals for equipment or refurbishing will be considered.

The minimum request for grant consideration is $500 and the maximum grant request is $7500.

Please contact the Jewish Federation of San Antonio for an application.

The deadline for application is Friday, December 19, 2014.

Contact Amy Levine-Reagin at (210) 302-6960 or reagina@jfsats.org for an application or additional information.

### Alan Bayer Remembered

Alan Bayer, former CEO of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio from 1982-1988, passed away on October 26, 2014 in Ryebrook, NY. He had been ill with multiple myeloma since 2013.

Alan was a transformative figure for Federation. “He made us all feel that it was cool to participate and be part of Federation and work towards its goals of supporting our local Jewish institutions” commented Pat Kalman, a former President of the Federation Board.

Steve Butler, another former Board President, echoed these feelings and indicated that he would not have been involved in community had it not been for Alan’s leadership.

Lynne Diamond, a family doctor who lived in San Antonio for over 20 years remarked that “Alan codified in all of us the feeling that now was the time for our generation to assume the mantle of leadership and responsibility for Jewish community. Until that time I had viewed it as my parent’s role.”

Mike Ozer, past President of the former Jonathan Netanyahu Academy, recalled a meeting he had with Alan in the back of the bus on his first Federation mission to Israel in 1986. “Alan told me that if I was able to pay my entire Federation pledge all at once, I was not giving enough. Alan taught us to stretch when it came to giving.”

Rafi Sonsino, a local attorney and past CRC Chair, remembered that Alan was the first to bring prominent figures like Dennis Praeger and Rabbi Yitz Greenberg to San Antonio.

Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg of Congregation Rodfei Sholom noted Alan’s incredible gift of helping to create Jewish community in San Antonio.

Under Alan’s direction the Federation’s Young Leadership program was re-invigorated and Annual Campaign surpassed $2 million. Alan also played a pivotal role in the early stages of Congregation Beth Am in San Antonio.

After leaving San Antonio, Alan went on to leadership roles at the ADL under Abe Foxman, CLAL (National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership), and the UJA of New York.

Alan is survived by his beloved wife Naomi, cherished children Avi Bayer and Sarah Brown, granddaughters Sadie and Josephine. He is also survived by his mother Delores Bayer and brother Alan Bayer and brother Delores Bayer and brother...
FOCUS ON FEDERATION

FROM THE DESK OF BELDON LIBRARIAN LYNN WAGHALTER

Happy Hanukkah! Looking for some great Hanukkah books or some cookbooks with delicious latke recipes? We have what you’re looking for!! Come visit the Beldon Library. We are open Monday, 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.; and Wednesday, 1:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Todah rabah to the Leah Goot Group of Hadassah for inviting me to speak about our wonderful Beldon Library. (See complementary story on page XX). Five Hadassah members became Beldon patrons at their meeting on November 9.

Our next Used Book Sale will take place on Sunday, April 26 – Tuesday, April 28, 2015 in the Holzman Auditorium. Donations of gently used books, CD’s, and DVD’s are being accepted. Please support your library.

JWV reaches out to Wounded Warriors

Two days after Veteran’s Day, the Jewish War Veterans Post 753 in San Antonio provided a meal for the wounded service people and their families.

As shown in the photos, the JWV members worked with care to serve the food and welcome the military families. Judith Markelz, Director of the Warrior and Family Support Center on the San Antonio Military Medical Center Campus at Ft. Sam Houston, has told the Community Relations Council Director of the Jewish Federation that the JWV is very well received by the military families.

For more information about how to support programs such as these, contact the Community Relations office of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio at (210) 302-6960 or lackritzj@jfsatx.org.

ABOVE: Paul Feola and Frank Aleman serving the food.

AT RIGHT: JWV member Bart Sherwood with his dog, The Colonel.

VW member Floyd Williams (above) carting more food to the serving line.

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ONE STORE WITH
THE BEST OF
EVERYTHING.

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Focus on Federation: Your Beldon Library

In November, Beldon Librarian Lynn Waghalter spoke to the Leah Goot group of the San Antonio Hadassah Chapter about the Beldon Library. The following is an abridged version of her remarks:

To me, the Beldon Library itself is the “hidden treasure!” Many people do not know that it exists! Our library is a community resource which is open to the public. You do not have to be a member of the JCC to utilize the library.

The Beldon Library was named for Ann and Morry Beldon. The following is a history of the Beldons, which was written by their daughter, Dr. Eleanor Komet.

Ann and Morry Beldon met in Boston, Massachusetts where both were born and raised. They first came to San Antonio accompanied by their 3 children, courtesy of the U.S. Army. When Morry got orders to go overseas, he and Ann decided that Ann and their children should go back to Boston where Ann would have family support if Morry did not survive the war. Happily, Morry did survive, and he and Ann decided San Antonio was the perfect place to raise their children. So, back they came where they settled and started a roofing company.

Education was a major value for both of them, and Morry was a lover of books. He told the story of walking by a bookstore every day as a child and yearning to have a book of his own but not being able to afford one. He saved his money until he could finally purchase his own book. From that time on he was a voracious reader and took pride in his personal library. He was very proud of having graduated from MIT. Ann who was very active with Morry in the roofing business did not have the opportunity to attend college. She expressed her dedication to education through interest and support of Brandeis University National Women’s Committee, from whom Ann won several awards for her outstanding leadership. When the new Jewish Campus was being developed it was decided to include a library to house both children’s and adults’ books with Jewish content. Because of their interest in education and books, Ann and Morry decided to join with their children and contribute the funds to underwrite the Campus library.

The library has an adult collection which includes fiction and non-fiction books, CD’s, and DVD’s of Jewish interest. There is an extensive Holocaust collection here. We have a reference room which is large enough to accommodate a small group or class. Our catalog is computerized. There is free access to the internet. We have 2 patron computers. Wi-Fi is being installed.

The Beldon Library is a department of the Jewish Federation of the San Antonio. It is located on the first floor of the Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community. For more information, call (210) 302-6805 or email waghalterl@jfsatx.org.

BELDON LIBRARY HOURS
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BRIAN FELD HONORED AT JFNA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Lizette Feld, Brian Feld and Richard Planto, along with Ronit Sherwin (not pictured), attended the General Assembly (GA) of Jewish Federations of North America November 9-11 in National Harbor, Maryland. Brian Feld was also recognized as the San Antonio Young Leadership Award recipient, alongside dozens of other young leaders from across North America.

HANUKKAH
continued from page 1

Today. They are Laura Ehrenberg-Chesler and Raul Rodriguez.

Ehrenberg-Chesler is co-founder of an investment management firm and a prominent leader of many organizations in the Jewish and wider communities.

Among her scores of civic roles, she was presiding chair of the United Communities of San Antonio and chair of the Holocaust Memorial Museum.

She currently is chair of the Investment Committee and past campaign chair of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

Rodriguez is the Tom Benson Chair in Banking and Finance and Distinguished Professor at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio. A respected business consultant, he is involved with the American Jewish Committee’s Belfer Institute for Latino and Latin American Affairs in Washington, and locally with the “Bridges and Pathways” Latino-Jewish Dialogue.

The Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S., Archbishop of San Antonio, will be the presiding host for this unique interfaith observance this year. The Very Rev. Tony Vilano, JCL, Rector of San Fernando Cathedral, and Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth-El, will lead the proceedings.

Included in the program will be a presentation by the choir of Providence High School and the kindling of Hanukkah lights by clergy and lay leaders of the Jewish and Catholic communities.

Reservations are required by December 14 to attend this program, which includes a catered lunch, at $25 per person.

Table sponsorships are also available for $300. For further information, call San Fernando Cathedral, (210) 227-1297.
BAT MITZVAH:
Iliana Isaura Cantu

Iliana Isaura Cantu will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, Dec. 6 at Temple Beth-El. She is the daughter of Aliza and Willie Cantu and the younger sister of Sophia Cantu.

Iliana is a seventh grader at St. Luke’s Episcopal School where she enjoys learning about global issues in her World Trade class and actively participating in her in-school dance program where she performs Irish dance, ballet, and contemporary jazz. Iliana also loves being a part of Revolution 360, a competitive dance team based out of San Antonio Dance Academy. With this dance school and team she actively works on new routines in ballet, modern, and lyrical dance.

When she is not in the dance studio, Iliana enjoys spending time with friends, skiing on snow or the water, and playing the piano. Instead of choosing one organization for her mitzvah project, Iliana decided to work with a variety of organizations around San Antonio to gain a better understanding of the needs in our community. She will continue to donate her time through the National Charity League, St. Luke’s Episcopal School Social Action projects, and with her family at St. PJs and Heintz Preschool.

B’NAI MITZVAH:
Benjamin Zander Fogel and Maxwell Kalmans Fogel

Benjamin Zander Fogel and Maxwell Kalmans Fogel were called to the Torah for their B’Nai Mitzvah on Saturday, Nov. 22. Ben and Max are the sons of Barri and Kirby Fogel, brothers to Samantha and grandchildren of Buddy and Doris Kalmans of Houston, Melanie Fogel of Dallas, and Richard and Naomi Fogel of Dallas.

Ben and Max are 7th graders at Eisenhower Middle School. Outside of school, Ben studies dance, participates in choir, loves to play basketball, swim and ride his longboard. Max is an avid reader, aspiring filmmaker, swims and likes to hang out with his friends.

Max and Ben both are active in Agudas Achim youth activities as well as campers at Camp Young Judea.

Shectman named National Cantor of Jewish War Veterans

Norton Shectman has been appointed to serve in the position of National Cantor by the National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America. Shectman currently serves as Commander of San Antonio Post 753, and Chaplain of the Department of TALO (Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma) of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America.

Penner’s
Has the largest selection of boy’s suits in the southwest

Brainstorming a Bat or Bar Mitzvah?
There’s a room for that!
The Campus has a variety of rooms available for rent which are perfect for events large and small. For more information, visit www.thecampustx.org or call Mike Griffin, 210-302-6801 or Carisa Heiss, 210-302-6866.
Global Day of Jewish Learning brings together over 200 people

By Rachel Stern

On Sunday November 16th, 2014 San Antonio participated in the Global Day of Jewish Learning (GDJL). We joined with hundreds of communities world wide celebrating the gift of communal learning. This year the theme was Heroes Villains, Saints and Fools: The People in the Book and we offered a variety of sessions related to the theme.

Our program began in the morning and was spread throughout our congregations where there were different sessions offered at each location. We convened later in the day at the Campus where we gathered for an amazing keynote by New York Times best selling author, Paul Benjamin on the History of Jews in Comics. Following the keynote we offered even more sessions, had a special PJ Library program for children and families and ended the day with a reception. (see next column)

Our local presenters included: Rabbi Chaim Block, Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg, Rabbi Mara Nathan, Rabbi David Komorofsky, Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Aliza Cantu and Ronit Sherwin.

Our program would not have been possible without the support and planning from our wonderful GDJL committee, which brought together representatives from the entire community. Our committee will be meeting soon to debrief this year and to begin planning for the future.

We look back on our first GDJL experience enriched by the learning and togetherness that took place and look forward to next year!

Kids take part in Global Day, too

By Lauren Abraham, PJ Library Coordinator

WOW! Super! What an awesome day. PJ Library and the Kehila Project came together, with capes, costumes, and cheer, and they were ready for the Global Day of Jewish Learning. This year’s Global Day of Jewish Learning theme was Heros & Villains, Saints & Fools: The People of the Book. Thus, we invited both Batman of San Antonio and Princess Elsa of Frozen to be our guest PJ Library story

From braised brisket to chocolate dreidels to freshly baked treats, seven kinds of potatoes for latkes (or homemade latkes in the Chef’s Case if you choose to forgo the fryer) to 20 kinds of apples for applesauce – we’re here for you.

Let Central Market help celebrate the Festival of Lights with a Festival of Delicious.
Treasures to be found at upcoming rummage sale

Bargain shoppers, get ready for Agudas Achim Sisterhood’s annual Estate and Thrift Sale on Wednesday, Dec. 10 and Thursday, Dec. 11 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Organizers promise there are items for shoppers of all ages.

Proceeds will benefit Congregation schools and activities as well as a number of community organizations including the Battered Women’s Shelter, Goodwill, Fisher House, Haven for Hope, Boysville, the Humane Society, Fisher House and Dress for Success.

Note all sales are final. Cash and carry only, no checks or credit cards will be accepted.

Readers and teach our youngest members of the Jewish community about the story of *The Mitzvah Magician*.

The theme of the day brought out the "Super Hero" in our families. We made Super Hero Skewers with grapes, cheerios, dates, and other fruits as snacks, and as our special craft, each child made their own Super Hero Shield that was decorated by words that our children felt encompassed their superhero traits, including being honest, caring, charitable (as Tzedakah donors), a good listener, and many more.

There were plenty of smiles and questions for our super heroes. Batman shared that his biggest Mitzvah project is that he visits children in local hospitals to cheer them up and help them go on adventures together.

The Batman of San Antonio will return for our December PJ Library to pick up unwrapped toys to donate to his holiday drive.

PJ Library Parents were full of excitement about this program. “My children really enjoyed seeing all of their friends, and having fun, and making their shields. I will never forget the shock in their faces as they saw live heroes reading the same PJ Library books that we read at our own home. My younger daughter, Lauren, age 3, was in tears and did not want to leave this fun filled afternoon. Our family is already looking forward to the next event.” Said PJ Library Parent Advisory Committee Member, Lisa Abramson. The PJ Library hosts events each month to bring our PJ Library readers, age 6 months to 7 years old, together and to help strengthen our Jewish community. The events are sponsored by the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, and are free of charge.

**IN THE COMMUNITY**

**HANNUKAH HAPPINESS!**

**COME CELEBRATE WITH US!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE EVENTS AND TO RSVP CALL 479.0307**

**Sunday, December 14 ~ 12:00pm-2:00pm**

**Hands On Hanukkah**

Vineyard Whole Foods (Blanco & 1604)

Great Food, Cookie Decorating, Face Painting, Dreidel Origami, Dreidel Spin Contest, Photo with Danny The Dreidel and More!

Underwritten by Big Tent Judaism this event is **FREE** and Families of all Backgrounds Welcome

**Monday, December 15 ~ 4:30pm**

**Rabbi Abraham’s Hanukkah Storytime**

Barnes & Noble Booksellers (La Cantera)

Hanukkah stories, fun activities and gel! Stick around afterward and join us for a no-host dinner! (restaurant to be announced)

This event is **FREE** and open to the community

---

**Let’s Celebrate HANNUKAH with LOTS OF LATKES!**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16th**

5:30pm Dinner * 6:30pm Show Featuring...

**The Bible Playets**

**LIGHT THE MENORAH**

**Spin the Dreidel**

**FUN! FOOD! FRIENDS!!**

**Music Provided by Baruch/Offriders Entertainment**

Adults ($10/Each) Children (17 and under are FREE)

RSVP: No Later Than 3:00pm on Thursday, December 11th.

Call 479-0307 for more details.
You might say we’re always on call.

Whether it’s a Holocaust survivor left without family, a single mother who’s lost her job or an entire community devastated by hardship. In San Antonio, in Israel, and across the globe, Federation is there.

We foster Jewish life in countless other ways as well. Helping thousands to reconnect to their Jewish identity wherever there is a longing. Supporting Israel experiences, Jewish educational experiences, and Jewish summer camp experiences.

Your gift to the 2014 Annual Campaign enables us to accomplish all this and more. You are an integral part of all we do.

Visit us at www.jfsatx.org or call 210.302.6960.

Jonathan Gurwitz, Chair, 2014 Annual Campaign ® Richard Planto, Chair, Board of Directors
IN THE COMMUNITY

Agudas Achim Sisterhood’s Game Day returns December 16

Agudas Achim Sisterhood’s 17th Annual Games Day will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 16 in the Gurinsky Family Social Hall from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Everyone invited to bring their favorite games and friends. Agudas Achim Sisterhood will provide the tables, chairs, food and door prizes as well as lunch and snacks. Reservations are required.
To hold your spot, contact Linda Aboloff at (210) 479-3612 or Babs Schnitzer at (210) 764-1714.
The cost is $12, which may be paid at the door.

Hanukkah is coming... But first, a spot of tea!

San Antonio’s two Hadassah groups will be celebrating in December – but not just on Hanukkah.
The Rose Treiman Group will meet for lunch at 11:30 on Wednesday, Dec. 3, at the English Tea Shop, 6877 Bandera Rd. Carol Thompson will discuss growing up in England and show how to make a proper “cuppa.” There is a $15 charge for lunch (either a Ploughman’s Lunch or fish and chips), and reservations must be made as soon as possible. For information, call either Sandra Shaenfield, (210) 492-9562, or Ruth Toback, (210) 694-7552.
The Leah Goot Group will celebrate the first night of Hanukkah and will learn more about “The December Dilemma: Holidays and Interfaith Families,” when they meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 16, at the Adante Senior Living Activity Room, 2702 Cembalo Blvd. The speaker will be Hazzan Jeremy Lipton of Congregation Agudas Achim, who will also lead the group in holiday songs. Reservations should be made by calling Marge Present, (210) 492-5153.
Those who are still seeking a Hanukkah gift for a special woman might want to consider making a $100 donation to the Sarah Wetsman Davidson Hospital Tower, the newest addition to the Hadassah Hospital at Ein Karem. In return, you may opt to receive a silver heart necklace. For information on how to do this, call Kathy O’Neill at (210) 823-8603.

Chabad’s Women’s Rosh Chodesh Celebration

The Women’s League of Chabad’s ‘Rosh Chodesh Celebration’ for the month of Tevet will take place on Monday, Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. at the home of Simone Kboudi.
Chabad’s monthly Rosh Chodesh Celebrations provide an opportunity for women from throughout the community to socialize, enjoy a home-cooked dinner and be inspired by a D’var Torah presented by Mrs. Rivkie Block. This month’s D’var Torah is entitled Warming the Winter Solstice. For more information about the Women’s League of Chabad and the Rosh Chodesh Celebrations, call (210) 492-1085 email RivkiBlock@ChabadSA.com.
**WHAT’S HAPPENING**

**HELP A CHILD LEARN TO READ**

The Jewish Coalition for Literacy recently held its Fall Orientation. Volunteers are still welcome to sign up to Mentor to a Student in his or her own school. Contact Nathan Ratner, Coordinator of the San Antonio Jewish Coalition for Literacy at (210) 302-6960 or by email at ratnern@jfsatx.org.

**KOSHER BBQ DRAWS A CROWD**

Face painting was just one of the many activities available for children.

Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham tends to the grill at the 2nd annual Kosher BBQ.
WHAT’S HAPPENING

SENORS Gobble Up Pre-Thanksgiving Festivities

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PROJECT WELCOME HOME

On Tuesday, Nov. 11, as part of a new initiative called Project Welcome Home, seniors gathered at the Barshop Jewish Community Center to celebrate Veteran’s Day. JCC seniors were encouraged to invite a veteran to senior lunch at no cost and wear patriotic or military attire.

During the ceremony, veterans were acknowledged and thanked for their service to the country. JCC staff distributed cards handmade by children enrolled in the JCC after school program and lead the group in a lively bout of patriotic songs. Saul Levenshus, JCC CEO, addressed the seniors and veterans, thanking them for their service and participation in senior programming at the JCC.

As lunch progressed, veterans shared stories and memories at their tables. The festivities culminated with a beautiful American flag cake which was enjoyed by all attendees.

Project Welcome Home is a new JCC initiative that aims to engage Jewish veterans with the greater community.

Seniors enjoyed a fun event at Congregation Rodfei Sholom with the L’Chayim Club’s Pre-Thanksgiving Luncheon.

Veterans of all backgrounds attended the senior lunch at the JCC.
SUPER SUNDAY

continued from page 1

2014 Campaign Chair, Jonathan Gurwitz. Super Sunday Co-Chairs, Howie Nestel and Kelly Klein, welcomed the volunteers and continued to motivate the callers throughout the day with words of encouragement, updates and fun raffles.

Howie said, “Co-chairing the 2014 Federation Super Sunday was a lot of fun and very rewarding. Raising almost $120,000 in just one day with a great group of volunteers was awesome!” Kelly shared, “Being a volunteer for Super Sunday, I know my efforts directly impact our Jewish community – locally and abroad.”

The phones were manned by volunteers of all ages. Synagogues and Agencies came out as groups, to make calls and make a difference. While most of the volunteers were making calls for donations to the Annual Campaign, the Fifth grade class of the Inda Posner Agudas Achim Religious School made “Thank You” calls to donors who had already made a pledge to the 2014 Campaign. (see related article on the Twinning Program, pg. 21)

According to Gurwitz, “Super Sunday is a day when we can all come together, connect with each other and really make a difference. Through the Annual Campaign, we literally help to save and change lives here in San Antonio, Israel and 70 countries around the globe.”

If you missed the chance to donate at Super Sunday, it is not too late. Make a gift that makes a difference by donating online at www.jfsatx.org or call the Jewish Federation of San Antonio at (210)302-6960. Special thanks and “Bravo” to our Super Sunday Co-Chairs Howie Nestel and Kelly Klein.

PHOTOS CONTINUED ON PAGE 21
Area 5th graders Skype with Western Galilee students at Super Sunday

On the morning of Super Sunday, the 5th grade students of the Inda Posner Religious School (IPRS) of Congregation Agudas Achim met at The Jewish Campus to study together with their Israeli counterparts from the Shazar School in Akko, Israel. The students from Israel and San Antonio met each other for the first time using Skype -- kicking off the new year of “twinning.” This will be the third year that IPRS will partner with the school.

IPRS Education Director, Karen Katims, wished the Israeli students an Erev Tov (Good evening), as the class began at 5:30 p.m. Israel time. The Israeli students were welcomed, and reintroduced to the IPRS teacher, Rosa Jonasz, whom they had met in Israel when Jonasz was visiting. Both the IPRS and Israeli students were excited to meet each other.

The Shazar students sang Ani V’Atah Neshaneh Et HaOlam, “You and I Can Change the World,” to the IPRS class and then introduced themselves. Each IPRS student then said “Shalom,” introduced themselves using both their English and Hebrew names, and shared something that they like to do as a hobby. The IPRS students told the Shazar Students about Super Sunday and the Jewish Community of San Antonio, how we are all connected, and how this day brings us closer. The IPRS students showed the back of their t-shirts to the Israeli students which read, “The Strength of a People. The Power of Community.”

Katims also told the Shazar students about past activities and how much they enjoyed having their teacher, Orli, visit San Antonio as part of an educators’ exchange. “This class on Super Sunday was just the beginning of our partnership program for the year, and we look forward to more partner activities and hopefully future visits with our friends in Israel!” said Karen Katims.

Throughout the morning class, students took turns volunteering for Super Sunday. The students made Thank-You calls to donors who had already pledged to the 2014 Annual Campaign, as well as volunteered for other administrative tasks of the day. Their impact on Super Sunday was felt by those they called as well as by the callers in the room. Susan Kariv, Federation’s Chief Development Officer, commented, “It was inspiring to see these young students proudly talking about “community” to their Israeli counterparts and then seeing them in the calling room at Super Sunday, making calls and helping out! I see future leaders in the making!”

Twinning is a program of the Partnership2Gether (P2G) of the Jewish Agency and the Jewish Federation, which connects Israeli and American students – giving them a chance to study together and meet each other, ultimately beginning new friendships. This is the third year that IPRS is partnering with the Israeli school. Temple Beth El also participates in the Twinning Program.
WHAT'S HAPPENING

MAGICAL MOMENTS!
Everyone enjoyed themselves at the Rodfei Mother/ Daughter Wizard of Oz performance on November 2, 2014.

OFF TO A GOOD START
Bobi Stern visits classes weekly at the JCC Block and Dreeben School for Young Children to as part of the program, An Ethical Start, which is based on teachings from Pirkei Avot. through implementing the Ethical Start program based on teachings from Pirkei Avot.

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Coordinated by the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning in cooperation with Congregation Agudas Achim, Temple Beth El, Congregation Rodfei Sholom and the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.
Izzy Ezagui inspires area teens and young adults

By Lauren Abraham
Campaign Associate

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio was proud to host Israeli soldier Izzy Ezagui, who met with area Teens and Young Adults on November 5 at Rosella’s Coffee Shop. An American-born squad commander in the Israel Defense Forces, Izzy was severely wounded in combat, losing his dominant arm. Despite his injury, Izzy returned to his unit to continue defending his country.

In May of 2011, Shimon Peres, the president of Israel, awarded him the highest accolade a soldier outside the battlefield could receive.

Fifteen year old Katherine Adelman gave a compelling introduction of Izzy, sharing how Izzy gained his true passion for Israel after meeting and spending time with Israeli soldiers during his Birthright trip to Israel when he turned 18. Izzy encouraged all of the teens to take advantage of this amazing trip and to find their own connection to Israel.

Parents of many of the teens stayed on to hear the riveting story of Izzy. Amy Saklad, the mother of 10th grade triplets Joel, Jared, and Jeremy Saklad, commented on how terrific it

See EZAGUI, page 25
EZAGUI
continued from page 24
was for all of the San Antonio area teens to come together to learn, schmooze and get to know one another. She shared how she and her children were so touched by Izzy’s story. She said, “My sons exited with a new connection to Israel and had a great time simultaneously.”

The Young Adults of our community also had a chance to hear from Izzy and learn about his experience when they gathered on November 6 at The Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community. At a wine and dessert reception, Izzy was able to again convey his personal story and passion for Israel.

Nicole Porterfield, Chair of The Tribe, shared that Izzy was easy to connect with and she resonated with the way he spoke. “He was so calm and gentle, and he lights up when he tells his story.” Her favorite message came from Izzy when he was asked how he got the courage to re-enlist in the army, even after his loss of his dominant arm. He said, “Everyone has their strengths and weaknesses. Everyone has something to add to the team.” She looks forward to applying that message as she continues to build San Antonio’s Jewish Young Adult community.

Participants of both events learned about how the Jewish Federation of San Antonio is committed to strengthening our Jewish community in San Antonio, in Israel and around the world.

Through inspiring events like this one, with Izzy, the Federation was able to bring Israel to our next generation.

Sam Klein, Kelly Klein, guest speaker Izzy Ezagui, Samantha Mazuz, and Nicole Porterfield were able to spend time and deepen their connection to Israel and the Jewish Federation.
San Antonio BBYO attending regional convention

San Antonio BBYO (B’nai B’rith Youth Organization) will travel to Houston for the 2014 Regional Convention Dec. 21-24. The regional convention is one of the largest conventions of the year and is open to all BBYO members. Attendees will participate in programs with teens from Austin and Houston and elect a new regional board.

BBYO is the largest Jewish youth organization in the world and is open to all Jewish teens in grades 9 through 12.

Local teens interested in joining BBYO are welcome throughout the year. For more information, contact BBYO City Director Dylan Ashworth at (210) 302-6869 or at ashworthd@jcc-sa.org.

San Antonio BBYO looking to recruit advisors

San Antonio BBYO is looking for BBYO alumni or adults who would like to serve as a volunteer advisor for one of our two local BBYO chapters. BBYO is the largest Jewish youth organization in the world geared toward Jewish teens in high school.

Being an advisor provides many opportunities to work with Jewish teens.

San Antonio BBYO hosts various local events on a monthly basis either on Saturday evenings or Sunday afternoons.

BBYO members also travel to a few regional events during the school year. Interested people should contact BBYO City Director Dylan Ashworth at (210) 302-6869 or at ashworthd@jcc-sa.org.

Hillel San Antonio connects

San Antonio Hillel continues to connect with Jewish students throughout San Antonio. Students have been actively getting involved in the greater Jewish Community by attending events, volunteering and collaborating with other Jewish Organizations, and participating in campus wide events. San Antonio Hillel students traveled to Dallas to be a part of the AIPAC National Summit, this gave them the opportunity to meet other student leaders from surrounding universities, gather with people from all over the world.

See HILLEL, page 27

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**IN THE COMMUNITY: YOUTH & COLLEGE**

**Hillel continued from page 26**

who are passionate about Israel and its future, and learn about pressing issues facing Israel today. If you know of a college-aged student in San Antonio looking to get involved and meet other Jewish students, please contact Samantha Mazuz by email at Samantha@sahillel.org or by phone at (210) 201-JEWS (5397).

**Chabad on Campus: home away from home for college students**

Chabad on Campus recently celebrated its one year anniversary. Established by Rabbi Ari and Chaya Weingarten, Chabad on Campus, located near UTSA at 13210 Hopkins Glade, is designed to provided students with a warm home-like atmosphere to socialize, learn and experience the joy within Judaism. “Focusing on that which connects us, students from all walks of Jewish life, from all affiliations and backgrounds, bond and connect to each other and to their Jewish Heritage in life-impacting manner,” said Rabbi Ari. With weekly Shabbat Dinners, holiday programs, social events, weekly Torah classes, and complimentary Kosher lunches on Campus, Chabad is open round the clock, rain or shine.

December highlights include a Paint your own Menorah workshop with Clay Casa on Sunday, Dec. 7 and Midnight Study and Breakfast on Thursday, Dec. 11.

For more information, contact Rabbi Ari at (210) 391-3621, via email at ariweingarten@gmail.com or online at www.ChabadonCampusSA.com.

**Chabad to offer one week Winter Break Camp**

Chabad has opened registration for its Camp Gan Israel Winter Camp for children ages 5-12. Held during the first week of winter break, it begins on Monday, Dec. 22 and goes until Friday, Dec. 26. Drop-off is at 9 a.m. and pick-up is at 3:30 p.m.

Energized by a team of dedicated staff, the children will enjoy arts n’ crafts, Jewish Fun Time, edible creations, hot cocoa club and much, much more— all in the Camp Gan Israel spirit. “We look at this time as an opportunity for kids to connect with Jewish friends in a fun and educational way, almost like a shot in the arm of Jewish pride,” said Rochel Teldon, the camp’s director.

For more information and to register, please call the Chabad office at (210) 764-0300 or email Rochel@ChabadSA.com.

The images you keep of people you love – in photos, in your mind, in your heart – deserve to be framed in a proper way. One that honors your family’s faith, culture and tradition. We understand. After all, creating exactly the right way for you to say farewell is something the Porter Loring family has done for four generations.
IN THE COMMUNITY: YOUTH & SENIORS

Heintz Preschool offers winter camp for young

Hands-on science, non-traditional arts and crafts, silly sports and more, are in store at Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim’s Winter Camp. Session One runs December 22 to 24 and Session Two runs December 29 to 31. Camp hours are from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., extended day is available with reservations. Older students (11 and up) are encouraged to sign up as Camper Assistants (CA) to help teachers as they guide campers in “cool” winter activities.

For more information, call (210) 479-0429 or email a.cantu@agudas-achim.org.

Rodfei Sholom Winter Camp

Rodfei Sholom will offer students a Winter Camp this year from December 22 through January 2. (There will be no camp December 25 or January 1). All community children, age 2 through 5th Grade, are welcome to participate. The hours will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with extended stay until 3:00 pm available. For more details, contact the synagogue office at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557 or e-mail Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg directly at asrodfei@gmail.com.

L’Chayim Hanukkah for seniors

Community seniors are invited to attend Congregation Rodfei Sholom’s L’Chayim Club monthly event on Wednesday, Dec. 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. A traditional, home-cooked Hanukkah luncheon will be served.

There will be a D’var Torah given by Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg; and in keeping with Hanukkah, there will be time for dreidel-spinning and more. All are encouraged to bring their favorite games. There will be a Hanukkah Grab Bag, and everyone is asked to bring a wrapped unisex gift costing no more than $5.

There is no charge for seniors, thanks to the co-sponsorship of Rodfei Sholom and a generous grant from Golden Manor. Others are welcome and encouraged to attend at $5 per person. If planning to attend, RSVP by Thursday, Dec. 11, to rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

Sunshine Club to Host Pre-Hanukkah luncheon

The Sunshine Club, a monthly social for seniors, is pleased to be hosting a pre-Hanukkah luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning, 14535 Blanco Rd.

Participants will have the opportunity to socialize and enjoy a Hanukkah lunch with treats.

The Sunshine Club is sponsored by the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning and Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.

For more information please call Chabad at (210) 764-0300 or email Rochel@ChabadSA.com.

Hand on Hanukkah at the JCC

Thursday, Dec. 18, from 3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., the JCC will host Hands on Hanukkah, an event that is free and open to the community. The event will feature latkes, crafts, an engaging book reading from PJ Library and menorah lighting at sundown.

Additionally, attendees are encouraged to participate in the Block and Dreeben School for Young Children’s annual Tikun Olam [heal the world] initiative by bringing and donating food for the San Antonio Food Bank. Participants are invited bring one of the “Twelve Most Wanted,” which includes peanut butter, cereal, tuna, beans, rice, macaroni and cheese, chili, canned stews, soups and luncheon meats, full meals in a can or box, and all “pop top” food Items.

In addition, the Food Bank also collects dog and cat food for those receiving food pantry assistance who have animal companions in need. Dry and wet dog and cat food, as well as treats and cat litter are always welcome.

For more information contact Aliyah Kuchinsky at (210) 302-6827.

It's not too late to donate to the Federation Annual Campaign.

It's easy! Donate securely online at www.jfsatx.org or call us at (210) 302-6960.

Thank you!
Federation hosts community wide Hanukkah celebration

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio will host a community wide Hanukkah celebration on Thursday, Dec. 18 beginning at 7 p.m. A live concert by spirited musician Sam Glaser along with candle lighting, latkes, deserts and more will take place at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community, 12500 N.W. Military Highway. The event also marks the end of Federation’s 2014 Annual Campaign. The event is free and open to the community, but RSVP’s are requested. RSVP by calling (210) 302-6960 or emailing reagina@jfsatx.org.

HANUKKAH

17th Annual Chanukah on the River – December 21

The seventeenth annual Chanukah on the River program will take place on Sunday, Dec. 21 at the Arneson River Theater. The highly acclaimed Chanukah Wonderland segment of Chanukah on the River will be held from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. in La Villita - Plaza Juarez right above the Arneson River Theater. Chanukah Wonderland, a project of Chabad’s Youth Zone, will feature a host of exciting hands-on Chanukah activities and attractions for children of all ages.

The Chanukah River Boat Parade will begin at 3 p.m. followed by the Menorah Lighting at 4:15 p.m. and then a concert by the sensational Pardes Rock Band from Miami, Florida.

Chanukah on the River is coordinated by the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning in cooperation with area synagogues and organizations. It is sponsored by the City of San Antonio Department for Culture and Creative Development, International Bank of Commerce, H.E.B., Holzman Family Foundation, SWBC and The Jewish Federation of San Antonio. Concession stands will be open for snacks and light dinner. Please allow sufficient time for parking. Cost of Chanukah Wonderland is $6 per child (adults free) and includes all activities. Chanukah Boat Parade is $5 per person. Show and concert are free to the public. For more information and an online discount, visit www.ChanukahOnTheRiver.com.

Hanukkah prep party for military

The Barshop Jewish Community Center invites all active and retired post-9/11 military members and their families to attend a free Hanukkah party as part of Project Welcome Home, a new initiative that seeks to integrate Jewish veterans with their community. The party will be held Thursday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. at the JCC and includes a free dinner, craft stations, dreidel tournament, and plenty of opportunities to meet with fellow members of the Jewish military community.

The event aims to connect veterans to each other and the community, and will provide information about additional Hanukkah events happening throughout the city. RSVP to Maya Siler at (210) 302-6860 or silerm@jcc-sa.org. More information about Project Welcome Home is available at www.jccsanantonio.org/PWH.

Sam Glaser, named one of the top 10 Jewish performers by US by Moment magazine, will perform a free concert at the Jewish Campus on December 18.

Gary S. Gossen, M.D., F.A.C.G.
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Diplomate of the Board of Gastroenterology
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Jewish Journal - January 2010 - v.1
Outdoor family menorah lighting at Chabad

The Chabad Center will host a family menorah lighting on the last night of Hanukkah, Tuesday, Dec. 23 from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning, 14535 Blanco Rd.

The short and festive outdoor program, bidding farewell to the Hanukkah holiday, will include the kindling of a 12 foot menorah, hot latkes, music and chocolate gelt. The event is free and open to all.

Hanukkah Happiness with Agudas Achim

Congregation Agudas Achim will celebrate Hanukkah with a new twist this year, including events across the city as well as a culmination dinner.

Hands On Hanukkah Program

Sunday, Dec. 14 from 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. outside the Vineyard Whole Foods

Meet “David the Dreydel,” eat latkes and treats, play Hanukkah games, create Hanukkah crafts, enjoy music, and much more. The program is free and open to the community.

Hanukkah Storytime with Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham

Monday, Dec. 15 at 4:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble La Cantera

Enjoy Hanukkah stories, color Hanukkah Sesame color sheets, eat Hanukkah gelt, and enjoy a no-host dinner after the program at a La Cantera restaurant to be announced.

Lots of Latkes Dinner and a Show Featuring The Bible Players

Tuesday, December 16 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The Hanukkah Latkes Dinner at Congregation Agudas Achim will include fried chicken and latkes, plus some healthy options, too, followed at 6:30 p.m. by a fun, family-friendly show by The Bible Players (sponsored by Camp Young Judaea).

Cost for the dinner is $10 for adults over the age of 18; free for all 17 and under, reservations are required. There is no charge for the show and all are welcome.

For more information on any of these programs, please call (210) 479-0307.

Chanukah Night at the Spurs on December 17

For the first time ever in San Antonio, the Jewish community will have the opportunity to celebrate Chanukah together at the AT&T Center, as the San Antonio Spurs take on the Memphis Grizzlies.

A limited number of Spurs tickets will be available for the December 17 game (7:30 p.m. tipoff) at a discounted rate of $30 a ticket. This will include a seat in a designated section, a commemorative Chanukah at the Spurs 2014 hat designed for this occasion, and an opportunity to go down to the court, shoot a post-game free throw and participate in a special Menorah lighting ceremony and photo.

Tickets may be purchased and printed by visiting www.ChabadSA.com/Spurs. Use special offer code: Spurs. Be sure to print and complete the waiver which must be presented before going on the court.

Chanukah at the Spurs is being coordinated by the Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning in conjunction with The Jewish Federation of San Antonio, Congregation Agudas Achim, Temple Beth El and Congregation Rodfei Sholom.

For more information, please call Chabad at (210) 764-0300 or visit www.SpursChanukah.com.

Chai Lights Hanukkah Gift Show at Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El Sisterhood is planning a festive Chai Lights Hanukkah Gift Show complete with lights, food, decorations, and gifts on Sunday, December 14 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the synagogue’s Barshop Auditorium, 211 Belknap Place. Chai Lights will offer a wide array of Hanukkah candy, decorations, menorah and more, as well as beautiful items from world famous artists.

Admission is free. The proceeds from the sales will benefit the youth programs at Temple Beth El and Jewish Family Service and Family Prevention Service in San Antonio, Texas.

This year, Chai Lights will feature music from local professionals, and students from Holy Spirit Catholic School. Directed by Martha Klein, it is an opportunity for the students to share their studies of Judaic songs, instrumental music and folk dances.

Latkes hot off the grill will be for sale from 12 noon until 2 p.m. Take some home, sit and eat at a table or on Latke Lane.

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**Fiddler on the Roof** coming to The Playhouse

Fiddler on the Roof will open at The Playhouse San Antonio on December 5 in the Russell Hill Rogers Theatre and will run through to the closing on December 22.

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio will be the beneficiary of the show’s final performance on Monday, Dec. 22 at 8 p.m., The Playhouse’s first ever Charity night in recognition of the Jewish Federation and the organizations it supports in San Antonio. A portion of each ticket on Dec. 22 will be donated to the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

The Playhouse is located at 800 West Ashby Place in San Pedro Park. For more information or to purchase tickets, go to www.theplayhousesa.org or call (210) 733-7258.

Regular ticket prices are: General Adult for $30, Military (w/ ID) for $23, Seniors (60+) for $23.

In addition to the Federation benefit night on December 22, a $5 discount is being offered via Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) for select performances on December 7, 11, 14 and 18. For more information, contact GMJSS at (210) 302-6946.

Fiddler on the Roof is a story about a Jewish father’s struggle to preserve his family’s happiness and his religious traditions as 1905 Tsarist Russia transforms around them.

The show features Tova Rubin and her four children. Meredith Alvarado, community relations director of the Playhouse, points out that it will be the “last chance to catch the talented family on the San Antonio stage before they head off to D.C.”

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**Congregation Agudas Achim to hold Scholastic Book sale**

Head on down to the Scholastic Book Fair Sir Readalot’s Castle, Enter the Kingdom of Books at the Goldie & Joe Tills Library, Congregation Agudas Achim. The Book Fair will take place on December 7 - 15. Hours coincide with the Heintz Pre-School and the Inda Posner Religious School (Sunday, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.; Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.; and Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.). There will be wonderful books for all ages, pre-school to adult. For more information, call Lynn Waghalter at (210) 479-0307 ext. 21 or email, tills.library@agudas-achim.org.

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**Strauss Festival discussion & Chamber concert to be held at the JCC**

The JCC will host an evening of Richard Strauss, which will include a panel discussion and a chamber concert. The free event will take place Sunday, Jan. 4 at 6 p.m. at the Barshop JCC in the Holzman Auditorium.

Composer Richard Strauss had a relationship of convenience with Adolf Hitler, purportedly in the hopes to promote German art, culture and music. To gain an in depth understanding of how Strauss’ personal choices during the 1930s and 1940s left an impression on not only the music he composed but also on his legacy as a maestro, join San Antonio Symphony Music Director Sebastian Lang-Lessing, Steven G. Kellman Ph.D., professor of comparative literature at UTSA, Maxine Cohen, Holocaust educator and David S. Gross, president of the San Antonio Symphony as they discuss and take questions from the audience.

The evening will be complemented by performances from musicians of the San Antonio Symphony previewing works of Strauss that are to be performed as part of the festival. This event is presented in part by Texas Public Radio, The San Antonio Symphony, and the Barshop JCC.

Reservations required. Visit www.jccsanantonio.org/artandmusic for more info.

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Special screening of *Beneath the Helmet: From High School to the Home Front*

The Israel Public Action Committee of Congregation Rodfei Sholom has been selected to show the San Antonio Premiere of the acclaimed Israeli film, *Beneath the Helmet: From High School to the Home Front* on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Santikos Embassy 14. An Israeli officer will be present to respond to questions after the film.

San Antonio is one of the few selected cities in the world chosen to screen the movie which was already shown in Jerusalem before an audience of more than 500 people. The event featured special guest Michael Oren, former Israeli Ambassador to the US. It has also been premiered in New York and Los Angeles and will be shown in film festivals across the U.S. including Atlanta, Miami and Chicago in the coming months.

*Beneath the Helmet: From High School to the Home Front* is a coming of age story that highlights five young Israeli high school graduates, who are drafted into the army to defend their country. At the age of 18, away from their houses, family, and friends these young individuals undergo a demanding journey, revealing the core of who they are and who they want to be.

From the creators of the PBS-featured documentary film *Israel Inside: How a Small Nation Makes a Big Difference*, the film *Beneath the Helmet* illustrates how these young men and women are protecting not only their homes, but the shared values of peace, equality, opportunity, democracy, religious tolerance and women’s rights. The lessons they learn along the way, are lessons that can be adapted, understood and appreciated by everyone.

Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg commented on the importance of having the Jewish community, especially students, attending the screening. “While most high school students will go to a college after graduating, Israeli students must go to the army,” he said. “They serve the country with pride and in a spirit of love; they protect Israel and world Jewry. Israeli exists thanks to their sacrifice.”

Tickets are: Adults $10; students free of charge. To order tickets or for more information contact Bobbie Ghitis at 493-3557, ext. 212 or send an email to japarodei@sbcglobal.net. Checks should be sent to Congregation Rodfei Sholom, Attn: IPA, 3003 Sholom Dr., San Antonio, Texas 78230.

Tickets can also be picked up at the Santikos Embassy Theater, 13707 Embassy Row, on December 4, after 6 p.m. Limited seating.

JCC Youth Theatre present fall productions

The Barshop Jewish Community Center Youth performance troupes present two family-friendly shows this month.

The STARZ Youth Performance Troupe, composed of students aged fifth to twelfth grade, presents *Beauty and the Beast*.

*NOVA*, which is composed of students in second through fourth grade, will be presenting *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley*.

Performances of *Beauty and the Beast* are on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. in the Sheldon Vexler Theatre. Tickets are $7.

The classic story tells of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. The show features songs from the Academy Award-winning animated feature as well as new songs.

The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley is based on the best-selling book series. Stanley Lambchop is your ordinary, run-of-the-mill kid, until one night, his bulletin board falls on him while he’s sleeping. When he wakes up the next day, Stanley is literally flat. Throughout the show, Stanley - the ultimate exchange student - searches the globe for a solution to his unusual problem.

The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley will be performed Saturday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 14 at 4:30 p.m. in the Holzman Auditorium. Tickets are $5.

Tickets for both shows may be purchased in advance by contacting Lauri Batey at 210-302-6859. For more information about joining the STARZ or NOVA theatre groups, please contact Rachel Rustin at (210) 302-6969 or rustinr@jcc-sa.org.

Sheldon Vexler Theatre actors recognized

The Alamo Theatre Arts Council (ATAC) held its 24th Annual Awards Ceremony Sunday, Nov. 2. The awards for local theatre works were created to recognize and celebrate the work of San Antonio theatre artists, both on stage and behind the scenes.

This year several Sheldon Vexler Theatre actors received awards. Kimberly Stephenson and Travis Simpson both received awards for their work in the theatre’s production of *When You Comin’ Back, Red Ryder?* and Amy Clay received an award for her work in the comedy *Dearly Departed*.

The Vex also received an Excellence in Production award for *When You Comin’ Back, Red Ryder?*.

ARTS & CULTURE
At Issue: What’s for Dinner?

For American Jews whose roots are in Eastern Europe, Jewish food means mounds of meat – pastrami, corned beef, salami, brisket, chopped liver, even tongue. Schmaltz (chicken fat) is often the lubricant of an authentic Jewish rye bread sandwich, and chicken broth is the medium in which matzoh balls are meant to swim.

Though Rashi suggested a broiled beet as substitute, a roasted lamb shankbone is obligatory at most Passover seders.

Some Orthodox Jews dine on chicken before Yom Kippur, after observing the custom of Kapros - holding the bird by its legs or by pinning its wings backward and swinging it around one's head.

After prayers are chanted to transfer sins symbolically onto the swinging chicken, the victim is slaughtered.

Sephardim, Ethiopians, and other Jews have their own culinary practices. But, whether because of religion, ethics, health, or the environment, Jews throughout the world are increasingly abstaining from animal flesh entirely.

The Talmudic injunction against causing living beings to suffer, tsa'ar ba’alei chaim, is especially compelling in the age of factory farming, in which cattle and poultry are forced to endure miserable, cramped confinement and such painful procedures as debeaking and tail-docking, before they are slaughtered. “For the animals,” wrote noted Jewish writer Isaac Bashevis Singer, “it is an eternal Treblinka.” Asked why he gave up meat, Singer explained: “I am a vegetarian for health reasons – the health of the chicken.”

Until their expulsion from the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were vegetarian. A craving for flesh is a symptom of our fallen state. The laws of kashrut are a concession to human weakness, but a reminder that vegetarianism is the ideal.

The elaborate rules prohibiting the mixing of dairy and meat and specifying which animals may be consumed and how they must be slaughtered make no sense in themselves except to make Jews mindful of what they eat.

Renouncing cheeseburgers and bacon is a way of conceding that, though it would be best to give up eating all meat, giving up some is at least a step in the right direction.

Abraham Isaac Kook, the first Ashkenazi chief rabbi of Israel, was a vegetarian, as was his successor, Shlomo Goren.

Founded in 1975, the Jewish Vegetarians of North America includes on its rabbinic council leaders of all the major strands of Judaism.

Prominent Jewish physicians who promote vegetarianism in order to prevent heart disease, stroke, cancer, and other afflictions include Neal Barnard, Joel Fuhrman, Michael Klaper, and Dean Ornish.


The modern animal rights movement began with the 1975 book Animal Liberation, whose author, Peter Singer, is a professional philosopher and the son of Holocaust survivors.

“I’m not saying that factory farming is the same as the Holocaust or the slave trade,” wrote Singer, “but it’s clear that there’s an immense amount of suffering in it, and just as we think the Nazis were wrong to ignore the suffering of their victims, so are we wrong to ignore the sufferings of our victims.”

The president of Israel, Reuven Rivlin, does not consume meat, nor does a growing percentage of his compatriots. In fact, Israel is quite hospitable not just to vegetarians but even vegans (those who eat no animal products at all – neither meat nor dairy; they can eat anything pareve except eggs and fish).

With an estimated 4 percent of the population vegan, Israel is perhaps the most vegan-friendly country in the world.

In the United States, by contrast, only 2.5 percent of the population claims to be vegan. Israel even permits its military recruits to opt for leather-free boots.

Of course, in the Jewish state “Jewish food” is not made their mark in the medical profession. Refraining from meat, especially saturated with chemicals, honors the Jewish concern for physical vitality.

According to Dr. Barnard: “The beef industry has contributed to more American deaths than all the wars of this century, all natural disasters, and all automobile accidents combined. If beef is your idea of ‘real food for real people,’ you’d better live real close to a real good hospital.”

But, ultimately, it is their standards of morality that have kept Jews together, as well as targeted them for persecution.

And it is probably the moral argument for vegetarianism that might be most compelling.

One day, visiting an aquarium, Franz Kafka, who had given up fish, flesh, and fowl, was able to say to the creatures in the tank in front of him: “Now I can look at you in peace; I don’t eat you anymore.”

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

The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Federation.
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New museum reflects growing Polish interest in all things Jewish

By Ruth Ellen Gruber

KRAKOW, Poland (JTA) —

Crowds have been streaming to Warsaw’s POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews since its core exhibition opened Oct. 28 at a high-profile ceremony led by the presidents of Poland and Israel.

Thousands of visitors have toured the museum’s eight interactive galleries that tell the 1,000-year story of Jewish life in Poland and have flocked to events like the recent Warsaw Jewish Film Festival, some of whose screenings took place at the museum. Some 7,000 people visited the museum on a single Monday when admission was free.

But POLIN is not the only Jewish-related museum in Poland to win recent recognition. At the end of October the Polish version of TripAdvisor listed the much more modest Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow as one of Poland’s 2014 top 10 museums. The Holocaust memorial museums at the former Nazi camps at Auschwitz and Majdanek, as well as the Auschwitz Jewish Center — a museum, study and prayer center in Oswiecim — also made the roster.

The TripAdvisor list is based on user reviews and is by no means a scientific study. But it reflects the widespread interest in Jewish heritage, culture and history that has been growing in Poland since before the fall of communism.

In many ways, POLIN is the high-profile tip of a very big iceberg.

“It is a symbolic representation of all the changes that have taken place,” said Galicia Jewish Museum Director Jakub Nowakowski. “It could not have been created if not for this. There is a genuine interest in Jewish culture and Polish-Jewish relations in Poland.”

The Galicia museum is one of more than a half-dozen Jewish cultural and educational institutions and initiatives in Krakow alone, a city that is home today to only a few hundred Jews. Established 10 years ago, it showcases photographs of Polish Jewish heritage sites taken by its founder, the late British photographer Chris Schwarz. It also hosts temporary exhibits and other events that celebrate Jewish culture from a contemporary viewpoint.

Other Jewish institutions in Krakow include the Jewish studies program at the city’s Jagiellonian University, the Judaica Foundation Center for Jewish Culture and the annual Krakow Jewish Festival, a nine-day event founded in 1988 that draws tens of thousands to concerts, workshops and exhibits.

The city also has three Jewish bookstores, a Jewish publishing house and a Jewish branch of the Krakow History Museum. A modern Jewish community center opened in 2008 and attracts local Jews, non-Jews and tourists alike to classes, courses, holiday events and kosher Shabbat dinners. Most of the dozens of young volunteers who staff the reception desk and help run JCC activities are not Jewish.

“The huge amount of interest in Jewish topics has created an incredibly pro-Jewish environment where people feel comfortable taking steps to explore their Jewish roots,” said JCC Executive Director Jonathan Ornstein.
U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem warns Americans to be ‘harder target’

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The United States Consulate in Jerusalem said in a security message to Americans in Israel that the deadly attack on a Jerusalem synagogue demonstrated “low-level coordination.” The recent “incident differs from recent attacks, potentially demonstrating low-level coordination to attack a pre-identified soft target as opposed to an opportunistic random act of violence. While we cannot predict where and when attacks may take place, we have consistently seen a cycle of violence in East Jerusalem neighborhoods following incidents like the one today,” the consulate said in the message posted on its website and emailed to Americans registered with the consulate or State Department.

The message came less than a day after an attack at a Jerusalem synagogue by two Palestinian assailants from eastern Jerusalem affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine left five dead and seven injured. Three of the dead were dual American and Israeli citizens. The FBI reportedly is participating in the investigation of the attack.

The consulate’s message urged Americans in Israel to “make yourself a ‘harder target’ and raise your situational awareness” when visiting “soft targets” such as hotels, clubs, restaurants, shopping centers, identifiable Western businesses, housing compounds, transportation systems, places of worship, schools, or public recreation events, which the message said often have little or no security in place.

The message said that there is no information to support a belief that the American victims were targeted because they were American citizens.

Israel to consider relaxing gun laws after Jerusalem synagogue terror attack

JNS.org

Israeli Public Security Minister Yitzhak Aharonvitch ordered a beefed-up security presence throughout Israel, including deploying more companies of Border Patrol officers, reinforcing police patrols, and setting up more checkpoints outside of Arab villages.

At the scene of the terror, Aharonvitch promised that the Israeli government would do everything it can to prevent future attacks.

“We are not in an easy period, [we are in] a period of terror attacks. I cannot promise that there won’t be another terror attack, but I can promise we are doing everything we can to prevent it,” he said.
The World responds to Jerusalem attack

“The Jewish Federations of North America is shocked by the horrific attack on innocent worshippers that took place in Jerusalem. The recent wave of Palestinian terror attacks and acts of violence in Israel is outrageous and completely unacceptable, but [the] attack on innocent people praying in a synagogue is incomprehensible. We call on the entire global community to join us in condemning this attack in the strongest possible terms, immediately and unconditionally.”

- Jewish Federations of North America President and CEO Jerry Silverman and Michael Siegal, Chair of the Board of Trustees

“Instead of opposing the extremists in his own ranks, Mr. Abbas has been placating them. If he wants to retain any credibility, he must show strong, unequivocal leadership now. Failure to do so would have catastrophic consequences and would probably put a stop to the peace process for many years to come. The next weeks will show if he is a credible Palestinian leader… Houses of worship anywhere in the world must be sacrosanct. Whoever attacks peaceful worshippers in a synagogue, a mosque or a church is a despicable criminal.”

- World Jewish Congress President Ronald Lauder

“This attack underscores the grave challenges to the peace process. How can Israel make peace when its citizens are slaughtered in holy places? How can Israel negotiate with a partner whose leaders incite this sort of violence? When Palestinian leaders should be denouncing violence, we hear instead calls for ‘days of rage.’ Rather than condemning these cowardly acts, Hamas leaders are celebrating in the streets… This must stop. A Palestinian state will never be born on the backs of terror victims.”

- US Representative Eliot Engel, the chairman of the International Council of Jewish Parliamentarians

More law students join the fight against campus Anti-Semitism

In response to the dramatic spike in anti-Semitic and anti-Israel incidents on college campuses in the U.S., the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law recently launched three new law school chapters at the University of St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis, William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul and Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York City. These new chapters mark the continued expansion of the Brandeis Center Law Student Chapter Initiative.

The Initiative is a nationwide network of law school chapters that support LDB’s work combating anti-Semitism and anti-Israelism on college and university campuses. LDB law students investigate anti-Semitic incidents, provide pro-bono legal research and advocacy services to victims of discrimination, file legal complaints, work with university administrators on policies to protect Jewish students, and host speakers and events on a variety of civil rights and anti-Semitism issues.

“We are seeing a resurgence of anti-Semitic and anti-Israel incidents on college campuses around the country,” said LDB president Kenneth L. Marcus. “We are pleased that these law student leaders are responding by standing up on the side of civil rights and social justice.”

Chapters have been sprouting up across the country since LDB began the Initiative last year. There are currently chapters at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), University of Pennsylvania, University of Virginia (UVA), Northeastern University and American University law schools.

With the launch of the twin chapters in Minnesota and the chapter in New York, LDB has eight chapters joining the fight against campus anti-Semitism.

LDB will continue to launch new chapters in schools across the country. Students interested in organizing an LDB chapter should contact Aviva Vogelstein at avogelst@brandeiscenter.com.
Paper Love: Paving the way for post-survivor storytelling

By Batya Ungar-Sargon

NEW YORK (JTA) — As the last generation of Holocaust survivors ages and dies, efforts to capture their final, untold stories have abounded. But in her new book *Paper Love: Searching for the Girl My Grandfather Left Behind*, Sarah Wildman has turned instead to the future, asking what it means to bear witness in a world without Holocaust survivors.

*Paper Love* chronicles the author’s long and labyrinthine search for the fate of the woman whose black-and-white photos she finds amid her late grandfather Karl’s belongings. Wildman knew only the woman’s name, Valy, scrawled across the back of the photos, and that her grandmother bitterly called the mysterious dark-haired woman “your grandfather’s true love.”

It is only after her grandmother dies that Wildman discovers a trove of letters that her grandfather, a dashing physician who fled Vienna in 1938 for the United States, kept hidden and mislabeled.

“Correspondence: Patients A-G” reads the carton containing Valy’s letters, written in German from war-torn Berlin, as well as angry correspondences from extended family members who would never make it out of Hitler’s Europe.

Wildman’s hunt for Valy’s story takes her to far-flung cities, tiny villages and concentration camps throughout Europe, as well as to Ann Arbor, Michigan searching for people who may have known Valy, for documents that might refer to her, for experts who might shed light on her fate. She combs the archives for information and walks the streets of Vienna and Berlin in search of scraps of information about Valy’s life.

But *Paper Love* branches out at every turn — enfolding into its net more historical details, more stories, more locations, more human lives that vanished into World War II, never to be heard of again until now.

The book weaves together the historical with the intensely personal, redefining what counts as appropriate archival material and elevating intimate aspects from Valy’s life, and Wildman’s own, to new importance.

Egypt to double Gaza buffer zone after discovery of longer smuggling tunnels

JNS.org

The Egyptian army has announced plans to double its security buffer zone along the Gaza border to 1 kilometer (about six-tenths of a mile) in an effort to end weapon smuggling by terrorist groups in the region.

Egypt’s decision came after the discovery of longer tunnels—spanning between 800 and 1,000 meters (2,625 to 3,280 feet)—under the Gaza border, *Al-Ahram* reported.

The initial plan to create the buffer zone came after an upsurge in terrorist attacks against Egyptian military and police personnel in the Sinai Peninsula by terrorist groups such as Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, which recently declared allegiance to the Islamic State.

Egypt has accused Gaza-ruling Hamas—an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, which is now a state-banned terrorist organization in Egypt—of supporting terror groups in the Sinai Peninsula.
Dolph on Dolph: author tells unsung story of Jewish NBA giant with same name

By Matt Robinson  
JNS.org

Baseball Hall-of-Famers Hank Greenberg and Sandy Koufax are household names both in their sport and in the pantheon of Jewish professional athletes. But why has basketball Hall-of-Famer Dolph Schayes not achieved similar name recognition?

Noted sports historian Dolph Grundman, author of the newly published biography, Dolph Schayes and the Rise of Professional Basketball (Syracuse University Press), blames demographics and technology.

"I think Dolph is not better known because he played in a small city before televised sport became so pervasive," he says. Only after the "domination of the Boston Celtics in the late '50s and the '60s" did the popularity of basketball expand across the nation, says Grundman.

Though he may fly under the radar, Schayes occupies a special place in National Basketball Association (NBA) history. Named to the NBA All-Star team 12 times, he was known for his high-arcing jump shot (named "Sputnik" by opposing players) and lifted the Syracuse Nationals (who later became the Philadelphia 76ers) to the 1954-55 NBA championship while leading the league in minutes per game, rebounds, and points per game. He was also the NBA's Coach of the Year in 1966 and coached the U.S. team to a gold medal in Israel's 1977 Maccabiah Games, an event for which Schayes raised attention and money. His NBA career even extended to officiating, as he supervised the league's referees from 1966-70.

Despite his varied and accomplished basketball resume, Schayes's story has not been significantly documented—until now. Grundman's book details the life and career of a son of Romanian Jewish immigrants whom the author would watch on television as a teenager. The NBA star and his fan had one unique thing in common.

"In one sense, he was one of the few people with a national presence who shared my first name," says Grundman, a professor of history at Metropolitan State University in Denver, noting how unpopular the name "Adolph" was in the 1940s. In fact, Grundman says his own basketball coach at Michigan-based Albion College "morphed" his name to Dolph due to that Holocaust-related stigma.

It was not until he started doing basketball research in the 1980s that Grundman became aware of Schayes again.

"It struck me as odd that there was no biography of one of professional basketball's great players who also happened to be Jewish," Grundman says.
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