



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

KISLEV - TEVET, 5775

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

DECEMBER 2014



SUPER SUNDAY!

The San Antonio Jewish Community answered the call for Federation's Annual Campaign.

PAGE 20



CELEBRATE HANUKKAH WITH FEDERATION!

Free concert, latkes and more.

PAGE 29



INSIGHT WITH IZZY

A young Birthright soldier inspires area teens and adults with his personal story.

PAGE 24

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

See **SUPER SUNDAY**, page 20



(L to R)
Andy Fagan;
Susan Noorily;
Marcia Schwartz;
Judy Scheinberg;
Howie Nestel, Co-Chair, Super Sunday;
Jeremy Schwartz

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

JNS.org

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 4 rabbis - three of whom were American-Israeli citizens - and a police officer.

"There is and can be no

See **ATTACK**, page 36

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WHAT'S INSIDE

CALENDAR 4	WHAT'S HAPPENING 18
CANDLE LIGHTING 7	HANUKKAH 29
JEWISH COMMUNITY 12	ARTS & CULTURE 31
MAZAL TOV 13	OPINION 33
IN THE COMMUNITY 14	U.S. & WORLD 35

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



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EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS:

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.)

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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.



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PJ Library® Pajama Pizza Party

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Come casual in your PJs and celebrate the end of Chanukah (and have dinner with us on Christmas Eve)! Light dinner, singing, and lots of fun will be served.

Bring an unwrapped toy to donate to Batman of San Antonio's Holiday Toy Drive!

Lisa Abramson and Elyssa Kane, Event Leaders

Please RSVP so we can Plan for Pizza.

RSVP through Facebook: PJ Library San Antonio
or
Contact Lauren Abraham, PJ Library Coordinator:
AbrahamLe@jfsatx.org



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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CALENDAR OF EVENTS: December 2014

DECEMBER 3

- JNetSA 1st Wednesday Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Il Sogno
- Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Sip & Schmooze, 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'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.

- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Zoo Trip, 9:30 a.m., San Antonio Zoo

- SA Giveback Dinner, 5 p.m., SAMMC

DECEMBER 30

- Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Board Meeting, 9:45 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim

DECEMBER 31

- Barshop JCC Closes Early, 7 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 & Schmooze, 5 p.m.
- Barshop JCC & San Antonio Symphony Strauss Panel Event, 7 p.m., at The Campus

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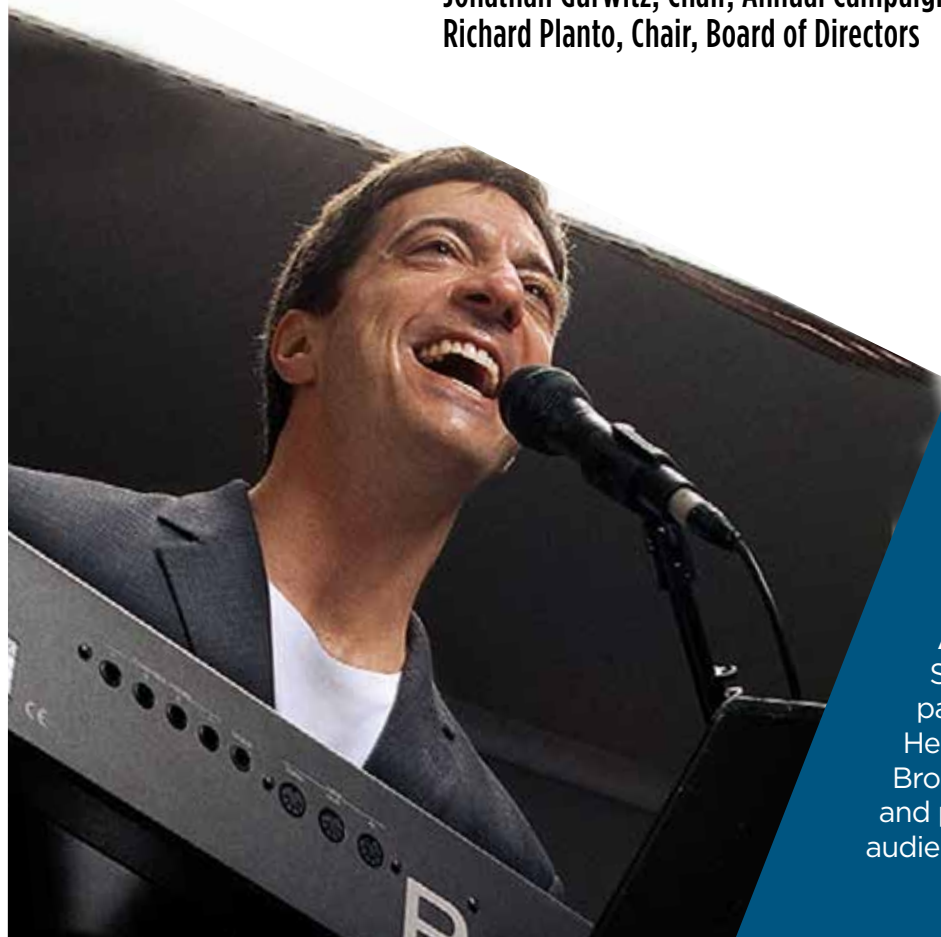
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Regrettably, the Fountainheads have had to cancel all US tour dates in December

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




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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.

CANDLE LIGHTING

December 5	5:16 p.m. Candle lighting
December 6	6:24 p.m. Havdalah
December 12	5:18 p.m. Candle lighting
December 13	6:26 p.m. Havdalah
December 16	First Night of Hanukkah
December 17	2 nd Night of Hanukkah
December 18	3 rd Night of Hanukkah
December 19	5:20 p.m. Candle lighting
	4 th Night of Hanukkah
December 20	6:29 p.m. Havdalah
	5 th Night of Hanukkah
December 21	6 th Night of Hanukkah
December 22	7 th Night of Hanukkah
December 23	8 th Night of Hanukkah
December 26	5:24 p.m. Candle lighting
December 27	6:33 p.m. Havdalah
January 2	5:29 p.m. Candle lighting
January 3	6:37 p.m. Havdalah

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



Letter from our CEO

RONIT SHERWIN

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.

JEWISH JOURNAL EDITORIAL POLICY

The Jewish Journal of San Antonio is a monthly publication created and paid for by the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. The Journal's primary focus is creating awareness and engagement within the local Jewish community about activities, programs and issues with which the Jewish Federation is involved.

As a service to the broader Jewish community, area synagogues and organizations are invited to submit content relevant to the Jewish community at large for publication consideration.

Items selected for publication are done so solely at the discretion of the Journal Editor and the Jewish Federation. Submissions may be edited and/or re-written for content and length.

We aim to fairly reflect the breadth and depth of activities and Jewish life taking place in the San Antonio Jewish community.

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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 non-profit 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@jfsatx.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 Kalmans, 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

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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,



ABOVE: Paul Feola and Frank Aleman serving the food.

contact the Community Relations office of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio at (210) 302-6960 or lackritzj@jfsatx.org.



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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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

BELDON LIBRARY HOURS

Monday
12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.;
Tuesday
10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.;
Wednesday
1:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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.



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Daily Jewish news, just a click away!!

Looking for daily news updates on Israel and Jewish issues around the globe?

You can get the latest news from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency everyday on the Jewish Federation of San Antonio website:
www.jfsatx.org

FOCUS ON FEDERATION

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

FROM THE COVER

ABOUT THE INTERFAITH HANUKKAH CELEBRATION

- ◆ Reservations are required by December 14 to attend
- ◆ A catered lunch is included
- ◆ \$25 per person
- ◆ For further information, call San Fernando Cathedral, (210) 227-1297.

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.

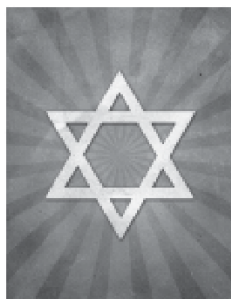
Table sponsorships are also available for \$300. For further information, call San Fernando Cathedral, (210) 227-1297.

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January 31, 2015—Rabbi Monty Eliasov
February 21, 2015—Rabbi Marcy Greene
March 4, 2015 - Rabbi Monty Eliasov
March 21, 2015—Rabbi Marcy Greene
April 18, 2015—Rabbi Marcy Greene
May 16, 2015—Rabbi Marcy Greene



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Congregation Beth Am is part of the Reconstructionist Movement

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Sherwinr@jfsatx.org / (210) 302-6961

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Campaign Associate *abrahaml@jfsatx.org*

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Alan Carney, Accounting Manager
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Rachel Stern,
Coordinator B'nai Tzedek and The Tribe
Rpstern@gmail.com

Lynn Waghalter, Librarian Beldon Library
waghalter@jfsatx.org

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Barshop Jewish Community Center

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

Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community

12500 NW Military Hwy, Suite 100, San Antonio Texas 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6801 **Fax:** (210) 408-2322
Director of Operations: Mike Griffin
President: Alice Viroslav **Website:** *www.thecampustx.org*
The Campus features a variety of unique spaces available to rent for small or large meetings, conferences, seminars, bar & bat mitzvahs, weddings, quinceañeras, birthday parties and more.

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services

12500 N.W. Military Hwy. Suite 260, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6946 **Website:** *http://www.goldenmanor.net*
Executive Director: Daniel L. Laser **President:** Shari P. Pulman
Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) works to meet the needs and enrich the lives of Jewish seniors in the San Antonio area by providing transportation for Jewish seniors, through direct services, and through grants to other organizations for programs that benefit all San Antonio area Jewish seniors.

Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Antonio

P.O. Box 780264 San Antonio, TX 78278 **Phone:** (210) 736-4352
Non-profit organization offering interest-free loans to members of the San Antonio Jewish community in need of temporary assistance

Jewish Family Service

12500 NW Military Highway, Suite 250, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6920 **Fax:** (210) 302-6952
Executive Director: M. H. Levine **President:** Marion Bernstein
Jewish Family Service (JFS) offers a wide range of professional counseling, social services, advocacy for victims of crime, and services for seniors including senior living and care options. JFS maintains the highest level of confidentiality at all time.

San Antonio Hillel

Website: *www.sahillel.org* **Director:** Samantha Mazuz
Phone: (210) 201-Jews **Email:** *Info@sahillel.org*
San Antonio Hillel serves college students throughout the San Antonio area. SA Hillel maintains a presence on the primary campuses (UTSA and Trinity), with students from other campuses invited to join those events or city-wide events.

After School Judaics (JAS @ The J)

12500 NW Military Hwy., 78231 / **Phone:** (210) 302-6969

Gan Gani Preschool

14535 Blanco Rd. 78216 / **Phone:** (210) 764-0300

Heintz Preschool

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

JCC Block & Dreeben School for Young Children

12500 NW Military Hwy., 78231 / **Phone:** (210) 302-6846

Torah Academy of San Antonio

3003 Sholom Drive, Suite #200, 78230 / **Phone:** (210) 607-7261

SAN ANTONIO CONGREGATIONS

Congregation Agudas Achim (Conservative)

16550 Huebner Road, 78248
Phone: (210) 479-0307 **Fax:** (210) 479-0295
website: *www.agudas-achim.org*
Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Senior Rabbi
Hazzan Jeremy Lipton

Congregation Beth Am (Reconstructionist)

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

Congregation Rodfei Sholom (Orthodox)

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

Jewish Community of the Hill Country

Kerrville, Texas
For information: (830) 367-2000

Temple Beth-El (Reform)

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

Temple Chai (Reform)

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

Chabad Lubavitch of South Texas

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

Congregation Israel of San Antonio (Conservative, Covenantal Judaism in Prayer and Practice)

Office & Mailings:
16320 Huebner Road at St. Andrew
San Antonio, Texas, 78248
All Faiths Chapel:
5000 Fawn Meadow Drive at Floyd Curl
San Antonio, Texas 78240
Phone: (210) 387-2436
Hazzan David Silverstein, JD,
Founding Ritual Leader
Rev. David Miron UMC,
Accompanist and Choral Director

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.

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The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg
CAMPUS
of the SAN ANTONIO
JEWISH COMMUNITY

IN THE COMMUNITY

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 Komerofsky, 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!



Lisa Abramson and her daughter joined in on the events for children on the Global Day of Jewish Learning.



Mike Stern (front) and others participate at a session during the Global Day of Jewish Learning.

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



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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.



Batman shares a story with youngsters at the Global Day of Jewish Learning

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.

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.



HANUKKAH HAPPINESS!
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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 gelt! Stick around afterward and join us for a no-host dinner! (restaurant to be announced)

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

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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



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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.

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September 3, 2014 | January 4, 2015

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.



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Claude Monet, *Argenteuil* (detail), ca. 1872. Oil on canvas. National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, Ailsa Mellon Bruce Collection.

The exhibition is organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

HELP A CHILD LEARN TO READ



New Tutors Gail Ratner, Ellen Dubick and Amanda Nathan

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 ratnarn@jfsatx.org.

**Happy Hanukkah
from the board
and staff of the
Jewish Federation
of San Antonio!**

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

Honoring Jewish Lifestyles and Traditions...
at Arden Courts, it's important to us too.

Arden Courts of San Antonio is a warm, welcoming, interfaith community for all residents and visitors. The relaxed atmosphere leads to many friendships and encourages rewarding new outlooks on each day. We invite you and your loved one to join us at any of our programs to discover how Arden Courts honors the Jewish lifestyle.

Call 210.408.9100 or e-mail sanantonio@arden-courts.com for more information.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

SENIORS GOBBLE UP PRE-THANKSGIVING FESTIVITIES



Simone Kboudi joins her grandfather, Alec Fisher at the event



Sherie Trakhtenbroit with her mother Lucille Friedman

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.

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.





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SUPER SUNDAY



Federation volunteers and staff at Super Sunday included (L to R) Amy Reagin, Amy Benedikt, Jonathan Gurwitz, Campaign Chair; Francesca Garrett, Judy Lackritz



Young Adults making calls (L to R) Kelly Klein, Co-Chair, Super Sunday; Nicole Porterfield, Chair, The Tribe; Francesca Garrett, Brian Feld, Sam Klein, Jon Kravitz

(L to R)
Rabbi Levi
Teldon; Rabbi
Avraham
Scheinberg



Judy Palans



Agudas Achim
5th graders
making
“Thank You”
calls



Callers from Torah Academy of San Antonio (L to R) Daniella Sarfati, Simona Lascu, Aaron Sarfati, Stacey Klein Schwartz, Marcia Schwartz, Jeremy Schwartz

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

SUPER SUNDAY

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



Katherine Adelman introduced area teens to Israeli Soldier Izzy Ezagui at Rosella's coffee.

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.

SUPER SUNDAY

continued from page 20



Daniel Laser, Executive Director, Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services



(L to R) – Steve Butler; Jonathan Gurwitz, Campaign Chair; Megan Kluger; M.H. Levine, Executive Director, Jewish Family Service



Rabbi David Komerofsky

WHAT'S HAPPENING



The group gathered for the "After Party" at Green Restaurant

MAGICAL MOMENTS!

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



Eliana Fux posing with performers Dorothy & the Wicked Witch at the Wizard of Oz Performance.

OFF TO A GOOD START



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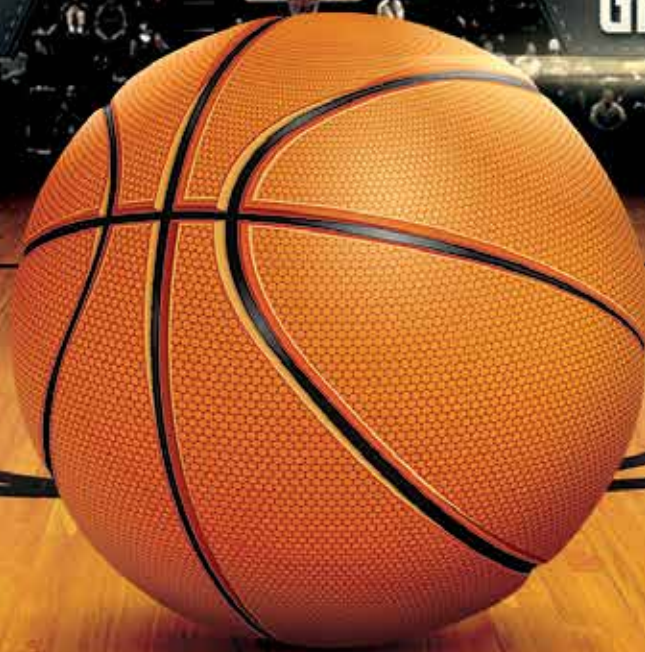


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UPCOMING EVENTS FOR POST 753

Thursday, Dec. 25 Post members will assemble at the recreation room of the main building at Audie Murphy VA Hospital at 12:45 p.m. to walk the wards of the hospital distributing ice cream and cookies to the patients and staff on duty.

Sunday, Dec. 28 Post election meeting at the Jewish Campus, Room 277, starting at 9:30 a.m., with light breakfast followed by business meeting which includes election of officers for 2015.

Tuesday, Dec. 30 Post members will conduct Bingo at Audie Murphy CTC starting at 7 p.m., followed by refreshments at 8 p.m. for patients.

Friday to Sunday, Jan. 16 to 18

Department meeting in New Orleans.

Saturday, Jan. 24 Installation of post officers at Barn Door starting at 7 p.m. There will be no post meeting in January as installation will take place instead of meeting.

Guests are welcomed at post activities. Call post commander Norton Shectman at (210) 493-6660 if interested for further information.

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



From left to right- Back row: Josh Behn, Sophia Ricciardi, Jacob Schwartz, Ali Schwartz, Ilan Sonsino, Lainey Komerofsky, Charlie Pullen, Soldier Izzy Ezagui, Jeremy Saklad, Jared Saklad, Maddie Pullen, Gabe Komerofsky, Joel Saklad Front row: Sam Schechter, Jeremy Powell, Sandra Marcashamer, Liat Rosenberg, Kathryn Adelman

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

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24 December 2014

A publication of the Jewish Federation of San AntonioTHE JEWISH JOURNAL

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.

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IN THE COMMUNITY: YOUTH & COLLEGE

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



Students attending the AIPAC National Summit in Dallas

See **HILLEL**, page 27

Standing Strong for San Antonio



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

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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@shillel.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 provide 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.

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Students joined together for S'mores and Social at Chabad on Campus.

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.

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.

Hands on Hanukkah at the JCC

Thursday, Dec. 18, from 3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., the JCC will host *Hands on Chanukah*, 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 Tikkun 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.

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.

All Sunshine Club events are complimentary. Transportation to and from is also available upon request at no cost.

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



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

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Thank you!






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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



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.

community, but RSVP's are requested. RSVP by calling (210) 302-6960 or emailing reagina@jfsatx.org.

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.

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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.

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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 Judea).

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, menorahs and more, as well as beautiful items from world famous artists.

Admission is free. The proceeds from the sales 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, as 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.

Rodfei to host Chanukah Happening

Rodfei Sholom's *Chanukah Happening* will take place on Sunday, Dec. 14, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

The event will include breakfast, "The Why's and How's of Chanukah"

for adults with Rabbi Scheinberg, arts & crafts, cookie decorating, a Chanukah puppet show, a train ride on The Chanukah Express and more. Cost for the event is \$5 per adult or

\$2.50 per child (ages 3 years and older).

If attending, RSVP by Wednesday, Dec. 10, to rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

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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."

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.

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

EVENING OF RICHARD STRAUSS

FREE
Sunday, Jan. 4 at 6 p.m.
at the Barshop JCC in the Holzman Auditorium.

man, 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



Richard Strauss (11 June 1864 - 8 September 1949) was a leading German composer and conductor throughout Germany and Austria.

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. Israel 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 iparodfei@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 STARZ & NOVA 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 Excellence in Acting

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?*.

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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 *Kaporos* - 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



Perspective:

STEVEN G. KELLMAN

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 long list of Jewish vegetarians also includes S.Y. Agnon, Jacques Derrida, Bob Dylan, Albert Einstein, Jonathan Safran Foer, Allen Ginsberg, Ira Glass, Philip Glass, Dustin Hoffman, Franz Kafka, Yehudi Menuhin, Leonard Nimoy, I.L. Peretz, Natalie Portman, Sarah Silverman, Gloria Steinem, and Ruth Westheimer.

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 what is typically found on the menu of a New York delicatessen. Israelis survive – and thrive – on a tasty diet of hummus, tehina, falafel, eggplant, couscous, and a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables that do not require the pain and death of any sentient being.

Israelis inhabit a small country, and they are keenly aware of how inefficient it is to derive their protein from meat.

It takes about 20 times as much acreage to produce the same amount of protein from beef as from plants. A plant-based diet makes much more sense in a place where water is scarce – which now describes much of the land mass of planet earth.

Jews do not retreat to monasteries. Theirs is a worldly tradition that urges full enjoyment of this life. *L'chaim!* The sage Maimonides, a physician as well as a philosopher, wrote extensively about maintaining a sound body for a sound mind, echoed by generations of Jews who have disproportionately 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.



Caption: Revelers dancing at the Jewish Culture Festival in Krakow, one of many Jewish culture festivals in Poland. (Wojciech Karlinski)

"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.



Hundreds of Israelis mourning at the funeral of three of the victims killed in the synagogue terror attack on the Bnei Torah Kehilat Yaakov synagogue in western Jerusalem, November 18, 2014. (Miriam Alster/Flash90)

ATTACK

continued from page 1

justification for such attacks against innocent civilians,” Obama said in a statement, adding, “This is a tragedy for both nations, Israel and the United States.”

Despite Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas’s public condemnation of the attack, his adviser—PA Chairman Sultan Abu Al-Einein—called the attack a “heroic operation” on his Facebook page and referred to the terrorists as “martyrs.”

A Fatah spokesperson also said that his group “welcomed the martyrdom-seeking operation (Istish’had) in Jerusalem,” and was “escorting the martyrs (shahids) of the Abu

Jamal family to paradise,” *Palestinian Media Watch* reported.

Palestinian leaders and media outlets also blamed the terrorist attack on the recent death of an Arab bus driver in eastern Jerusalem, despite autopsy findings showing that the driver committed suicide.

Meanwhile, Hamas-affiliated social media pages were filled with graphic posts exhibiting violent and anti-Semitic cartoons that praised the terror attack. One of the images showed the terrorists wielding knives and axes while the victims are lying bleeding on the floor. One of the terrorists holds a bloody ax and a knife while exclaiming “Where are they?”—to indicate that he is seeking more victims.

Israel to consider relaxing gun laws after Jerusalem synagogue terror attack

JNS.org

Israeli Public Security Minister Yitzhak Aharonvitch ordered a probe to examine easing restrictions on gun laws following the gruesome terror attack on a Jerusalem synagogue that left five dead and seven injured on November 18.

According to a spokesperson for Aharonovitch, the minister would examine easing restrictions for security personnel and ex-military officers, but did not clarify



Israeli Public Security Minister Yitzhak Aharonvitch. Credit: Wikimedia Commons.

if any changes would apply to the general public, the *Jerusalem Post* reported.

Aharonovitch also 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 I promise we are doing everything we can to prevent it,” he said.



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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 L. 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.



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Paper Love: Paving the way for post-survivor storytelling

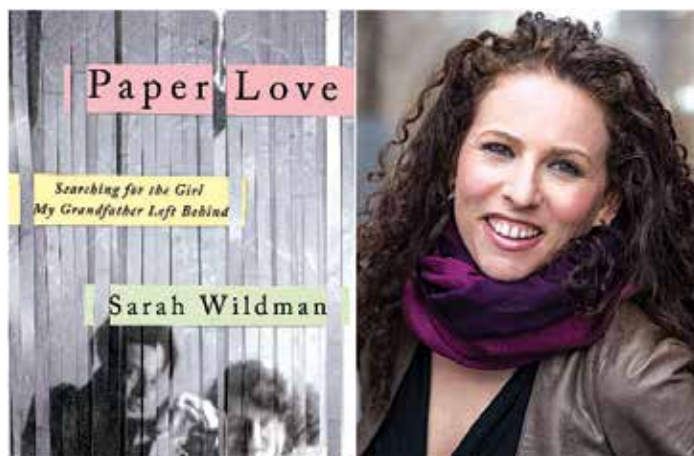
By Batya Ungar-Sargon

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.

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Dolph on Dolph: author tells unsung story of Jewish NBA giant with same name

By Matt Robinson
JNS.org

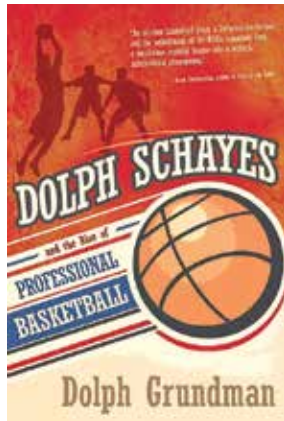
Baseball Hall-of-Famers Hank Greenberg and Sandy Koufax are household names both in their sport and in the pantheon of Jewish professional athletes. But why has basketball Hall-of-Famer Dolph Schayes not achieved similar name recognition?

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-



arching 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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