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Elie Wiesel gave the Holocaust a face and the world a conscience

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heartfeltword.com
Ellen Ollervidez, a long-time member of the San Antonio Jewish Community, has been hired as the new director of the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio (HMMSA) and the Community Relations Council (CRC), programs of the San Antonio Jewish Federation. Former HMMSA and CRC director Judy Lackritz retired in June.

Ollervidez comes to Federation following a successful career in public education, but she has built a strong relationship with Federation over the course of many decades.

“I grew up watching my stepfather, a former president of Federation and my mother, a leader in Hadassah and a founding member of the committee that started a Night To Honor Israel, spend countless hours serving and promoting our community,” said Ollervidez. “I still have marked memories of their conversations on the Holocaust program, our sister city in Akko, Missions to Israel, and their mentions of pioneering women in our community, such as Phyllis Braverman and Maxine Cohen.

“After my marriage, my late father-in-law had a huge impact on the way I participated in Jewish life. Serving in many volunteer roles, I planned the first Mah Jong tournament for Jewish Family Service, worked Super Sundays, and cooked for the Demi-Dinners. More recently, my children participated in B’nai Tzedak, my husband, Rikko volunteers his time, and I was invited to meet with educators from the Western Galilee Partnership Region.”

Ollervidez has also been involved with the Jewish Community Center’s Early Childhood Program, served as Vice President of Education at Congregation Agudas Achim and as a member of Agudas Achim’s Parent-Teacher Organization.

“Ellen brings her experience as a master to the work of the Holocaust Memorial Museum, where we educate and impact the lives of thousands of students each year,” said Federation CEO Ronit Sherwin. “I look forward to Ellen adding even more depth and perspective to how we can further educate the next generation. In addition, the Community Relations Council will also benefit from Ellen’s deep roots and commitment to the Jewish community and the larger San Antonio community. Ellen will be a tremendous addition to the already talented JFSA staff and a wonderful voice for our Jewish community.”

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Judy Palans, Vice Chair Development
Jonathan Gurwitz, Board Chair

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS: AUG. 2016

August 2
• Board Meeting, Temple Beth-El, 7 p.m.
• Chevra Kadisha Workshop, Rodfei Sholom, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

August 3
• L’Chayim Club, Rodfei Sholom, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

August 4
• Brews & Schmooze, Bigz Burger Joint, 5 p.m.
• Summer J-Camp Family Night, The Campus, 6 p.m.

August 6
• Shabbat Lunch Havurah, Temple Beth-El, 11:45 a.m.
• Senior Moments, The Campus, 8 p.m.

August 7
• Senior Moments, The Campus, 3 p.m.
• Parlor Meeting for the Community Mission to Israel, 4 p.m.

August 9
• JFSA Board Meeting & Orientation, The Campus, 5:30 p.m.

August 11
• Simcha Social Club, 11:30 a.m., Agudas Achim
• Young Couples Club of Agudas, Vizurraga Home, 7 p.m.

August 14
• Tish‘a B’av
• Alamo Brandeis B’nai Brith Lodge, The Campus, 10:30 a.m.

August 15
• Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services Board Meeting, GMJSS Office, 7 p.m.

August 17
• Watermelon Wednesday Summer Storytime, Agudas Achim, 4:30 p.m.

• NCJW Trashy Book Club, 6:30 p.m.

August 18
• Moonlight Supper Club, Agudas Achim, 7 p.m.

August 21
• Beldon Library Used Book Sale, Beldon Library (8/21-8/22), The Campus
• Heintz Preschool & Inda Posner Religious School Open House, 10 a.m.

August 23
• Campaigners 2016 Opening Event, 6 p.m.

August 24
• JCC Board Meeting, The Campus, 7:30 p.m.

August 28
• Jewish War Veterans Post 753, The Campus, 9 a.m.
• Back to School Concert with the Voice of PJ Library, Rich Recht, The Majestic, 3 p.m

September 3
• Shabbat Lunch Havurah, Temple Beth-El, 11:45 a.m.

September 5
• Labor Day

September 6
• Board Meeting, Temple Beth-El, 7 p.m.

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Joshua Granofsky
Gino Narboni
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The Jewish Journal
Jewish Federation 94th Annual Meeting honors past leadership and heralds in new leadership

Richard Planto, immediate past chair of the JFSA Board of Directors, presided over Jewish Federation’s annual meeting on May 31. Honors included the Joel A. Toubin Award presented to Natalie and Irwin Barath, the Sylvia F. & Harry Sugerman Young Leadership Award presented to Michelle Vizurraga, the Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education presented to Calla Pfeifer-Campos and the Chair’s Award presented to Steve Butler. Special thanks and honors were also presented to Judy Lackritz for her nearly 17 years of service to the Jewish Federation upon her retirement. Jonathan Gurwitz was also installed as the new chair of the JFSA Board, along with his Executive Committee.

Community members and leaders Joy Cutler, Greg Davis, Jason Kboudi, and Brian Feld

Recognition for service to the HMMSA Commission: Don Walker, Ronit Sherwin, Melbourne O’Banion, and Richard Planto

Sugerman Young Leadership Award winner Michelle Vizurraga and last year’s recipient, Jacob Kluger

Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education recipient Calla Pfeifer-Campos and Sara Planto

YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK
By Lauren Abraham and Samantha Mazuz

On November 6, 2014 at 7:30 pm, Izzy Ezagui, a decorated squad commander in the Israeli Defense Forces made his way to San Antonio to share his experience. Izzy is a soldier who lost an arm in combat only to return to the battlefield after healing from the injury. During his two-day trip in Texas he spoke to and spent time with a number of audiences. The evening he spoke with the Young Adult Division something very special started to develop. It was a night when Isadora Sintes, avid Zionist and Jewish community supporter, attended this event to learn more about the soldier’s story. She was there via encouragement of a friend, Rachel Stern. Isadora did not typically attend such events. She arrived, caught up with friends, and a young man whom she had not met before, introduced himself. Little did she know a year and a half later this young man, Jonathan Kravitz, would come to be her fiancé.

These two love to hike through the Texas State and National Parks, run 5Ks, half and (in Isadora’s case) full-marathons, participate in the plethora of young adult events in San Antonio, or volunteer as part of the Young Adult Division Board. They are always ready for an adventure. Most recently, they shared an evening with several other couples during the Dinner for Eight event in Southtown. The local community has known them as a couple for quite a while, but now it’s official! Engagement happened in June of 2016. Their opportunity for meeting in the Jewish Community Center of San Antonio was bridged by the Jewish Federation’s event in the Holzman Auditorium. By coming to this event, two individuals, committed to their own set of Jewish values, united. One never knows how a night will turn out, but it is certainly a blessing that these two attended this event. We wish Isadora and Jonathan only the greatest of Mazal Tov’s for a bright future. Their story of coming together is one that reminds us to participate in Jewish community and that the JCC can be a place to find that special someone.
PARTNERSHIP CORNER

Partnership Corner lessons learned from our sister museum

By Juana Rubalcava, HMMSA Education Director

I was given the opportunity to visit the partnership region before my three-week seminar at Yad Vashem. I am happy that I did. I met so many wonderful people and learned so much about the Western Galilee. My original purpose was to see the Ghetto Fighter’s House Museum and reconnect with our sister museum, and while I did that I also gained so much more from this experience. I was able to meet with many individuals that are a part of what connects the San Antonio Jewish Federation to this region.

When I visited the Ghetto Fighter’s House Museum, I was guided around the children’s exhibit by Madene Shachar. Madene spoke about the way the museum approaches learning for middle-school aged students by incorporating both testimony and art into the student’s time in the children’s museum. This is of particular interest to us at the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio because a large bulk of our students are middle school age.

The staff uses different forms of art, and their philosophy if they can help the students understand important aspects of the Holocaust in their own way, the students will leave with valuable lessons. I also learned about a program teaching diversity among different groups that come to the museum and how they work through their differences. Some of the different workshops with their students can be translated to how we at the museum work with our students.

Overall, my experience both in the partnership region and at the Ghetto Fighter’s House Museum has enriched my time in Israel.

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New Women’s Philanthropy board formed

A newly formed Women’s Philanthropy board of the Jewish Federation held its kickoff meeting on June 21 at the home of Amy Benedikt. The group gathered to discuss board guidelines, goals and outreach efforts to educate and engage the Jewish women in our community with the Federation’s work.

A campaign event honoring Federation’s Pomegranate Society is planned for September 15 at Julian Gold, when Federation welcomes Jane Weitzman, of Stuart Weitzman Shoes, for an evening of fashion, fun and philanthropy. On Thursday, December 1, Federation will host the 2nd annual Shower Our Community with Love event in the Holzman Auditorium. Please save the date!

Congratulations to the 2016-17 new Women’s Philanthropy Board: Amy Benedikt MD, President/Chair; Laura Ehrenberg-Chesler, VP/Lion of Judah Chair; Lizette Feld and Pat Kalmans, VP Pomegranate Chairs; Darcy Hoberman and Amy Lerman, VP/Pearl Society Chairs; Michelle Vizurraga and Helaine Wolf, VP/Chairs Outreach and Engagement; Margaret Gofman Klein and Elisa Reinsmith, VP Chairs Social Action. At large members include: Gayle Alterman, Sherry Braslau, Aliza Cantu, Lori Goldblatt, Susan Noorily, MD and Lynn Stahl.
PJ Library Summer scoop beats the heat

In June, PJ Library San Antonio partnered with Menchie’s Kosher Frozen Yogurt of Lincoln Heights to present the first San Antonio Jewish Summer Scoops series. PJ readers and families had four exciting meet-up sessions at the Frozen Yogurt store next to the Quarry shopping center. The Summer Scoops sessions were a true place for our Jewish community to come together. With our PJ books, carpets on the floor, and enticing art projects for the children, Menchies Frozen Yogurt served as the perfect hosting venue to help families gather after camp, in the morning, in the evening, and on a Sunday afternoon.

At each session, Hadassah volunteers were there to greet our families. PJ Library friends and family were given special $5 fill-up cup discounts, and prizes for free yogurts were announced and given out. Rabbis from our community including Rabbi Mara Nathan and Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham served as guest readers to share Jewish songs, stories, and fun with local families. Jewish values and the idea of being a mensch (giving person) were also at the center of each event.

“Menchie the Mensch, the yogurt chain’s mascot, was on hand for each event. Photo opportunities and high fives were a great way for children to celebrate summer, reading, frozen yogurt, and Judaism.

“PJ Library looks forward to hosting these meet-up sessions again next summer as a great way for our readership to beat the heat!”, said PJ Library’s Lauren Abraham.

Check out the PJ Library San Antonio on Facebook for details for future events.
Descendants of Holocaust survivors unite

Becky Schenker and Varda Ratner, co-leaders of the Torch, speak recently to second and third generation Holocaust Survivors. Schenker and Ratner described a choice of activities that could be selected by attendees including social events, conversations, and telling family histories. For more information, contact the Holocaust Memorial Museum Director Ellen Ollervidez at (210) 302-6960.

YAD names new board

The first Young Adult Division Board meeting, chaired by Kelly Klein, kicks off a new beginning of programming, engagement, and campaign initiatives for people between the ages of 22-40ish. Social action projects and programming for young families are in the works. For more information about the Young Adult Division (YAD), contact Samantha Mazuz at mazuzss@jfsatx.org or (210)302-6960.

Dinner for Eight brings dozens of young adults together

Federation’s Young Adult Division’s Dinner for Eight was a great success. The Young Adult Division grouped participants together based on survey responses, and made dinner reservations at various restaurants in Southtown. After dinner the group met up at a bar for an after dinner L’Chayim. More than 50 young adults between 22-40ish attended the event. Watch the Journal for upcoming events from the Young Adult Division.
A personal note of thanks and recognition

by Michael Ozer, M.D.

Judy Lackritz retired in June from her work at the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. Among her many roles over the past 17 years have been staffing the Community Relations Council and the Holocaust Museum. She even temporarily assumed the role of Federation CEO for one period of time. But I know her mainly through our collaboration on the Maimonides program. I have been a volunteer member of the steering committee of our Federation’s Maimonides program for over 20 years. During that period, I worked with several professionals, but it was Judy who I worked with the longest.

Our Maimonides program is one of the most unique programs of its kind in the country. We are one of the few Federations that has a regular lecture series on Jewish medical ethics for doctors and other health professionals. We have at least two programs a year and there is also a special endowment, sponsored by the Zinn family, specifically to sustain a lecture series.

Under Judy’s leadership, our Maimonides program flourished. We have had lectures over the years on subjects as diverse as stem cell transfers, the ethical dimensions of lack of Medicaid expansion in Texas, the psychiatric minds of terrorists, and the intersection between G-d and science. Our committee would meet two or three times a year and select subjects and possible speakers. It was Judy who coordinated our efforts and planned each lecture event.

One of the qualities that Judy has always brought to the table was her genuine interest in our mission of education. She took a personal interest not only in the process, but also in the subject matter. Working with such a professional is a delight, and I know that I can speak for our entire committee in expressing our sincere appreciation to Judy Lackritz for a job well done.

Dr. Ozer is a pediatrician and one of eight co-chairs of the Maimonides Society of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

CEO LETTER

continued from page 1

again.” Elie Wiesel not only shared his story, but he dedicated his life to human rights causes, support for the State of Israel and the fight against hatred and bigotry.

As an educator, the loss of Elie Wiesel reminds me that our Holocaust survivors are not going to be with us forever. The voices of our local survivors are integral to the work we do at the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio. Yes, we have a fantastic gem of a museum, and yes, we have excellent docents and yes, we have top-notch staff, but the stories that our survivors share with students and visitors cannot be replaced. Each story is unique and has power in its own right.

I am proud of our Holocaust Memorial Museum, and I believe that this work allows us to keep the light of Elie Wiesel alive everyday. As we begin a new “school year” this month, I cannot help but think of the millions of school children around the world who will read Night for the first time. Many of these students will be shocked to learn what horrors humanity is capable of from reading Night, and, hopefully, these same students will also be disturbed enough to repair the world and join in the spirit of Elie Wiesel to teach for justice and to embrace all of humanity.

May the memory of Eliezar “Elie” Wiesel always be for a blessing.

LACKRITZ

continued from page 1

Council (CRC), and in 2015, Judy assumed the position of Director of the HMMSA, in addition to her position with the CRC. Judy also assisted in the growth of the Holocaust Museum of San Antonio, serving as the key staff for the first-ever benefit for the museum in May 2016, For Hope For Humanity.

Judy’s positive impact with the CRC and the HMMSA not only allowed the Jewish Federation to further its mission of nurturing and strengthening Jewish life in San Antonio, but Judy also helped our Jewish community by building our presence and engagement in the larger city of San Antonio. Judy was instrumental in city-wide programs such as the MLK weekend celebrations, the Catholic-Jewish Hanukkah lunch, the Interreligious Council, SA Giveback and opportunities with Wounded Warriors. Ronit Sherwin, CEO of the Jewish Federation, stated, “Judy represented the Jewish community of San Antonio with her strength of character and commitment to tzedaka – justice and ahavat yisrael – love of the Jewish people. The beauty of Judy Lackritz is that she lived her passions, both personally and professionally. The pursuit of righteousness is in her core.”

Judy’s legacy is that our Jewish community has a strong presence in the larger city of San Antonio, with deep relationships that will transfer to new relationships. Maxine Cohen, longtime Jewish community professional and volunteer, said of Judy: “Her dedication, keen intelligence and good judgment made her an invaluable asset to the community. Her reputation for integrity and the highest ethical standards was known not only locally but nationally as well. With Judy at the helm of the CRC, we were in very capable hands.”

Judy and her husband Bill Long remain residents of San Antonio, with frequent travels to visit Judy’s new granddaughter Elyane in California.

Editor’s note: Not to worry! HMMSA and CRC will remain in good hands. Find out who has been named Federation’s new Director of the HHMSA and CRC on page 3.
**WIESEL**

continued from page 1

“opposite of love is not hate, it is indifference.”

The quest to challenge indifference was a driving force in Wiesel’s writing, advocacy and public presence. Though he considered himself primarily a writer, by the end of the 1970s he had settled into the role of moral compass, a touchstone for presidents and a voice that challenged easy complacency about history.

Wiesel spent the majority of his public life speaking of the atrocities he had witnessed and asking the public to consider other acts of cruelty around the world, though he drew the line at direct comparisons with the Holocaust.

“I am always advocating the utmost care and prudence when one uses that word,” he told JTA in 1980.

President Barack Obama, who met frequently with Wiesel and took his counsel, said he had been a “living memorial.”

“Along with his beloved wife Marion and the foundation that bears his name, he raised his voice, not just against anti-Semitism, but against hatred, bigotry and intolerance in all its forms,” Obama said in a statement. “He implored each of us, as nations and as human beings, to see ourselves in each other and to make real that pledge of ‘never again.’”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wiesel was “bitterly mourned” by the State of Israel and the Jewish people.

“Elie, the wordsmith, expressed through his extraordinary personality and fascinating books the triumph of the human spirit over cruelty and evil,” he said in a statement.

Wiesel won a myriad of awards for his work, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Gold Medal and the National Jewish Book Award. Night is now standard reading in high schools across America.

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Born in the town of Sighet, Transylvania, then and now a part of Romania, in 1928, Wiesel was deported to Auschwitz in 1944 with his family when he was 15. His mother and one of his sisters would disappear forever when the family was forced aboard the cattle cars and murdered immediately. His father, who traveled with him to the camps, died of dysentery and starvation in Buchenwald before liberation. Two sisters would survive the war.

In Night, Wiesel describes pinching his face to see if he is dreaming when he sees the murders of infants.

“In those places, in one night, one becomes old,” Wiesel told NPR in 2014. “What one saw in one night, generations of men and women had not seen in their own lives.”

Wiesel was liberated from Buchenwald in 1945. He went on to study at the Sorbonne and moved to New York at the end of the 1950s, where he lived in relative obscurity. He worked hard to find a publisher for Night, which initially sold poorly.

“The truth is in the 1950s and in the early 1960s there was little interest and willingness to listen to survivors,” said Wiesel’s longtime friend Rabbi Irving “Yitz” Greenberg.

In the late 1960s Wiesel finally began to emerge as one of the preeminent voices in Holocaust literature. By the end of his career, he had written some 50 books.

In 1972, he enthralled Yeshiva University students with his excoriation of the American and American Jewish leadership for its silence during the Holocaust.

How many Jewish leaders “tore their clothes in mourning?” Wiesel asked.

“How many marched on Washington? How many weddings took place without music?”


“Elie Wiesel was the collective moral compass of the Jewish people,” Natan Sharansky, who became the face of the Soviet Jewish struggle, said in a statement with his wife, Avital, who with Wiesel led advocacy for Sharansky’s release from prison.

In 1978, Wiesel became the chairman of the Presidential Committee on the Holocaust, which would ultimately recommend the building of a Holocaust museum in Washington. As his public presence grew, he began to visit the sites of other genocides. In 1980, he traveled to Cambodia. In an interview with JTA, Wiesel called the Cambodian refugee camps “spectacles of horror” and noted, “These things could happen again simply means that the world didn't learn — or that the world didn't want to learn.”

In 1985, Wiesel’s reputation grew beyond the Jewish world when he challenged President Ronald Reagan on live television over his intention to visit a German cemetery that housed the remains of Nazi soldiers. In the Oval Office to receive the Congressional Medal of Achievement, Wiesel chastised Reagan.

“This is not your place, Mr. President,” Wiesel famously said. The president visited the cemetery anyway, but changed his itinerary to include a visit to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

Wiesel challenged the White House again in 1993 when he charged the newly inaugurated President Bill Clinton to do more to address the atrocities then unfolding in Yugoslavia.

At the inauguration in 1993 of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Wiesel said, clearly, “I don’t believe there are answers. There are no answers. And this museum is not an answer; it is a question mark.” That question mark he applied to global atrocities, as well as historical ones.

“As a public figure who was also the very symbol of the Holocaust survivor in America, Wiesel acted as a moral compass, his personal history lending unequaled gravity to his public remarks on genocide, anti-Semitism and other issues of injustice worldwide,” said Ruth Franklin, author of A Thousand Darkneses: Lies and Truth in Holocaust Fiction. “Wiesel never pretended that he understood the Holocaust. He spoke of it as a horror beyond explanation, a black hole in history. As the virtual embodiment of the catch phrase ‘never forget,’ he did more than anyone else to raise awareness of the Holocaust in American life.”

Along with his wife, Wiesel is survived by a son, Shlomo.
Rodfei hosts Chevra Kadisha training seminar with world-renowned expert, Rabbi Elchonon Zohn

On Tuesday evening, Aug. 2 from 7 to 9 pm, Rabbi Elchonon Zohn will conduct a tahara training seminar for beginners and more experienced members of the San Antonio Chevra Kadisha (Burial Society). The event is open to anyone who may be interested in joining the Chevra. The training session will be held at Congregation Rodfei Sholom.

Rabbi Zohn is an internationally-known Chevra Kadisha expert, and has lectured throughout the country to Jewish leaders, Chevrot Kadisha, health care and hospital personnel, synagogue and community groups and the general public. Rabbi Zohn is considered to be one of the foremost experts on issues pertaining to Chevra Kadisha. He is the founder of the Chevra Kadisha of the VAAD Yarabonim of Queens, New York and the founder and coordinator of the Association of Chevra Kadisha, a national network devoted to the exchanging of information and the providing of technical assistance.

For more information and to RSVP, contact the synagogue office at (210) 493-3557 or by email to rodfesia@gmail.com.

Summertime Tikkun Olam at Temple Beth-El

This year’s Beth-El Food & Fun (BFF) Summer Day Camp was wildly successful thanks to hundreds of volunteers, dedicated staff, and donors who gave their time and resources to help serve kids in our neighborhood who are food insecure. It was a summer filled with fun and Tikkun Olam.

Noted passing: Machal pilot Narboni

Dr. Gino Narboni, 92, a Machal volunteer pilot for pre-state Israel, died peacefully at his home in San Antonio on July 16, 2016.

In 1948, Narboni, having both a commercial pilot license and a French passport, was recruited from the pre-state Hagana organization to ferry planes and equipment from Europe to Israel during its War for Independence. He became a Machal (overseas volunteer) pilot in the Israel Air Force with the rank of captain, ferrying troops and evacuating wounded soldiers during the conflict. When the Israel national airline, EL AL, was launched, he flew first with ARKIA, the domestic airline, and later, internationally, as an EL AL pilot.

The Machal volunteer pilots from over 20 countries were crucial to Israel in the period leading up to and during the War of Independence. Because of an international arms embargo, flying to Palestine from France was risky. The Machal pilots like Narboni put their personal safety on the line and some lost their lives.

Subsequent to his time in Israel, Narboni earned a medical degree in Paris and immigrated to the United States where he joined the U.S. Air Force. He was a flight surgeon during the Vietnam War, and after his military service was an oncologist in private practice in San Antonio.

Narboni’s life was profiled in a memoir, When I Grow Up I Want to Be, co-authored by his wife Charlotte, published in 2014. It is available on Kindle and in the Beldon Library of the Jewish Community Center.

Jennifer Perloff

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End of Summer Watermelon Wednesday pizza play party at Agudas Achim

Congregation Agudas Achim will celebrate the end of summer at a special Watermelon Wednesday pizza play party on Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. Rabbi Jeffrey and Lauren Abraham will be presenting a special program to the children followed by an extended play time on the playground with pizza, watermelon and fun surprises.

The cost is just $10/family and all are welcome. RSVP for catering purposes to the synagogue office at (210) 479-0307 or rsvp@agudas-achim.org.

A Living Legacy: moving and insightful interviews from our local Jewish community

18. Chai. Life. L’Chayim. Jews often give gifts and donations in multiples of 18, which is called “giving chai.” Eighteen volunteers, Anna Rado, Arlene Dryer, Bobi Stern, Betty Adler, Danny Markson, Geri Gregory, Howard Feinberg, Howie Nestel, Lynn Stahl, Marcia Weser, Roger Adler, Reesa Pullen, Rene Wender, Mel Waldgeir, Sandy Katz, Steven Gross and Billy Samelson, were selected to be interviewed as part of mmlearn.org’s A Living Legacy video series, sponsored by Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services. These 18 local community leaders shared extremely personal, moving and insightful wisdom.

The interviews, conducted by Maria Wellisch, RN, LNFA-Vice President of Corporate Training at mmlearn.org were created as a web-based program of the Elizabeth McGown Training Institute to provide quality, consistent caregiver training to anyone seeking practical ways to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of older adults in their care.

The overall purpose of the Living Legacy Project is to provide insight into some “certain truths” as we begin to age and reflect on our faith. The series will also serve as an effective vehicle to share those insights with a new generation while leaving a legacy. None of the interviews were scripted nor were none of the interviewees pre-screened. What you see and hear is raw and from the heart. Many thanks to these volunteers for providing an extraordinary legacy for this and future generations. Go to mmlearn.org/index.php/all-faqs/legacy.html to view.
IN THE COMMUNITY

Temple Chai to offer Introduction to Judaism course

Temple Chai, a small Reform congregation on the Northwest side, will offer an eight-week Introduction to Judaism course beginning Wednesday, Sept. 7 from 7-8:30 p.m. The course will meet at Temple Chai, 2121 Lockhill Selma (at the corner of NW Military Highway).

Taught by Rabbi David Komerofsky, this course introduces the basics of Jewish thought and practice. Interfaith couples, non-Jews considering conversion, and Jews looking for adult-level basics will find it meaningful. A mix of study, discussion and practical experiences, the course is designed for those interested in exploring a Jewish life. Topics include Jewish holidays, life-cycle events, theology, prayer, Israel, and history.

“The only prerequisite is curiosity,” said Rabbi Komerofsky. “We’re pleased that this new semester will include a discussion component with Temple Chai member Gayle Kipp. Gayle is trained to facilitate conversations about Jewish life, helping to navigate the kinds of questions spurred by the class topics.”

Introduction to Judaism is open to the community. For more information or to register, call (210) 340-2090 or visit www.templechaisa.org/intro.

Bexar County Commissioners recognize Temple Beth-El

Rabbi Mara Nathan presented a check for $30,000 from the Temple Beth-El Kimmelman Fund to the Children’s Court Early Intervention Program in a June 7 ceremony before Bexar County Commissioner’s Court. The funds will help provide needed services to ensure safer futures for infants and toddlers in Bexar County.

Each year in Bexar County, approximately 1,000 children age 3 and younger are confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect. In or out of foster care, infants and toddlers are more likely than older children to be re-abused/neglected and are at high risk for developmental delay and mental health problems. Families of these children have problems of unemployment, mental health issues, drug and alcohol abuse and family violence.

The mission of the Early Intervention Program is to unite infants and toddlers with responsible, drug-free, mentally resilient parents who can form healthy attachments between themselves and their child.

Under the leadership and supervision of the Honorable Judge Peter Sakai, the Early Intervention Program will provide an intensive, comprehensive on-site network of services for at-risk children removed from their homes and their families.

Tracy Wolff, president of the Hidalgo Foundation, accepted the check, recognized and thanked Rabbi Nathan and Kimmelman committee members Anndee Steidel, Marsha Penner and Janet Alyn who were present at the ceremony.

The honorable Judge Peter Sakai, with Rabbi Mara Nathan (on left) and Amnde Steidel, thanked Temple Beth-El for joining with other faith-based and community service organizations in the public-private partnership.
Temple Chai to launch a new education program for kids and adults

Temple Chai is launching a new education program in September. KESHER CHAI is a unique model to engage kids with Judaism in a flexible and fun way. “Each child learns in his or her own way, and our congregation’s size enables us to connect with everyone as an individual,” said Rabbi David Komerofsky. “We are not able to offer two-days-a-week school, and this is our way to meet the needs of our membership as well as unaffiliated families that want Jewish learning but don’t fit traditional frameworks.”

KESHER CHAI will meet Saturday mornings, with different age groups studying the same topic in different ways. Hands-on learning supplemented with at-home studies and parent interaction are designed to meet the needs of busy families. Midweek tutoring is also available, and KESHER CHAI will make use of cutting edge technology to make the learning accessible to all. KESHER CHAI is not formal religious school, but a different way to deliver Jewish content to small groups in personalized ways. Hebrew, prayer, holidays, values, and more are included in the curriculum.

In addition to the Saturday program, Temple Chai’s educational offerings include opportunities for adults to continue their own learning. Lisa J. Goldstein, RJE, and Temple Chai’s education committee are offering a robust menu of learning opportunities for the new year. To learn more and get updates for live registration, visit www.templechaisa.org/KESHER-CHAI.

Scharf-Zeldes to be honored by Hadassah

On Wednesday evening, Aug. 24 at 7 p.m., the San Antonio Chapter of the American Zionist organization Hadassah will honor Barbie Scharf-Zeldes as someone who is Making a Difference in San Antonio. To honor Scharf-Zeldes, Hadassah will host a special wine and cheese reception at the home of Dr. Evan and Linda Ratner. In addition to honoring Scharf-Zeldes’ accomplishments, the evening will feature International Book Award winner Dafna Michaelson Jenet.

Jenet chronicled her journey to find people who are making a difference in their communities across the U.S. in her book It Takes a Little Crazy to Make a Difference.

Organizers say participation in this event not only provides the opportunity for attendees to meet these two remarkable women; but, to also make a tangible difference in the lives of others by making a strong commitment to Hadassah in recognition of Barbie’s years of dedicated service.

This year, this distinguished award is being given to acknowledge Scharf-Zeldes’ deep connection between her personal values and Hadassah’s mission of Zionism, health and advocating for women’s equality. Included in this recognition is Scharf-Zeldes’ profound love of Israel and the Jewish people, as well as her devotion to educating the younger generations, her legal mind, and g’millut chasadim (Hebrew) - generosity of spirit.

An advocate, attorney, author, community and religious leader, wife and mother, Barbie’s life has been dedicated to public service representing many different entities. Her commitment has included support for San Antonio police officers, firefighters and their families for which she has received awards recognizing her numerous contributions and dedicated service. Scharf-Zeldes’ civic mindedness has been broad-reaching, including her work as chair of the Board of the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind, with the S.A.100 board, and her position on the Youth Education Foundation board of the Rotary Club of San Antonio.

Active in religious service throughout her life, she currently serves as president of Congregation Agudas Achim. She has served on the Board of Directors for Barshop Jewish Community Center and chair of the Jewish Federation Community Relations Council. She has also received the Joel A. Toubin Award from the San Antonio Jewish Federation. Throughout her life, Scharf-Zeldes has demonstrated how to Make A Difference through her love for Israel, as well as for the Jewish people, education of younger generations and freehearted spirit through community service.

To purchase tickets or make a tribute donation, visit http://www.hadassah.org/events/2016sahdifference, or contact Roberta Abelman at 210-394-7405 or rabelman@satx.rr.com.

Donations to Hadassah in honor of Scharf-Zeldes may be made online through October.
San Antonio chapter hosts Regional Hadassah conference

The San Antonio Chapter of Hadassah welcomed 70 members from 3 states during a three-day conference for the Greater Southwest Region in June. Speakers for the SPUR the Power Within themed conference included four San Antonio-based speakers along with several national speakers who spoke on topics ranging from advocacy, to Zionism and the Domestic Agenda.

Speakers included Sarri Singer, founder of non-profit Strength to Strength, who discussed how she turned her personal story of surviving a terror attack with the help of Hadassah Hospital, into helping other terror victims; Jacob Kamaras, managing director and editor-in-chief of the Jewish News Service; and Jonathan Gurwitz, San Antonio political expert and activist, and a former op-ed columnist with the San Antonio Express-News, who presented the effect of the 2016 election on the American Jewish community and Israel.

San Antonio Rabbi David Komerofsky, Minneapolis Police Department Sergeant Grant Snyder, Jewish Federation’s Lauren Abraham also spoke on a variety of topics important to Hadassah’s mission.

Texas Hillel:
INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF JEWISH LEADERS

Join Us for an Open House!
Come and meet the staff and current students to hear about Texas Hillel, how to get involved and all that it offers for Jewish life on campus today!

Thursday, August 11th at 7:30 p.m.
at the home of Susan and Allen Noorily

For event details and to RSVP, please email RSVP@texashillel.org

Texas Hillel creates opportunities for all Jewish students at The University of Texas at Austin to develop their own Jewish interests and participate in a welcoming campus-based community that respects the value of pluralism and promotes ongoing involvement in Jewish life.


For more information, call 512-476-0125 or email info@texashillel.org

Coming in September:
High Holiday issue of the Jewish Journal

*Schedule of High Holiday services
*High Holiday Recipes
*The Rabbis’ Voices
Agudas Achim hosts social clubs for community

Everyone is welcome to join Agudas Achim at their monthly social “Clubs” designed to make new friends and get-together with old friends.

**August Clubs are:**
- Brew & Schmooze at Big’z 1604 – Family and friends of all ages are invited to drop in to this no-host get together on the patio and in the party barn. (No RSVP necessary). Thursday, Aug. 4 from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Young Couples Club of Agudas – A fun pool party at the home of one of the couples with dinner and drinks. Location provided with RSVP. Thursday, Aug. 11 at 7 p.m.
- Simcha Social Club at Agudas Achim – This monthly senior luncheon and program is co-sponsored by Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services. This month, The San Antonio Police Department is presenting a round-table discussion. Thursday, Aug. 11 at 11:30 a.m.
- Moonlight Supper Club at Scuzzi’s Italian Restaurant on 1604 – 60+ no-host dinner club. Thursday, Aug. 18 at 7 p.m.
- Club Agudas Achim - This 40’s/50’s club will get together for a fun night of drinks and dinner on Thursday, Aug. 25 at 7 p.m. at the Well dance hall.

Please call the synagogue for more information and to RSVP at (210) 479-0307.

Lessons in character learned through our prophets

*Strength & Struggle*, a new 6-session course presented by the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning, launched at two San Antonio locations.

The course unlocked the secrets of great character by exploring some of the most dramatic narratives and inspiring personalities in the challenging and enigmatic stories of the Bible.

Learn more at [www.myJLI.com](http://www.myJLI.com).

**JOYCE KLEIN sells the city.**

**Bold statement, but very true. When you are looking for a house to call home, call Joyce Klein Realtors. We don’t just know the city — we also know the prime residential areas and with over 47 years of experience, we are very dedicated and determined people and will help in every way from the first hello to final closing.**

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**IN THE COMMUNITY**
CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS
Senator Jose Menendez and Councilman Ron Nirenberg convened Cultural Conversations at the San Antonio Zoo as a follow up to the anti-Semitic incidents of a year ago. Pictured left to right are Sen. Menendez, Wini Barnum Newman and Bill Long.

SPLISH SPLASH WITH CAMP RODFEI
Camp Rodfei campers beat the heat this summer with swim fun along with their SEED counselors. The theme for this year’s summer fun: It’s a Job Well Done.

YAD GATHERS FOR MONTHLY L’CHAYIM
Young Adult Division’s Monthly L’Chayim took place at Little Woodrows on Thursday, June 16. Every month the Young Adult Division (YAD) of Jewish Federation comes together to encourage interaction between young Jewish adults. To stay up to date on the Young Adult Division’s events, visit the facebook page at www.facebook.com/YADSanAntonio or email Samantha Mazuz mazuzss@jfsatx.org.

MOVIN’ ON UP!
On May 24, 12 students graduated from Gan Gani Preschool’s Pericha class. The students received their diplomas and performed many of the Hebrew, English and Spanish songs they learned throughout the year with their teachers Morahs Dalia Rosenberg and Muki Rohbit. For more information about Gan Gani Preschool visit www.GanGani.org.
GREEN GOODNESS
Green Vegetarian returned to the JCC Tuesday, Jun. 28 to lead a cooking demonstration for a Vegan twist on a summer favorite – BBQ. Approximately 60 people were in attendance, including Block & Dreeben School for Young Children teachers Jesse Chadwick and Darlene Potter (pictured). All attendees received recipe cards, as well as a tasty 4-course dinner.

TEMPLE BETH-EL JOINS TURKISH COMMUNITY DURING RAMADAN
Rabbi Mara Nathan and members of Temple Beth-El were hosted by the San Antonio Turkish Community for a shared Ramadan Iftar Dinner at the Raindrop Turkish House.

HEINTZ PRESCHOOL SUMMER LITERACY CAMP WRITES THE BOOK ON FUN
Heintz Preschool Campers enjoyed a summer of learning, playing and integrating Jewish themes around beloved children's books including The Hungry Caterpillar and Chicka Chicka Boom Boom.

JCC CAMP IN FULL SWING
Counselor Anna Micheletti and campers Shayna Nevelow-Moore and Gavin Kane enjoyed a Seuss-inspired summer at J-Camp at the Barshop JCC. J-Camp activities included a week of Maccabiah, which included color games (red, white, and blue), lots of fun, and even snowballs, as seen with campers Melia Abbott, Devan Lauterstein, and Samantha Braaten.

CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL CELEBRATES STUDENTS’ GOOD WORK
Students of Chabad Hebrew School were recognized for their achievements and successful year of learning Parsha, Jewish history, Mitzvot and Jewish values, as well as their advanced Hebrew reading skills.
WHAT’S HAPPENING

RODFEI SHOLOM’S SUNDAY FUNDAY

The Painted Plate was the place to be for Rodfei Sholom’s Sunday Funday on June 5, 2016. Orah Bass along with her daughter Ella and friend Ganessa Kluger (top) made wonderful gifts for Father’s Day. Adam Feld, David Feld, and Jonathan Kluger (above) also joined in on the fun.

SA GIVEBACK SERVES UP HAPPY FATHER’S DAY

A group of SA Giveback volunteers headed by Temple Beth-El Brotherhood prepared and served Father’s Day dinner to wounded soldiers and their families at the Warriors and Family Support Center (WFSC), SAMMC on Sunday, June 19. SA Giveback is a project of the San Antonio Community Relations Council (CRC) of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. To learn more or volunteer for future programs, email ollervideze@jfsatx.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

Soul to Sole

Thursday, September 15, 2016

6 PM- Pre Reception
7 PM- Dessert and Program
Julian Gold- 4109 McCullough Ave.

Join us for an evening of Fashion, Fun and Philanthropy!

Featuring Jane Weitzman, former Executive Vice President of Stuart Weitzman Shoes and Jewish Philanthropist

Event Co-Chairs: Lizette Feld & Patricia Kalmans

Invitations coming soon or contact Julie Schack, Director of Women’s Philanthropy, 210-302-6965 for more details
CAPITOL STEPS TAKES SAN ANTONIO BY STORM

Laughter filled Laurie Auditorium on Sunday, June 26 as The Capitol Steps performed their satire comedy routines. The cast of 5 played Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump, President Obama, Bernie Sanders and more. The ticket sales from this show benefitted Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) and Congregation Agudas Achim. Pulman, Cappuccio, Pullen, Benson & Jones, LLP was a sponsor of the event. GMJSS transported 30+ seniors so that they were able to enjoy the show.

WATERMELON WEDNESDAY CREATES SUMMER FUN

Throughout the summer, Rabbi Jeffrey and Lauren Abraham have entertained area families with Watermelon Wednesday, a fun-filled program including singing, puppet shows, and — but of course — watermelon.

WHO KNEW? MUD DAY!

Children at the JCC Block and Dreeben School for Young Children celebrated International Mud Day on Wednesday, July 29.
WHAT’S HAPPENING

SENIOR MOMENTS DISCUSSION AT RODFEI SHOLOM
Dr. Hal Hoine shared his insights into Senior Moments: Do they mean Anything during Rodfei Sholom’s L’Chayim Club luncheon on Wednesday, June 22.

Raquel & Lenny Holzman with presenter Dr. Hal Hoine

JNET SA
The JNet SA community welcome Rob Solomon, founder and chief strategist at Bulldog Solutions. Rob shared his perspective and lessons learned sparking a fascinating discussion and digital marketing, the fear of failure and change, and how he feels the most important key to success is people; surrounding yourself with those that are smarter then you.

AGUDAS ACHIM SISTERHOOD HOSTS SELF-EMPOWERMENT EVENT
Agudas Achim Sisterhood recently sponsored a young women’s self-empowerment get-together. SAPD officer, Lt. Leslie Levine Carillo, shared her expertise with the group. The group also engaged in sisterhood community building exercises.

DOCENT TRAINING
Would you like to teach about the Holocaust to groups coming to the Museum? If so, consider becoming a docent and continuing the legacy of those that survived and perished in the Holocaust.

Docent Training will begin starting August 25th at 10 am and will consist of two hours of training.

The Museum will host docent training in August; we are looking for volunteers interested in teaching the Holocaust to groups that tour our permanent exhibit. The training will consist of 8 sessions; 5 weeks with the permanent exhibit, 2 weeks of special topics training with our scholar in residence and 1 week working with activity sessions.

Please email education@hmmsa.org for more information
It is a common occurrence. A child comes home from Jewish Summer Camp talking about the songs they sang at Shabbat and the newest Israeli dance and all the friends they made. The feeling of connectivity and inclusion that comes from camp is incredible, but the struggle for both kids and parents is how to continue to foster these feelings throughout the rest of the year. Temple Beth-El recognizes the value that a year-round, age-and grade-based Jewish social group has, not only for the children, but for the entire community.

Temple Beth-El offers four different youth groups to members of the San Antonio Jewish community. Club Rishon is for Kindergarten through 2nd grade students; Chaverim is for 3rd-5th graders; Jr. SAFTY is for 6th and 7th graders; and SAFTY is for 8th-12th grade students. All of these programs provide an excellent opportunity for kids of all ages to connect with their peers in a uniquely Jewish setting that allows them all to see that singing, dancing, and having fun with other Jewish kids does not only have to happen at camp. The active Jewish youth of today will be the active Jewish adults of tomorrow, ensuring a strong community for generations to come.

Enrollment for all youth groups is open now. For more information, visit beth-elsa.org or contact Joel Swedlove at (210) 733-9315 ext. 151 or joel@beth-elsa.org.

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# Generosity

# Compassion

# Responsibility

When you connect with Federation, you put the Jewish values of generosity, compassion and responsibility into action. Whether helping a family through tough times, providing Israel experiences to young adults, putting food on the table of an elderly couple in the Ukraine, providing PJ Library books to over 390 children, or providing camperships and scholarships for Jewish educational experiences... we are here for each other.

Together we work to repair the world and to keep Jewish life strong and thriving.

We are Jewish San Antonio, We are STRONGER TOGETHER.

Jonathan Gurwitz, Chair, Board of Directors ★ Judy Palans, Vice Chair, Development

www.jfstax.org ★ info@jfsatx.org ★ 210-302-6960

JFSATX
A USY year to remember

The USY Chapter (SAUSY) of Congregation Agudas Achim successes for the year were highlighted recently at Regionals. The chapter brought home a number of awards for 2015-16 including: SWUSY President of the Year-Miriam Bernstein (pictured right), Most Improved Chapter, Greatest Membership Increase and Best Overnight Program for a joint effort overnight program with Agudas Achim in Austin. SAUSY’s end-of-the-year membership finished with 17 members—the highest total since 2006-07.

Miriam Bernstein was also elected to the Regional Executive Board as the Religion, education and culture VP—SAUSY’s first Regional Board member since Jonathan Lipton in 2009. Congratulations to Eric Steitz and Shayna Rosenthal for your leadership and direction of SAUSY.

Education open house at Congregation Agudas Achim

Heintz Preschool (18 months-PreK) and the Inda Posner Religious School (Kinder – post Confirmation) of Congregation Agudas Achim will host an open house on Sunday, Aug. 21, 2016 at 10 a.m. The open house is for families with already registered children, and those not yet registered but interested in learning more about the programs. Guests will have the valuable opportunity to tour both schools, meet the clergy, directors and educators. Come and learn about the schools’ curricula and unique programs, and meet families already enrolled in the schools.

For more information on the open house and Heintz Preschool and Inda Posner Religious School, call (210) 479-0307.

Heintz Preschool prepares for new year with new programs

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim is currently enrolling for the fall of 2016. Classes for the new school year will begin Monday, Aug 22.

The school will feature new in-school and afterschool programs including computers, soccer shots, Tumblebus, music, art, yoga, and more! “We are eager to begin the school year with all of the excitement surrounding the school and our new additions as well,” Heintz Preschool Interim Director Taryn Bretado said.

The fully-licensed Early Childhood program is designed for children ages 18 months through Pre-K. The core hours of the school are 9 AM to 3 PM with extended hours and options available from 7:30 AM to 6 PM. Three- and five-day a week options are available as well.

Heintz Preschool educators offer a nurturing Jewish environment with small classes, school-wide celebrations, and meaningful child-centered curricula. The school’s teaching strategies are designed to engage children as they gain confidence while developing their learning skills. A typical day at Heintz Preschool includes opportunities for young children to explore their Judaism, literacy, numeracy, social skills, music and several enrichment classes.

The school’s Yad B’Yad program, in partnership with Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services, fosters intergenerational relationships between Heintz Preschoolers and local Jewish seniors through specially-themed monthly programming.

For more information about Heintz Preschool, please contact Interim Preschool Director Taryn Bretado for information or a tour of Heintz Preschool, (210) 479-0429, t.bretado@agudas-achim.org, or visit our website at www.agudas-achim.org and click on the education tab.

Mazel Tov to my grandson, Ilan Yakin, on his Bar Mitzvah in Jerusalem.

- Sandy Leigh
IN THE COMMUNITY: YOUTH & COLLEGE

Temple Beth-El celebrated the confirmation of its 10th grade class on June 11. Confirmands included (Front Row, Left to Right) Ethan Gurwitz, Brittany Schur, Hannah Eichelbaum, Zoe Perloff, Noble Cohen; (Back Row, Left to Right) Rabbi Mara S. Nathan, Benjamin Wulfe, Gabriel Epstein, Ethan Kabbe, Mason Hockersmith, Rabbi Marina Yergin, Cantor Julie Berlin (Not Pictured: Isaac Goldstone, Samuel Metersky).

Chabad on Campus honored by UTSA

The University of Texas at San Antonio has recognized Chabad on Campus- San Antonio as The Most Outstanding Religious Awareness Program on campus. Among the organization’s highlights were the Sukkah on Campus, Menorah on Campus and Challah for Hunger Program. Student Leaders were presented the University Life Awards at the UTSA Awards Ceremony.

Chabad on Campus sends students to Israel

Chabad on Campus has partnered with IsraelLinks to offer trips to Israel for San Antonio-area students. IsraelLinks is a Chabad On Campus in-depth Israel educational experience. The unique program offers daily morning lectures and discussions with academic and rabbinic experts and afternoons of exploration and touring. With a first rate tour of Israel, comfortable lodging, daily meals, experienced English-speaking tour guides, fully paid entrance fees and many extras, IsraelLinks promises to be a cherished and memorable trip to Israel.

IsraelLinks accepts students who have gone on Birthright or who have been to Israel previously. Student members of the Sinai Scholars course may travel for free.

Chabad on Campus continues to partner with Taglit-Birthright in sending students for a once-in-a lifetime free trip to Israel. For more information regarding Taglit-Birthright or IsraelLinks contact Rabbi Ari Weingarten at (210) 391-3621 or email ariweingarten@gmail.com.

IN THE KITCHEN WITH CTEENS

The San Antonio chapter of CTeens baked challah and desserts for its End-of-Year Shabbat dinner and Shabbaton at the home of Rabbi Yossi & Malkie Marrus. For more information on the upcoming year of CTeens programming contact rabbimarrus@ChabadSA.com.

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At Issue: The saddest day in the Hebrew calendar

If a schlimazel is a magnet for misfortunes, what do we call a calendar date that collects catastrophes? Answer: Tisha B'Av, the ninth day in the Hebrew month of Av.

The worst terrorist attack in U.S. history occurred on September 11, 2001 - 28 years after September 11, 1973, when a violent coup d'état overthrew Salvador Allende, the elected president of Chile, and installed the brutal dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. Exactly 432 years before that, on September 11, 1541, indigenous forces led by Michimalonco destroyed Santiago, the Spanish settlement that, rebuilt, became the capital of Chile.

Nevertheless, as a date that, like December 7, will live in infamy, September 11 cannot hold a Yizkor candle to the 9th of Av. Tisha B'Av was, according to Numbers 13, originally marked for woe when spies Moses sent to scout out Canaan returned on that date with discouraging words. The Israelites nevertheless made their way into the Promised Land, where they would eventually build their Holy Temple in Jerusalem. However, in 586 B.C.E., the Babylonians destroyed the Temple and exiled its people – on the 9th day of Av. The Temple was rebuilt, but it was again destroyed, this time by the Romans, in 70 C.E. Yes, the date was Tisha B'Av.

If that were all the tsuris for the day, it would have been enough. Dayenu. But, no, on Tisha B'Av in 135 C.E., the Romans crushed the Bar Kokhba rebellion. On Tisha B'Av, 1290, England expelled its Jews. In 1306, Jews were expelled from France, in 1492, from Spain – again on Tisha B'Av, (the French expulsion actually occurred on the 10th of Av, the Spanish on 7th, but to read the calendar as a cosmic code, that is close enough). And what to make of the fact that the Warsaw Ghetto was liquidated on Tisha B'Av, 1942? That the AMIA bombing, the terrorist attack on the Jewish center in Buenos Aires that killed 85 and injured 300, occurred on the ninth (actually, the 10th) day of Av, 1994?

What can we make of this coincidence of catastrophes? Do anti-Semites plan their malefactions for the saddest Jewish day? Since history is a cavalcade of adversity, it is probable that multiple miseries will pile up on particular dates. But Tisha B'Av seems hyperbolic, as if a malevolent dealer had stacked the deck with broken hearts. There are other doleful days in the Jewish year – the 17th of Tammuz, when Moses smashed the first tablets; Yom HaZikaron, when Israel honors its war dead; Yom HaShoah, when the Holocaust is mourned. But none bears the same weight of centuries of Jewish suffering as Tisha B'Av, a solemn day of fasting.

Packing so much sorrow into a single day teaches us to savor the rest of the year. In 2016, Tisha B'Av falls on August 14 in the Gregorian calendar. On August 14, 1907, HaTikvah was adopted as the Zionist anthem. HaTikvah means the hope.

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

JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

While many organizations slow down during the summer months, JWV Post 7583 has been very active:

On Memorial Day, post members placed American flags on grave sites of Jewish Veterans buried in the various Jewish cemeteries in the San Antonio area, members attended the VAVS quarterly meeting at Audie Murphy VA Hospital in June, on July 4, post members spent 3 hours walking the wards of Audie Murphy VA hospital distributing ice cream and cookies to the patients and staff on duty. From June 22 to 24, post officers attended the Department of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma conclave in Dallas, Texas.

The Post also held monthly meetings in June and July, and the beat goes on as post members will meet on Sunday August 28, at 9:30 am at the JCC (Room 277); light breakfast to be served. August 29, post will conduct Bingo/Social from 7 to 8 pm.

Save the Date:
The next post meeting will be held on September 25. The event will begin at 9 a.m. with a light breakfast.

All veterans (discharged and active duty) are invited to join the post. One does not have to have served during war time. Active duty personnel have a free membership in JWV.

Remembering deceased San Antonio Jewish military veterans

Jewish War Veterans of America San Antonio Post #753 asks you to remember these Jewish military veterans whose Yahrzeit (anniversary of the individual’s death) occurs in the month of AUGUST and who are buried in a local cemetery other than Ft. Sam Houston.

If you know of a name that is missing contact Herschel at (210) 468-5598 or (210) 552-4491.

Aaron, Bernard
Alvarez, Rudy
Appelstein, David
Arbetter, Louis
Barnett, Ruben
Barnholz, Gerald
Blaufarb, Peter
Block, Norman
Bloom, Wallace
Blum, Gilbert
Burke, Nat
Cohen, Isaac
Cohen, Melvin
Durkin, William
Eastman, Ronald
Gold, David
Goldvendler, Eugene
Gonzales, Yosef
Gray, Arthur
Grow, Mitchell
Hermelin, Joseph
Holland, Alfred
Honigblum, Howard
Hyman, Steven
Jones, Jack
Kallison, James
Kallison, Perry
Kanter, Harry
Kanter, Israel
Kaplan, William
Karpf, Jesse
Kaska, Maurice
Kweller, Alex
Levy, Ernest
Lewin, Leroy
Lifshutz, Aaron
Nathanson, Philip
Mazer, Robert
Meyer, Carrol
Miller, Melvin
Oxman, Steven
Pasquon, Marcelino
Pearl, Bernard
Pollock, Jack
Pomerantz, Melvin
Pullen, Joel H
Rosenbach, Sidney
Rubinstein, Douglas
Rubi, Jesse
Rutz, Ruben
Sablow, Morris
Sandler, Donald
Schnitzer, Solomon
Shapiro, Allen
Shetts, Morton
Sherman, David
Shoss, Morris
Shulman, Richard
Singer, David
Singer, Frederick
Sokol, Irving
Sternhike, Guenther
Weiner, Harry
Weiner, Sanford
Weiss, Stanley

AUGUST 2016 THE JEWISH JOURNAL

A publication of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio
What’s your story? Free writing class for seniors

Have you always wanted to write but didn’t know how to start? Starting Monday, Aug. 1, Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services will be offering a 5 session writing class for seniors. The class will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. every other Monday through September 26, and is open to experienced or novice writers. Both fiction and non-fiction genres will be explored — actual genres will be student determined.

After the first session, participants will be asked to bring a piece to each class to be shared with the group. If you already have a written piece (up to 800 words) for the first session please bring it. If you have a laptop or tablet that you’d like to bring in, please do so. Notebooks, dictionaries, thesauruses and pens will be provided. Attend all sessions and receive a certificate and special gift.

This class is restricted to a maximum of 10 participants and registration is required. To register, please contact Christina Weinfeld, GMJSS Program Director at (210) 616-4811 or cweinfeld@goldenmanor.net.

Rodfei Sholom’s L’Chayim Club talks about death and beyond

The L’Chayim Club will hold its monthly get-together on Wednesday, Aug. 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The topic this month will be Bridge to Eternity: The Traditional View of Death & Beyond presented by Rabbi Elchonon Zohn. Rabbi Zohn is recognized internationally as one of the foremost experts on issues pertaining to Chevra Kadisha (Burial Society). He has lectured throughout the country to a wide audience ranging from Jewish leaders and health care and hospital personnel.

Rabbi Zohn is the founder of the Chevra Kadisha of the Vaad Yarabonim of Queens, New York and the founder and coordinator of the Association of Chevra Kadisha, a national network devoted to the exchanging of information and the providing of technical assistance. This is an opportunity for everyone in the community to become better informed on this important topic that touches us all.

A relevant D’var Torah will be given by Rabbi Scheinberg. Guests will be served a home-cooked meal and will have an opportunity to visit with friends, old and new. Seniors are invited to attend at no charge, thanks to a generous grant from Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services and co-sponsorship of Rodfei Sholom. Non-seniors are welcome to participate at $5 per person. Transportation is available at no cost by calling Lety Vargas at (210) 616-4811.

For more information and to RSVP, contact the synagogue office at (210) 493-3557 or rodfeisa@gmail.com.

Temple Beth-El launches 60+ Jewish singles group

There’s a new Jewish singles’ group in town specifically for singles 60 and older. TB60s+ Singles, hosted by Temple Beth-El and supported in part by Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services, is open to anyone in the San Antonio Jewish community who would like to take part.

The group’s mission is “to renew old friendships, make new friends, and enrich our synagogue life, while adhering to the ‘3 Es’ of Entertainment, Education, and Eating.”

So far, the group has enjoyed a dinner and theater night at the Playhouse, lunch at Moshe’s and a concert, and a Spanish cooking class (pictured) with Flamenco Dancers afterwards. Upcoming events include:

• Sunday, August 7, 2:30 p.m. – Enjoy the original play, Senior Moments at the JCC for a discounted ticket price of $15, then a no-host dinner at China Inn afterwards.
• Saturday, August 20, 6:30 p.m. – Sway to the sounds of Hawaiian music at a Luau and Pool Party at the home of Mel Cohen. $20 per person.

To RSVP and/or ask to be added to the mailing list, contact Geri Gregory at (210) 733-9135, ext. 120, or geri@beth-elsa.org.

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ARTS & CULTURE

Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project

The Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio will host the play Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project on November 12 at 7:30 p.m. and on November 13 at 2 p.m. in the Holzman Auditorium on the Jewish Campus.

Life in a Jar: The Sendler Project is an inspirational story of one woman’s journey to save 2,500 Jewish children from certain death in the Warsaw ghetto. Her heroism during World War II, like those of many other rescuers, went unnoticed, until 1999 when three high school girls from East Kansas stumbled upon a reference to Sendler’s rescues. After countless hours of research, the three students turned their history project into a play called Life in a Jar.

Seating is limited. For reservations, contact Matthew Faulkner at (210) 302-6807 or faulknerm@jfsatx.org. Sponsorships are needed to cover the costs of travel for the cast. To become a Sendler Angel or Sendler Star, contact Matthew as well. All sponsors are guaranteed a ticket to the show.

Donations will be collected at the door and 100% of the contributions collected will benefit the Children of the Holocaust Memorial Fund in Warsaw, Poland. Donations are tax deductible.

Vex opens 18th season with The Foreigner

The Sheldon Vexler Theatre will open its 18th season this month with Larry Shue’s comedy, The Foreigner. A fishing lodge in rural Georgia provides the setting for a needed holiday for Charlie, a weary British gentleman. The plan for solitude turns simply hilarious when his friend introduces him as an exotic foreigner. Soon, Charlie is in over his head when Southern locals dish up mysterious schemes with hysterical and unexpected results.

The Foreigner runs August 18 through September 11, with performances on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Tickets range in price from $22-16 depending on type, may be purchased by calling The Vex Box Office at (210) 302-6835.

Season passes for The Vex’s 2016-17 season are available for purchase now through Sunday, Sept. 11. Each pass includes one admission to each of the four productions at a discounted rate from general admission tickets, as well as Early Option Reservations – patrons may reserve their seats for each show before tickets go on sale to the general public.

Rodfei Movie Series

The Rodfei movie series takes place on Sunday, Aug. 21, at 7 p.m. featuring the film Run Boy Run. The movie, based on a true story, tells about a boy who escapes the Warsaw ghetto at the behest of his father. Nine-year old Srulik (movingly portrayed by twin child actors Andrzej and Kamil Tkacz) flees to the woods. There, he learns to hide from SS patrols and scour for food, until loneliness and the harsh onset of winter drive him back to civilization. Taken in by a kindhearted farmer’s wife (Elisabeth Duda), he is given shelter and a new identity. Passing himself off as Jurek, a Christian war orphan, the intrepid boy traverses the countryside from village to village, working as a farmhand under an ever-present threat of persecution. Some will help him survive and others will betray him. Just when it seems his childhood memories and identity could be lost forever, Jurek’s harrowing journey culminates in a powerhouse conclusion and postscript.

The event is open to the community. RSVPs are requested by Thursday, Aug. 18 by contacting the congregation office at (210) 302-6835.
JCC fall programs begin late August

The Barshop JCC Fall Program Guide, containing a variety of recreational, educational, and enrichment programs and services offered at the JCC, was mailed to households at the end of July, and is available at the JCC or online at www.jccsanantonio.org/publications.

The guide is intended to complement the JCC’s monthly Center Peace publication by providing JCC members and the community with a snapshot of the programs and services offered at the JCC from August through December.

While continuing to offer community favorites, such as Soccer and Dance Academies, tennis, theatre, senior lunches, and more, the JCC will also offer a handful of new classes. Most programs are available to the community with JCC members receiving a reduced rate.

New this fall, there will be a Wellness Series for senior adults, which will include programs with the Alzheimer’s Association and the Diabetes Foundation. There are also new Arts and Craft programs for early childhood and youth-aged children, as well as a new book club for kids in grades 3 through 5.

Visit www.jccsanantonio.org/register to register online or download a registration form. Registration forms may be turned in at the JCC or faxed to (210) 408-2341. For more information, call (210) 302-6820.

Jewish rock star Rick Recht to be in SA

Need a little energizer to get the kids geared back up for school? Join PJ Library for a free end to summer concert featuring Jewish rock star and voice of PJ Library Rick Recht. The concert will be held on August 28 from 3-4:30 p.m. at the Empire Theatre. Recht is one of the most celebrated Jewish artists of our time playing family concerts, Shabbat Alive! services, religious school concerts, teen concerts, camp concerts, and the voice of PJ Library throughout the United States and abroad. Recht is widely recognized as a pioneer of the Jewish rock music genre, elevating the medium of Jewish music as a powerful and effective tool for developing Jewish pride and identity among the masses. In addition to his role as an artist, Recht is regarded as a top Jewish educator and leader.

For more information, visit the PJ Library San Antonio Facebook page or call Federation at (210) 408-2341.

PJ Library San Antonio is a program of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

Local playwright/composer Linda Kaufman has created a musical, Senior Moments, that is sure to resonate with just about everyone. “I can’t tell you how many of the lines in this show are things I have said or heard from people I know,” said the show’s director, Mark A. Lit. Lit, who previously served as CEO of the Jewish Community Center when it was located on Rampart, directed a number of ATAC Globe Award-winning shows while in San Antonio, including Jacques Brel, Cabaret, and Rags.

Senior Moments is a series of musical vignettes that deal with growing older, as well as having aging parents.

“I believe everyone who sees this show will be able to do a better job at one of life’s biggest challenges. That is why I wanted to direct this show,” he adds.

“Linda writes some of the most beautiful music, and in a show about aging, it creates magnificent theater.” The show boasts some of San Antonio’s finest singers, resulting in what Lit describes as a “wonderful, fun, and touching presentation”.

Performances for Senior Moments will be Saturday, Aug. 6 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 7 at 3 p.m. in the Holzman Auditorium on the Campus. Tickets may be purchased online or by calling (210) 302-6820. Visit www.jccsanantonio.org/seniormoments for more information.

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Beldon Library News

Used Book Sale
The Beldon Library Used Book Sale will take place on Sunday, August 21 and Monday, August 22. It will be held in the Beldon Library instead of the Holzman Auditorium. Times for the sale are as follows: Sunday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Monday, 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. There is still time to donate gently used books for adults and children, hardbound as well as paperback, CDs, DVDs, and vinyl.

Vilnius/Vilna Library Connection at AJL
Librarian, Lynn Waghalter, attended the 51st Annual AJL (Association of Jewish Libraries) Conference on June 19, 2016 – June 22, 2016 in Charleston, S.C. Lynn stated, “There were so many interesting and informative sessions to attend! These sessions covered varied subjects such as The Wonderful World of International Children’s Books; The Latest and Greatest in Jewish Fiction for Adults; Crossing Borders: The Nunes Carvalhos, a Trans-Atlantic Family; and Vilnius Jewish Public Library: History, Activities, Objectives and Challenges. There were many opportunities to network with fellow librarians.

The highlight of the Conference was meeting Zilvinas Beliauskas, head Librarian of the Vilnius/Vilna Jewish Public Library. He is very appreciative of all the books we have sent to Lithuania.” The Beldon Library has been helping the Vilnius/Vilna Jewish Public Library rebuild their collection of Jewish books. Lynn added, “This will be an on-going Mitzvah project for us!” For more information on the Vilna/Vilnius Jewish Public Library, go to the Vilnius Jewish Library Facebook account link: https://www.facebook.com/VilniusJewishLibrary.

Library Hours
Mondays, 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Wednesdays, 2:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Former Israeli Defense Minister
Moshe Yaalon joins U.S. think tank

(JTA) — Former Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon has found a new job at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy as its Rosenblatt Distinguished Visiting Fellow.

The Washington Institute, an independent and nonpartisan organization that provides research and recommendations for U.S. Middle East policy, will tap into Yaalon’s 37-year career in the Israel Defense Forces and his policy expertise from his seven years in the Knesset.

Yaalon, who had previously held a post-military fellowship at the institute, will return to Washington, D.C., in August to focus on his writing and speaking on foreign policy and the strategic U.S.-Israel relationship.

Yaalon stepped down on May 20 when it came to light that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was in negotiations with Avigdor Liberman to bring his nationalist Yisrael Beiteinu party into the ruling coalition, giving Netanyahu a more stable majority. Liberman was named defense minister.

Last month Yaalon announced that he plans to challenge Netanyahu in the next elections.
Google removes anti-Semitic app used to target Jews online

(JTA) — Google has removed an app that allowed users to surreptitiously identify Jews online after a tech website brought the tool to widespread media attention and spurred a backlash.

Coincidence Detector, the innocuous name of the Google Chrome internet browser extension created by a user identified as “altrightmedia,” enclosed names that its algorithm deemed Jewish in triple parentheses. The symbol — called an “(((echo)))” — allows white nationalists and neo-Nazis to more easily aim their anti-Semitic vitriol.

The extension was exposed in June in an article on the tech website Mic by two reporters who had been targets of anti-Semitic harassment online. Google confirmed that evening that it had removed the extension from the Chrome Web Store, citing violation of its hate speech policy, which forbids “promotions of hate or incitement of violence.”

The Mic reporters traced the triple-parentheses symbol to a right-wing blog called The Right Stuff and its affiliated podcast, The Daily Shoah, starting in 2014. The parentheses are a visual depiction of the echo sound effect the podcast hosts used to announce Jewish names.

The echo has now emerged as a weapon in the arsenal of the so-called “alt-right,” an amorphous, primarily online conservative movement that has become more visible and vocal in the midst of Donald Trump’s presidential campaign.

“Some use the symbol to mock Jews,” the Mic article explains of the echo. “Others seek to expose supposed Jewish collusion in controlling media or politics. All use it to put a target on their heads.”

One neo-Nazi Twitter user provided a succinct explanation to The Atlantic magazine national correspondent Jeffrey Goldberg, who added the parentheses to his Twitter handle to mock the trend.

The product description of the now-disappeared Google extension said it would help users identify “who has been involved in certain political movements and media empires.” The use of the term “coincidence” was meant to be ironic.

The Coincidence Detector had nearly 2,500 users and a five out of five stars rating. There was a suggestions tab to submit Jewish names to be added to the algorithm.

While Coincidence Detector was mostly focused on names, with terms like “Jews,” “Jewish” and “Holocaust” unaffected, a notable exception was “Israel,” which Coincidence Detector changed to “(((Our Greatest Ally))).”

The extension could be set at various levels of intensity, from 0-100 sets of parentheses.

Jewish artifacts in glass decanter found in Polish town

WARSAW, Poland (JTA) — A backhoe operator working on a construction site in Poland dug up a glass decanter filled with valuables, including Jewish artifacts.

Among the objects discovered inside the decanter found June 15 in Minsk Mazowiecki were kiddush cups, silver cutlery, a gold pocket watch and gold coins. The owner of the objects, whose material value was estimated to be about $10,000, was not identified.

The discovery was reported in July on the website of the city, which is located about 25 miles east of Warsaw. Minsk Mazowiecki, in central Poland, was the site of a Jewish ghetto that was liquidated in July 1942.

Officials at the Museum of Minsk Mazowiecki said the arrangement of the objects shows that they were buried in a hurry and the owner intended to return for them.

The Provincial Conservator Office will decide where the items will go. The local museum would like to keep them in the town.
Go to the link below to view the full itinerary.

Mission Chairs: Pat Kalmans and Dr. Michael Ozer
Drs. Susan and Allen Noorily
Bar Mitzvah: Moritz Kempler
Moritz Kempler, son of Ben and Claudia Kempler of Berlin, Germany, was called to the Torah on June 4, 2016. His Bar Mitzvah was at the historic Oranienburger Strasse Synagogue where his great-grandfather, Sidney Kempler, z’l, had his Bar Mitzvah in 1924. In addition, Sidney and Margo Kempler, also of blessed memory, were married at this same synagogue in 1938.
Moritz is the grandson of Les and Debbie Kempler of San Antonio, and the great-grandson of Ivy Brook and Bob Brook, z’l.

Pomerantz – LeRibeus engagement
Jan Pomerantz and Howard LeRibeus announce their engagement.
The bride to be is the daughter of Ann Pomerantz and the late Mel Pomerantz. Howard is the son of Willene LeRibeus and Jim LeRibeus. The couple plans to make their home in the Houston area.

Daily Jewish news, just a click away!
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www.jfsatx.org
Bar Mitzvah: James Sayre Goldblatt

James Sayre Goldblatt was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, June 4 (27 Iyar 5776) at Temple Beth-El. He is the son of Jeff and Lori Goldblatt and the brother of Styra, Sylvie and Jarett. James shared his Simcha with grandparents Kenny and Cherry Goldblatt of West Palm Beach, Florida and Glenn and Jo Seiden of Highland Park, Illinois.

James is member of the National Junior Honor Society entering the 8th grade at Hector Garcia Middle School. He plays lacrosse for Boerne Champion and participated in the Robotics Club at his school. James enjoys riding his bike and reads avidly in his spare time.

Friends and family traveled to San Antonio from across the country to watch James read Torah. His D’var Torah focused on his Mitzvah Project, in which he created “Happiness Cards” for clients of Jewish Family Service and then distributed his cards at Passover along with food baskets he helped assemble. James made a donation to Jewish Family Service in recognition of his milestone of becoming a Jewish man.

Bat Mitzvah: Abigail Rose Diamond

Abigail Rose Diamond will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on June 25. She is the daughter of Robin and Jared Diamond, and the sister of Carly and Cameron. Abby is the granddaughter of Barbara and Robert Berger of St. Louis, Missouri and the late Grace Diamond and the late Paul Diamond, both of blessed memory.

Abby is a 7th grade honors student at Eisenhower Middle School. During her free time, she is involved in sports and dance. She enjoys hanging out with her friends and loves volunteering at Heinz Preschool’s Summer camp. Abby plans on donating supplies for the camp from a portion of her Bat Mitzvah money as her Bat Mitzvah project.

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For questions or more information, contact Lauren Abraham at Abrahaml@jfsatx.org