

JFSA wishes you and yours a very happy, healthy 2015!



# THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

TEVET - SH'VAT 5775

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

JANUARY 2015



### TRAVEL TO ISRAEL

The JCC is sponsoring its first ever community trip to Israel. Details on how you can participate,

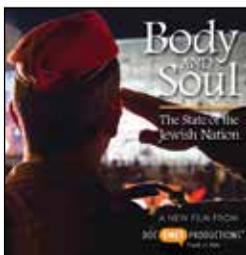
PAGE 25



### READING IS FUN!

PJ Library offers terrific activities for young children. Come join the fun!

PAGE 8



### NOW SHOWING...

Body & Soul is one of two important films with special engagements in San Antonio.

PAGE 6

## JFSA allocations process opens for 2015-2016

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio will soon be accepting allocations requests for the fiscal year 2015-2016. The JFSA allocations guidelines and applications will be available beginning on January 12, 2015.

Vice President of Planning & Allocations of the JFSA, Harry H. Levy, IV, announces that the Federation is placing a greater emphasis this year on their role in community planning and assessing the Jewish community's needs and priorities.



Harry said he is excited to have a new slate of committee members who have been meeting since last summer to evaluate the allocations process and to strategize for this coming year. The allocations applications have been revised to reflect a focus on community priorities, as well as

See **ALLOCATIONS**, page 28

### JFSA ANNUAL CAMPAIGN WRAP UP CELEBRATION



Students from San Antonio's Jewish Schools performed with nationally acclaimed singer Sam Glaser during Federation's Hanukkah and community celebration.

**FOR STORY, SEE PAGE 8.**

## 28th Annual MLK observances in San Antonio

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Citywide Interfaith Service will be held at Temple Beth-El, 211 Belknap, on Sunday, Jan. 20 at 4 p.m. Religious leaders from the community will participate including Rabbi Mara Nathan, Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, and Rev. Carl Rohlf. Also the Laus Deus "Gift of God" Praise Dance Ministry and the Arathi School of Indian

See **MLK**, page 28

## Gross release could signal new day for Cuban Jews

WASHINGTON (JTA) – Alan Gross was imprisoned while trying to connect Cuba's isolated Jewish community to the wider world. The deal that got him released five years later may do just that and much more.

Gross' flight home to suburban Washington on December 17 with his wife, Judy, was part of a historic deal that overturns over five decades of U.S. policy isolating the

Communist island nation helmed by the Castro brothers.

"We will end an outdated approach that for decades has failed to advance our interests and instead we will begin to normalize relations between our two countries," President Obama said in announcing Gross' release and radical changes in U.S. Cuba policy.

See **RELEASE**, page 28

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Also read the Journal online at: [www.jfsatx.org](http://www.jfsatx.org)



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Jewish Federation  
OF SAN ANTONIO

is a proud member of the Jewish Federations of North America.

### EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS:

The submission deadline for the FEBRUARY 2015 issue of the Jewish Journal is JANUARY 12, 2015 at noon.

All materials submitted after this date will be considered for the following issue.

**How to submit:** Email submissions to [jewishj@jfsatx.org](mailto: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.

### ADVERTISING:

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

#### Ad deadlines for FEBRUARY 2015 ISSUE:

• Ad space reservations due no later than January 12, 2015 by noon;

• Press ready ads due by January, 2015.

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.

### 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.

## IN LOVING MEMORY

Donna Berez	Phyllis Davis Katcher
Milton Braun	Charlie Levine
Maria "Esther" Espinoza	Eleanor Portnoy
Walter Eth	Esther Rogal
James Glennon	Tilli Rosenblatt
Miriam "Micki" Harris	Leatrice "Letty" Simon



Jewish Federation  
OF SAN ANTONIO



## Tu B'Shevat

at the Japanese Tea Garden with PJ Library

# Sunday, January 25

# 3:30 pm



Come celebrate the Jewish Arbor Day and nature with us at the acclaimed and free Japanese Tea Gardens: 3853 N St. Mary's Street.

We will have a **naturific snack** and a variety of **special activities** for our PJ Library friends ages 0-7.

**Darcy Hoberman & Debbie Denker,**  
Event Leaders

**For more information, or to RSVP, contact Lauren Abraham, PJ Library Coordinator:**

[abrahaml@jfsatx.org](mailto:abrahaml@jfsatx.org) ☎ 212.542.0307

# FOCUS ON FEDERATION

## CANDLE LIGHTING Friday, January 2

5:16 p.m. Candle Lighting  
Saturday, January 3  
6:25 p.m. Havdalah

## Friday, January 9

5:21 p.m. Candle Lighting  
Saturday, January 10  
6:30 p.m. Havdalah

## Friday, January 16

5:27 p.m. Candle Lighting  
Saturday, January 17  
6:36 p.m. Havdalah

## Friday, January 23

5:33 p.m. Candle Lighting  
Saturday, January 24  
6:42 p.m. Havdalah

## Friday, January 30

5:39 p.m. Candle Lighting  
Saturday, January 31  
6:48 p.m. Havdalah

## Friday, February 6

5:45 p.m. Candle Lighting  
Saturday, February 7  
6:54 p.m. Havdalah

# Growing roots for those who follow

One of my favorite Talmudic tales is the story of Honi and the carob tree. Honi was known as Honi the Circle Maker. By drawing a circle and stepping into it, Honi would recite special prayers for necessary rain, and the rains would come. Honi was also curious and asked many questions. One day, Honi was walking down the road and saw an old man planting a carob tree. Honi asked: "How long will it take for that tree to bear fruit?" The man replied, "Seventy years." Honi then asked, "And do you think you will live another seventy years to enjoy the fruit of this tree?" The



Letter from  
our CEO

RONIT  
SHERWIN

man replied, "Perhaps not, but when I was born into this world, I found many carob trees planted by my father and grandfather. Just as they planted for me, I am planting trees for my children and grandchildren so that they will be able to eat the fruit of these trees."

Like Honi, we, the Jewish community, aspire to leave a legacy that allows others to benefit and to also feel the responsibility of carrying

that legacy forward. It is with this spirit that we are successful in raising dollars for our annual campaign for the Jewish community. While we are able to see the dollars we raise meet the needs of Jews both locally and globally, we hope that the legacy of giving carries beyond our lifetimes. We hope that our philanthropy is taken seriously and practiced by our children and our grandchildren.

As we celebrate the "new year of the trees," *Tu B'Shevat*, on February 4, we literally begin to watch the earliest blooming of the trees in the land of Israel. While we are still in the

deep of winter here (as deep as winter gets in Texas), the trees in Israel begin their fruit-bearing season. *Tu B'Shevat* reminds us that life always begins again, despite the reality of our cold and dark days. Spring will come and trees will bloom. And may we serve as role models for our children and grandchildren by planting and giving. May we teach and model the Jewish value that we build and grow not only for ourselves but for future generations to come.

*Editor's note: To enjoy an animated take on the Honi and Carob Tree story, visit <http://bit.ly/1BMfmwp>.*

## תודה רבה

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio would like to thank all of our dedicated donors, campaigners, synagogues, and agencies for helping to make our 2014 Annual Campaign a success!



Thank you to the Board and staff of the Jewish Federation, as well, for your efforts on behalf of the Annual Campaign.



Stay tuned for our full Campaign Report in February!

Dankeschön



thank you

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS: January 2015

## JANUARY 1

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

## JANUARY 2

- Barshop JCC Winter J-Camp, 9 a.m., at The Campus
- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Winter Camp, 9 a.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom
- Temple Beth-El Machar After Hours, 8 p.m.

## JANUARY 3

- Congregation Agudas Achim Adult Movie Club *Exodus*, 7 p.m., Santikos Embassy 14

## JANUARY 4

- Barshop JCC & San Antonio Symphony Strauss Festival Chamber Concert, 7 p.m., at The Campus

## JANUARY 7

- JNetSA First Wednesday Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Il Sogno
- Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Sip & Schmooze, 5 p.m.
- Barshop JCC & San Antonio Symphony Strauss Panel Event, 7 p.m., at The Campus

## JANUARY 8

- Congregation Agudas Achim Brews & Schmooze Family Night, 5 p.m., Bigz Burger Joint
- Temple Beth-El Machar Torah on Tap, 8 p.m.

## JANUARY 10

- Congregation Agudas Achim Young Couples Club of Agudas (YCCA) Dinner, 7:30 p.m., Aldaco's

## JANUARY 11

- B'nai B'rith Meeting, 10:30 a.m., at The Campus
- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Annual Fundraiser, 5 p.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom

## JANUARY 13

- Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Book Review, 10 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim

- Jewish Federation Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus

## JANUARY 14

- NCJW Lunch & Learn, 12 p.m., China Inn (NW Military)

## JANUARY 15

- Barshop JCC Silver Cinema, 1 p.m., at The Campus

## JANUARY 16

- Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Shabbat & Dinner, 6:15 p.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
- Congregation Agudas Achim Family Friendly Friday Night Service & Dinner with Sisterhood, 6:15 p.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
- Temple Beth-El Machar After Hours, 8 p.m.

## JANUARY 17

- Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Shabbat & Kiddush,

- 9 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim

- Barshop JCC J-Schmooze Teen Social Event, 7 p.m., meet at The Campus
- Jewish Film Festival Prequel Event, 7 p.m., at The Campus

## JANUARY 18

- Leah Goot Hadassah Speaker Event, 3 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus
- Heintz Preschool Movie Night *Frozen*, 5:30 p.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
- MLK Jr. Citywide Interfaith Service Temple Beth-El 4 p.m.

## JANUARY 19

- Jewish Federation Offices Closed
- MLK March 9:30 a.m.
- Barshop JCC DayTripper Youth Day Camp, 7 p.m., at The Campus
- Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus

## JANUARY 20

- Barshop JCC Taste of Moving Traditions, 7 p.m., at The Campus

- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Film Screening *Body & Soul – the State of the Jewish Nation*, 7:15 p.m.

## JANUARY 21

- Torah Academy of San Antonio Open House, 7 p.m., Torah Academy of San Antonio

## JANUARY 24

- Congregation Agudas Achim Adult Movie Club *Mortdecai*, 7 p.m., Santikos Embassy 14

## JANUARY 25

- Temple Beth-El Sisterhood NOTEable Event, 11 a.m., Temple Beth-El

## JANUARY 27

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

## JANUARY 28

- Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Book Club, 10 a.m., Temple Beth-El
- Barshop JCC Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus

## JANUARY 30

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

## FEBRUARY 1

- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Sisterhood *Tikkun Olam* Service Day, 10 a.m.
- City-Wide Jewish Teacher Inservice, 12 p.m., at The Campus

## FEBRUARY 3

- NCJW Trashy Book Club *Orphan Train*, 6:30 p.m.

## FEBRUARY 4

- JNetSA First Wednesday Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Il Sogno
- Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Sip & Schmooze, 5 p.m.

## FEBRUARY 5

- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents *Talley's Folly*, 7:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

## FEBRUARY 6

- Jewish Film Festival, 8 p.m., Santikos Embassy 14

## FEBRUARY 7

- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents *Talley's Folly*, 8 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater



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Rabbi Stahl hands a candle to Rabbi Scheinberg and Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller

## 13th annual Catholic-Jewish Hanukkah celebration

Members of the San Antonio-area Roman Catholic and Jewish communities celebrated the 13th annual Catholic-Jewish Hanukkah celebration on Thursday, Dec. 18. The event, held at San Fernando Cathedral Hall, was co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of San Antonio and San Fernando Cathedral.

The Most Rev. Gustavo Garcia-Siller, M.Sp.S., Archbishop of San Antonio, hosted the interfaith observance with the Very Rev. Tony Vilano, JCL, Rector of San Fernando Cathedral, and Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth-El, leading the program.

**MORE PHOTOS: See What's Happening, page 18**

## Good things happening in our Partnership Region

**By David Komet & Lauren Stanley,**  
co-chairs of the JFSA Israel & Overseas Committee

We are very excited to announce that the Jewish Federation has charged us with building a new Israel & Overseas committee. This is a great honor and we are thrilled to have a varied and strong group of community volunteers who are eager to focus on our work in Israel and overseas. The committee will primarily be focusing on our relationship with our Partnership 2GETHER region of the Western Galilee. Partnership 2GETHER is a program of the Jewish Agency and the Jewish Federations of North America, promoting people-to-people relationships



through cultural, social, medical educational and economic programs. This partnership is between 12 U.S. communities of the Central Area Consortium, Budapest and Israel's Western Galilee.

In the coming months, we will be sharing opportunities and happenings taking place between our Partnership region and our community of San Antonio. Stay tuned! In the meantime, we are proud to report that our community has been active in the school and class twinning program with the Western Galilee region, sharing education

projects. The following schools and program in San Antonio have been involved: Congregation Agudas Achim, Temple Beth El, Torah Academy of San Antonio (TASA) and the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy (EKHLA). Additionally, this past summer the San Antonio Maccabi team of the JCC included an Israeli athlete to join our local delegation. In the future, we look forward to building our relationship between the medical communities of San Antonio and the Western Galilee as well.

If you are interested in learning more about the Partnership 2GETHER program of the Jewish Federation, please contact Ronit Sherwin at [sherwinr@jfsatx.org](mailto:sherwinr@jfsatx.org) or at (210) 302-6960.

Camp Young Judaea-Texas: Letter #65

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## *Body and Soul – The State of the Jewish Nation* premieres in SA

The San Antonio premiere of the documentary *Body and Soul – The State of the Jewish Nation* will take place at Santikos Embassy Theater, Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 7:15 p.m. The director of *Unmasked Judeophobia*, award-winning Gloria Z. Greenfield, who also produced and directed this film, will be at the theater for a post-screening discussion. The event is open to the public.

The documentary presents a comprehensive examination of the broad and deep connections between the Jewish People and the Land of Israel. World renowned historians, archaeologists, political scientists, religious leaders, and international law and media experts, among them Professor Alan Dershowitz, Irwin Cotler, Rev. Dedee Coleman, Benny Morris, Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, Professor Ruth Wisse, and more, trace the evolution of the relationship between the Jewish People and their homeland that is more than 3,000 years old.

“It’s a must see film,” said Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg, after reviewing the documentary. “As attempts to delegitimize the State of Israel are on the rise, so is the need to confront and fight them. This can only be done if we, especially our youth, have a clear understanding of our history.”

The film is sponsored by the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio and the Israel Public Action Committee (IPA) of Congregation Rodfei Sholom.

Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$5 for students. To order tickets or for more information contact Community Relations office at (210) 302-6960 or Bobbie Ghitis at (210) 493-3557, ext. 212 or send an email to [iparodfei@sbcglobal.net](mailto:iparodfei@sbcglobal.net).

Checks should be sent to Congregation Rodfei Sholom, Attn. Bobbie Ghitis, 3003 Sholom Dr., San Antonio, TX 78230 or the Jewish Federation, 12500 N.W Military Hwy, San Antonio, TX, 78231, Attn: Judy Lackritz.

Tickets can also be picked up at the theater at 13707 Embassy Row January 20 after 6:45 p.m. There is limited seating available.

## London’s Imperial War Museum brings film to San Antonio

*‘This is an impressive and important piece of filmmaking, restored with intelligence and care by the museum. It will surely be regarded as one of the most important Holocaust documentaries.’*  
- Dr Joseph Pearson, ‘The Needle-Sharp on Berlin

Following sold-out screenings during its World Premiere at the 64th Berlin Film Festival earlier this year, Imperial War Museum presents *German Concentration Camps Factual Survey*, to be screened in partnership with the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio in February 2015.

The film is an official documentary about German atrocities and the concentration camps. Compiled footage was shot by combat and newsreel cameramen accompanying troops as they liberated occupied Europe.

As the production team worked diligently to document the atrocities, sadly, the film was not completed. The last official action on the film was a screening of the five reel-rough-cut on 29 September



The documentary, *German Concentration Camps Factual Survey*, was filmed by cameramen in 1944 and 1945 and edited by Sidney Bernstein and Alfred Hitchcock. It includes images such as this of prisoners being forced to march between concentration camps of Buchenwald. The film was released only recently at the Berlin Film Festival in 2014.

1945, after which the film was shelved, unfinished.

A version of this forgotten film, otherwise known as *Memory of the Camps* (directed by Sidney Bernstein, uncredited contributions by Alfred Hitchcock), was first shown at the Berlin Film Festival 1984 and broadcast on *Frontline* part of the PBS network (pre-digitisation and without the sixth reel).

IWM believed the film could be completed as originally intended and the

project began in 2008, using the filmmakers’ original directions (the rough-cut, shot list and script for the commentary) and all reels of source material that had been assembled back in 1945 to make the film.

Screening details will be advertised in January on [HMMSA.org](http://HMMSA.org) and [JFSATX.org](http://JFSATX.org). If you are interested in attending or want more information please contact the Holocaust Memorial Museum at (210) 302-6807 or [info@hmmsa.org](mailto:info@hmmsa.org).



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**BELDON LIBRARY NEWS**

**Beldon Library welcomes celebrated Israeli author**



Looking for a good read? The Beldon Library has a number of new books

available for check out. Among them is *The People of Forever Are Not Afraid: A Novel* by young Israeli author, Shani Boianjiu. Already published in 23 countries, it is Boianjiu's first novel.

Boianjiu was raised and now lives in the Western Galilee, which is the area with which the Jewish Federation of San Antonio has a partnership. She graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy, served 2 years in the IDF, and graduated from Harvard in 2011. She has won numerous awards, and is the youngest recipient ever of the National Book Foundation's 5 under 35.

**Meet the Author**

The Beldon Library will hold a book discussion with author Shani Boianjiu on Sunday, Feb. 15 at 11 a.m. via Webex (video conferencing). There is no charge for the event, which will be held in the Beldon Library and is open to the public.

**Got books? Beldon Library will take them**

Beldon librarian Lynn Waghalter is now accepting donations of gently used books for the library's annual Used Book Sale to take place on April 26-28. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Beldon Library.

**The Beldon Library is open:**

Mondays: 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.  
Wednesdays: 1:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Five Questions with JNET-SA**

Upcoming JNET-SA speaker Bob Cohen is a seasoned media and business executive with over 35 years in the media, sports, and entertainment industries. Currently, he is the CEO/CMO at commZoom Communications, a new broadband/cable television company.

Below Bob (BC) shares a few thoughts with Jacob Kluger (JK), chair of the JNET-SA committee.

**JK:** Media play an ever increasing role in shaping our outlook on life and has created an always "on" world. What excites you about media today and what worries you?

**BC:** I am excited about all the different ways one can access content (information and entertainment) through technology and thinking about where things go from here. It is exciting to contemplate the future and imagine the possibilities.

As a marketer, the challenge of selling goods and services in this environment excites me when there are so many "clubs in the bag" that can be used to deliver the message. I like that it puts a premium on those who can intelligently integrate those components to cut through.

The proper use of social media is more of a concern than a true 'worry'. Social

media is great when used properly but it is a very dangerous place as well.

**JK:** You are very active in giving back to the community – Giving back means...

**BC:** To me, giving back means a variety of things. But in short, for me it means contributing something (time, effort, money, expertise, moral support, goods and services, whatever) whenever one can, to the greater good of a community, its people and worthy causes, and other efforts that leave a positive mark and make things better to the lives of those people and communities in general.

**JK:** What one thing would people be surprised to learn about you?

**BC:** I've gotten to wear a lot of hats throughout my career including the early days when I was a sportscaster doing radio play-by-play and color commentary in the NBA for the Kansas City Kings (now Sacramento) and Dallas Mavericks. My first NBA on air play-by-play was two Spurs/ Philadelphia76ers playoff telecasts while still in college at the age of 21.

**JK:** How has your Judaism affected who you are?

**BC:** I am a very driven person. And in so many ways, being Jewish has fueled that drive from a very young age. In a community like ours with as few Jews as there are, I see achievements or positive contributions by me or by my fellow Jews, whether to Jewish causes or to the general community to be a positive reflection on our Jewish community.

**JK:** Did you ever have a mentor/advisor?

**BC:** Thankfully yes. I've had a few that were important to me in different ways but two stand out. I worked all through college in the sports information office at SMU in basically a full time role. My boss there, who is still one of my closest friends and now retired long-time Director of Media Services for the US Olympic Committee, was instrumental in preparing me for a career. He loaded me up with meaningful opportunities, held me accountable to perform in a major market environment and prepared me like no other teacher could have.

The other is my father, Elliott Cohen, who is a successful businessman, has always been there whenever I need his advice or support, is a model of integrity, and a great example in every way imaginable.

Register for Bob Cohen's free JNETSA talk on February 4th at Il Sognio by visiting [www.jnetsa.com](http://www.jnetsa.com), and keep an eye out for next month's interview with Reuben Bar-Yadin.

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# Children's choir symbol of community at JFSA thank you event

Forty four students representing the Jewish schools of San Antonio came together on December 18 to perform with nationally acclaimed Jewish singer Sam Glaser during a Federation event celebrating Hanukkah, the Federation's Annual Campaign and "Community". The students represented the Torah Academy of San Antonio, Jewish After School at the JCC (JAS), Congregation Agudas Achim's Inda Posner Religious School, Temple Beth El Religious School, and Chabad Hebrew School.

The students, who may not have known each other before this evening event, raised their voices together, as a "community." They kicked off the evening's program with a Hanukkah medley of popular sing along tunes, and served as the choir singers with their own "solo" during Glaser's famous "My Letter in the Torah" song. This song embodied the idea that we each have our place in Judaism, and we come together as a community to build a better Jewish world. The children had their own private stage, yet joined Glaser to dance with him, and then sat at the edge of Glaser's large stage to learn new tunes that included topics such as ice cream, and candy. Susan Kariv of the Jewish Federation said, "The



audience of over 200 community members, kvelled (tbeamed with pride) as they watched the children perform. The children shared their beautiful voices and their passion for the Judaism. This was a special Hanukkah evening, bringing together adults and children alike, to thank the donors and the campaigners for their support, to celebrate the achievement of the Annual Campaign, and to celebrate each other." Just as the Macabees fought for their community and for the future of Judaism, the evening's program celebrated the strength of our community and the commitment to San Antonio's Jewish future.

Watch for more pictures and a wrap up report in the February Jewish Journal.

# Mike Feinberg featured at January's JNetSA

JNetSA's 1st Wednesday series continues on January 7 at 7:30 a.m. with guest speaker Mike Feinberg, the founder of the Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP), a nationwide network of free open- enrollment college-preparatory schools. There are currently 141 KIPP schools in 20 states and the District of Columbia serv-

ing 50,000 students. In San Antonio, KIPP has 4 schools serving about 1,500 students in inner San Antonio, and will grow to serve more students. More than 86 percent of KIPP students are from low-income families and are eligible for the federal free or reduced-price meals program. Nationally, more than 93 percent of KIPP

middle school students have graduated high school, and more than 83 percent of KIPP alumni have gone on to college.

The January 7 breakfast event at Osteria Il Sogno in the Pearl costs \$10. To make a reservation or to learn more about JNet (the Jewish Young Professional Network), visit [www.jnetsa.com](http://www.jnetsa.com).



PJ Library friends put together edible dreidels with the letter Nun, Gimmel, Hay and Shin.

# PJ Library brings fun and excitement to community

**Lauren Abraham,**  
PJ Library Coordinator

There has been so much excitement at PJ Library. Our booth at the Hands on Chanukah event at the Barshop JCC on December 18 was a great place for our younger community members to hear a broad selection of stories, including: *Hanukkah O Hanukkah*, *Hanukkah: A Counting Book*, *Hoppy Hanukkah*, and the new *Happy Sparkling Chanukah* book. Our fun continued with each child receiving the opportunity to decorate and eat his/her own edible dreidel. This included the use of marshmallows, pretzels, icing, and Hershey kisses. The PJ Library kids reviewed the essential dreidel letters, and were encouraged to transcribe one for their own tummies to enjoy.

Our PJ Library Pajama Pizza Party on Christmas eve was well attended and a fun way to wrap up Hanukkah. Between all of the delightful stories, activities, and edible fun, our PJ Library friends arrived in their pajamas, ready to watch a movie, enjoy some pizza, and color and draw with their friends on Christmas eve (when the rest of the world closes). A great time, and even some terrific raffles made the night a huge success. We look forward to our Tu Bishvat visit to the Japanese Tea Garden to explore nature and to getting together in February as well.

Please feel free to contact me at [AbrahamL@jfsatx.org](mailto:AbrahamL@jfsatx.org) or the Jewish Federation office with any questions about your PJ Library subscription or ways to find us in the community.

## Congregation Agudas Achim installs 2015-2016 Board

Congregation Agudas Achim will install their 2015-2016 Board of Trustees and officers Saturday, Jan. 24 at a ceremony led by Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham and Hazzan Jeremy Lipton. Officers to be installed are President, Barbie Scharf-Zeldes; VP Finance/Admin, Kevin Epstein; VP Education, Jennifer Rosenblatt; VP

Membership, Jody Reddy; VP Fundraising, Rhonda Gurinsky; VP Ritual, Mindy Spigel; Secretary, Dr. Amy Saklad; Treasurer, Dr. Michael Peck.

Shabbat services begin at 9 a.m. and will be immediately followed by a celebration luncheon in the Gurinsky Family Social Hall.

## Tikkun Olam day at Rodfei

Congregation Rodfei Sholom Sisterhood is organizing its 5<sup>th</sup> annual Day of Community Service for volunteers of all ages on Sunday, Feb. 1 from 10 a.m. – 12 noon.

Volunteers will sort and stack donated food items at

the San Antonio Food Bank, paint over outside walls with the Graffiti Project, participate in a litter pick-up at Hardberger Park, run a game of Lotteria at Golden Estates Nursing Home and make lunch for families at the Ronald McDonald

House.

If you are interested in joining our group of volunteers at any of these venues, contact Rodfei Sholom Sisterhood at [rodfeisisterhood@gmail.com](mailto:rodfeisisterhood@gmail.com) or call the synagogue office (210) 493-3557.

## New course on navigating parenthood

The Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning will present *The Art of Parenting*, a new six-session spring 2015 course being offered at two different times: Six Tuesday afternoons with Rivkie Block, beginning January 20, 12:45 p.m.-2 p.m., and six Wednesday evenings with Rabbi Levi Teldon, beginning January 21, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m. at the Chabad Center, 14535 Blanco Rd.

The course was designed by The Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) in order to help parents navigate the stormy waters of child-rearing and the constant bombardment of various educational approaches and methods. From questions of how children and parents should relate to each other, to how to help a child cultivate a healthy self-image, *The Art of Parenting* provides a solid foundation anchored in the eternal wisdom of Jewish thought and practice for parents to explore and develop their own parenting philosophies and techniques.

“Empires and civilizations have come and gone, but the Jewish people have survived,” says Rabbi Levi Teldon. “This course taps into the great Jewish parenting success story that is our people’s survival, against all odds, over the course of thousands of years.”

Each week, participants can choose to attend either of the two classes.

*The Art of Parenting* is geared towards anyone who values personal and interpersonal growth, and not only those actively parenting.

The course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of Jewish knowledge, including those without any prior background in Jewish learning. Attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

The course fee is \$99.00 which includes a student textbook. Interested students may call Chabad at (210) 764-0300 or visit [www.myJLI.com](http://www.myJLI.com) for more information and registration.

## Sisterhood Shabbat weekend at Agudas Achim

Agudas Achim Sisterhood will host their annual Shabbat weekend on January 16 and 17 with special guest Rochelle “Shelly” Goldin, Women’s League Trainer. Services begin at 6:15 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16, followed by Shabbat dinner. Couvert is \$18 per adult, \$8 for children under 12 years old and

no charge for children under 5 years old. Payment by check is due to Babs Schnitzer by January 13 (for mailing address contact Agudas Achim). On Saturday, Jan. 17, Shabbat services begin at 9 a.m. Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon in the Gurinsky Family Social Hall will follow services.



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## JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

### JWV 753 RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

During the quarterly meeting of Audie Murphy VA Hospital volunteer Services (VAVS) program, JWV Post 753 was honored for its 100% attendance record and support of the hospital. Faye and Leo Swidler have attended the quarterly meetings regularly for 35 years, Irwin Barath for 25 years, Frank Aleman for 10 years, Ken Ashworth and Herschel Sheines for 2 years. The VAVS program directs the volunteer efforts at the hospital.

### JWV MEMBERSHIP

Membership in JWV Post 753 is open to those who served or are currently serving in the armed forces. Active duty members do not pay dues. You may also become a friend of JWV if you did not serve in the armed forces. For more information, contact Luis Hernandez (210) 210-1113.



**January 21:** Installation of post officers and members who joined in 2014 will be held at Barn Door Restaurant, 8400 North New Braunfels Avenue, starting at 7 p.m. For information and reservations contact Jeffrey Hoffman at (210) 492-4980.

**February 22 to March 3:** 29th annual JWV mission to Israel. JWV Leaders and non-Jews selected by each JWV Department visit Israel to meet Israelis and their leaders, get updated briefings on the current situation in the country, and experience sites that is never seen on other tours. If interested, contact Norton Shectman (210) 493-6660.



The JCC kitchen team includes (l to r) Chelly DeLeon, Carol Fernandez, Mashgiach Ephraim Barker and Maria Gutierrez.

## Strengthening our community, one meal at a time

by **Sophia Cathcart**, JFSA Special Programs Manager

The Jewish Community Campus has welcomed a new member to their staff, Mashgiach Ephraim Barker. For those not familiar with the term, mashgiach, means to supervise or take care of.

“In the kitchen a mashgiach makes sure that all food and cooking is done according to Jewish law or halachah,” explained Barker. To oversee such complex responsibilities for our local Vaad, “a mashgiach must

be a fully observant Jew, keeping Shabbat and kosher in their own homes.

“But,” Barker tell us, “You do not have to be a rabbi to be a mashgiach, but [you must] have a solid knowledge of the rules – such as meat and milk. This helps a lot in making the kitchen run smoothly.”

Mashgiach Barker has worked with other organizations in the community including Aroma Grill and Saint Philip’s College. He has been with the Campus since the second week of November.

Mike Griffin, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Campus, spoke to the value of our mashgiach. “Agencies, EKHLA, private parties, and anyone who keeps kosher, has a place to eat. All events held at the campus are held to one of the highest standards.”

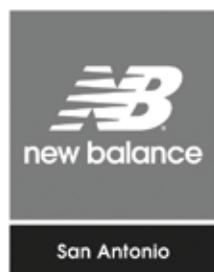
And of course, the kitchen is also open to anyone simply seeking a delicious nosh. Mashgiach Barker is an asset to our community, and we hope you will join us in welcoming him.

### COMING EVENTS FOR POST 753

**January 16 to 18:** All Jewish War Veterans Posts within the states of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Arkansas will meet in New Orleans.



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## Rodfei Sholom Rosh Chodesh group for women

Rodfei Sholom's Rosh Chodesh Group will welcome the month of Shevat on Tuesday, Jan. 20, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

There will be a D'var Torah welcoming the new month.

Shevat is a month dedicated to Torah study and the special laws of Israel.

In light of this, Eleanor Siegal will give a talk entitled, *A Lawful*

*Experience*, about her recent mission to Israel.

The trip was sponsored by the Israel Law Center (Shurat HaDin). There will be time to ask questions, exchange ideas, socialize, and enjoy light refreshments.

All women are welcome to participate. For more information and to RSVP by January 14 contact [rodfeisa@gmail.com](mailto:rodfeisa@gmail.com) or (210) 493-3557.

## Keeping kosher

Rabbi Zvi Goldberg, Kashrus Administrator for Star-K Kosher, will speak at Congregation Rodfei Sholom on the modern challenges of keeping kosher and traveling kosher on Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. Star-K Kosher is a kashrus-certifying agency.

Goldberg oversees Star-K's hotline, which

fields calls and emails from consumers around the world, and is the designated liaison for Star-K field representatives concerning current data on kosher productions. He is also the director of Star-K's Virtual Kosher University and coordinates Star-K's annual Kashrus Training Seminar.

## NCJW and Pre-K 4 SA join forces

Beginning this month, Book Buddies, NCJW's new early literacy program with PRE-K SA, will bring adults and 3-5 year olds together once a month to share the joy of reading.

Each volunteer will read to 10 children at the PRE-K facility on Medical Drive. The unique part of this program is that each child gets to select a book to add to their personal library each month.

School success hinges on knowledge a child obtains even prior to entering kindergarten. If you are interested in being a Book Buddy reader (male or female), or have gently used



NCJW members tour the North Pre-K SA education facility

books age-appropriate for 3-5 year olds or would like to make a donation to purchase

books for Book Buddies, contact Joyce Sheiness at [jsheines@swbell.net](mailto:jsheines@swbell.net).

## NEWS FROM B'NAI B'RITH

*The next meeting of the Alamo-Brandeis B'nai B'rith Lodge will be Sunday Jan 11 in Room 227 JCC starting at 10:30 a.m.*

### LOCAL LODGE PROVIDES SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR JEWISH CHILDREN IN CUBA

For a number of years B'nai B'rith members in the U.S have visited Cuba, meeting with Cuban Jews. For the past couple of years on these visits, the travelers delivered school supplies for students in Jewish schools.

Even though no one from San Antonio is going on the trip to Cuba this year, M.H Levine, Daniel Laser and Irwin Barath worked on obtaining school supplies (note pads, pencils, pens, crayons, etc.) and filled about a dozen bags with the supplies. Charles Kaufman, B'nai B'rith International Vice-President, will deliver the bags on behalf of the San Antonio Lodge when he travels on the organization's next trip to Cuba.

### 2015 FIESTA PARADE TICKETS NOW ON SALE

The local B'nai B'rith lodge will once again sell seats for the two San Antonio Fiesta parades in April. The monies derived from the sale of the seats are used for projects like the lodge's Cuban school supplies project. This year the monies raised from the sale of the parade seats will also support the Jewish Federation's Literacy program, the Jewish Family Service Passover program and other programs.

For information on the lodge projects, contact president Irwin Barath at (210) 341-4502.

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# Barshop JCC guest lecturer to offer parenting advice

On Sunday, Jan. 25 at 3 p.m., the Barshop JCC Author and Lecture Series welcomes Carla Naumburg who will speak on *Parenting in the Present Moment: How to Stay Focused on What Really Matters*.

Parents can expect an enlightening and lively discussion on parenting, rooted in the author's own experiences, as well as her mindfulness training and professional social work background. The event includes the author presentation, Q & A, a

parent activity, book sale and signing, and a meet and greet with Carla Naumburg. It will take place in Auditorium A of the Holzman Auditorium located on the main level of the Barshop Jewish Community Center.

The cost to attend is \$10 per person, and is free for families of children currently enrolled in the Block and Dreeben School for Young Children and JCC Kid's Club. Visit [www.jccsanantonio.org/author](http://www.jccsanantonio.org/author) to purchase tickets and learn more about the author.

# January Hadassah features leadership: A Rabbi and a councilman

Two community leaders from very different organizations will be featured at Hadassah group meetings in San Antonio this month.

On Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 11:30 a.m., the Rose Treiman group will hear The Associate Rabbi of Temple Beth-El, Rabbi Elisa Koppel. She will share anecdotes from her rabbinic career after lunch at the Dry Dock Oyster Bar, 8522 Fredericksburg Rd. Those who wish to attend should RSVP by sending a \$15 check made out to Hadassah to Sandra Shaenfield. There will be a choice of two fish entrees.

For Sandra's mailing address or for further information, call Sandra, (210) 492-5962, or Ruth Toback, (210) 694-7552.

On Sunday, Jan. 18, at 3 p.m., the Leah Goot group will host City Councilman Ron Nirenberg in the Fisher Board Room of the Jewish Federation, 12500 NW Military Hwy. Councilman Nirenberg represents district 8 in northwestern San Antonio. Refreshments will be served. There is no charge for the event, but reservations should be made by calling Marge Present at (210) 492-5153.

# Hillel celebrates Hanukkah

San Antonio Hillel continues to connect with Jewish students throughout San Antonio.

In December, a Pre-Hanukkah/End of the Semester event was held at the JCC for students to come together from the various schools in San Antonio to celebrate Hanukkah, enjoy latkes and sufganiot, play games, and celebrate the Festival of Lights.

In addition, Hillel students gathered for a Hanukkah study break at both UTSA and Trinity University to discuss the importance of taking a stand for what they believe in.

Just like Abraham Isaac Kook, the first chief Rabbi of Israel wrote, "Everyone must know that within them burns a candle, and that no one's candle is identical with the candle of another, and that there is no human being without a candle. One is obligated to work hard to reveal that light of one's candle in the public realm for the benefit of the many. One needs to ignite one's candle and make of it a great torch to enlighten the whole world."

Student leaders are busy planning and organizing a spring semester filled with programming and tradition.

If you know of a college-aged student in San Antonio looking to get involved and meet other Jewish students, contact Samantha Mazuz, Hillel Director, at [Samantha@sahillel.org](mailto:Samantha@sahillel.org) or at (210) 201-JEWS (5397).



## Social club launched for young couples

Congregation Agudas Achim has launched a new program geared toward the community's young couples, Young Couples Club of Agudas (YCCA).

"We're very excited to roll out this new program because we believe there's

a lack of programming for young couples in the San Antonio community to socialize," explains Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham. Open to the Jewish community, this monthly social program welcomes couples who are dating, engaged or married to

connect over a fun evening out.

The program's first event will be a no-host dinner on Saturday, Jan. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Aldaco's Mexican Cuisine, 20079 Stone Oak Parkway. To RSVP, call (210) 479-0307.

## Chabad on Campus celebrates Hanukkah

UTSA students enjoyed complimentary lunches on campus, Torah Classes and Shabbat Dinners hosted by Chabad on Campus.

At a Menorah Workshop led by Clay Casa, students learned artistic techniques and came away with their own unique ceramic Menorah to use for Hanukkah.

Students also enjoyed a surprise on Campus, as Chabad put a 6 foot tall Menorah in the University Center. The Menorah stayed lit throughout Hanukkah and brought Jewish Pride and awareness to the UTSA students, staff and administration. Many students of all denominations came by Chabad on Campus's table to learn about the holiday, pick up a free dreidel, enjoy chocolate Chanukah gelt and traditional potato Latkes.

For more information on Chabad on Campus, contact Rabbi Ari Weingarten (210) 391-3621, via email at [ariweingarten@gmail.com](mailto:ariweingarten@gmail.com) or online at [www.ChabadonCampusSA.com](http://www.ChabadonCampusSA.com).



Students at the Menorah Workshop with Clay Casa



Rabbi Ari Weingarten and Jonathan Barris by the Menorah at UTSA



Heintz preschooler Ella working with two Madison Estates residents.

## Yad B'Yad Outreach brings Hanukkah to Madison Estates

The Pre-K students from Heintz Preschool participated in the Yad B'Yad Intergenerational Outreach Program when they visited with the residents at Madison Estates on December 11. The children led a sing-along with old favorites like "Old MacDonald" and "Itzy Bitzy Spider" and then sang a variety of Hanukkah songs. The program concluded with the lighting of the Hanukkiah and singing the Hanukkah prayers. Then everyone moved to the tables to enjoy a snack together and work

together "Hand-in-Hand" on a Hanukkah door hanger project.

The Yad B'Yad Intergenerational Outreach Program is sponsored by Heintz Preschool and also funded with a grant from Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services. The Pre-K will go out into the community at least four times during the school year to bring Jewish holidays and Shabbat to Jewish seniors at independent and assisted living facilities in San Antonio.

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# IN THE COMMUNITY: SENIORS

## Seniors to try their hand at *Fiddler on the Roof*

Agudas Achim Kiddush Klatch, a monthly program open to all Jewish seniors, will host a free theatre workshop featuring *Fiddler on the Roof* on Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015. Enjoy lunch at 12:30 p.m. in the Gurinsky Family Social Hall followed by the workshop led by actor/director Bill Gundry of The Playhouse San Antonio from 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. in the Alterman Salkind Louis Sanctuary.

Call (210) 479-0307 to RSVP by Monday, Jan. 5. Kiddush Klatch is underwritten by Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.



## HANUKKAH HAPPINESS

Seniors enjoyed lunch, dreidel decorating and Hanukkah cookie baking on Wednesday, Dec. 10 at the Sunshine Club, a monthly social for seniors at the Chabad Center. The Sunshine Club is a grant recipient of Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.

## MAKING HANUKKAH GIFTS FOR SENIORS

With the help of Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services staff, volunteer Rachel Walsh and Temple Beth-El, gifts were made and delivered to seniors at Adante, Madison Estates, Golden Estates and Wedgwood Senior Apartments for Hanukkah. The seniors received a handmade reusable hanukkiah craft and a few other goodies.



One gift making session held at Temple Beth-El on December 7.

## 2015 – THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

**Tu B'Shevat**  
February 4, 2015

**Purim**  
March 5, 2015

**Pesach (Passover)**  
April 4-11, 2015

**Yom HaShoah**  
April 16, 2015  
(Holocaust Memorial day)

**Yom Hazikaron**  
April 22, 2015  
(Israeli Memorial Day)

**Yom HaAtzma'ut**  
April 23, 2015  
(Israel Independence Day)

**Yom Ha-Atzmaut**  
April 23, 2015

**Lag B'Omer**  
May 7, 2015

**Shavu'ot**  
May 24-25, 2015

**Tisha B'Av**  
July 26, 2015

**Rosh Hashanah**  
September 14-15, 2015

**Yom Kippur**  
September 23, 2015

**Sukkot**  
September 28-  
October 4, 2015

**Shmini Atzeret**  
October 5, 2015

**Simchat Torah**  
October 6, 2015

**Hanukkah**  
December 7-14, 2015

## IN THE COMMUNITY: SENIORS

# Money management program free for seniors at L'Chayim Club

The L'Chayim Club's monthly event for seniors will feature IBC bank's *Money Buzz and Money Smart* program. The program, which takes place at Rodfei Sholom on Wednesday, Jan. 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., will focus on basic money

management as well as how to be alert to fraud schemes.

There will be ample time for questions and discussion, followed by a delicious home-cooked lunch.

There is no charge for seniors, thanks to co-sponsorship by Rodfei

Sholom and a grant from Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.

Others are welcome and encouraged to attend at \$5 per person. If planning to attend, RSVP by Wednesday, Dec. 31 to [rodfeisa@gmail.com](mailto:rodfeisa@gmail.com) or (210) 493-3557.

## IN THE COMMUNITY: YOUTH

# Miss Anastasia featured at JCC School for Young Children Mini-Book Fair

The JCC Block and Dreeben School for Young Children will hold a Mini-Book Fair on Sunday, Jan. 25 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the JCC in the Holzman Auditorium. Books will be provided by the Twig Bookstore and Miss

Anastasia will make a special appearance reading in her special style from 3 to 4 p.m.

Admission is free and the community is welcome. Proceeds from the sale of books will benefit the JCC's Early Childhood Enrichment Fund.

# Community-Wide teen social event on Jan. 17

San Antonio Jewish teens will gather for a city-wide Jewish Teen Social, J-Schmooze Mystery Bus Ride, on Saturday Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. at the JCC. The event will end at 10:30 p.m.

Teens will meet at the JCC and participate in Havdallah. They will be transported on a mystery bus tour to two locations, and will then return to the JCC. The cost is \$20 in advance with registration online via

the JCC website, or \$25 at the door. Registration fees cover entry to the two mystery locations, as well as transportation and snacks.

The event is a collaboration of the Jewish Teen Professionals in San Antonio. All Jewish teens in grades 8-12 are encouraged to attend.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Rachel Rustin by phone at (210) 302-6969, or register online at [www.jccsanantonio.org/teen](http://www.jccsanantonio.org/teen).



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING



## AGUDAS ACHIM OFFICIALLY WELCOMES NEW SENIOR RABBI

Rabbi Neil Blumof of Congregation Agudas Achim Austin (on left) congratulates Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham following his installation as the new Senior Rabbi at Agudas Achim on Sunday, Nov. 23.



## PUMPKINS FOR SENIORS: A THANKSGIVING TREAT

JCC After School children decorated pumpkins for seniors to help bring them some Thanksgiving spirit. Teaming up with Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services, the pumpkins were taken to Golden Estates and given to residents to decorate their rooms for Thanksgiving.

## ROSH CHODESH BRINGS WOMEN TOGETHER

(l to r) Nola Marx, Rachel Marks, and Zee Fisher joined in a fun and meaningful get together hosted by Rodfei Sholom's Rosh Chodesh group on November 23. The Rosh Chodesh group meets monthly to celebrate the arrival of each new Jewish month. For more information on the January meeting, see page 11



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING



## COMMUNITY SCHMOOZE OFFERS FAMILY FUN

The December Agudas Achim Brews and Schmooze was the place for families to get together for a little dinner and drash. The next Brews and Schmooze at Big'z Burger Joint will take place on Thursday, Jan. 8 from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.



## MENORAH MEMORIES

Gan Gani Preschool children recently enjoyed a Hanukkah art workshop with Gan Gani mom and artist Faryl Greller, (above.)

At right, Ben Gumprecht creates his own menorah.



## THAT'S HOW WE ROLL...TOGETHER!

(l to r) Yosef Miller, Ariana Tawil, and Aaron Tawil join in the fun at Rodfei's Sunday Funday at the Rollercoast on November 23.



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## 13TH ANNUAL CATHOLIC-JEWISH HANUKKAH CELEBRATION



Father Tony Vilano, Richard Planto, JFSA Chair and Father David Garcia



Henry B. Gonzales and David Adelman prepare to light the last candle with Rabbi Sam Stahl



Lanny Sinkin was recognized for his work with Solar San Antonio in a remembrance of his father Bill who created the International Latke Luncheon

Rabbi Mara Nathan and Josh Sutin taking the Chanukiah back home to Temple Beth-El



Millie Ehrenberg Chesler with her daughter Laura Ehrenberg Chesler who was one of the two keynote speakers. The other keynote speaker was Raul Rodriguez.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING



Marcella Perry and Jacqueline Shweiki enjoy latkes at the Project Welcome Home party



Jewish military members and their families celebrating Hanukkah together.

## **PROJECT WELCOME HOME CELEBRATES HANUKKAH**

On Thursday, Dec. 11, Jewish military, both active and retired, gathered together at the JCC with family and friends to have an early Hanukkah celebration. Jewish military members and their families met and mingled, made Hanukkah crafts, enjoyed live music, participated in a dreidel spinning contest, and had dinner together. This event was the first of its kind and part of Project Welcome Home, a new JCC initiative aimed at serving post-9/11 Jewish veterans by providing community connections. If you or someone you know is a post-9/11 Jewish veteran and want to get involved with Project Welcome Home, visit [www.jcc.sanantonio.org/PWH](http://www.jcc.sanantonio.org/PWH) or contact Maya Siler at [silerm@jcc-sa.org](mailto:silerm@jcc-sa.org) or (210) 302-6860.



Wednesday evening class with Rabbi Levi Teldon.

## **DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY!**

Close to 50 students graduated *How Happiness Thinks*, a six-session JLI course offered by Chabad on the psychology of joy from a Jewish perspective.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## TRADITION! TRADITION!

On Sunday, December 7, mothers and daughters worked side by side at Congregation Rodfei Sholom to share in the tradition of challah baking.



Lisa Abramson with daughters Samantha and Lauren



Aviva Bass and her granddaughter Ella Bass

## INTERGENERATIONAL SHABBAT

Heintz preschoolers and their Yad B'Yad friends celebrated Grandparents and Grandpals Shabbat on Friday, Nov. 21. Highlights included a lively Shabbat celebration and blessings, challah making and Shabbat center fun.



Roberto Kennigstein celebrates Grandparents Shabbat with Carlie



Making challah together



Grandparents and Heintz preschoolers celebrate Shabbat together.



## EKA GRAD SERVING IN IDF

Ze'ev Bar Yadin (pictured in the back row, second from the left) is serving in the Orev Golani squad of the IDF as a lone soldier. Ze'ev, son of Deborah and Reuben Bar Yadin, is a graduate of the former Eleanor Kolitz Academy (EKA) of San Antonio. To learn more about the IDF lone soldier program, visit [www.idfinfo.co.il](http://www.idfinfo.co.il).

## Foundation for Jewish Camp launches discount program

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Foundation for Jewish Camp is launching a program that offers discounted prices for eligible first-time campers at Jewish overnight camps throughout the United States.

BunkConnect, which was piloted last summer at 35 camps on the East Coast, offers middle- and lower-income families whose children have not previously attended Jewish camps tuition discounts ranging from 40 to 60 percent off camps' listed rates.

Parents of prospective campers can instantly determine eligibility by completing an online form, then search for available sessions that meet their geographic, denominational and other preferences.

### FOR DETAILS

Visit [www.bunkconnect.org](http://www.bunkconnect.org)

Participating camps represent a range of movements and denominations.

This summer, the program will offer 1,700 discounted slots at more than 75 U.S. camps. Eligibility is determined based on a family's adjusted gross income, number of dependent children and place of legal residency.

The program seeks not only to make camp more financially accessible, but to boost enrollment among families that might not otherwise consider Jewish camp, or that are unaware of or reluctant to apply for scholarships.

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## Sunday Funday at Oak Hills Lanes

Rodfei Sholom will host bowlers of all ages at Oak Hills Lanes, 7330 Callaghan Road, on Sunday, Jan. 4, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The bowling lanes are equipped with both bumpers and ramps.

The cost is \$5 per bowler and includes shoe rental. All are welcome to join in the fun.

If attending, RSVP by Wednesday, Dec. 31 to [rodfeisa@gmail.com](mailto:rodfeisa@gmail.com) or (210) 493-3557.

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## IN THE COMMUNITY: YOUTH

### EKHLA's enrichment programming and Israeli culture

During the past semester, Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy focused on tying Israeli Culture into the Hebrew classes and throughout the school day. EKHLA educators say one of the highlights was studying the history of the Machane Yehuda Shuk in Jerusalem. In November, the school held a Shuk program where kids could visit "an open air market" and buy good with shekels.

This Spring, EKHLA will continue to infuse culture and Hebrew throughout the day including a tree planting program and a school wide Israeli Culture event to honor Israel's Independence. The school will also host the popular Color Wars during



Kellye Foret, EKHLA Art Teacher standing in front of her painted Shuk Canvas.

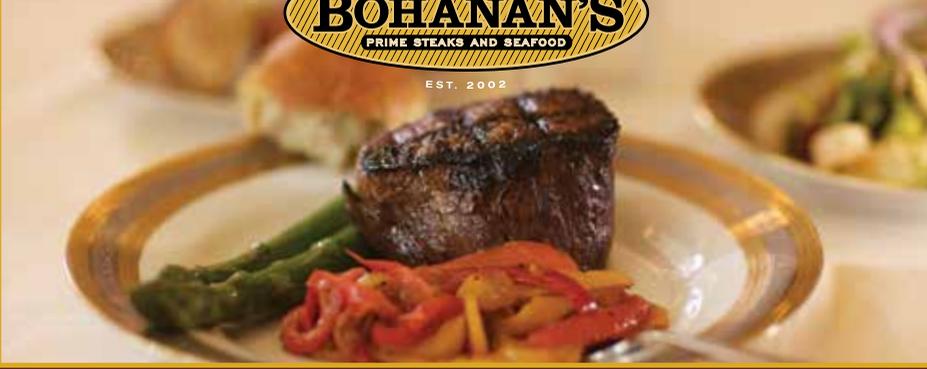
Field day with teams broken into cities/rivers throughout Israel.

EKHLA will also continue its enrichment programs

which include guitar, chess, digital photography, computer science, advanced art, and new to the school, violin and crochet.



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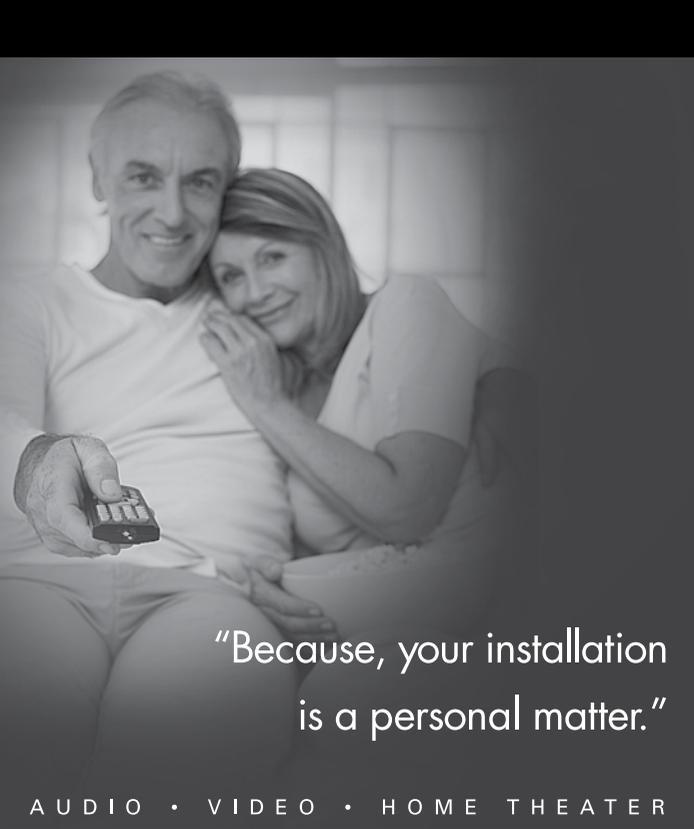
### Tu Be'Shevat party at Chabad's Youth Zone

Chabad's Youth Zone, a monthly 'Jewish Club for Jewish Kids' ages 5-12, will host a Tu Be'Shevat Party, on Sunday, Jan. 25, from 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

In honor of the Tu Be'Shvat holiday, children will be making a variety of edible creations and enjoy

many fruit-themed activities and games.

Cost of the program is \$12 with pizza lunch, \$8 without pizza lunch. For more details and to make reservations, please call Chabad at (210) 764-0300 or email [rochel@chabadsa.com](mailto:rochel@chabadsa.com).



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## Heintz Preschool now enrolling for 2015-2016

Heintz Preschool has begun registration for the 2015-2016 school year. Registration for current students opens on January 5. It will open to the Agudas Achim Community on January 19 with open enrollment beginning February 2. The preschool is open to children ages 18 months to five years.

Heintz Preschool's program emphasizes traditional values coupled with strong reading comprehension, mathematics, science, language, and arts education, that creates a learning-rich environment where children thrive.

"A warm, nurturing Jewish early childhood program, small classes, school-wide celebrations, and meaningful

child-centered curricula are just a few of the elements that make Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim (HPS) a unique school for young children," said Director Aliza Cantu.

"Little ones are enveloped in Jewish celebrations and traditions via activities such as prayers, clergy-led Kabbalat Shabbat and Havdallah services," Cantu added.

Heintz Preschool offers flexible scheduling, including two, three, and five day options and an extension of core school hours from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Contact Preschool Director Aliza Cantu for a tour and registration packet, (210) 479-0429 or [a.cantu@agudas-achim.org](mailto:a.cantu@agudas-achim.org).

## Block and Dreeben School for Young Children opens registration for 2015-2016

A meeting for prospective families interested in learning about the Block and Dreeben School for Young Children will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. at the JCC. The meeting will highlight the early childhood education program's philosophy and curriculum and will include a classroom tour.

Beginning Monday, Jan. 19, the school will accept registrations for currently enrolled children and their siblings for the 2015-2016 program year, which begins in June. Following the Feb. 4 meeting, priority will be given to children of JCC members not currently enrolled.

On Monday, Feb. 9, registration will open to the community. Membership to the JCC is required to enroll, JCC membership applications must be completed along with the registration

forms. Call Director Alissa Levey Baugh, or Assistant Director Cynthia Baker, at (210) 302-6846 for more information.

The JCC Block and Dreeben School for Young Children is the only Jewish nationally accredited early childhood program in San Antonio, and one of only twenty-five programs citywide. The program offers a play-based curriculum for children six weeks to five years of age, operating year-round Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. Educators include early childhood professionals with college courses in child development and early childhood education.

For more information about our program and philosophy, plan to attend the parent information meeting on Feb. 4 and also visit [www.jccsanantonio.org/ecdphilosophy](http://www.jccsanantonio.org/ecdphilosophy).

## State Holocaust commission announces student video contest

The Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission is now accepting submissions for its 2015 Genocide Awareness and Prevention

Month video contest. The theme for this year's contest is *Creating a More Just World*.

There are two grade

categories – Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12. Entries must be original works between 1 to 2 ½ minutes in length. All submissions are due by

March 13, 2015. Prizes for the top 3 will be awarded in both age categories. Only students attending Texas schools may apply.

For additional contest rules and details visit [www.thgc.texas.gov](http://www.thgc.texas.gov).

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Ziggy Gruber, owner of Kenny & Ziggy's, is filmed on location at the deli for the documentary *Deli Man*.

## The JCC Jewish Film Festival presents *The Prequel* on Jan. 17

On Saturday, Jan. 17, the JCC Jewish Film Festival will present the film *Deli Man* at the JCC in the Holzman Auditorium. Doors open at 7 p.m. for light deli fare; and the film will begin at 8 p.m.

The film documents Ziggy Gruber, a third-generation delicatessen man, owner, as well as Yiddish-speaking French-trained chef, who currently operates the popular *Kenny and Ziggy's* deli in Houston, TX. The run time of the film is 90 minutes.

Tickets to the prequel event are \$10 per person and are available by calling 210-302-6820 or online at [www.jccsanantonio.org/filmfestival](http://www.jccsanantonio.org/filmfestival). Advanced ticket purchase is strongly recommended as seating is limited and expected to sell out prior to the event.

The *Prequel* marks the beginning of the countdown to the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual JCC Jewish Film Festival taking place Feb. 7-11 at Santikos

Embassy 14. The Festival will present ten films throughout the 5-day event that will educate, enlighten, entertain, and broaden the horizons of the community through the lens of various domestic and international films.

Tickets to the Jewish Film Festival will go on sale Jan. 6. Visit [www.jccsanantonio.org/filmfestival](http://www.jccsanantonio.org/filmfestival) to purchase tickets, see the schedule, view film trailers, and follow links to film reviews.

## Strauss Festival includes events at the JCC and the Tobin

The JCC will host an evening focused on the life and works of composer Richard Strauss. The free event, including a panel discuss and chamber concert, will take place Sunday, Jan. 4 at 6 p.m. at the Barshop JCC in the Holzman Auditorium. Reservations required. Visit [www.jccsanantonio.org/artandmusic](http://www.jccsanantonio.org/artandmusic) for more info.

OPERA San Antonio will then present Richard

Strauss' first operatic masterpiece *Salome* at the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday, Jan. 8 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 11 at 2 p.m. Based on the stage play by Oscar Wilde, OPERA San Antonio says Strauss' retelling of this biblical tale will shock and thrill audiences.

The production of Strauss' monumental opera features a world-class cast

starring Patricia Racette, an internationally sought-after soprano hailed by *The New York Times* as "...deeply affecting and impassioned."

Sung in German with projected English translations, the production will be conducted by the San Antonio Symphony Music Director Sebastian Lang-Lessing. For ticket information, call the OPERA San Antonio box office at (210) 223-8624.

## Temple Chai presents *The Three Faces of Yitzhak*

Temple Chai will stage a production of *The Three Faces of Yitzhak* by playwright Rachelle Neuman at 8:15 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16 following Shabbat services. The play was originally written and produced in 2005 in conjunction with Federation's Partnership 2000 program in the Western Galilee region of Israel.

The play depicts the life and times of a biblical Yitzhak, Yitzhak during the era of pogroms in Czarist Russia, and a modern day Yitzhak. Each story paints a picture of the internal conflict and obstacles that

challenge the character as a human being and as a Jew.

The play, which is free and open to the community, will take place at the Jewish Campus in the Holzman Auditorium.

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## JCC to sponsor community trip to Israel

It's not quite Pesach yet but the annual appeal, *Next Year in Jerusalem*, is closer than you imagine. As part of the JCC's mission to inspire Jewish Journeys and strengthen and enhance our community's relationship with Israel, the JCC is sponsoring its first community trip to Israel. The trip, tentatively set for February 28-March 9, 2015, is open to adults of all ages. While the JCC has provided opportunities in the past for teens to travel to Israel, this trip is uniquely designed to complement the types of experiences that appeal specifically to adults.

Participants will explore Jewish culture looking at the layers of history surrounding the Old City of Jerusalem and experience the spirituality most commonly associated with visiting the Western Wall. They will discover the

culture and nightlife of Tel Aviv, and see firsthand how the city has developed as *the Modern Hebrew City* and the cultural capital of Israel.

Participants will travel to the San Antonio Jewish community's sister city region in the Western Galilee where they will celebrate Purim and the traditional megillah reading with members of our partnership community in the port city of Acco.

Whether you are a first-time traveler or have experienced Israel many times, this opportunity is designed to provide participants with an insider's look at Israel – her history, her development, and current events.

For more information about the trip contact Saul Levenshus, JCC President & CEO at (210) 302-6823 or at [levens@jcc-sa.org](mailto:levens@jcc-sa.org).

## Cantor Jack Mendelson: Musician in Residence at Temple Beth-El

Cantor Jack Mendelson, one of America's preeminent cantors, will be the guest musician in residence at Temple Beth-El on January 23 and 24. He will lead the congregation in worship on Friday evening at 6:30 p.m., and perform a concert on Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m. He will be joined by his wife, Cantor Fredda Mendelson, who is also an acclaimed cantor. The entire community is welcome to attend both events which are made possible by the Temple's Jean and Jesse Wulfe Religious Enhancement Fund.

Cantor Mendelson is the subject of the documentary film *A Cantor's Tale* directed by Erik Greenberg Anjou, currently playing in film festivals throughout the world. In reviewing the film, *The New York Times* called him "a voice that heralds a culture... a documentary filmmaker's dream." Cantor Mendelson is also featured in the documentary films: *100*



Cantor Jack Mendelson will serve as the guest musician in residence at Temple Beth-El on January 23 and 24.

*Voices*, and *Journey of Spirit*, the film on the life of Debbie Friedman, and the forthcoming *Deli Man*, directed by Erik Anjou, which premiered in Boston, November 2014.

Growing up in Brooklyn, New York, he witnessed the dwindling days of the Golden Age of *Hazzanut*. Now, as both an international performer and one of the leading cantorial masters

of today, he is passing on his art to a new generation of cantors. For more than 25 years he has taught at the Hebrew Union College School of Sacred Music and the H.L. Miller Cantorial School at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Cantor Mendelson is a graduate of the Hebrew Union College School of Sacred Music and the American Opera Center at the Juilliard School. He is the composer of *Weekday Mincha and Maariv* and *Improvisations on Shabbat Shacharit* published by the Cantors Assembly, the organization in which he served as president in 2003 and 2004.

His discography includes *Cantorial Recitatives by Legendary Masters*, *The Birthday of the World Part I and Part II*, *A Taste of Eternity*, narrated by Leonard Nimoy, *Jewish Music and More*, and *Hazonos*, proclaimed jazz album of the year by *Wired Magazine*.

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## Adults-only movie night features *Exodus: Gods and Kings*

Adults-Only Movie Night, a new program hosted by Agudas Achim, will meet monthly for a night out at

the movies followed by a snack together to discuss the film and socialize. The program kicks off with a

private screening of *Exodus: Gods and Kings* at the Santikos Embassy Theater on Saturday, Jan. 4 at 7 p.m. The event is open to all adults of the community. For upcoming movies, visit [www.agudas-achim.org](http://www.agudas-achim.org). Contact Mindi Stern at (210) 479-0307 for ticket reservations or more information.

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# YOUR JEWISH COMMUNITY

## JEWISH FEDERATION OF SAN ANTONIO

Main Number: (210) 302-6960 / Holocaust Memorial Museum: (210) 302-6807 / Beldon Library: (210) 302-6805

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*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*  
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### 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

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**Agudas  
Achim  
Sisterhood  
January  
book  
review**

Bonnie Lyons will be reviewing the novel *A Guide For The Perplexed* by Dara Horn at the Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood January book review on Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 10 a.m. An engrossing adventure that intertwines stories from Genesis, medieval philosophy and the digital frontier, Light refreshments will be served. For more information contact Suzan Mendlovitz at (210) 344-1108.

**Science and Faith: Can you be a fan of both?**

A friend who I have known for thirty years just moved back to San Antonio. When she popped in to say hello, her first request was that we begin a weekly book club as she had picked up a fascinating book at Barnes & Noble.

Little did I know that I would soon be reading a new release called *Would You Baptize an Extraterrestrial?* Once I had the book in my hands, I saw it was written by two Jesuits – Brother Guy Consolmagno and Father Paul Mueller. For sure, this would not be a book I would choose on my own.

But, having committed to a book club that would begin in less than a week, I set about opening this volume with the strange title.

In a lively dialogue between two highly educated astronomers who are scientists at the Vatican Observatory, these two men tackle some of the common questions at the intersection of faith and science.



**Mishugas:**

LINDA KAUFMAN

It seems the title is an adaptation of Pope Francis’s recent remark, “Imagine if a Martian showed up, all big ears and big nose like a child’s drawing, and he asked to be baptized. How would you react?”

Of course, this is not a question that would come up in Jewish circles, but the seeming conflict between faith and science has produced many a Jewish agnostic or atheist. I happen to be living with one right now.

For many contemporary people it is an either/or decision. Science and faith are seen as opposites, two opposing idea systems that cannot be accepted at the same time.

But Paul and Guy, my two new Jesuit friends, lightheartedly convince their readers that there doesn’t have to be any problem with

believing in both.

They shared Pope John Paul II’s restoration of an ancient teaching: the idea of the ultimate “unity of truth.”

It states that God is revealed in two different ways: first, in the events of human history as found in the writings of the Bible and second, through the beauty and structure of nature. These two “books,” the Book of Scripture and the Book of Nature, cannot disagree with each other as they are both “written” by the same author, God.

What this means is that if there seem to be differences between science and the Bible on such matters as the creation of the universe and of life on Earth, it merely reveals that we haven’t yet learned to interpret the Two Books correctly.

One strong possibility is that we don’t yet know how to read the Book of Nature accurately. The other is that we haven’t yet interpreted the Bible correctly. Possibly we are reading it too literally rather than figuratively.

Or the third likelihood is that we have them both incorrectly understood. The authors’ propose that the problem is with the interpreters not the Author of these two books.

How refreshing it was to read their conclusion that if the Bible seems to be in conflict with science, we need to activate our belief in the ultimate “unity of truth.”

They suggest that we need to keep on doing good scientific work and try to understand nature and the world better while studying the Bible and trying to understand God’s work more clearly, all the while believing that they are

totally compatible.

Brother Guy contends that it is the religious fundamentalists who seem to be lacking in faith as they insist that science and faith must be in agreement *right now* rather than believing that God has made us with the capacity to read and pursue the ultimate meaning of the Two Books which will one day be in complete agreement.

Father Paul jumps right in to add that scientific fundamentalists who dismiss the Bible are also missing the point. The Big Bang theory and the scriptural stories of Creation are both trying to answer the question of how and why we are here. However, that question means something very different to a scientist than to a philosopher.

The book is a lively repartee between two very intelligent, educated and thoughtful men of God whose professional life is totally immersed in the world of science. Listening to their dialogue is an eye opener and a privilege.

When I visited Colorado this past fall, I didn’t need to know the history of the Rocky Mountains or have a geological explanation of their existence.

As I stood on a quiet spot in the middle of this magnificent mountain range what came to mind is the passage from Psalm 121: “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”

That’s enough “unity of truth” for me.

*(Linda Kaufman is a local realtor, musician and writer)*



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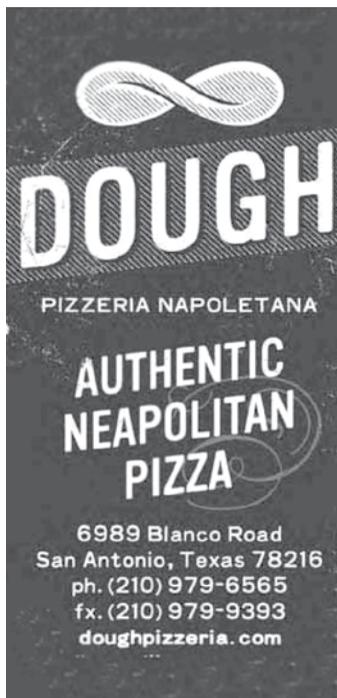
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# FROM THE COVER

## RELEASE

continued from page 1

U.S. officials in a conference call outlined sweeping changes, including the resumption of full diplomatic relations, the opening of an embassy in Havana, and a loosening of trade and travel restrictions.

Dina Siegel Vann, the director of the American Jewish Committee's Belfer Institute for Latino and Latin American Affairs, said Gross' release and the opening of ties with Cuba is a "twofer" for Jews: In addition to the benefits accrued to all Cubans from open relations, she said, Cuban Jews "will have stronger ties to Jewish organizations, they will be much more in the open." An estimated 1,000 to 1,500 Jews live in Cuba.

Gross, who is now 65, was arrested in 2009 after setting up Internet access for the Cuban Jewish community while working as a contractor for the U.S. Agency for International Development. Never formally charged with espionage, Gross was convicted in 2009 for "crimes against the state."

Back in the United States on December 17, Gross held a news conference which he began with the greeting "*Chag sameach*," noting that his release coincided with the first day of Hanukkah. He thanked political leaders, the Washington Jewish community, the local Jewish Community Relations Councils, and other faith groups that pressed for his release.

"But ultimately – ultimately – the decision to arrange for and secure my release was made in the Oval Office," said Gross,



Alan Gross, freed from a Cuban prison earlier in the day, waves after concluding his remarks with his wife, Judy, at a news conference in Washington shortly after arriving in the United States in December. (Win McNamee/Getty Images)

reserving special praise for President Obama and his National Security Council.

Vann said improved U.S.-Cuba relations would have a rollover effect, removing obstacles to U.S. ties with other Latin American countries — and this in turn would remove tensions that have affected Jewish communities.

"Cuba and Venezuela have a very interdependent relationship," she said. "Anti-Semitism and anti-American rhetoric are being used by the regime in Venezuela, and with this that's being undermined."

Daniel Mariaschin, who directs B'nai B'rith International, a group with a strong Latin American presence, said a new era of ties "will raise the profile of Latin American communities and interest in those communities."

In a deal American officials said was technically separate from the Gross release, the United States and Cuba agreed to exchange the three remaining incarcerated members of the "Cuban Five," a Florida-based spy ring, for an American spy held in Cuba for 20 years and whose identity remains

a secret.

Obama insisted that Gross was not part of the spy exchange and that, in fact, his imprisonment held up changes to the U.S.-Cuba relationship he had intended on initiating years ago.

"While I've been prepared to take additional steps for some time, a major obstacle stood in our way," the president said, referring to Gross' "wrongful imprisonment."

Republicans who have opposed easing the Cuba embargo blasted the deal.

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), the son of Cuban immigrants, told Fox News that Obama was "the worst negotiator since at least Jimmy Carter, and maybe in the history of this country."

Many Jewish groups welcomed the deal, however, and noted the political difficulties it must have created for the Obama administration.

"We know the decision to release the Cuban three was not an easy one," the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations said in a statement. "We appreciate the efforts of President Obama and Vice President Biden in bringing this

## ALLOCATIONS

continued from page 1

increased communication and relationship building within the community.

"The Jewish Federation is committed to consistent and open dialogue with the community's agencies and we are taking responsibility for initiating greater communication," states Ronit Sherwin, JFSA CEO.

In the coming months, the JFSA will also unveil plans for a new Innovation Fund

that will aim to jump-start new projects in the Jewish community. This too has been a project of great interest to the Planning & Allocations committee.

Please contact Amy Levine-Reagin at the Jewish Federation at (210) 302-6960 or via e-mail at [regain@jfsatx.org](mailto:regain@jfsatx.org) to receive a 2015-2016 Allocations application or for further information.

## MLK

continued from page 1

Dance will perform. Rev. Otis Mitchell will give an abbreviated version of the *I Have a Dream* speech. There will be a reception held after the event in the Barshop Auditorium.

On the following morning, Monday, Jan. 19, Latino-Black-Jewish Dialogue Group members and Jewish community members will walk together in the Martin Luther King March. Participants will meet in the parking lot of St. Philip's

Performing Arts Center, 1801 Martin Luther King Drive at 9:15 a.m. Car shuttles will take participants to the initial point of the parade at the Eastside Branch of the Boys & Girls Club, 3503 Martin Luther King Drive. The end point of the San Antonio March is Pittman-Sullivan Park.

For more information, call the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation at (210) 302-6960.

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## Barath named to prestigious Jewish War Veterans Committee

Irwin Barath, past San Antonio Jewish War Veterans (JWV) Post Commander and past Commander of the Department of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma has been

appointed to the National Korean War Member Committee by Col. Maxwell S. Colon, JWV National Commander.

In making the appointment, Colon said the

appointment carries with it a public recognition of Barath's commitment to the JWV organization. Colon said Barath's work has helped make JWV a greater veterans' organization.

## Goldberger - Rosenthal wedding



Chaya Goldberger, the daughter of Ester Goldfarb of Chicago, Ill., and Milton Goldberger, also of Chicago, Ill., was married to Philip Rosenthal, son of Arthur and Bari Rosenthal of San Antonio, on July 13, 2014 in Santa Monica, California. Chaya is Senior Director of Marketing at Fandango, a subsidiary of Comcast. Philip is Director of Marketing and Communications at the UCLA Center for the Art of Performance. The couple resides in Los Angeles, California.

## Weiss twins



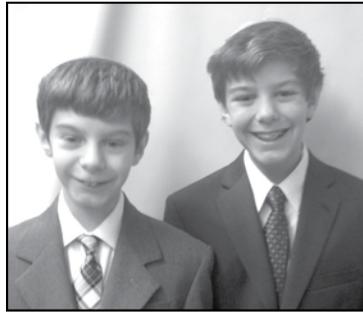
Steven and Petty Weiss of Dallas celebrated the arrival of their "miracle twins" Blake Michael and Claire Anne on July 28, 2014. Proud grandparents are Ellen and Robert Weiss of San Antonio and Adel Helou and the late Claire Helou of Waco. Great grandparents are the late Anne and Marvin (Babe) Polunsky and the late Elsa and Mike Weiss.

Claire Anne was named after both great grandmothers; Blake Michael was named after both great grandfathers.

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## Suspected Kansas City JCC shooter found competent to stand trial

(JTA) — Frazier Glenn Cross Jr., the white supremacist accused of fatal shootings at two Jewish sites in suburban Kansas City, Kan., was found competent to stand trial.

Cross, who also goes by the name Frazier Glenn Miller, can understand the charges against him and can help his defense team, Johnson County District Court Judge Thomas Kelly

Ryan said at a competency hearing.

Following the judge's decision, Johnson County District Attorney Steve Howe announced his intention to seek the death penalty.

Cross, 74 and in a wheelchair, said as he left the courtroom that "I had a right and a duty to do what I did," and that Jewish people have committed genocide against whites,

Reuters reported. He is being held on \$10 million bond.

Cross is suspected of killing three people — two in the parking lot of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City in Overland Park, Kan., and one in the parking lot at Village Shalom, a Jewish assisted-living facility a few blocks away.

None of the three victims in the April 13 attacks were Jewish.

Cross, a former Ku Klux Klan grand dragon, was charged in April with capital murder and first-degree premeditated murder. The capital charge carries a death sentence; the premeditated murder charge could result in life in prison.

## 'Homely' ancient rock adds evidence of King David's existence

By Menachem Wecker

NEW YORK (JTA) — Dimly lit, the stone slab, or stele, doesn't look particularly noteworthy, especially when compared to the more lavish sphinxes, jewelry and cauldrons one encounters en route to the room where it is installed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

In fact, art journalist Lee Rosenbaum described a nearly 13-by-16 inch c. 830 BCE rock, which resembles an aardvark or elephant, as "homely."

But the stone, on view as part of its "Assyria to Iberia at the Dawn of the Classical Age" exhibit running through Jan. 4 — bears an inscription that is the earliest extra-biblical reference to the House of David.

"There is no doubt that the inscription is one of the most important artifacts ever found in relation to the Bible," Eran Arie, curator of Israelite and Persian periods at the Israel Museum, wrote



House of David inscription, part of the "Assyria to Iberia at the Dawn of the Classical Age" exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. (Meidad Suchowolski)

in the exhibit catalog.

The rock was discovered in 1993 by archaeologist Avraham Biran as part of Hebrew Union College's excavation at Tel Dan, and, as is to be expected with a rock nearly three millennia old, the slab is missing considerable portions.

Arie's translation of the remaining 13 lines of text is full of ellipses and bracketed

additions. What is clear is that the Aram-Damascene king Hazael brags of having killed 70 kings, including of Israel and of the "House of David." (The round number, scholars agree, is probably exaggerated, although Hazael did have a reputation for being ruthless and successful.)



## Hummus: The new salsa?

According to a new report by the food and restaurant consulting firm Baum and Whiteman, hummus — the Middle Eastern spread is now more popular in the

United States than salsa. Today, 20 percent of U.S. households have hummus in their refrigerators, compared to 12 percent eight years ago.

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# Orthodox groups file with Supreme Court in support of Muslim headscarves

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Seven national Orthodox Jewish groups filed a Supreme Court brief in favor of a Muslim woman’s right to wear a headscarf at work.

The brief was filed by Washington attorney Nathan Lewin in a case that is expected to be heard in February or March. It deals with whether an applicant’s failure to provide explicit notice that she is a practicing Muslim who wears a headscarf at work allowed the clothing retailer Abercrombie & Fitch to reject her application, saying it was in violation of the company dress code.

In the brief, Lewin recounted that all his applications to New York City law firms were turned down because the firms did not want to be inconvenienced by making accommodations for his religious observance.

The National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs, Agudas Harabbanim, Agudath Israel of America, National Council of Young Israel, Rabbinical Alliance of America, Rabbinical Council of America and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America joined the friend-of-the-court brief.

*Federation making a difference around the world...*

## JDC expands winter relief for Ukrainian

(JNS.org) The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), which has been delivering heating fuel, bedding, and clothing to Jewish communities across the former Soviet Union as part of its annual Winter Relief program, is expanding its efforts in Ukraine in response to a harsh winter as well as the country’s ongoing political and economic turmoil. The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) is a partner on the Winter Relieve initiative.

JDC said that its staff is providing additional winter supplies from the 32 JDC-supported Hesed social welfare centers in Ukraine, allowing them to reach not only the elderly and the poor, but also displaced Jewish families and Holocaust survivors.

There are currently more than 5,000 JDC clients in eastern Ukraine, and more than 2,000 displaced Jews who need assistance in



JDC clients standing outside their home in Poltova, Ukraine. Credit: Sarah Levin.

other parts of the country, the relief organization said. In addition, local currency has significantly devalued, resulting in a 50-80 percent increase in the cost of food and medicine. The Ukrainian government, meanwhile, has enacted energy-saving measures such as planned power outages that can adversely impact the poor and the elderly.

“While winter relief is a lifeline for tens of thousands of Jews in need on any given

year, its even more essential in Ukraine where utility prices have soared and the crisis has continued with no end in sight,” Michal Frank, director of JDC’s former Soviet Union department, said in a statement.

“We have proudly stood by the Jews of Ukraine during this period and, together with our invaluable partners, have redoubled our efforts to ensure this winter is imbued with the warmth of Jewish solidarity and mutual care,” he added.



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## Federations hail final passage of bill elevating Israel as “strategic partner”

Washington, D.C. — Following the final passage of legislation declaring Israel to be a *major strategic partner* of the United States, American Jewish organizations in December celebrated the bill as furthering the ironclad commitment between the two countries. The Jewish Federations of North America hailed the importance of the bill, which would designate a unique strategic status for

Israel and create a framework for increased cooperation in defense, energy and other sectors.

Jerry Silverman, President and CEO of The Jewish Federations of North America, stated, “Over the years, Israel and the United States have proven themselves to be the closest of allies. This legislation elevates cooperation in areas like energy and defense. It

makes clear to the world that the two countries are strategic allies at the highest level. We thank those who worked to make this bill a reality, in particular Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Roy Blunt (R-MO), who authored the legislation. It is truly heartening to know that Israel and the Jewish community at large will always be able to count on the United States for support.”

## North American immigration to Israel rose 7 percent in 2014

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Immigration to Israel from North America rose 7 percent in 2014 over the previous year to 3,762 olim from the United States and Canada, according to Nefesh B'Nefesh.

The immigrants came on 17 flights from North America arranged by Nefesh B'Nefesh in partnership with Israel's Ministry of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption, the Jewish Agency for Israel, Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael and JNF-USA.

The flights included 296 families with 813 children under the age of 18 and 1,703 singles. The immigrants came mostly from the New York metropolitan area, Florida, California, Illinois, Maryland and Pennsylvania in the United States, and from Quebec and Ontario in Canada.

In 2014, the number of lone soldiers, young people who make aliyah without their immediate family, rose by 10 percent to 350. Some 3,000 lone soldiers are now serving in the Israel Defense Forces.

Meantime, Jewish immigration from France to Israel reached an all-time record of 6,655 newcomers, in the first 11 months of 2014.

The figure, which appears in a Jewish Agency document compiled this month, may guarantee that France will be this year's number one source for aliyah, or immigration by Jews and their relatives to Israel.

The previous record was set in 2013, with 3,293 French newcomers.

Aliyah in the first 11 months of 2014 from

France, which has a Jewish community of 500,000, was more than double the 3,191 olim who came to Israel during the whole of 2013 from North America, where over six million Jews live. The figure from North America for this year so far is 3,225.

Immigration from France also surpassed by a large margin the 5,105 olim who came to Israel from Ukraine,

a country with an ailing economy due to ongoing and deadly fighting between government troops and pro-Russian rebels.

"There seems to be a momentum for aliyah that is fueling itself in a way within the Jewish community of France," said Karin Amit, a researcher with the Ruppin Academic Center's Institute for Immigration and Social Integration who has studied

French olim.

She said French aliyah is driven by growing anti-Semitism in France and economic considerations, but also by French Jewry's deep attachment to Israel, Zionism and Judaism. "The pragmatic factors certainly play a role but in surveys olim from France generally cite ideology as their reason for moving to Israel," she told JTA.

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# Tufts University vandalized third time with swastikas

(JTA) — Swastikas were found spray-painted on a Tufts University building for the third time in nearly two years.

The latest swastikas were found December 13, 2014 on the back wall of the Lewis Hall dormitory on the Somerville, Mass., campus, Boston.com reported.

Last June, swastikas were found on the university's Granoff Family Hillel

Center. In April 2013, on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day, or Yom Hashoah, swastikas and other anti-Semitic hate speech were found on Tufts athletic facilities and buildings in the neighboring town of Medford.

The university released a statement saying that campus and local police were investigating the incident.

"[S]uch deplorable acts, which

are counter to the values of the Tufts community, are deeply concerning," the statement read. "We are taking this incident extremely seriously."

Nearby Northeastern University experienced a similar incident in November: Swastikas were drawn on fliers posted on campus to publicize a lecture by Eran Shamir-Borer, an Israeli army official.

## Canada, Australia boycott Geneva Convention conference

(JNS.org)

Canada and Australia on December 17 boycotted a conference in Switzerland discussing the Fourth Geneva Convention and the situation in the Palestinian territories due to concerns about the conference's anti-Israel bias.

"Canada has conveyed its deep concerns and has communicated clearly that it will neither attend this conference nor lend it any credibility," Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird said in a statement.

"Canada is deeply disappointed by the convening of this one-sided and politicized conference, which serves only to single out one country, Israel, for criticism," he said. "Canada has complete faith in the strength of the rule of law in Israel, and we believe the Israelis are capable of investigating matters surrounding the events that took place in Gaza in the summer of 2014."

Australian Ambassador to Israel Dave Sharma, meanwhile, said on Twitter that Australia "will not be attending (the) special conference in Geneva on the Fourth Geneva Convention."

The Fourth Geneva Convention—which provides for humanitarian protections for civilians in a war zone and all 196 members of the U.N. are signatories too—has often been used by critics of Israel to condemn Israeli actions in the Palestinian territories.



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# Remembering deceased Jewish military veterans

Jewish War Veterans of America Post 753 asks that you remember these Jewish military veterans whose *yahrzeit* (anniversary of the individual's death) occurs in the month of January and who are buried in a local cemetery. (If you know of a name that is missing please contact Herschel at 494.8768.)

- |                    |                    |
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| CAHAN, Leon        | MILLMAN, Samuel    |
| CHAFETZ, Joseph    | NORMAN, Paul       |
| CHASAN, Joseph     | PASSUR, Henry      |
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| COHEN, Malcom      | POKLOFF, Alexander |
| COLE, Harry        | SCHARF, Stanley    |
| COOPER, Elmer      | SCHNEIDER, Max     |
| COTTRELL, Sylvia   | SERGI, Arturo      |
| CUKIERMAN, David   | SPECTOR, Bernard   |
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| KAHN, Bernard      | WHITE, Samuel      |
| KATZ, Charles      | WOLF, David        |
| KENNEY, Blossom    | WULFE, Jesse       |

## U.S. & WORLD NEWS

### Kindertransport documentary selected for permanent preservation

LOS ANGELES (JTA) – The Oscar Award-winning film *Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport* was selected for permanent preservation in the Library of Congress by the National Film Registry.

The film, released in 2000, documents the rescue of some 10,000 predominantly Jewish children from Nazi-dominated Germany, Austria and

Czechoslovakia in the months leading up to World War II.

All of them found refuge in Great Britain, but many were scarred by separation from their parents, most of who subsequently perished in the Holocaust.

Deborah Oppenheimer, producer of the documentary and herself the daughter of a Kindertransport, or Children's Transport, survivor,

said: "With the passing of so many eyewitnesses to that tumultuous period, the preservation of the film will recognize for all time the tremendous resilience of the children, the courage of their parents who were willing to entrust them to strangers, and the compassion of the British families who took them in at a time when so few would help."

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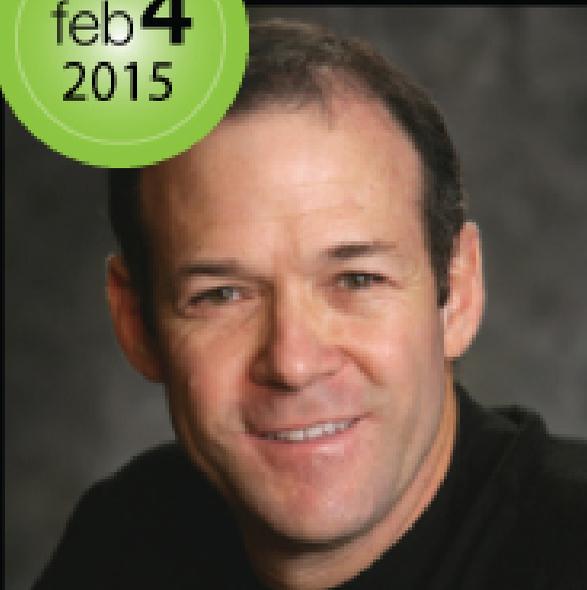
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# Despite passionate reactions, EU ruling on Hamas is a small legal glitch

By Cnaan Liphshiz

(JTA) - A European court ruling to remove Hamas from the European Union's list of terrorist groups evoked passionate reactions, but the text actually makes for drab reading material.

The Luxembourg-based General Court of the European Union said its ruling on Wednesday was procedural and in no way an assertion of whether Hamas merits the terrorist designation. In a statement, the court explained the EU's blacklisting of

Hamas had been based on "factual imputations derived from the press and the internet" instead of "on acts examined and confirmed in decisions of competent authorities."

Stating that the European Council, which placed Hamas on the terrorism list in 2001, "did not produce the obligatory judicial effects for the designation," the court scrapped it but kept sanctions in place for another three months pending appeal.

The procedural nature of the ruling dampened neither the

indignation of its detractors nor the grandiloquent celebration of its supporters. Pinchas Goldschmidt, president of the Conference of European Rabbis, said it heralded "an incredibly dark day for Jewish communities across Europe." Hamas called it a "moral victory over colonialism."

Others, however, saw the ruling as a technical and easily reversible legal kink, which may nonetheless serve Hamas' propaganda machine in Europe and encourage other terrorist groups to dispute their own blacklisting.

## Hamas reportedly rebuilding tunnels

(JNS.org) Hamas has reportedly renewed work on its terror tunnels, using building materials transferred from Israel for the reconstruction of civilian structures in Gaza following this summer's war.

According to *Yedioth*

*Ahronoth*, Palestinian sources inside of Gaza said that after Israel allowed a limited flow of goods and materials into Gaza, a black market for mortar paste emerged that allowed Hamas to renew construction of concrete slabs used to line

the inside of tunnels. Hamas has also started to rebuild its rocket arsenal from "dual-use" materials such as iron, which is being smuggled through the Egyptian border or by sea.

*Yedioth Ahronoth* also reported that Hamas is formulating a new strategy for infiltrating Israel during the next round of fighting due to the success of the Iron Dome missile defense system in intercepting Hamas rockets.

Meanwhile, just a couple of months after international donors pledged \$5.4 billion to help rebuild Gaza, only 2 percent of the money has been transferred. At the conference in Cairo in October, Qatar promised \$1 billion, Saudi Arabia \$500 million, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates \$200 million each, and the United States and European Union a combined \$780 million in various forms of assistance.

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