



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

SHEVAT-ADAR 5775

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

FEBRUARY 2015



MLK MARCH UNITES COMMUNITY

The Jewish community joined with others for the annual MLK events.

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THEN AND NOW

How a museum across the globe is educating students in San Antonio.

PAGE 7



OUT AND ABOUT

Curious what's happening in your San Antonio Jewish community?

PAGE 18

Amid attacks, Christian-Jewish aid group explores ways to help French Jews make aliyah

By Sean Savage / JNS.org

In the wake of Islamist terror attacks that killed a combined 16 people at the *Charlie Hebdo* satirical magazine and a kosher supermarket in Paris, the leader of a prominent Christian-Jewish aid group told *JNS.org* that he is exploring ways to help French Jews immigrate to Israel.

Brothers Cherif Kouachi and Said Kouachi, the two Muslim terror-

ists suspected to have carried out the *Charlie Hebdo* shooting, were killed January 9 in a police raid on a printing shop in the Paris suburb of Dammartin-en-Goele, where the Kouachi brothers had taken one man hostage. A separate but simultaneous raid killed Islamist terrorist Amedy Coulibaly, who took nearly 20 hostages at Hyper Cacher (the kosher supermarket) on January 9 and had

See **FRENCH JEWS**, page 30



People watch on TV in a cafe as police mobilize at the hostage situation at Porte de Vincennes last month. (Dan Kitwood/Getty Images)

The Barshop JCC's Jewish Film Festival focuses on finding identity

The Barshop JCC's Jewish Film Festival, approaching its fourteenth year, has a 13-person selection committee with a mission to "promote Jewish values and diversity among all people through the medium of film" and to "entertain, educate and raise community awareness of Jewish identity, history and

culture." The Festival runs Saturday, Feb. 7 to Wednesday, Feb. 11 at the Santikos Embassy 14 Theater.

With such a mission in mind, the screening committee considered well over fifty films for the ten-film lineup. Attributes of each contender were carefully dissected from the merits of the film's Jewish content to

the country of origin. Through intense discussion and a few rounds of elimination, a curated line-up of films was selected. Perhaps inadvertently, but obvious just the same, a common theme has surfaced this year - films that focus on identity.

The Festival opens with the lighthearted

See **FILM FEST**, page 8

Saving Syrian lives on the battlefield and in Israeli hospitals

On Tuesday, March 10 there will be a panel discussion featuring Israeli physicians who have been involved in the treatment of Syrian casualties. Dr. Avi Benov will discuss their treatment in the field and Dr. Ohad Ronen will discuss treatment of Syrian refugees in the hospital.

Dr. Benov is currently in San Antonio as a Research Fellow, USA Institute of Surgical Research in San Antonio. He has served as a military physician since 2003. From March 2013 to July 2014 as an IDF officer he was

See **SYRIANS**, page 31

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



THE JEWISH JOURNAL
OF SAN ANTONIO

PUBLISHED BY

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio
12500 N. W. Military Highway, #200
San Antonio, TX 78231

(210)302-6960

www.jfsatx.org

SUPPORTED BY

Grants from the Helen Arrange
Fund, the Eilenberg Family
Memorial Endowment Fund, the
Charles Atkin Memorial Trust
Fund, the Freeman Education
Fund and the Jewish Federation
Annual Campaign.

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OF SAN ANTONIO

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EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS

The submission deadline for the **MARCH 2015** issue of the Jewish Journal is FEBRUARY 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

• 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.

Ad deadlines for MARCH 2015 ISSUE:

• Ad space reservations due no later than FEBRUARY 12, 2015 by noon
• Press ready ads due by FEBRUARY 12, 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.

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CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday, Feb 6

Light Candles at: 5:58 p.m.
Shabbat, Feb 7, 2015
Shabbat Ends: 6:53 p.m.

Friday, Feb 13

Light Candles at: 6:03 p.m.
Shabbat, Feb 14, 2015
Shabbat Ends: 6:58 p.m.

Friday, Feb 20

Light Candles at: 6:09 p.m.
Shabbat, Feb 21, 2015
Shabbat Ends: 7:03 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 27

Light Candles at 6:14 p.m.
Shabbat, Feb. 28, 2015
Shabbat Ends: 7:08 p.m.

Friday, March 6

Light Candles 6:19 p.m.
Shabbat, March 7, 2015
Shabbat Ends: 7:13 p.m.

We are Yisrael

Am Yisrael Chai! Am Yisrael Chai! Am Yisrael Chai! As a small child, I joyously sang this song over and over again. As I grew older, I came to understand more fully the power of these words. “The people of Israel live!” *Am Yisrael Chai!*

We are Yisrael, descendants of Jacob, the grandson of Abraham. As we learn from the Torah, Jacob struggles with God, disguised as an angel, and is renamed Israel. We, the Jewish people, then become



Letter from
our CEO

RONIT
SHERWIN

the people who struggle with God. Or better yet, as we learn from Jewish history, we become the people who struggle against the world. All the while, *Am Yisrael Chai!* The people of Israel live!

The attacks of terror in Paris, France last month unnerved us as human

beings, but also as Jews. We know from history that our comfort is not always secure and that humanity is not always kind. We need to be watchful and, most significantly, we need to take responsibility for our fellow Jews across the world.

During this time, I felt particularly grateful and proud to be part of the collective family of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA). Immediately, JFNA was on the ground, demonstrating support for

the Jewish leadership of France and providing for increased security needs of communities in France. As always, JFNA works in partnership with its fellow agencies such as the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and together we ensure immediate response.

Am Yisrael Chai! Yes, the Jewish people are alive and thriving. Locally and globally, your Jewish Federation is committed to our mission every minute of every day.

The Barshop JCC & PJ Library present:

CELEBRATE PURIM!

Sunday, March 1, 2-4pm
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BELDON LIBRARY NEWS

New additions to the collection at the Beldon Library:

The Harness Maker's Dream—Nick Kotz
The People of Forever Are Not Afraid—Shani Boianjiu
The Boston Girl—Anita Diamont
Anyone Who Had a Heart—Burt Bacharach
The Storyteller—Jodi Picoult
The First Phone Call From Heaven—Mitch Albom
The Time Keeper—Mitch Albom
The Gershwins and Me—Michael Feinstein
The Nazi Hunters—Neal Bascomb

The library also has new books 26 through Tuesday, April 28
in Hebrew donated by Neta Klein, who has assisted the librarian by translating the Hebrew titles of Israeli books. The next library used book sale will take place on Sunday, April 26 through Tuesday, April 28 in the Holzman Auditorium. Donations of gently used books, CD's, and DVD's are being accepted. Contact Beldon Librarian Lynn Waghalter for more information.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Leesa Jane Carr	Muriel Markowitz
Elias Chacek	Gregori Piesman
Marolyn Phillips	Alice Sachs
Charles	Pearl Hanover
Dr. Herb Davis	Schwartz
Hy Friedman	Harold Vexler
Barry Gornick	Jean White

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: February 2015

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
- Barshop JCC Alzheimer Association Event, 10:30 a.m., Holzman Auditorium at The Campus
- Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Sip & Schmooze, 5 p.m.

FEBRUARY 5

- Barshop JCC Silver Cinema, 1 p.m., at The Campus
- Congregation Agudas Achim Brews & Schmooze, 5 p.m., Bigz Burger Joint
- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents *Talley's Folly*, 7:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

FEBRUARY 7

- Congregation Agudas Achim Young Couples Club of Agudas (YCCA) Dinner, 7:30 p.m.
- Jewish Film Festival, 8 p.m., Santikos Embassy 14
- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents *Talley's Folly*, 8 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

FEBRUARY 8

- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Congregation Rodfei Sholom
- Congregation Agudas Achim Jewish/Muslim Relations Program, 10:30 a.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
- Jewish Film Festival, 2 p.m., Santikos Embassy 14
- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents *Talley's Folly*, 2:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

- Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim Movie Night *Frozen*, 4:30 p.m., Congregation Agudas Achim

FEBRUARY 9

- Jewish Film Festival, 5 p.m., Santikos Embassy 14

FEBRUARY 10

- Jewish Film Festival, 5 p.m., Santikos Embassy 14
- Jewish Federation Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus

FEBRUARY 11

- Jewish Film Festival, 5 p.m., Santikos Embassy 14

FEBRUARY 12

- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents *Talley's Folly*, 7:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater
- Temple Beth-El Machar Torah on Tap, 8 p.m.

FEBRUARY 13

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

FEBRUARY 14

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

FEBRUARY 15

- Jewish Family Service Mah Jongg Tournament, 12 p.m., Holzman Auditorium at The Campus
- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents *Talley's Folly*, 2:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

FEBRUARY 16

- NCJW Day on the Hill, Austin
- Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus

FEBRUARY 17

- NCJW Day on the Hill, Austin
- Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood welcomes Melinda Cooper, Life Coach, 7 p.m., Congregation Agudas Achim

FEBRUARY 18

- Jewish Family Service Care Giver Support Group Kickoff, 6 p.m., Holzman Auditorium at The Campus
- NCJW Trashy Book Club, 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 19

- Barshop JCC Silver Cinema, 1 p.m., at The Campus
- Barshop JCC Author & Speaker Series, 7 p.m., at The Campus
- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents *Talley's Folly*, 7:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

FEBRUARY 20

- Congregation Agudas Achim Family Friendly Friday Night Service & Shabbat Dinner, 6:15 p.m., Congregation Agudas Achim

FEBRUARY 21

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

FEBRUARY 22

- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents *Talley's Folly*, 2:30

p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

- Leah Goot Hadassah Speaker Event, 3 p.m., Adante Senior Living
- Torah Academy of San Antonio State of TASA Meeting, 7 p.m., Torah Academy of San Antonio

FEBRUARY 24

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

FEBRUARY 25

- Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Book Club, 10 a.m., Temple Beth-El
- NCJW Can't Beat Love Event, 7 p.m., Santikos Northwest Theater
- Barshop JCC Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 277 at The Campus

FEBRUARY 26

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

FEBRUARY 27

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

FEBRUARY 28

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

MARCH 1

- Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Anniversary Tea, 1 p.m., Congregation Agudas Achim

- Barshop JCC & PJ Library Purim Author Event with Author Tracy Newman, 2 p.m., at The Campus

- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents *Talley's Folly*, 2:30 p.m., Sheldon Vexler Theater

MARCH 4

- JNetSA First Wednesday Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Il Sogno
- Congregation Agudas Achim Purim Palooza, 4:30 p.m., Congregation Agudas Achim
- Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Sip & Schmooze, 5 p.m.

MARCH 5 - PURIM

MARCH 7

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



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Thank you for joining JFSA Campaign

Too often in the nonprofit world, institutions fail to say, "Thank you," or fail to do so often enough. Nonprofit organizations such as the Jewish Federation of San Antonio and its constituent agencies are often too busy doing community work – in our cases, the Jewish community's work – to show community thanks.

That changed in December, as Federation hosted the first campaign closing event and Hanukkah celebration. More than 200 people attended a free concert by Jewish musical artist Sam



**From the
JFSA Annual
Campaign
Chair**

**JONATHAN
GURWITZ**

Glaser.

A youth choir composed of students from 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 joined Glaser for the performance. And, of course, there were latkes.

This was our opportunity to show our gratitude to the members of our community who made pledges to Federation's 2014 Annual Campaign, to the 52 volunteers who visited with donors, to dozens more volunteers who participated

in Super Sunday and other Phone Fest events, and to the dedicated professionals who staff our Jewish communal institutions.

Together, their efforts generated nearly \$1.5 million dollars. That was in addition to more than \$32,000 that the community raised over the summer in an emergency campaign as Israel once again came under attack.

Those funds will support programs such as PJ Library for children, Hillel events for college students, networking events for young professionals, meals for seniors, and other critical social services in San Antonio. They will fund safety net and security programs for Jewish communities in Europe and the republics of the former Soviet Union. And they will fund programs for the victims of terror in Israel.

Literally every day, those dollars are put to work strengthening our local Jewish community and helping others around the world. But for one day, at least, we want to take time to say thank you, *toda raba*, for making it possible to continue the sacred tasks of *klal Yisrael*, *tzeddakah* and *tikkun olam*.



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A Conversation with Reuben Bar-Yadin

JNET-SA Guest Speaker -Wednesday, March 4 at 7:30 a.m. at Il Sogno



Reuben Bar-Yadin, CEO of United Fashions of Texas with over 100

Melrose stores, will be sharing his story at next month's JNET-SA Changemaker breakfast on March 4th. Below Reuben (RBY) shares a few thoughts with Jacob Kluger (JK) chair of the JNET-SA committee.

JK: How do you define "Success?"

RBY: Success to me is being satisfied with family: wife and kids, having good health, being active in the Jewish community, and being financially successful to the point that one can be active in Jewish philanthropy in a significant way.

JK: What's your biggest challenge in business today?...in your philanthropic activities?

RBY: Replacing myself - finding a CEO.

Philanthropy - finding a new challenge that motivates me and makes a difference.

JK: What's the most important piece of advice you give your children?

RBY: There is no ONE thing!

Judaism: constant reinforcing of Jewish knowledge, identity, and pride. Give back to Jewish community, both time and money, in a significant way.

Personal: be a mensch, & be a leader.

Family: loyalty to family,

respect to parents and grandparents.

Israel : I preach Zionism, all the time, every way possible.

Be passionate about everything you do!

JK: Why do you think it is important for young Jewish professionals to get involved in a Jewish cause?

RBY: 1) Good for work/life balance.

2) Great for networking - socially , as well as professionally.

3) Develop friendships, maybe find your future spouse.

JK: What personal accomplishment are you most proud of?

RBY: There isn't one!

Raising 4 kids grounded as Jews.

Growing the retail company from a small family business to a regional chain.

Starting a commercial real estate company.

Making a difference with the Jewish non-profits that I'm involved with:

Rodfei Shalom, EKA, CYJ.

Greatest accomplishment of recent years : succeeding in having two of my kids make Aliyah.

JK: What's one goal you'd like to see the San Antonio Jewish community achieve?

RBY: Have a SA Jewish community "Shaliach" to lead and coordinate activities for children , young adults and young families - outside of synagogue structure - to attract those that are not affiliated.

For more details on JNET-SA visit www.jnetsa.com.

VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY

What Did the 2014 Annual Campaign Mean to You?



I continue to be so grateful that we can be a part of this remarkable Jewish community in San Antonio! Working with the dedicated

volunteers and wonderful new staff members has been a privilege for both of us! How much we appreciate all who were willing to see the importance of supporting both our invaluable local agencies, as well as all the other phenomenal work that Federation supports around the globe!

-Lynn Stahl



It meant meeting people from Israel and learning more about life in Israel! I liked thanking people for their donations to our community! (Sam

participated in a Skype session with students from Akko in the Western Galilee, on Super Sunday and then made "Thank You" calls to donors.)

-Sam Goldberg, age 11



I'm very thankful that at my age I'm still feeling the energy I need to help the community in any way I can.

-Sandy Weingart



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VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY



Being part of the Federation Annual Campaign sets an example for my son and makes me feel good knowing I'm helping the broader Jewish community.

~**Marcia Schwartz**



I've helped non-profits in the wider community for more than 20 years, but working on the Jewish Federation's 2014 Annual Campaign meant that I was able to raise money for my Jewish community, which strengthens my own faith and lets me help secure my children's future.

~**Howie Nestel**



Thank you, Federation, for your constant support of Jewish programs. It's an honor to be one of your volunteers!

~**Judy Palans**



Partnering to remember

For decades, the Holocaust Memorial Museum of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio has taught local students about the importance of remembrance. But few who visit our museum know that some of our most beloved educational resources have come from a museum half a world away - a museum nestled in the heart of our Partnership Region in the Western Galilee.

The Ghetto Fighter's House Museum, known as "The House," was founded by survivors in 1949. One of the first Holocaust museums in the world, the collection's exhibits detail Jewish life during the Holocaust and the atrocities perpetrated at Treblinka and across Europe. Perhaps most importantly, The House emphasizes the heroic actions of resistance fighters and applauds survivors'

strength as they rebuilt their lives in a country they had long dreamed of—Israel.

That same narrative of strength is taught by teachers across San Antonio using educational curricula and photographs donated to our local collection by the Ghetto Fighter's House Museum. This donation is just one facet of a partnership built on collaboration. "Our partnership speaks to the continued unity of the Jewish people. It shows that even across a span of thousands of miles, we can work together for a better world," says Juana Rubalcava, Education Director of the Holocaust Memorial Museum of The Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

Antek Zukerman, one of the leaders of the Warsaw Uprising, would likely agree. Standing on the grounds of the then-newly-built House Museum in Israel, he told the crowd that he and other survivors had "come here to build a house filled with life, with hope."

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FROM THE COVER

FILM FEST

continued from page 1

Cupcakes, a film in which a group of friends, including a former beauty queen, a successful baker, a shy blogger, and a cross-dressing nursery school teacher, enter a talent show and end up discovering themselves along the way.

The thriller, *Big Bad Wolves*, chronicles a series of brutal murders which put the lives of strangers on a collision course. The father of one victim, now out for revenge, commits brutal acts outside of his true character and a vigilante police detective operates outside the boundaries of law. With the tagline, “some men are created evil,” the viewer is sure to be left wondering about the company we keep, and how well we know those closest to us.

In keeping with the theme of character identity, the Festival will close with *Dancing Arabs*, a film about a young Arab in Israel who struggles to find his place and himself. It is a relatable coming-of-age story.

The diverse characters in each of the films bring intriguing stories of finding one’s identity to the big screen for the viewer’s entertainment,



The Best of Men is one of 10 films featured in this year’s festival.

FILM SCREENING SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 7

8 p.m. *Cupcakes*

Sunday, February 8

2 p.m. *Above & Beyond: The Birth of the Israeli Air Force*

5 p.m. *The Best of Men*

7:30 p.m. *Big Bad Wolves*

Monday, February 9

5 p.m. *Bethlehem*

7:30 p.m. *The Green Prince*

Tuesday, February 10

5 p.m. *24 Days*

7:30 p.m. *For a Woman*

Wednesday, February 11

5 p.m. *God’s Slave*

7:30 p.m. *Dancing Arabs*

thereby accomplishing the mission of the Jewish Film Festival to “raise

community awareness of Jewish identity.” How we identify ourselves is a series of choices, perhaps shaped by both nature and nurture. Certain patrons, whether Jewish or not, will discover that with the universal themes portrayed, we can all identify with one another.

More information about each film can be found at www.jccsanantonio.org/filmfestival. Tickets are \$8 per person, per screening and may be purchased online, in person at the JCC or over the phone by calling (210) 302-6820. Depending on availability, walk-up tickets will go on sale one-hour prior to show time.

FOCUS ON FEDERATION



Children’s librarian Shannon Seglin

PJ Library guest reader: Shannon Seglin

Shannon Seglin, children’s librarian at the Semmes Library here in San Antonio, was the guest reader at the PJ Library Tu B’Shvat event at the Japanese Tea Garden on Sunday, Jan. 25.

Seglin grew up in Nebraska, attending Sunday School at her local synagogue and playing librarian. Her favorite activity was due date stamping her books. After Seglin earned her Master of Library Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh, her dream

came true. She is currently a children’s librarian at Semmes Library, one of the many branches of the San Antonio public library system.

Seglin loves her squirrel puppet and shared that and many of her other tricks of the trade, along with her awesome tree book collection with PJ Library friends.

To keep up with all of the PJ Library events, follow the PJ Library on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PJLibrarySanAntonio.

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Speaker to discuss Jewish-Muslim relations at Agudas Achim

Congregation Agudas Achim will host a program on Jewish – Muslim relations on Sunday, Feb. 8 at 10:30 a.m.

The program will be facilitated by Imam Abdullah Antepli, Chief Representative of Muslim Affairs, Duke University/ Adjunct Faculty of Islamic Studies and is co-sponsored by Dialogue Institute of the Southwest.

There will be a question and answer session following the program. A light breakfast will be served.

Imam Abdullah's current work at Duke includes

engaging students, staff and faculty across campus through seminars, panels and other avenues to provide a Muslim voice and perspective to the discussions of faith, spirituality, social justice and more.

He also serves as a faculty member in the Divinity School and at DISC (Duke Islamic Studies Center) teaching a variety of courses on Islam.

This program is free of charge but reservations are required. Please be prepared to show ID. RSVP to Linda Brown at (210) 479-0307 or rsvp@agudas-achim.org.

Temple Beth-El to host Sisterhood Interfaith worship service

On Friday, Feb. 27, Temple Beth-El will host *Faith Experiences*, a celebration of women and faith during its Sisterhood Interfaith and Shabbat worship service at 6:30 p.m.

Joining Temple Beth-El clergy Rabbi Mara Nathan, Rabbi Elisa Koppel and Cantor Julie Berlin will be guest speakers Sarwat Husain and Rev. Laurinda Kwiatkowski who will address the congregation about their unique religious perspectives.

Husain is the founding president of the San Antonio chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and a national board member of CAIR. She also serves on the Texas Media Empowerment Project.



Sarwat Husain

Husain is also a founder of the San Antonio Muslim Council and a member of the San Antonio Council for International Visitors and publishes *Al-Itihaad Monthly*, the largest American Muslim newspaper in Texas. She is a frequent guest columnist for the *San Antonio Express News*.

Pastor Kwiatkowski is the primary preacher and



Rev. Laurinda Kwiatkowski

pastor of University United Methodist Church's North Campus Contemporary Worship services.

She joined the staff of University in 2011 after having served at A&M UMC in College Station for the past fifteen years.

In addition to her leadership role on North Campus, Kwiatkowski provides supervision to Worship, SK8 Church and Adult, Children & Student Ministry.

Prior to the service, Beth-El Sisterhood will host a *Shabbat Nosh* reception beginning at 5 p.m. Docent-led tours of Temple Beth-El will be available at 5:30 p.m., and an Oneg Shabbat will conclude the evening.

For additional information, email sisterhood@beth-elsa.org or call (210) 733-9135, ext. 208.

Visitors (non-members) are asked to RSVP if they are planning to attend the service.



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Rodfei Sholom Rosh Chodesh group for women

Women will welcome the month of Adar on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., at The Painted Plate, Huebner and Vance Jackson Roads. Following a D'var Torah, giving insights into Adar, considered the most joyous month of the year, all participants will be able to create a gragger for Purim, a seder plate or anything else they

select. Group studio fee is \$5 per person plus the cost of any individual item selected.

Everyone will have the opportunity to create, socialize and enjoy light refreshments of wine and cheese. All women are welcome.

To RSVP by Thursday, Feb. 12, contact the synagogue office rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

Temple Chai Shabbat service to honor military

Temple Chai invites the community to attend Shabbat services honoring our military personnel and veterans on Friday, Feb. 13, at 6:45 p.m. in the Holzman Auditorium of the Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community. This service, led by Rabbi David Komerofsky,

will commemorate the brave sacrifices of four clergymen with Jewish, Catholic and Protestant backgrounds, when Germany sank the US Army Transport, Dorchester, in February, 1943.

To read their story, visit www.army.mil, search "The Four Chaplains."

Agudas Achim Sisterhood 96th Annual Tea

Agudas Achim Sisterhood will be hosting their 96th Annual Tea on Sunday, March 1 at 1 p.m. in the Gurinsky Family Social Hall.

This year's honorees, Gloria Cohen, Sylvia Cohen and Esther Vexler, are being recognized for their continuing involvement in Agudas Achim Sisterhood events and programs.

For more information call Bernice Mazer at (210) 341-8226 or Joyce

Leighton at (210) 494-5861.



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LEGACY

Published Rabbi to discuss variety of topics as Chabad Scholar in Residence

Rabbi Benjamin Blech of New York will be Chabad's Schaffer Scholar in Residence for the weekend of February



Rabbi Benjamin Blech

27 and 28 at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life, 14535 Blanco Road.

On Friday, Feb. 27 services will begin at 6 p.m. followed by a Shabbat dinner and lecture at 7 p.m. Rabbi Blech will speak on the topic *If God Is Good, Why Is The World So Bad?* Based on Rabbi Blech's best-selling book with this title, Rabbi Blech presents Judaism's approach to dealing with this universal challenge to belief that stems from the seeming injustice of the world. Drawing on centuries of Jewish learning, Rabbi Blech presents a fascinating lecture that informs, inspires and comforts.

On Saturday, Feb. 28, morning services will begin at 9:15 a.m., with Torah reading at 10:15 a.m. followed by a Kiddush luncheon at 12 p.m. During lunch, Rabbi Blech will address the topic *Kabbalah: Predicting the Future, What the Ancient*

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On Saturday night, the community is invited to a special *Melave Malka* Dinner at 8:30 p.m. location TBA. Rabbi Blech will present a fascinating and humorous talk entitled *The "Oy" and the Joy of Yiddish*. Based on Rabbi Blech's best-selling book, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Learning Yiddish*, this is a chance to learn how Yiddish began, what makes it so popular – and funny – to this day, and how it can add humor and happiness to your life as you familiarize (or re-familiarize) yourself with the language of your Bubbies and Zeidys as well as Fiddler's Tevye and Sholom Aleichem. Organizers say the lecture is

loaded with laughs and fun for the whole family.

Rabbi Blech has been a Professor of Talmud at Yeshiva University since 1966, and was the Rabbi of Young Israel of Oceanside for 37 years. In addition to his work in the rabbinate, Rabbi Blech has written many books on Judaism and the Jewish people and speaks on Jewish topics to communities around the world.

He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Yeshiva University, a Master of Arts degree in psychology from Columbia University, and rabbinic ordination from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary.

Cost for Friday night dinner is \$25 adults, \$12 children under 12. Shabbat Kiddush is free. Saturday night light dinner and presentation is \$15, adults only.

The weekend is sponsored by Dr. Eric and Adah Schaffer in loving memory of Dorothy and Alfred Schaffer.

For more information and reservations please call Chabad at (210) 764-0300.



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Jewish War Veterans Post 753 held an installation dinner on January 24 to install the post's new officers for 2015. They include Floyd Williams, Commander; Herschel Sheiness, Senior Vice Commander; Luis Hernandez, Junior Vice Commander; Garland Scott, Judge Advocate.



JWV UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, Feb. 22 - Regular post meeting at 9:30 a.m. Room 277, Jewish Campus Light breakfast followed by business meeting

Sunday, March 22 - Regular

post meeting at 9:30 a.m., Room 277, Jewish Campus Light breakfast followed by business meeting

Tuesday March 31 - Bingo/Social at CTC Audie Murphy VA Hospital from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

TU B'SHEVAT 2015



BEGINNING OF A NEW YEAR FOR TREES

**Begins in the evening on Tuesday, Feb. 3
Ends in the evening on Wednesday, Feb. 4**

History of Tu B'Shevat

The letters of the word "Tu" are equivalent to the number 15, and Shevat is the name of a month in the Hebrew Calendar. So, Tu B'Shevat means the 15th day of Shevat. It usually falls in January or February in the secular calendar. While it may be cold and wintry in many locations at this time of year, in Israel trees are beginning to blossom.

The Bible does not mention the holiday of Tu B'Shevat. It likely started as a folk festival to celebrate the changing seasons and was celebrated by priests taking portions of their harvest to the Temple in Jerusalem.

After the Temple was destroyed in 70 CE, Tu B'Shevat took on new and different meanings.

Reprinted with permission from ourjewishcommunity.org.

How we celebrate Tu B'Shevat today

Today, for many Jews, Tu B'Shevat is an opportunity to appreciate nature and the environment. It is a holiday about rebirth and renewal. In Israel, Tu B'Shevat celebrates the beginning of the fruit crop.

Some Jews celebrate Tu B'Shevat by having a Tu B'Shevat seder, a meal that follows a particular order (modeled on a Passover seder).

The Bible mentions seven species, and these have become traditional Tu B'Shevat snacks: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates.

Agudas Achim Gala – May 17

Save the date for the annual Congregation Agudas Achim (CAA) Gala on Sunday, May 17. The gala will honor the congregation's Women of Valor – Eshet Chayil, the CAA Sisterhood Board representing Sisterhood, and Education Director, Karen Katims.

Agudas Achim Sisterhood is being recognized for its commitment, talents and contributions to the welfare of Agudas Achim. Katims, long-time Education Director, will be acknowledged for her service and dedication to the congregation's Inda Posner Religious School.

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NCJW event to focus on gun sense in America

National Council of Jewish Women will feature the national grass roots organization *Moms Demand Action* at a Lunch and Learn Series at noon on Wednesday, Feb. 18 at China Inn, 2241 N.W. Military Highway.

The discussion will center on the need for

better oversight on the proliferation of guns throughout the country. Organizers say the group "doesn't advocate removing the availability of guns but focuses on stricter and enforceable gun laws."

To RSVP, email marilynn31@sbcglobal.net.

District Attorney Nicholas LaHood to speak at Agudas Achim Sisterhood luncheon

Bexar County District Attorney Nicholas "Nico" LaHood will be the guest speaker at a luncheon hosted by Agudas Achim Sisterhood at the synagogue on Tuesday, March 17 at 11 a.m.

LaHood will talk about growing up in San Antonio and address his goals

and concerns for Bexar County.

There will be an opportunity for questions.

Couvert is \$18 per adult. Reservations and payment must be made by March 12.

For more information, please call Linda Brown at (210) 479-0307.

TU B'SHEVAT 2015

Tu B'shevat and trees honored with JCC Book Swap Shelf

Tu B'shevat, celebrated this year on February 4, is commonly referred to as the "birthday of trees." The Barshop Jewish Community Center will honor Tu B'shevat with a Book Swap Shelf which will be located outside the Senior Center through the month of February.

"Tu B'shevat provides us with the opportunity to reflect on the importance within Judaism of respecting the earth," Director of Jewish Journeys Rachel

Rustin said. "In that spirit, the shelf will allow visitors to update their personal bookshelves without spending any money or harming any trees."

Visitors are not required to leave books on the shelf in order to take one to enjoy. The shelf features both general and juvenile content.

For more information about this or other JCC holiday celebrations, please contact Rachel Rustin at (210) 302-6969 or by email at rustinr@jcc-sa.org.

Heintz Preschool presents family Tu B'Shevat celebration

The Heintz Preschool will host a family-friendly dinner and movie in celebration of Tu B'Shevat on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

The celebration will begin with a ribbon cutting ceremony in the newly updated Heintz Preschool Playground followed by dinner, *The Lorax* movie and a special "snowy" play-time surprise.

Dinner is \$25 for up to four people and \$10 each additional guest. For



reservations contact Jen or Aliza at (210) 479-0429 or a.cantu@agudas-achim.org.

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PURIM 2015

**Begins the evening of Wednesday, March 4
Ends the evening of Thursday, March 5**

History of Purim

The festival of Purim commemorates the salvation of the Jewish people in ancient Persia from Haman's plot "to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews, young and old, infants and women, in a single day."

Reprinted from Chabad.org.

How we celebrate Purim today

- Reading of the megillah (book of Esther), which recounts the story of the Purim miracle
- Giving money gifts to the poor
- Sending gifts of food to friends
- Hosting a festive Purim feast
- It is also customary for children to dress up in disguising costumes

Purim with the JCC and PJ Library

The Barshop JCC and PJ Library, a program of the Jewish Federation, present *Celebrate Purim!* On Sunday, March 1, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Markey Park Soccer Field at the Barshop Jewish Community Center. Celebrate Purim is free and open to the community.

This fun, literacy-centered, family field day will be headlined by Tracy Newman, PJ Library touring author, featuring her book *Shabbat is Coming*, in an outdoor and dog-friendly event. The event will be complemented by crafts and activities for all ages.

Additionally, the Twig Bookstore will be onsite with a one-day Book Fair partially benefitting the Block and Dreeben School for Young Children. Selections will range from board books for

babies to primary level and early reader books. Cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted. Miss Anastasia will be in attendance to read some of her favorite Purim and springtime books.

While outdoors, in addition to book readings, attendees will enjoy flying kites, throwing Frisbees, and trying their skill in an obstacle course. Younger children can explore sensory activities, crafts, and bubble blowing. Adults, children, and dogs are encouraged to come in costume. Snacks

will include traditional Hamantachen and fruit juices.

To round out the fun, complete the day by donating dog items such as toys, food, collars, leashes, etc., and if possible, a new or gently used book. All items will be donated to local charities in need.

Feel free to bring along any items for play or comfort such as a picnic blanket and outdoor toys.

Reservations are requested and can be made by visiting www.jccsanantonio.org/seasons.

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PURIM 2015

Rodfei Youth Mishloach Manot sale

Rodfei Sholom's youth group for middle school and high school students, NCSY, will be selling *Mishloach Manot* for Purim made by Yachad Gifts. *Mishloach Manot* is a mitzvah unique to Purim. According to Jewish law, each adult should give a package containing a minimum of two ready-to-eat foods to at least one other person.

When you order from Yachad Gifts, not only will you be purchasing a high-quality gift, but you will be making a significant contribution to a much greater goal: the goal of giving an individual with a disability the opportunity at

competitive employment.

Yachad Gifts employs individuals with a diverse array of skills, which are applicable to every aspect of the business, from designing and purchasing to packaging, shipping, delivering, data entry, sales and customer service. This experience not only provides them with jobs, but builds up their skill sets, giving them the tools they need to gain employment in a variety of different industries.

The NCSYers will sell the Purim packages for \$18 each. Please contact the synagogue office at rodfeisa@gmail.com for more details.

SAFTY Annual Purim Carnival promises plenty of food and fun

Temple Beth-El's youth group, San Antonio Federation of Temple Youth (SAFTY), will host its annual Purim Carnival in the synagogue's Barshop Auditorium on Sunday, March 1 from 12 noon – 2 p.m.

The celebration includes hamantaschen and other foods, carnival games, inflatables and a "decorate your own cupcake" experience at the Cake Walk.

All proceeds from the Carnival benefit the Youth Fund, which funds all Temple youth group and informal education programming.

Wristbands are \$30 in advance and entitle the wearer to unlimited access to most games and activities.

Carnival tickets are 50¢



each and can be pre-ordered or purchased at the door. Receive a 20% discount off the price of carnival tickets by pre-ordering by February 25. Cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted for all ticket

and hamantaschen orders.

Order online at www.beth-elsa.org or by contacting Sam Stern, Director of Youth Engagement, at sstern@beth-elsa.org or call (210) 733-9135, extension 151.



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Purim Palooza at Agudas Achim

Agudas Achim will celebrate Purim with a Purim party, kosher hot dog dinner and Megillah reading on Wednesday, March 4 beginning at 4:30 p.m. The party will include games, inflatables, prizes, arts and crafts, music and more. After the party it's Megillah

Madness at 6:45 p.m. with the "wildest Megillah reading around." All are welcome. Food and play costs \$5/person; children under 2 are free. The Megillah reading is free to all. RSVP to Purim Palooza at www.agudas-achim.org or email to rsvp@agudas-achim.org.

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2015 - THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

Tu B'Shevat February 4, 2015	Yom HaAtzma'ut April 23, 2015 (Israel Independence Day)	Yom Kippur September 23, 2015
Purim March 5, 2015	Yom Ha-Atzmaut April 23, 2015	Sukkot September 28- October 4, 2015
Pesach (Passover) April 4-11, 2015	Lag B'Omer May 7, 2015	Shmini Atzeret October 5, 2015
Yom HaShoah April 16, 2015 (Holocaust Memorial day)	Shavu'ot May 24-25, 2015	Simchat Torah October 6, 2015
Yom Hazikaron April 22, 2015 (Israeli Memorial Day)	Tisha B'Av July 26, 2015	Hanukkah December 7-14, 2015
	Rosh Hashanah September 14-15, 2015	

SENIORS



Eleanor and Pablo Siegal at L'Chayim Club.

L'Chayim Club “travels” to Israel at Rodfei Sholom

L'Chayim Club's next monthly lunch event will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Rodfei Sholom. Eleanor and Pablo Siegal will give a talk entitled *A Lawful Experience* about their recent trip to Israel. The mission was sponsored by the Israel Law Center (Shurat HaDin). Shurat HaDin utilizes lawsuits and legal actions on behalf of Jewish terror victims to fight the terror organizations, their leaders, and the rogue regimes that finance them. There is no charge for seniors, thanks to co-sponsorship of Rodfei Sholom and a grant from Golden Manor. Others are welcome and encouraged to attend at \$5 per person. RSVP by Wednesday, Feb. 11 to Rodfei Sholom at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

Walking program for seniors continues in 2015

Nearly every Sunday for the past year and a half, a group of seniors has gathered at the Blanco Road entrance of Hardberger Park and taken a stroll to start off the day with some social exercise.

Walk in the Park is a program sponsored by Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services that will continue in 2015.

Besides the fitness and exercise benefit of the program, getting together for this walk each week gives the group a chance to socialize and

get to know members of the community with whom they may not often otherwise talk.

“Socializing also makes the walk more pleasant and not a chore to do,” says Warren Lieberman, GMJSS board member and leader of the group.

The walking route varies within Hardberger Park depending on conditions. If the ground is wet or muddy, the group walks the paved paths. The basic group walk, which starts at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday, is about

30 minutes (length varies) but if anyone wants to add another 15-20 minutes then several members of the group continue together.

Family and friends of all ages and their dogs are welcome to join the group, and water is provided to all who need it.

To receive email updates and invitations to the weekly walk, contact Warren Lieberman at wglieb60@gmail.com or call the GMJSS office at (210) 302-6946.

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This exhibition is organized by the McNay Art Museum. The Elizabeth Huth Coates Exhibition Endowment and the Arthur and Jane Stieren Fund for Exhibitions are lead sponsors. Susan and John Kerr, the Director's Circle, and the Host Committee are providing additional support.

Unidentified photographer, *Monuments Man* Lt. Frank P. Albright, *Polish Liaison Officer* Maj. Karol Estreicher, *Monuments Man* Capt. Everett Parker Lesley, and Pfc. Joe D. Espinosa, *Guard with the 34th Field Artillery Battalion, Pose with Leonardo da Vinci's "Lady with an Ermine" Upon Its Return to Poland in April 1946.* Courtesy of Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art, Dallas, Texas.



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BBYO Lonestar Regional Convention

Forty teens represented San Antonio BBYO at the 2014 Lonestar Regional Convention in Houston. The Lonestar region is made up of boys' and girls' chapters from Austin, Houston and San Antonio.

Sababa Senior Bailey Ratner was awarded the BBG Integrity award, the only individual award given out by the Lonestar Region. Every year only BBYO Senior members in the Region are considered for these awards based on their contributions to the Lonestar Region and their own chapter.

The Erich Weiss boys returned home with the fraternity gavel. This award was given to the boy's chapter based on how they



Senior Bailey Ratner with her parents and brother as she received the BBG Integrity award.

demonstrated fraternity as a chapter throughout the year and at Regional events. The San Antonio chapter has been awarded the fraternity gavel three out of the last four years.

During the convention,

members listened to an inspiring story from Carrie Rich, were entertained by musicians OCD: Moosh and Twist, and participated in Regional elections. Three local members, Eileen Stolow, Sh'lichia (Vice President of Jewish Heritage), Benny Wolf, S'gan (Vice President of Programming), and Nick Weiner, SCC Godol (Small Cities Council Boys President) were elected to the Regional board.

"I am proud of everyone who attended and the overall spirit throughout the convention," said Dylan Ashworth, San Antonio BBYO City Director.

BBYO is open to all Jewish high school students, and membership opportunities are available year-round. For more information about BBYO, contact Dylan Ashworth at ashworthd@jcc-sa.org or (210) 302-6869.

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YOUTH

Sunday Funday goes pink

Rodfei Sholom's upcoming Sunday Funday on Sunday, Feb. 15, at 2 p.m. will take place at The Magik Theatre, 420 South Alamo, for a showing of *Pinkalicious*.

The musical, based on the popular book by Victoria Kann, is about a little girl named Pinkalicious who finds out what can happen when she doesn't stop eating pink cupcakes despite her

parents' warnings.

Come and find out how Pinkalicious finds her way out of this predicament.

Adult tickets are \$10, seniors (60+) and active duty military \$9, children (2-17) \$5. RSVP to rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557. Reserved seats at a reduced rate are limited.



(L to R) Avigail Salzman and Maya Ashlag enjoy Rodfei Sholom's monthly Sunday Funday at Oak Hills Bowling on January 4.

JCC camps offer fun activities during school break

This past winter break, the JCC welcomed more than 50 children to their 2-week winter camp. Campers enjoyed fulfilled days with wintery-themed activities and art projects. Building mini snowmen with fake snow and making keepsake snow globes were some of the many exciting projects the kids enjoyed.

Campers also enjoyed two field trips one to Thin Air, a new local attraction and one to the Witte Museum to explore the innovative exhibitions and programs the museum offers.

The JCC provides programming for children during most days when school is out. For information about JCC's Spring Break Camp March 9-13, contact the camp office at (210) 302-6859 or visit www.jccsanantonio.org.

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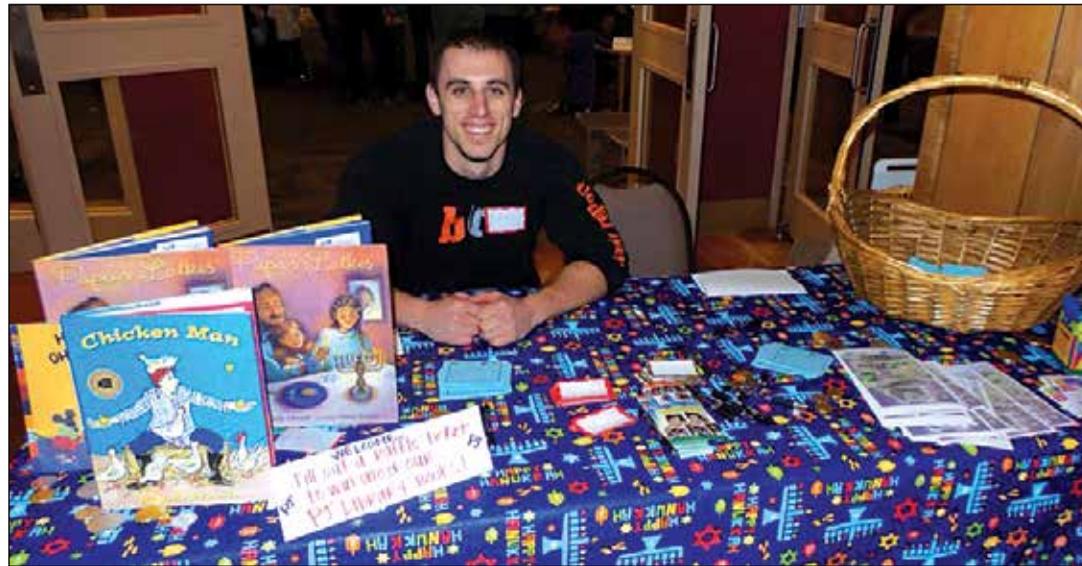
PJ Library Pajama Party a hit with youngsters

Lauren Abraham,
PJ Library Coordinator

PJ Library's Pajama Pizza Party on Christmas Eve was a huge success, with more than fifty children participating. Each child brought an unwrapped toy to be given as a donation to local hospitals for children during the holiday season. Our very own friend to PJ Library, the Batman of San Antonio, came to get the toys and then went out to deliver them.

During the evening, our PJ Library friends participated in a multitude of Hanukkah activities, saw Hanukkah movies, and heard a special PJ Library story entitled *Chanukah Lights* that ties in the idea of the holiday season lights and the Hanukkah candles. Children made dreidel hats, decorated Hanukkah cookies, and ate a yummy pizza dinner, all while enjoying each other's company.

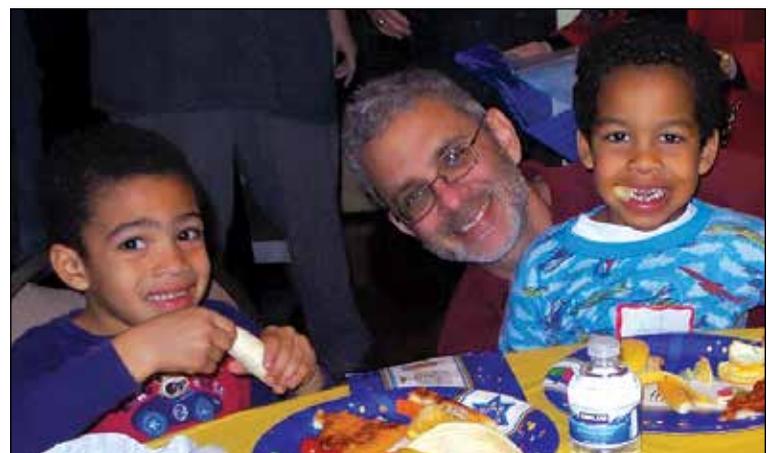
A special thanks to Lisa Abramson and Elyssa Kane who worked so hard as our event chairs. Also, we really enjoyed having PJ Library Grandmother "Mia," Lisa Alter Abramson as our special story reader for the night.



Volunteer Eric Steitz helped out at the check in table to ensure that all PJ Library friends were entered in the raffle to win prizes during the evening.



The Batman of San Antonio visits PJ Library Pajama Party before picking up their donated gifts to deliver to children in need.



ABOVE: Father Scott and his sons Aaron and Jonah Sherer enjoyed pizza dinner along with the healthy side items served at Federation's PJ Library Pajama Pizza Party.



AT LEFT: Sisters Saadiyah and Rochelle Leff decorated Hanukkah cookies at the PJ Library party.



PJ Library cookie decorator Tori Benatar enjoyed her Star of David cookie after a fun filled night.



(l to r) Navah Lipsky and Benny Abraham placed candles in the Hanukkah menorah.



PJ Library friends, led by teen volunteer Maria Viramontes, decorated Hanukkah cookies for an after dinner treat.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

JFSA ANNUAL CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION

The Jewish Federation hosted a community wide event on December 18, to celebrate Hanukkah and the achievement of the 2014 Annual Campaign.

Jonathan Gurwitz, Campaign Chair, thanked the many volunteers and donors who supported the campaign and helped to raise the dollars necessary to enhance and ensure the well-being of Jews in our community, in Israel and around the world.

The theme for the event was "Community," and included a free concert by the nationally acclaimed Jewish musician Sam Glaser and featured a choir of children representing various Jewish schools in our community. Federation leadership announced that \$1,462,818 was raised for the 2014



(l to r) Bill Cohodas, Lynn Stahl, Lois Cohodas



(l to r) Bobbie Ghitis and Jonathan Gurwitz, 2014 Annual Campaign Chair



Children's community choir performing with Sam Glaser



Jennifer and Dr. Lt Yitzhak Cohen



Rabbis Aryeh Scheinberg, Samuel Stahl, David Komerofsky and Chaim Block chatting after the concert



(l to r) Russell and Terry Davis, Fred and Sandy Kline



(l to r) Richard Planto, JFSA Board Chair, Ronit Sherwin, JFSA CEO, and Sara Planto.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



(l to r) Kelly Klein and Georgiana Kremer

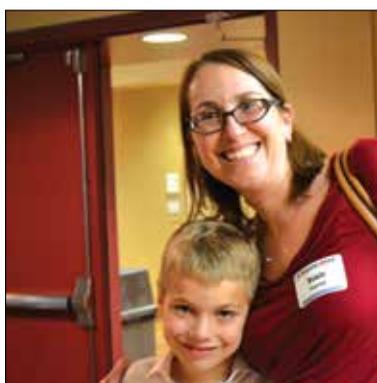


Matthew and Jodi Starr



Performer Sam Glaser chatting with Sandy Leigh

Samuel LoCurto and Robin Thorner



SAN ANTONIO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS JOIN NATIONAL NCSY CONVENTION



During Winter Break, NCSY held a special camp in Stamford, Connecticut and New York City for 300 Jewish students who attend secular high schools from around the country. The Texas contingent included Eliana and Ariella Swart, who attend Churchill High School and Congregation Rodfei Sholom.

B'NAI TZEDEK CELEBRATES HOLIDAYS AT YOUTH SHELTER



On Christmas Day, 30 Jewish teens came together to volunteer at the Bridge, a local shelter for children ages 5-17. The program was organized through B'nai Tzedek, the Jewish Federation's Teen Philanthropy program. The teens and residents played cards, painted nails, played a great basketball game, did art projects and just chatted. "The B'nai Tzedek participants saw first hand how much they can make a difference," said organizer Rachel Stern. If you would like to know more about B'nai Tzedek and how to get involved, email rpstern@gmail.com or call Federation at (210) 302-6960.

SAVE THE DATE

B'nai Tzedek Annual Allocations Event

February 22 from 2 - 4 p.m.

The Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community - 12500 N.W. Military Highway

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CULTURAL EXCHANGE BRINGS CHILDREN TOGETHER



Children in the Cultural Friendship Exchange Program spend quality time together learning about the eight days of Hanukkah at the JCC Block and Dreeben School for Young Children. The other schools that participate in this United Way funded program include University Presbyterian Children's Center, Carmelite Learning Center, Blessed Sacrament Academy Child Development Center and DePaul Children's Center.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE WORLD GO 'ROUND



GMJSS volunteers Kathie Jordan, Christina Weinfeld, Lori Williamson, Greg Gonzalez

At a dessert social on Monday, Dec. 22, Manor Jewish Senior Services honored the many volunteers who share a passion for enriching the lives of Jewish seniors.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



ABOVE: Rabbi Mara Nathan and Cantor Julie Berlin sang as the procession marched into Temple Beth-El for the 28th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Citywide Interfaith Service.



Dr. Rajam Ramamurthy pauses on her way into the MLK Jr. Interfaith Citywide Service at Temple Beth-El

MLK OBSERVANCES IN SAN ANTONIO

The Jewish community and members of other faiths gathered together for the 28th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Citywide Interfaith Service held at Temple Beth-El, on Sunday, Jan. 18. Participating leaders from the community included Rabbi Mara Nathan, Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, and Rev. Carl Rolfe. The Laus Deus “Gift of God” Praise Dance Ministry and the Arathi School of Indian Dance performed at the service.

On the following morning, Latino-Black-Jewish Dialogue Group members and Jewish community members walked together in the Martin Luther King March.



AT RIGHT: Members from a variety of faiths gathered for the 28th annual Interfaith Service.



Olga Kaufman helped lay wreaths for the Jewish Federation of San Antonio and the National Council of Jewish Women at the Martin Luther King Jr. wreath laying for the MLK weekend.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

TRADITION! TRADITION!



Jean and Butch Karren give their acting skills a test with a script from *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Agudas Achim Kiddush Klatch held a theatre workshop with actor/director Bill Gundry on Tuesday, Jan. 6. Participants enjoyed lunch and then read scenes from *Fiddler on the Roof*. Kiddush Klatch, a program for seniors, is underwritten by a grant from Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.

MOVIE NIGHT HONORS IDF SOLDIER FROM SAN ANTONIO



IDF soldier Ze'ev Bar Yadin and Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg

In honor of Ze'ev Bar Yadin, who grew up in San Antonio and is now serving in the IDF, Congregation Rodfei Sholom presented the acclaimed documentary *Beneath the Helmet: From High School to the Home Front* on December 21.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

L'CHAYIM CLUB AT RODFEI SHOLOM



(L to R) Marinell Robbins, Stewart and Shirley Alexander, and Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg (standing) Members of Congregation Rodfei Sholom's L'Chayim Club gathered for a Hanukkah lunch on December 17.



WINTER FUN TIME

Children enjoy their time together with counselors at Rodfei Sholom's Winter Camp in December.

(L to R): Chaya Leah Lubin, Yvonne Hargrove, Michal Hirsch, and Maya Ashlag, (standing) Sylvia Geller

FAMILY BREAKFAST AT THE JCC



(L to R) Itay Raphael, Nicole Wicha, and Shana Gurwitz.

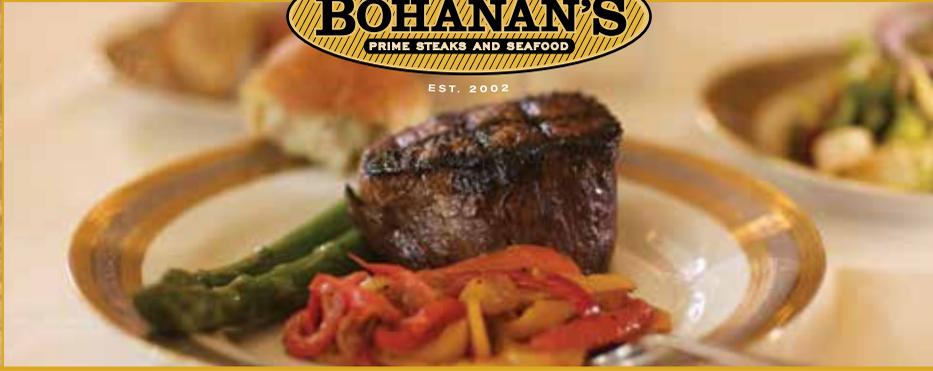
Families gathered on January 9 to schmooze at the JCC Block and Dreeben School for Young Children for the Annual Family Appreciation Breakfast.

LET MY PEOPLE GO!



Congregation Agudas Achim hosted its first ever Adults-Only Movie Club event with a sold-out private screening of *Exodus: Gods and Kings* followed by a discussion with Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham. Look for information on the Spring Adults-Only Movie Club event in the next issue of the *Jewish Journal*.





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WHAT'S HAPPENING

DOZENS CELEBRATE CHANUKAH AT THE SPURS



Rabbi Chaim Block of Chabad speaks about the significance of lighting the menorah to a crowd of 200 after Memphis beat San Antonio 117-116 in triple-overtime. For the first time ever, the Jewish community united to light a menorah in center court at the AT&T Center as part of *Chanukah at the Spurs*. Participants also received a commemorative 'Chanukah at the Spurs 2014' hat and got a chance to shoot a free throw..

17TH ANNUAL CHANUKAH ON THE RIVER



Hundreds of people turned out for the 2014 Chanukah on the River hosted by Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning. The event including the lighting of the Menorah by Councilman Ron Nirenberg, river cruises and a concert by the rock band Pardes (above).



Aviva Bass with granddaughter Ella Bass and Ella's friend Olivia Kboudi

SUNDAY FUNDAY CELEBRATION

All ages turned out for Congregation Rodfei Sholom's Rodfei's *Sunday Funday Chanukah* Happening on December 14.

DAILY DOSE OF JEWISH NEWS ONLINE

Looking for more daily news about Israel and Jewish issues?
Check out these free media resources:

WWW.JFSATX.ORG

A daily news feed from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency available on the Jewish Federation of San Antonio website

EJEWISHPHILANTHROPY.COM

An online publisher and a facilitator of resource mobilization serving the Jewish communal world

WWW.JERUSALEMONLINE.COM

A daily video news update from Israel in English produced by Israel's Channel 2 News

Brainstorming a Bat or Bar Mitzvah?

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The Campus has a variety of rooms available for rent which are perfect for events large and small. For more information, visit www.thecampustx.org or call Mike Griffin, 210-302-6801 or Carisa Heiss, 210-302-6866.



WHAT'S HAPPENING



HANUKKAH HAPPINESS

Congregation Agudas Achim hosted a multi-program event to celebrate the Festival of Lights. Events included Hands on Hanukkah at Whole Foods, Hanukkah Story Telling with Rabbi Abraham at Barnes & Noble (above) and a Lots of Latkes party featuring a performance by The Bible Players.



Cast members from San Antonio Playhouse *Fiddler on the Roof* provided entertainment for Chai Lights, Temple Beth-El's annual Hanukkah Gift Show.

CHAI LIGHTS HOLIDAY GIFT SHOW

Temple Beth-El Sisterhood's holiday gift show, Chai Lights, was held on Sunday, Dec. 14. The event featured a broad selection of merchandise from artisans and other vendors plus food and entertainment. Proceeds benefit programs for Temple youth.

IN THE COMMUNITY

COLLEGE NEWS

Hillel San Antonio students travel to Israel

Over this past break, several local Hillel students had an opportunity to spend their winter break holiday traveling to Israel. Three students from San Antonio Hillel were chosen to participate in Hillel Internationals StART South program. Seventy-five students were chosen from around the world for an all expense paid arts and culture trip to Israel, which culminated in the creation of an arts festival in Sderot. To be accepted for the trip, students had to have an art background in performing, visual, or creative arts.

Stefano Iacono, Alex Stubbs-Trevino, and Jonathan Violante, from San Antonio, were selected to participate in this once in a lifetime

Stefano Iacono and Alex Stubbs-Trevino on Hillel's StART South trip in Israel



opportunity. Iacono, who was chosen for the StART South Program because of his music background, taught rhythm therapy to citizens of Sderot using his soulwarming voice.

Stubbs-Trevino was chosen for the program because of his artistic abilities. While there, he worked with children in Sderot creating puppets and

putting on puppet shows.

Violante, a local San Antonio actor and student, explained his experience from his first trip to Israel as "nothing less than life-changing." He continued, "Everything I experienced was shocking, from getting to see firsthand effects of the rockets on the people of Sderot,



Jonathan Violante on Hillel's StART South trip in Israel to staying on a Kibbutz and seeing how the people functioned there and how much history they carry. I met

so many people with my same background, same passions, which made the whole trip even more interesting and fun." Violante used his acting skills on the trip with many other young adults as they shared their talents with the people of Sderot.

As the spring semester convenes, student leaders on the Trinity University and UTSA campuses are working hard to plan a full semester of events, activities, and educational components for their peers. If you know of a college-aged student in San Antonio looking to get involved and meet other Jewish students, contact Samantha Mazuz at Samantha@sahillel.org or (210) 201-JEWS (5397).

COLLEGE NEWS

2015 Summer Birthright Israel trip

San Antonio Hillel is joining with other Texas Hillels for students to have an unforgettable trip to Israel. Registration for summer 2015 Birthright Israel trips opens February 3. Interested participants for this Texas Hillel trip will be given specific instructions on how to apply and secure their spot.

The Birthright Israel program is not just for Jewish students, but also for Jewish young adults who are between the ages of 18 to 26. All Jewish young adults who are interested in traveling to

Israel through a Birthright program will be able to do so this summer.

Birthright is a program that provides Jewish students and young adults the opportunity to travel to Israel free. The trip is a memorable 10-day experience where they discover new meaning in their personal Jewish identity and connection to Jewish history and culture.

The program began in 1999 and has sponsored trips for more than 400,000 young adults from 64 countries, most from United States and

Canada.

Organized Israel programs, such as Birthright Israel, can be a deeply meaningful experience for all Jews. The benefits of these programs help connect the younger generation to Israel. JCC Coordinator of Teen & Young Adult Services Samantha Mazuz remembers her own Birthright experience. "Birthright Israel changed my life, resulted in my moving to Israel to grow closer to who I am, and learn more about my people. Now I get to teach and inspire others about what



Trinity University student Lauren Goldberg enjoys her time on a Birthright Israel trip

I love."

Registration for 2015 summer trips will begin February 3. All interested

participants should contact Samantha Mazuz at Samantha@sahillel.org or (210) 201-JEWS (5397).

UT Hillel Shabbat 500 to bring Jewish students together

On February 27, hundreds of Jewish students will gather at The University of Texas at Austin for the third annual Texas Shabbat 500. The event aims to create Jewish unity across the campus, engage uninvolved Jewish students in Jewish life and remind students of the beauty and meaning of our traditions.

Texas Shabbat 500 is planned and run entirely by students, for students. It is intended to engage Jewish students both currently involved and not yet involved in Jewish life on campus. The evening includes multiple Kabbalat Shabbat service options, followed by a kosher dinner and Jewish content programming.

In a busy college environment where many students lack the time or comfort to attend weekly Shabbat services in Austin, the event provides a comfortable environment and serves as reminder of the strong Jewish community on campus.

Sophomore Ariella Noorily, who is the event's programming chair, a member of Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority and graduate of Northside Health Careers High School in San Antonio, values the event because it is a convenient and comforting reminder of the strong Jewish presence on campus. "It's important for me to be involved in Shabbat 500 because it is the one time during the year that all of the Jews from all of the many organizations at UT come together to celebrate

being Jewish," Noorily said.

This annual event continues to grow, and the event's organizers have expressed great excitement about the prospect of providing a Jewish experience for as many students as possible. This year, event planners hope to attract 750 students. In order to maximize the event's appeal and publicity, there are multiple choices for services and dinner available for students. The event's versatility is optimal to include the most Jewish students possible, says sophomore Emily Kustoff, who is the event's fundraising chair, an intern with Texas Hillel's Campus Engagement Initiative and graduate of Tom C. Clark High School in San Antonio.

"Shabbat 500 is so unique because it strives to provide an individualized Jewish experience to each attendee keeping in mind that what may connect one person to their Judaism may not be the same thing that connects someone else," Kustoff said.

As the event has grown significantly over the past two years, so have its operating expenses. To donate or learn more information, visit TexasShabbat500.com. Donations can also be made via checks made out to either UT Hillel or Chabad at UT, with envelopes addressed to Texas Shabbat 500 at 2105 San Antonio St., Austin, Texas 78705.



Chabad on Campus recently hosted an evening of challah baking for area college students.

Chabad on Campus adds new programs

Chabad on Campus offers a variety of programs for San Antonio college students including a new interactive beginner's Hebrew class and a monthly *Grill the Rabbi* barbecue get together with Rabbi Ari Weingarten.

Chabad on Campus works to bring Jewish students together through weekly Shabbat dinners, learning opportunities and socials.

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

At Issue: Who's Afraid of *Big Bad Wolves*?

Released by Walt Disney in 1933, *Three Little Pigs*, a pioneering work of animation, remains one of the most popular cartoons ever made. Fiddler Pig and Fifer Pig fritter away their time in song and dance while their brother, Practical Pig, admonishes them to build sturdy houses as protection against the Big Bad Wolf. “Who’s afraid of the Big Bad Wolf, the Big Bad Wolf, the Big Bad Wolf?” the two porcine slackers sing in gleeful unison and naive confidence. They do not realize that, with the wolf at the door, we all should be afraid.

In the midst of the Depression, the song was quickly adopted as an anthem against complacency. Since the original version of *Three Little Pigs* – in which the Big Bad Wolf was depicted as a stereotypical Jewish peddler with an exaggerated Yiddish accent – was blatantly anti-Semitic, there is some irony in the fact that “Who’s Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf” also



Perspective:

STEVEN G. KELLMAN

became a musical warning not to ignore the rising threat of Nazism.

Big Bad Wolves, the Israeli feature film that will be screened on Sunday evening, February 8, as part of the 14th annual San Antonio Jewish Film Festival, asks us to be afraid, very afraid, but also to mock our fears. Its original Hebrew title, *Mi mefakhed mehaze’ev hara* (*Who’s Afraid of the Bad Wolf?*), is an even more obvious echo of the Disney cartoon. A dark and comic thriller, it offers enough grisly twists to keep a viewer squirming and chuckling. The film won six Israeli Film Academy Awards and was nominated for six others. It has been shown at festivals in Cannes, Toronto, Chicago, and elsewhere.

During a private screening for the selection committee of the San Antonio Jewish Film Festival, one of the committee members stalked out in disgust. Another averted her eyes whenever the action became

violent. Since perhaps 30 of the film’s 100 minutes are grotesquely violent, a squeamish viewer ought to bring along either a book or a blindfold. Yet Quentin Tarantino, the connoisseur of cinematic gore responsible for *Pulp Fiction*, *Inglourious Basterds*, and *Django Unchained*, named *Big Bad Wolves* the best film of 2013, the year it was released in Israel. If Alfred Hitchcock were alive, he would surely salute Aharon Keshales and Navot Papushado, the duo that both wrote and directed the film, as worthy disciples. From its first screening, *Cupcakes*, to its tenth, *Dancing Arabs*, this year’s Jewish Film Festival is something to howl with joy about. But as a demonstration of cinematic virtuosity, *Big Bad Wolves* leads the pack.

A decapitated body is found in the woods, the latest in a string of horrific crimes against young girls. The detective assigned to the case is fired after being caught on video physically abusing the wimpy Torah teacher he is convinced is the sick culprit. Still intent on eliciting a confession, the

cop goes rogue, but so does the latest victim’s outraged father, who kidnaps both the vigilante cop and the teacher, drives them to a secluded farmhouse, and, intent on eliciting information and revenge, proceeds to torture them in ever more ingenious and gruesome ways. From moment to moment, the directors keep us guessing about who is guilty and who is the most deranged.

In its hyperbolic violence and deliberately exasperating turns of plot, *Big Bad Wolves* is an exquisite send-up of the clichés in conventional crime and horror movies. In a mother’s insistence on providing her sadistic middle-aged son with chicken soup, it spoofs the stereotype of smotherly Jewish love. Into this absurdist mix of Jewish savagery rides a gentle Arab on horseback from a nearby village who asks why Jews assume all Arabs want to kill them.

However, more than just a sanguinary exercise in camp, the film raises urgent ethical issues. The United States Senate Intelligence Committee’s report on “enhanced interrogation techniques” (i.e., torture) by the CIA, states that the Agency’s Office of General Counsel cited “the Israel example” to justify its use of waterboarding, anal feeding, and sleep deprivation against detainees. Anticipating that the CIA might later be held accountable for its brutal methods, it pointed to Israel as “a possible basis for arguing ... regarding terrorist detainees that ‘torture was necessary to prevent imminent, significant, physical harm to persons, where there is no other

available means to prevent the harm.”

In the “ticking bomb scenario,” are unorthodox methods of extracting information permissible if they can avert mass murder? The question has troubled Israelis, in constant danger of terrorist attacks, even more than Americans. Nevertheless, Israeli law does not sanction the kinds of actions engaged in by the CIA – and certainly not the creative use to which a wrench, an electric drill, and a blowtorch are put in *Big Bad Wolves*. In response to complaints from the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, a human rights organization, the Supreme Court of Israel ruled in 1991 that torture is permissible only under extraordinary circumstances and only with specific and explicit legislative authorization. Neither condition applied to the CIA interrogators. And it certainly does not apply to the characters in this film. Instead, no actionable intelligence is obtained from the harrowing torture, which escalates and merely becomes an end in itself.

Ultimately, the film testifies to the truth of the old Latin saying: “*Homo homini lupus est*” – Man is a wolf to man. The big bad wolf we ought to be afraid of is the wolf that lurks inside ourselves.

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

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

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Vex season turns lighthearted, but poignant

The second half of the Sheldon Vexler Theatre's sixteenth season continues with Lanford Wilson's poignant and lighthearted romantic comedy, *Talley's Folly*.

Set in July 1944, *Talley's Folly* is the story of one evening in the courtship between two unlikely lovers. At the end of World War II, Matt Friedman (Scott Leibowitz), a Jewish accountant from St. Louis pleads his love to the small-town Protestant Sally Talley (Kathy Becker).

Totally honest and delightfully funny, Matt refuses to accept Sally's rebuffs and her fears that her family would never approve of their marriage. Using his propensity for humor and wit, he tries to break through her protective shell, all the while revealing his own terrible history.

Talley's Folly won both the Pulitzer Prize and New York Drama Critics Circle

Award for best play of the season in 1980.

Talley's Folly is directed by Vex veteran Jim Mammarella, who has worked both on-and-off stage at The Vex. He most recently directed *Little Shop of Horrors*, and before that *A View from the Bridge*, which garnered him an Alamo Theatre Arts Council (ATAC) Award for Direction of a Drama.

The cast includes just two actors, Scott Leibowitz who recently performed in this season's opener, *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* as Dale Harding and Kathy Becker, newcomer to the Vex.

Talley's Folly runs Feb. 5 through Mar. 1. Show times are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. To purchase tickets, which range in price from \$15-21, call The Vex Box Office at (210) 302-6835. For more information, visit www.vexler.org.

Barshop JCC Author and Lecture Series presents local writer



Victoria Aarons holds the O.R. & Eva Mitchell Endowed Chair in Literature at Trinity University, where she teaches courses on American Jewish and Holocaust literatures. She will present her book, *The New Diaspora: The Changing Landscape of American Jewish Fiction*, Thursday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. in the JCC's Holzman Auditorium.

The New Diaspora presents pieces by winners of the Wallant Award, focusing on the best work of recent winners, and reflects the evolving landscape of American Jewish fiction over the last fifty years, as many authors working in America are not American by birth, and their fiction has become more experimental in nature.

The New Diaspora represents the best in American Jewish writing over the past fifty years. From the post-World War II writers to the present, this

anthology of diverse and lively fiction reveals the changing landscape of American Jewish thought and suggests the evolving responses to Jewish identity in America. This collection of works draws upon and celebrates the rich and long tradition of Jewish storytelling.

Tickets to this event are \$10 per person and can be purchased at any JCC courtesy desk, by calling (210) 302-6820, and online at www.jccsanantonio.org/authorspeakerseries.

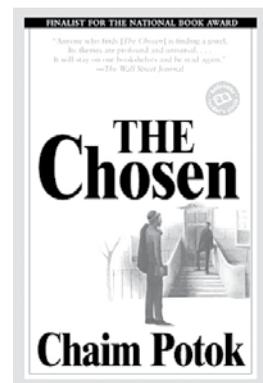
The Chosen – Rodfei Sholom book club

The Rodfei Sholom Book Club will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the synagogue for review and discussion of Chaim Potok's *The Chosen*.

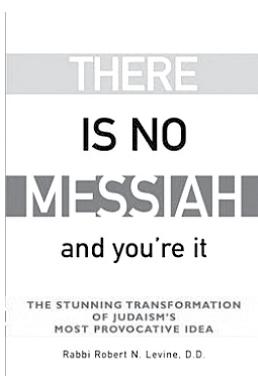
Few stories offer more warmth, wisdom, or generosity than this tale of two boys, their fathers, their friendship, and the chaotic times in which they live. Although on the surface it explores religious faith—the intellectually committed as well as the passionately observant—the struggles addressed in *The Chosen* are familiar to families of all faiths and in all nations.

In 1940s Brooklyn, an accident throws Reuven Malther

and Danny Saunders together. Despite their differences (Reuven is a Modern Orthodox Jew with an intellectual, Zionist father; Danny is the brilliant son and rightful heir to a Hasidic rebbe), the young men form a deep, if unlikely, friendship. Together they negotiate adolescence, family conflicts, the crisis of faith engendered when Holocaust stories begin to emerge in the U.S., loss, love, and the journey to adulthood.



Agudas Achim Sisterhood March book review



There is No Messiah - and you're it by Rabbi Robert N. Levine D.D. will be the featured title reviewed by Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham at Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood's March book review on Tuesday, March 10 at 10 a.m. in the Gurinsky Family Social Hall.

There Is No Messiah...and you're it examines the history of

messianic hope and anticipation, its evolution in Judaism and Jewish history, and other interpretations of *messiah* that shed new light on what it means to usher in the "kingdom of God."

Light refreshments will be served. For more information contact Suzan Mendlovitz at (210) 344-1108.

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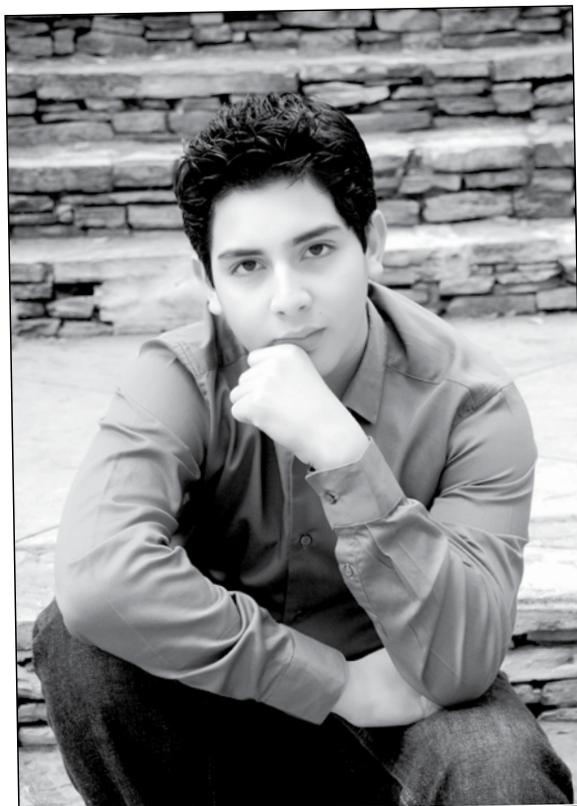
Abigail Hope Pullen



On Saturday, Feb. 21, Abigail Hope Pullen will be called to the Torah for her Bat Mitzvah at Congregation Agudas Achim. Abbi is the daughter of Sheri and Eric Pullen and older sister to Mitchell Pullen. Abbi is the granddaughter of Reesa and Joel Pullen and Barbara and Jerry Friedson and the great granddaughter of Carrie and Abe (of Blessed Memory) Marsh and Leonard Friedson and Mary Jo (of Blessed Memory) Friedson. Abbi is a seventh grader at the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy and is a member of the school's volleyball team and is avid tennis player. For her Mitzvah Project, Abbi will collect used eye glasses and readers for donations to I Care San Antonio, a non-profit association whose mission is to help individuals who might not otherwise be able to maintain the gift of sight.

BAR MITZVAH:

Bryan Isaiah Mendlovitz



Bryan Isaiah Mendlovitz will become a Bar Mitzvah reciting *Parsah Yitro* on Saturday, Feb. 7 at Congregation Agudas Achim. Bryan is Seventh Grader at Hector Garcia Middle School where he plays trumpet in the Concert Band. Bryan is a Red Belt in Tae Kwon Do and enjoys soccer.

Bryan is the son of Dr. Ervin and Elizabeth Mendlovitz and the grandson of Estela Levy and the late Rene Levy. His older brother is Aaron Mendlovitz.

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BAR MITZVAH TRADITION

BAR MITZVAH:

Evan Lazar Katzman



Evan Lazar Katzman was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on January 17 at Congregation Rodfei Sholom.

Evan is the younger son of Alex and Shirley Katzman and brother to Jonah. He is the grandson of Dr. Richard and Elida Katzman, both of blessed memory, and Aaron and Mary Alice Alvarado.

Evan is a seventh grader at the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy and has attended the EKHLE since kindergarten. He is an avid soccer player and has been a member of the Lonestar Soccer Club for the past four years.

Evan has dedicated his Bar Mitzvah to raising funds for the San Antonio Holocaust Memorial Museum located on the Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community. He requests, in lieu of gifts, that donations be made in honor of his great-grandparents Dr. Jonah and Tzile Friedman of blessed memory, who perished in the Shoah, as well as his paternal grandmother, Elida Katzman of blessed memory, who survived.

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 (210) 494-8768.

ANDERS, George	LADENSOHN, Kenneth
BARKIN, Burton	LAVEN, George
BELINSKY, Eli	LESCH, Albert
BERNSTEIN, Jack	LEVY, Milton
BROOKE, Peter	LOWM, David
CARSON, David W	MANDEL, Alan
CERVANTES, Carlos	MARKOVITZ, Meyer
CHASAN, Kalman	MEDERIOS, Gilbert
COHEN, Steven	MEYER, Carl
D'ACOSTA, Uriel	MOORE, Kenneth
DIETZ, Milton	MORRIS, Harry
DRYER-CLUTTS, Deborah	PINKSTON, Sydney I
ELISCU, Irving	PULLEN, Lee (Leon)
ERLICH, Morris	ROSENBLUM, Bryan
FEINGOLD, Emanuel	SABLOW, Hyman
FINKLE, Leonard	SCHLESINGER, Louis
FRANKLIN, Ira I	SCHLOCHAUR, Leo
GOLDEN, Aaron	SHAENFIELD, Albert
GOLDMAN, Berthold	SIMON, Paul
GREENBERG, Michail	SMOLINS, Sol
HALFF, Alexander	SNEIDERMAN, Jacob
HARDING, Brian	STRAUSS, Daniel
KANIA, John	VOGLE, Harry

FROM THE COVER

FRENCH JEWS

continued from page 1

killed a female police officer on Thursday. According to French police, Coulibaly was a close associate of Cherif Kouachi and may have been involved in the *Charlie Hebdo* attack.

"There's no question in my mind that incidents like this [and] the many others recently are increasing the risk for the Jewish community in France and their desire to leave," Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, founder and president of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (IFCJ), told *JNS.org*.

France, which has both the largest Muslim and Jewish populations in western Europe, saw a dramatic rise in antisemitism in 2014, especially in reaction to Israel's Operation Protective Edge against the Hamas terrorist group last summer. France's Jewish community suffered several violent attacks, including a recent home invasion and rape in which the attackers referenced the victims' Jewish faith.

According to Israeli government statistics, France was the leading country for

aliyah to Israel in 2014 with new 7,000 arrivals, up from 3,400 in 2013.

While Eckstein said that it is not his organization's role to take over the responsibility of the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency for Israel to facilitate the aliyah of French Jews, he acknowledged that his organization is exploring ways that it can help.

"If we can make a difference in more Jews coming out of France, then yes, we will get involved," Eckstein said.

Founded in 1983, IFCJ promotes understanding between Jews and Christians. The group has raised more than a billion dollars, mostly from Christian donors, for Jewish immigration, social programs in Israel and struggling Jewish communities around the world.

Eckstein said that his organization remains focused on helping facilitate the aliyah of Ukraine's beleaguered Jewish community.

In October, IFCJ announced it would significantly step up efforts to increase immigration to Israel, especially from countries in the former Soviet Union. IFCJ hired the

former head of the Jewish Agency's aliyah department, Eli Cohen, to head the initiative.

IFCJ said it is providing a special grant of \$1,000 for each adult and \$500 for each child to Ukrainian Jews who come to Israel, and that it is sponsoring a flight each month for the rest of the year to facilitate their aliyah.

"One of the things that we can provide to French Jews that the Israeli government and Jewish agency can't provide is funds," Eckstein said.

Eckstein, however, admitted that the situation facing French Jews is different than the plight of Ukrainian Jews.

"I am not sure if that incentive program can work for French Jews, it is more complicated as their economic situation is different," he said. "They want to know things like if their medical diploma is valid in Israel. We are exploring that, and if we can make a difference, then we will, God willing, get involved [in France]."

Simone Rodan-Benzquen, director of the Paris

See **FRENCH JEWS**, page 31

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Report threats, U.S. Jewish security arm urges groups

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- In the wake of the deadly Paris attacks, the security arm of national U.S. Jewish groups is asking Jewish institutions to report any incidents of threats, vandalism or attacks.

The Secure Community Network, or SCN, in a January 18 memo told Jewish institutions that information it gathers could assist national law enforcement agencies in discerning any national trends in threats.

Organizations should first notify

local law enforcement of any threat or incident, the memo said, and then SCN.

“This will allow SCN to better identify and assess incidents and trends and share that information back out to our security director and law enforcement network to keep you all better informed of other incidents across the country and assist you in security planning and decision making,” the SCN memo said.

The memo also urged institutions to instruct staff and volunteers to review SCN’s [online](#) training on facing attackers.

The memo described increased security in Europe in the wake of the January 7-9 attacks in Paris on a satirical weekly, a kosher supermarket and police that left 17 people dead.

“While we are not aware of any credible, specific threats against Jewish organizations in the U.S.

at this time, in light of the recent attacks in Paris and other counter-terrorism actions against suspected terrorist plots across Europe, it is imperative that we continue our vigilance, security efforts and increased information sharing to stay ahead of this continuously evolving threat,” SCN said.

SCN is funded by the Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations.

FROM THE COVER

FRENCH JEWS

continued from page 30

branch of the American Jewish Committee, told *JNS.org* that she understands the rationale of “members of our community when they are thinking of leaving France, because many of us are wondering whether we are responsible parents to stay.”

“As a Jew and as a mother, I do not want my children to live in a climate where

being Jewish means to be in danger for their physical safety, but also for their identity,” she said. “The question remains. We just hope that we have our [security] alert system sufficiently in place. It also helps that the [French] government is on our side and recognizes the immensity of the problem, and is prepared to fight it. But more needs to be done. If the situation doesn’t change I fear that many more will want to leave.”

As the situation in France continues to unfold and Jews face new threats from Muslim extremists, Eckstein said that he is reminded of the stories of early Zionist leader Vladimir Jabotinsky warning Jews to flee Europe before the Holocaust.

“I have these thoughts of Jabotinsky going around Europe before the Holocaust and telling Jews to flee to Israel while they can,” he said. “As long the governments of Europe can ensure and want to ensure the security of Jews, then they are okay. [But] unless the governments of Europe significantly step up and fight anti-Semitism, I’d certainly rather be identified as someone like Jabotinsky, who is warning Jews to get out and come to Israel.”

SYRIANS

continued from page 1

Commander of the Surgical Team, Field Hospital for Syrian Casualties.

Dr. Ronen is a senior physician-surgeon in the Department of Otolaryngology at Galilee Medical Center, in Nahariya, Israel, who specializes in head and neck cancer surgery. He will be visiting San Antonio as part of the Partnership between the Western Galilee and the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. He will be joined by Dr. Arie Eisenman, who is the head of the internal division in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Medical Center of Galilee, Israel. Eisenman is also Chairman of the Medical Task Force of

“Partnership2Gether” project of the Jewish Agency, between the Western Galilee and the US and in this capacity hosts medical students, doctors, nurses and other medical professionals from around the world.

The program will be held at the Campus for the San Antonio Jewish Community, 12500 N.W. Military Hwy. in the Holzman Auditorium on Tuesday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m. The program is open to the public at no charge. For more information and to RSVP, call (210) 302-6960 or [www.jfsatx.org](#).



This event is sponsored by various committees of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio (JFSA): The Maimonides Society, the CRC Israel Task Force and the JFSA Israel and Overseas Committee.

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Lauren Abraham, Coordinator PJ Library/
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Rpster@gmail.com

Lynn Waghalter, Librarian Beldon Library
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COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

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12500 NW Military Highway, Suite 275, San Antonio, TX 78231
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Executive Director: Saul F. Levenshush **Email:** *jcc@jcc-sa.org*
President: David Palans **Website:** *www.jccsanantonio.org*
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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

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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.

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Jewish Family Service

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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.

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website: *www.agudas-achim.org*
Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Senior Rabbi
Hazzan Jeremy Lipton

Congregation Beth Am (Reconstructionist)

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

Congregation Rodfei Sholom (Orthodox)

3003 Sholom Dr., 78230
Phone: (210) 493-3557 **Fax:** (210) 492-0629
E-Mail address: *rodfeisa@gmail.com*
Website: *www.rodfeisholom.org*
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Temple Beth-El (Reform)

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E-mail address: *Temple@beth-elsa.org*
Website: *www.beth-elsa.org*
Rabbi Mara Nathan, Senior Rabbi,
Rabbi Elisa Koppel,
Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl, Emeritus
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Temple Chai (Reform)

Meets at the Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community
12500 N.W. Military Hwy., 78231
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San Antonio, TX 78216
Office phone: (210) 340-2090
website: *www.templechaisa.org*
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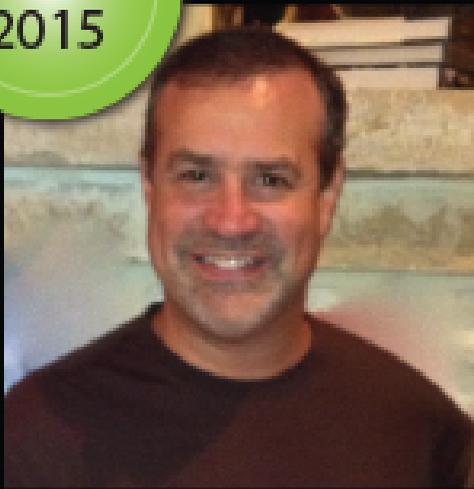
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Israeli tourists hurt in hours-long anti-Semitic attack in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (JTA) — Ten Israeli tourists were wounded in an anti-Semitic attack at a hostel in a small Argentine village.

Three assailants burned, robbed and beat the tourists at the Onda Azul hostel in Lago Puelo, in southern Argentina, between 1 a.m. and 4 a.m. Monday, Jan. 19 the Argentine media reported. Police in the Chubut province are investigating.

“It was a terrifying moment, several hours of fear,” hostel owner Sergio Polak told the local media. “They shouted, ‘Go, (expletive) Jews, you... Jews are robbing us’ in the Patagonia region.”

Monica Sasso, the area delegate for the National Institute Against Discrimination, or INADI, confirmed to reporters that the attack took several hours.

Polak also said the attackers threw stones and Molotov cocktails, and shot guns at the site, according to Argentinian Radio Continental.

He alleged that the assailants were neighborhood residents who live very close to the hostel, and that they are known to police, “but they are free and nobody has been arrested yet.”

The hostel, which shut down temporarily after the attack, usually houses guests

from Israel and tries to attract them through a Hebrew-language Facebook page.

Israelis make up about 10 percent of the lucrative tourist trade in southern Argentina’s Patagonia area. Most of the stores have signs in Hebrew to attract Israeli visitors.

In December, anti-Israel posters appeared in the Argentine tourist town of Bariloche, located in the foothills of the Andes, which is popular with Israeli backpackers. The posters, which read “Boycott Against Israeli Military Tourism,” were signed by the Palestine Solidarity Committee in Argentine Patagonia.

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Boehner invites Netanyahu to address Congress on Iran

WASHINGTON (JTA) — House Speaker John Boehner invited Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to speak to both chambers of Congress on Iran and radical Islam.

“Prime Minister Netanyahu is a great friend of our country, and this invitation carries with it our unwavering commitment to the security and well-being of his people,” Boehner (R-Ohio) said in a statement on January 21.

“In this time of challenge, I am asking the Prime Minister to address Congress on the grave threats radical Islam and Iran pose to our security and way of life,” he said. “Americans and

Israelis have always stood together in shared cause and common ideals, and now we must rise to the moment again.”

Israeli reporters on Twitter quoted Netanyahu’s office as saying that the prime minister had accepted the invitation.

Boehner’s letter to Netanyahu said the invitation was on behalf of the “bipartisan leadership” of Congress. A staffer in the office of Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), the minority House of Representatives leader, said Boehner did not consult with Pelosi. Netanyahu would speak Feb. 11,

according to the letter, just a month before Israeli elections. It would be his third address to Congress; he also spoke in May 2011 and in July 1996. Other prime ministers, including Ehud Olmert, Shimon Peres and the late Yitzhak Rabin, have addressed Congress, as did the late Israeli President Chaim Herzog.

The appearance by Netanyahu would be the first so close to an Israeli election.

The White House criticized the invitation. White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters in Wednesday’s regular daily briefing

that the invitation was a breach of diplomatic protocol. “Such invitations are usually made leader to leader,” he said.

Boehner’s invitation came a day after President Barack Obama said in his State of the Union speech that he would veto any new Iran sanctions legislation, which Netanyahu has called for as a means of pressuring Iran in talks underway between the Islamic Republic and the major powers.

Republicans and a number of Democrats, backed by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, are seeking to pass the new sanctions.

Israeli government, StandWithUs partner on new program

JNS.org

The Israel education organization StandWithUs and the National Information Directorate of the Israeli Prime Minister’s Office are partnering on the new “Social Media Ambassadors” program, which will educate young people (with an emphasis on university students) about how to use social media to educate others about Israel.

Participants of the year-long educational program—which will initially be offered in the United Kingdom, the United States, and Israel—will be trained to tell Israel’s story from their own points of view using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other platforms.

The effort comes against the backdrop of a social media environment in which anti-Israel activists regularly target the Jewish state.

“Much of [anti-Israel social media users’] output has no basis in reality, but they don’t care about what is true or not, as long as they take aim at Israel,” StandWithUs Israel Director

Michael Dickson told JNS.org. “But we can redress the balance and make an impact on social media for Israel, too. We need to expose these lies and, at the same time, reach out to people about the real Israel—democratic, diverse, and sizzling with creative energy and the ancient nation-state of the Jewish people that is also the modern, dynamic, start-up nation.”

In particular, anti-Israel activists took to social media

after the recent Islamist terrorist attacks in Paris to float conspiracy theories that Israel was behind the attacks.

“Similar to every other forum, the Internet is a place where crazy theories regarding Israel and the Jews are often abound,” Dickson said. “We would advise participants in the [Social Media Ambassadors] program to judge each case on its merit. Some conspiracy theories don’t deserve the oxygen of

publicity, but when a story gains traction it often needs to be exposed.”

StandWithUs, which operates social media accounts in 13 different languages, brings 4,000 followers on Instagram, 61,400 followers on Twitter (with tweets reaching more than a million users), and more than 500,000 “likes” on Facebook (with weekly posts reaching as many as 30 million users) to the ambassadors initiative. The

Prime Minister’s Office chose StandWithUs as a partner “based on our experience and expertise, to deliver a program aiming at getting Israeli students, as well as some of their peers abroad, to share the reality of Israel,” said Dickson.

“The Prime Minister’s Office has rightly identified that the reality of Israel is best portrayed through the eyes of citizens and those who visit Israel,” Dickson said.



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Five years in the making, *The Return* takes new look at Polish Jewish revival

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — On the crumbling wall of a former Polish synagogue, adjacent to a one-time Jewish ritual bath converted into a car wash, a graffiti artist has painted “Jews, We Miss You” in Polish and German.

The message, scrawled on the wall in the Polish town of Dabrowno, is an apt message in contemporary Poland, which has seen a surprising revival of Jewish life in a land that nearly saw its Jewish community eradicated, first by the Holocaust and then under decades of communist rule.

The story of that revival is the subject of the new documentary, *The Return*. Adam Zucker, a 57-year-old New Yorker, does triple duty as the film’s director, producer and writer. He tells

his tale through the eyes of four women.

Zucker estimates that there are now 20,000 people in Poland who formally identify as members of the Jewish community — a number that doesn’t include those who have some Jewish ancestry, often recently discovered, or the legions of non-Jews who have become enamored of Jewish culture.

“Poland was the cradle of Ashkenazi Jewry, where Hasidism started and Yiddish developed,” writer Konstanty Gebert declares in the film, adding defiantly, “And this is where it did not end.”

The continuation of Polish Jewish life rests in large part on the profound interest in all things Jewish among Polish Catholics, many of whom participate in the annual Jewish Culture Festival in Krakow. At the

city’s Jewish community center, they play in klezmer bands, dance while juggling bottles on their heads, act in Jewish dramas and affirm that having a Jewish friend is cool.

There are different explanations for this unlikely philo-Semitism, including a general nostalgia for prewar Polish life. But Zucker suggests that after the tribulations of decades of communist rule, the citizenry welcomes the color and enthusiasm of Jewish life.

Zucker discovered the phenomenon of Polish non-Jews spearheading a revival of Jewish culture in a 2008 New York Times article, which intrigued him enough to chance an exploratory trip to Poland.

While the quality of performances at Jewish cultural festivals in Warsaw

and Krakow exceeded his expectations, what really fascinated him were the stories of young Jews “trying to define their identities and discover who they were, without access to their past heritage in the place which was once the most Jewish in the world,” he said.

Among the four women featured in the film is Tusia, whose Polish grandmother denied all her life that she was Jewish before finally acknowledging her roots on her deathbed. Tusia was raised in New York but returned to Warsaw to be part of the revival and wants to restore Dabrowno’s former Jewish center.

In the coming months, *The Return* will screen at Jewish film festivals in New York, Atlanta and Washington, with additional venues to be announced.

WJC’s Ronald Lauder gets Germany’s top honor

BERLIN (JTA) — Ronald Lauder, president of the World Jewish Congress, was recognized with Germany’s highest medal of honor for his support of Jewish life in Germany since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Germany’s ambassador to the United States, Peter Wittig, presented Lauder with the Commander’s Cross of the Order of Merit at the German Embassy in Washington on January 13, the WJC announced. Among those present at the ceremony was U.S. Vice President Joe Biden.

Lauder has been active in supporting Jewish education across Central and Eastern Europe for more than 20 years. In Berlin, the support includes a yeshiva and rabbinical seminary.

His efforts are aimed at producing educators for a country whose official Jewish population rose more than four-fold with the influx of Jews from the former Soviet Union.

Germany’s official Jewish population stands at about 105,000. It is estimated that at least another 150,000 Germans of Jewish background are not affiliated with the Jewish community.

“We are grateful to see this new Jewish life thriving within our midst and we embrace it,” Wittig said at the ceremony.

Lauder in his remarks thanked Germany for its ongoing support of Israel.

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