While I have traveled to Israel many times, this trip was unique. The Jewish Federation of San Antonio was proud to partner with the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in hosting a trade mission to Israel in October 2017, led by Mayor Ron Nirenberg and Councilman Roberto Trevino. Our delegation of nearly twenty individuals, included professionals in the fields of cybersecurity, academia, economic development, urban planning, healthcare, biosciences, entrepreneurship, startups and civic engagement.

Our journey began in the metropolitan city of Tel Aviv, the first Hebrew speaking city in the country, and an official “friendship city” of the city of San Antonio. Our delegation was graciously hosted by Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai. Mayor Huldai, who has been in office for nineteen years, shared some common woes of maintaining a large city with Mayor Nirenberg. Tel Aviv has challenges with public transportation, increasing cost of real estate and a growing economic divide between the “haves” and “have nots.” Huldai maintains an economic vision for the city of Tel Aviv and the country.

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio’s Women’s Division will host the 3rd annual Shower the Community with Love, where women will gather to enjoy desserts, wine, shopping and fun, at the Campus of the Jewish Community on Monday, December 11th from 7-9 p.m. The event chairs, Margaret Gofman Klein and Elisa Reinsmith, will host this community-wide event for women to benefit local Jewish families in need.

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CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday, Dec. 1
Light Candles at: 5:16 p.m.
Shabbat, Dec. 2
Shabbat Ends: 6:13 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 8
Light Candles at: 5:17 p.m.
Shabbat, Dec. 9
Shabbat Ends: 6:14 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 15
Light Shabbat Candles at 5:13 p.m.
Shabbat, Dec. 16
Shabbat Ends: 6:16 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 22
Light Candles at: 5:22 p.m.
Shabbat, Dec. 23
Shabbat Ends: 6:19 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 29
Light Candles at: 5:26 p.m.
Shabbat, Dec. 30
Shabbat Ends: 6:24 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 5
Light Shabbat Candles at 5:31 p.m.
Shabbat, Jan. 6
Shabbat Ends: 6:29 p.m.

The Jewish Journal is also available online!
You can get the latest journal on the Jewish Federation of San Antonio website: www.jfsatx.org

MISSION LETTER

Aviv-Yafai as a global center of innovation and creativity. Our delegation learned a great deal about the innovation ecosystem in Tel Aviv during meetings with Quedma Innovation, The Platform, Team8, Boeing Israel, JANVEST Capital Partners, Tel Aviv University and the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce. Our time in Tel Aviv also allowed us to experience the rich culture of the city, from its exquisite culinary offerings in the Sarona Market to the vibrancy of a stroll on Rothschild Boulevard.

The delegation was not ready to part with Tel Aviv; although we had a full agenda ahead in the city of Jerusalem. Our time in Jerusalem appropriately began with a visit to the Old City, with the intention of appreciating the deep religious significance of this city and also its designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We took a brief detour from Jerusalem to spend an afternoon in the desert city of Beir Sheva to visit Ben Gurion University (BGU). BGU’s president, Professor Rivka Carmi (Israel’s first and only female university president), shared the history of the university and its prominent standing as one of only two comprehensive universities in the State of Israel. BGU has and continues to fulfill the vision of the late Prime Minister Ben Gurion to “make the desert bloom.” We visited the National Institute for Biotechnology on the Negev and Gan Yav, a new high tech park adjacent to the university that is attracting global companies.

The trip continued in Jerusalem with many more visits, both business-oriented and cultural. We were energized after our meeting with Made in ELM, a non-profit organization that seeks to make Jerusalem the capital of the Startup Nation. We also learned from Ido Jerusalem and the Yissum Research Development Company, a top technology transfer company. We took our energy into our visit at the Knesset, where we met with Roy Folkman, Member of the Knesset from the Kulanu party, who shared the triumphs and challenges of the current administration.

Our cultural highlights included a tasting experience through the Machane Yehuda Market and a visit to Psagot winery, which supplies to HDB here in San Antonio (visit Alon). Of course, one cannot visit Israel without ever being ready to part with Tel Aviv; although we had a full agenda ahead in the city of Jerusalem. Our time in Jerusalem appropriately began with a visit to the Old City, with the intention of appreciating the deep religious significance of this city and also its designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We took a brief detour from Jerusalem to spend an afternoon in the desert city of Beir Sheva to visit Ben Gurion University (BGU). BGU’s president, Professor Rivka Carmi (Israel’s first and only female university president), shared the history of the university and its prominent standing as one of only two comprehensive universities in the State of Israel. BGU has and continues to fulfill the vision of the late Prime Minister Ben Gurion to “make the desert bloom.” We visited the National Institute for Biotechnology on the Negev and Gan Yav, a new high tech park adjacent to the university that is attracting global companies.

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SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 7, 2018

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

The Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio, community sponsors and ArtsPower proudly presents

My Heart in a Suitcase

The Kindertransport was the informal name of a series of rescue efforts which brought thousands of refugee Jewish children to Great Britain from Nazi Germany and the annexed territories. This play tells the story of one Kindertransport survivor, Anne Lehmman Fox, and her family’s decision to part with her.

Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 7pm
Temple Beth-El
211 Belknap Place
$10 per person
For more information, purchase tickets, or to learn about sponsorship opportunities, visit our website, hhmmsa.org.

THE JEWISH JOURNAL

A publication of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio

DECEMBER 2017

A publication of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio

DECEMBER 2017
EIGHT NIGHTS, ENDLESS COMBINATIONS

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

Let Central Market help celebrate the Festival of Lights with a Festival of Delicious.

Area students explore what it means to be Jewish

On Wednesday, Nov. 8, Congregation Agudas Achim and Temple Beth-El partnered their education teams to co-teach their 3-7 grade religious school students prior to a commemorative service marking the 79th anniversary of Kristallnacht. Students were led through activities developed to encourage thought and discussions about their Jewish identity.

Survivor Helen Banks recounted her family’s experience of escaping Belgium as the Nazi’s invaded their country and the struggle to find passage. Holocaust Memorial Museum Director, Ellen Ollervidez asked students to learn their history and to “teach others what it means to be Jewish. Make friends and demonstrate the qualities of Judaism that you have been taught. Be proud.”

On Sunday, October 20th, over 20 PJ Library families experienced fall fun together at the Interfaith Pumpkin Patch at Woodlands Baptist Church on Huebner Road. There were hundreds of pumpkins to choose from of all shapes and sizes. PJ kids picked their own pumpkin to paint and made a pretzel pumpkin snack treat. The Life in Art Photography captured beautiful images of kids and families enjoying the fall weather and PJ activities. PJ families also enjoyed playing on the playground, face painting, and eating snow cones. It was a fun-filled afternoon of community, activity, and pumpkins!

PJ families celebrate fall at new Interfaith Pumpkin Patch

2018 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Featuring the Voice of Broadway

Dudu Fisher

Dudu Fisher is known throughout the world for his stirring performance as Jean Valjean in the hit show Les Miserables, but his career began in his native country Israel many years before.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018
COCKTAIL RECEPTION - 6:00 PM
PROGRAM - 7:15 PM

HONORING
Yadla & Ofira Dotner

To purchase tickets or ads in the tribute book visit us at www.RodfeiSholom.com or rodfeigala2018@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557
The Women’s Philanthropy Division of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio hosted Around the World with Joan Nathan, a program with renowned cookbook author and food historian Joan Nathan, at the Campus on Thursday, Nov. 9.

At the general program, women were invited to gather for desserts, including Nathan’s book, King Solomon’s Table, with Joan Nathan, at the Campus on Thursday, Nov. 9.

Pomegranate co-chair Pat Kalman (left), Joan Nathan, and Pomegranate co-chair Lizette Feld (right).

Beldon Library News

• The Beldon Library will begin a Music Appreciation class with the Charlie Pearl Senior Adults on January 15, 2018.

This class will take place on the third Monday of each month from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

• The Multivac Project

The Beldon Library has with the Vilna/Vilnies Jewish Public Library in Lithuania is ongoing. They are building up their children’s section.

• Donations of new or gently used children’s books with Jewish content are being accepted.

Contact Beldon librarian, Lynn Waghalter, at waghalterljf@jfsatx.org for more information on the humanitarian project.

Discover great books and classes at the Beldon Library.

YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

Super volunteers help out at Super Sweeps Phone-A-Thons

As a follow up to Super Sunday, volunteers have been coming together to continue to reach out to the community on behalf of the 2017 Annual Campaign, in October and November.

“It is heart-warming to see how much our volunteers care about our Jewish community here in San Antonio, in Israel and around the world. Over ninety volunteers came out on Super Sunday to make calls, and various groups have come out several times over the last 6 weeks to continue to make calls and enable community members to participate in the special mitzvah of Tzedakah and Chesed”, said Susan Karis, Chief Development Officer at the Federation.

Volunteers are still needed to call community members as we work to reach our goal of $1.54 Million. To volunteer to make calls, please contact Sherry Womble at the Federation, (210) 302-6967.

Nazi persecution of homosexuals and lessons for today

On October 17, Modern European history professor, Dr. Jason Johnson of Trinity University, discussed the Nazi’s views and persecution of homosexuals.

According to Johnson, “Investigating the story of the Nazi persecution of homosexuals shows gradually escalating policies of discrimination emerging more out of political maneuvering and less out of some coherent policy. Thus, I think, reminds us of the utmost importance of paying close attention to politics, both local and national, and always keeping an eye on what our officials are up to.”
Pray with your feet: Community Unity March on Jan. 15
By Ellen Ollervidez, CRC Director

During the height of the Civil Rights era, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery Alabama. One of the people who marched was Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. When Heschel returned from Selma, he was asked if he had had much time to pray while in Selma. Heschel responded, “I prayed with my feet.”

On Monday, Jan. 15, the Jewish community is encouraged to join others in San Antonio to honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee members Lynn Stahl, Lynn Groover, Marsha Krausner, Susan Ghertner, Barbara Powell and Devin Billstein are collaborating to bring the Jewish Community together to march under a single banner and continue messaging King’s legacy of justice, peace, and equality.

Buses sponsored by Temple Beth El and Temple Chai will be leaving from the Jewish Campus and Temple Beth El at 8:30 am. Free park and ride services are also available from the Freeman Coliseum parking lot.

For more information, call (210) 302-6960, or to reserve your place on the bus, visit jfsatx.org.

Push for Literacy in San Antonio
By Ellen Ollervidez

Did you know there is an undeniable connection between literacy skills and incarceration rates? Did you know San Antonio ranks 73 out of the top 75 cities in the United States in literacy? A Literacy Action Team, formed through the San Antonio Faith-Based Initiative has met to determine the stakeholders, resources, and proven interventions that positively impact literacy in our city. The mission is to improve literacy rates, the goal: all 3rd graders reading at 3rd grade level. Why 3rd grade? Up to grade 3, students are learning to read, after grade 3 students are learning to read.

This team, for which I am a part, is seeking ways to solicit volunteers from the faith-based community to become reading buddies to area elementary school children. We believe that through these efforts, we can supply volunteers, to established programs such as San Antonio Youth Literacy, that can be trained and placed in schools that are already receiving services, but where there is still unmet need.

We also believe that volunteers engaged as reading buddies will become messengers and advocates for literacy initiatives, as they will come face to face with students who are often discounted due to prejudices and perceptions that exist around issues of illiteracy. To learn more about becoming involved in the initiative to address community concerns, such as literacy, I invite you to submit your congregation’s information to the Faith-Based Initiative’s Data Directory. This directory allows the city to coordinate, enhance, share, and maximize the efforts being made in the faith-based community.

6th ANNUAL THE HOLOCAUST LEARN & REMEMBER 2018
ART & THE HOLOCAUST
Learn & Remember will focus on Art and the Holocaust and will feature exhibits, lectures, music, art and film events at San Antonio Public libraries, galleries, and the Holocaust Memorial Museum from January 9th through February 1st. Visit hmmsa.org and mysapl.org for more details on programs and events.

The new Men’s Division of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio came together for an evening of friends and camaraderie. The men met up at the Jewish Campus and took off on a fun Brewery Hop where they enjoyed tours and beer tastings. Their stops included Alamo Beer Company, Freetail Brewery, Southerleigh and Busted Sandal. Greg Davis, who serves as the Federation’s 2017 Annual Campaign Vice Chair, chaired the event. Contact Susan Kariv at (210) 302-6968 to help plan future events or for more information.

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IN THE COMMUNITY

JCC winter programs begin in early January

The Barshop JCC’s Winter/Spring Program Guide, containing a variety of recreational, educational, and enrichment programs and services offered at the JCC during December through May is now available at the JCC or online at www.jccsanantonio.org/publications.

While continuing to offer community favorites, such as Soccers and Dance Academies, tennis, theatre, senior lunches, and more, the JCC will also offer a handful of new classes. Some of the new classes for children include Dino Worms, “a class all about dinosaurs in fun fiction and non-fiction books, for youth ages 3 to pre-kindergarten; or Duct Tape Creations, a class dedicated to the variety of things one can make using duct tape, for youth in second through fifth grade. Adults can attend a variety of author events, the Jewish Film Festival, a play at The Vex, or even tour the Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Most programs are available to the community with JCC members receiving a reduced rate. Visit www.jccsanantonio.org/register or download a registration form. Registration forms may be turned in at the JCC or through the JCC’s registration line at (210) 408-2341. For more information, call (210) 302-6820.

Temple Chai to celebrate B’nai Mitzvah year honoring its founders

Founded in 2003, Temple Chai will celebrate its thirteenth anniversary in 2018 with a brunch to honor founding members, Drs. Elliot Weser, Marcia Goren Weser and Dr. Elliott Weser will be feted at a Founders Breakfast on Sunday, April 29, 2018.

“This is an exciting time for Temple Chai, and coming of age as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah is the perfect time to honor the Tohbuins and Wesers,” said Rabbi David Komerofsky.

Their vision and determination over the years has kept the congregation going. Our membership looks forward to honoring them for their contributions to the community. They dreamed of a vibrant, small Reform synagogue in San Antonio and it’s come true. "They are the majority of events to mark the B’nai Mitzvah Year of Goren Weser and Dr. Elliot Weser will be with a brunch to honor founding members. For more information to register online or download a registration form. Registration forms may be turned in at the JCC or through the JCC’s registration line at (210) 408-2341. For more information, call (210) 302-6820.

IN THE COMMUNITY

NCJW Lunch & Learn focuses on SA300

The San Antonio Section of National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) will hear about plans to celebrate San Antonio’s 300th anniversary at a Lunch & Learn on Thursday, December 7 at noon at Szczuci’s Italian Grill at 4035 North Loop 1604 W (1604 near NW Military Hwy).

Beth Kougu, fundraising consultant to SA300, the Centennial Commission, will discuss the city’s plans to mark its milestone 300th anniversary in 2018. To celebrate and commemorate the city’s 300 years, SA300 has developed a year of educational, artistic, and entertaining events. Key initiatives of the year-long celebration include: History & Education, Arts and Culture, Community Service, and Commemorative Week.

Please RSVP for the luncheon on Minda Silver-Weiss at mswjew@gmail.com or (210) 479-2383.

Monday December 11th
7–9 pm

The Harry & Jeannette Weinberg Campus of the Jewish Community Holzman Auditorium

Award winning portrait artist David Kassan will be discussing his collaborative work on, The Shoah Foundation’s, Edut Project. This project is an initiative that showcases the life journeys of Holocaust survivors and was created to promote, protect and defend human rights today. Kassan believes the painting of these survivors offers viewers a more personal connection to the Holocaust. For more information on the event at the April event, visit www.jccsanantonio.org/register 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.

KESHER CHAI, Temple Chai’s education program for children, has partnered with The Museum Institute to offer Musee for Children: Jewish Values for Everyday Living in its curriculum this year. The innovative program is designed to bring the best of Jewish ethics to children, families, and their communities. Its goal is to strengthen children’s Jewish values and spiritual identity by providing an effective educational program to directly nurture and guide their character development. Lisa Goldstein, RJE, Temple Chai’s education director, says “Musee for Children grows as a framework within which to think deeply about the way we act toward others, and to practice certain character traits in an intentional way. Writing to the weekly Torah portion and the themes of Jewish holidays, as well as hands-on, meaningful activities makes for powerful learning.”

KESHER CHAI is included as a benefit of membership to Temple Chai. Non-members may register for a nominal fee. The program meets Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon. More information is available at www.templechaisa.org/kesherschai.

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 spend December 25th with Congregation Rodfei Sholom

Congregation Rodfei Sholom is holding the 4th Annual December 25th Chinese New Year Dinner. There is no better way to spend an evening than with friends, family and great food.

In addition to dinner, Rodfei Sholom will begin the day with a family trip to the Zoo. The community is invited to meet at the zoo for a day of fun and then join the Rodfei Family in the evening for dinner.

For more information or to make reservations, contact the Rodfei office at (210) 439-3588.
WHAT'S HAPPENING

GOURMET GIVING CLUB FOR GIRLS AT CHABAD
Gourmet Giving Club enjoys an afternoon of fun and camaraderie at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning. The club is for girls ages 10-12 and meets once a month on Mondays for baking and art projects, as well as engaging discussions about living Jewishly. For more information please call Shayna Block at (210) 764-0300.

Nothing says Home like Family
As a mother and daughter team with a combined 80 years of experience, we are dedicated, determined, and understand the importance and impact that purchasing a new home has on a family. We are known for our strong communication and for being there 100% from the beginning to end and beyond.

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call: (210) 422-2250
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

CONCERT SERIES CONTINUES AT TEMPLE BETH-EL
Volunteer musicians from Temple Beth-El joined with Cantor Julie Berlin in November as part of the Temple’s concert series featuring a wide array of musicians. The next concert will take place February 4, 2018 at 4 p.m. Cantor Julie Berlin and Bob Brewer will present a variety of secular and sacred music of different styles.

GIVING THANKS THROUGH THE AGES AT THE BLOCK AND DREEBEN SCHOOL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN
Thursday, Nov. 9, members of the JCC’s Senior Services program enjoyed a Thanksgiving lunch alongside pre-kindergarten students from the Block and Dreeben School for Young Children. Parents volunteered to help serve the kosher feast, which included traditional staples, such as turkey, stuffing, and cornbread.

Vodka & Latkes
Celebrate Hanukkah with a Latke Showdown!
Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017
7:30 pm Jerkan Distillery and Drinks
315 Eighth Street San Antonio, TX 78215
Tickets: $18 for Hadassah Members
$25 for Non-Members
**Tickets per couple are $36 per person if one partner is a Hadassah member
Tickets include latke tasting and one drink.
Jason will be the host for the evening.
Purchase tickets at http://hadassah.org/events/evolveavivasa
For more information contact us at HadassahAvivaSA@gmail.com

Glamorous vendors include: Max and Louie’s New York Diner, Lavish Cuisine, Deliciously Different Catering, and Campus Catering by Irene Ramirez

Heintz Preschoolers all smiles thanks to special visitor
Heintz Preschool recently had a special visit from the tooth fairy. The children learned all about dental hygiene and brushing their teeth.

Heintz Preschoolers all smiles thanks to special visitor
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Presented By:
Aviva
Young Women’s Group of The San Antonio Chapter
Sponsored By:
Your Mitzvah DJ
Because of You and Your Generous Support
Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Antonio
Had a Great Year, Lending a Hand-up Through 0% Loans.

Gala Sponsors

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Sustaining Members and Donors

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Borrowers

There’s a Place for Everyone on the HFLA-SA Circle of Friends - 210.736.4352

WHAT’S HAPPENING

IN THE CLASSROOM: TASA
TASA Fifth and Sixth grade students create 3D models of different types of faults on the earth’s crust as they study plate tectonics in science; and how plate movements have great influence on natural disasters such as tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

CONSECRATION AT TEMPLE BETH-EL
Students at Temple Beth-El celebrated the beginning of their formal Jewish education with a Consecration ritual last month.

Thank You!
YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS...
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

2017 CAMPAIGN GOAL: $1.54 MILLION

RAISED SO FAR $1,092,182

JSFA PROGRAM DOLLARS

ISRAEL AND OVERSEAS
$288,222 (FY17-18, currently)
▲ JFNA unrestricted funds: Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), and Worldwide ORT
▲ Partnership 2Gether - Western Galilee region
▲ Taglit Birthright Israel
▲ Israel Action Network (IAN)

The Jewish Journal $321,828
Holocaust Memorial Museum $197,401
Jewish Family Service $137,018
Jewish Community Center $126,194
Jewish Education & Engagement Programs $98,599
PJ Library $80,649
Community Relations Council $75,594
Shmuel Bass TASA $55,000
Hillel San Antonio $25,000
SAJSS $10,000

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM $197,401
San Antonio (participants in 2016-17)
▲ 12,272 students
▲ 2,795 walk-in visitors
▲ 1,761 attendees at events
▲ Teachers attended seminars
▲ 8 students travelled to eastern Europe on the Holocaust Study Seminar

JEWISH EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS $98,599
▲ One Happy Camper
▲ Young Adult Division
▲ Yom Ha’azmaut annual event
▲ Beldon Library
▲ Partnership 2Gether programs

THE PJ LIBRARY $80,649
▲ 416 subscribers age 6 months to 8 years of age as of November 1
▲ 92 subscribers age 9-11 for PJ Our Way

ONE HAPPY CAMPER $25,000
▲ 25 grants of $1,000 for first time Jewish overnight campers

COMMUNITY MISSION TO ISRAEL

FOUNDDATION FOR JEWISH PHILANTROPIES
▲ $20,150 in grants awarded for high school, college and summer camp financial assistance
▲ $23,500 in program grants awarded to local Jewish agencies ($15,000 of which was for travel programs to Israel)

ADDITIONAL FUNDS

Your Federation gift makes all of this possible. It’s not too late…. Give to the 2017 Annual Campaign. Visit us at JFSATX.ORG or call (210) 302-6960

Jonathan Gurwitz - Chair of JFSA Board of Directors and Lauren Stanley - Chair of 2017 Annual Campaign

CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?
A group of 17 spent time touring, learning and reflecting during Temple Beth-El’s Mission to Israel in October. After arriving in Tel Aviv, they spent nine days traveling to Tel Aviv, the Western Galilee, the Golan Heights, Jerusalem and the Dead Sea. A combination of archeological wonders, outdoor experiences, geo-political conversations and insights into Israeli life facilitated by a Tour Educator from ARZA World and Rabbi Nathan ensured that this was not a tourist trip but a transformational experience. Along the way, participants were continually invited to consider their own Jewish identities and the role that Israel- the land, the state and the people- play within it. Highlights included a visit to the Galilee Medical Center in our San Antonio partner region of the Western Galilee, time at Yad VaShem, Masada, Tel Dan and Jerusalem’s Old City. Participants were also fortunate to celebrate Shabbat with Kehillat Achava B’Kerem, a small Progressive community in Jerusalem, followed by Shabbat dinner in congregant’s homes. Temple Beth-El is starting to plan a trip to Eastern Europe in the Spring of 2019 and an interfaith trip to Israel sometime in 2020.

CATHOLICS & JEWS CELEBRATE

HANNUKAH LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017

SAN FERNANDO CATHEDRAL

LUNCHEON AT 11:30AM

231 W. COMMERCE

FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER
RABBI A. JAMES RUDIN

SENIOR INTERRELIGIOUS ADVISOR OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

TICKETS: $36

TABLE OF 10: $360

In addition to our special guest, Rabbi Rudin, we will be joined by Catholic and Jewish teen leaders from San Antonio, who will be honored as Hannukah candle-lighters. These young people will have an opportunity to discover the friendship that exists between the two communities and how they can continue to nurture and develop the Catholic and Jewish relationship as did the generation before them.

HEINTZ PRESCHOOLERS OUT AND ABOUT

Heintz Preschool red and blue birds had a special field trip to the interfaith pumpkin patch in October. Crafts and lunch rounded out the day.

EXPLORING GREAT DEBATES
IN JEWISH HISTORY

Over 60 students are taking the Great Debates in Jewish History II course offered by the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning. The class is being offered three times throughout the week. For more information about the upcoming course Communication: It’s Art & Soul slated to begin in January, visit www.myJLI.com.

CAW MEMBERS VOLUNTEER AT SA FOOD BANK

Congregation Agudas Achim had a fun and inspiring time volunteering at the San Antonio Food Bank on October 22. The volunteers distributed 9,500 pounds of food, packed 38 pallets and 70 cases of canned 2,450 cans, a total of 3,230 pounds of food.
HEBREW FREE LOAN ASSOCIATION GALA

Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Antonio (HFLA-SA) channeled Bond, James Bond during its Shaken, not Stirred fundraising gala on November 4. The James Bond themed casino night event began in the O’Krent Floors parking lot, with an array of cars right out of a James Bond Movie. Cavender Audi loaned HFLA-SA a top-of-the-line, R8, while Aston Martin of Austin and Ted and Gloria Hawkins, showcased an Aston Martin prototype designed for the James Bond film Spectre. Musical entertainment for the evening was provided by Vicki Adelstein and Heritage.

At Left: Title sponsor Gurinsky’s Jewelers featured a “Diamonds are Forever” Jewelry Grab during the 2017 HFLA-SA fundraising gala. (l to r) Camy Gurinsky, Reed Meredith, Jennifer Meredith, Rhonda Gurinsky, Rachel Gurinsky (front), Nathan Gurinsky (back), and Charlie Gurinsky.

DYNAMIC LEARNING AT CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL

Jewish learning springs to life for students ages 5-12 at Chabad Hebrew School. Curriculum highlights include Hebrew reading, Jewish history, holidays, tradition, and values.

For more information please visit www.ChabadSA.com/HebrewSchool or contact Rochel Teldon, Director at (210) 764-0300 or rochel@chabadsa.com.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE SPECIAL ALIYAH BENEFITS* PACKAGES

Aliyah Grants up to $20,000
Subsidized Pilot Trips
Enhanced Career Counseling & Resources
Personalized Education & Community Guidance
Six months of Rental Assistance
AND MORE!

Keren Kayemeth Le’israel & Nefesh B’Nefesh have joined forces to help new Olim tap into the amazing opportunities offered in Jerusalem and beyond Israel’s center. By investing in both infrastructure and people, we are providing enhanced Aliyah packages and increasing the services available to new Olim.

These benefits are in addition to the full range of Nefesh B’Nefesh pre & post-Aliyah services.

Nefesh B’Nefesh is here for you every step of the way.

ARE YOU READY TO GO BEYOND?

WWW.NBN.ORG/I.GO-BEYOND

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO BUILD A STRONGER ISRAEL THROUGH ALIYAH

THE JEWISH JOURNAL
A publication of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio
DECEMBER 2017

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**WHAT’S HAPPENING**

**GAN GANI CHILDREN EXPLORE NEURONET**

At Gan Gani Preschool, where children learn by doing, preschoolers practice Neuronet—a unique type of learning that uses repetitive physical movements while performing mental tasks to create and strengthen neuropathways. To schedule a tour or learn more, visit www.GanGani.org or call (210) 492-1085.

**SIMCHA SOCIAL CLUB HOSTS AUTHOR JACK SACCO**

Congregation Agudas Achim Simcha Social Club hosted Author Jack Sacco who wrote Where the birds never sing a book on the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp. Join Simcha Social Club for their next event on December 7, a Hanukkah concert with Hazzan Jeremy Lipton.

**BEYER BOYS**

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES
(210) 656-9027       (830) 606-2697

HEATING    COOLING    PLUMBING
24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE AVAILABLE
24 Hour Emergency Service
$25.00 Service Call with a Repair

Schedule Service Online @ www.beyerboys.com

**BOHANAN’S**

TEXANS KNOW STEAK AND THEY NAME US THE NO. 1 STEAKHOUSE IN THE WHOLE STEAK-LOVING STATE.

Bohanan’s fame is founded on sublimely tender prime beef grilled over fragrant mesquite wood. Enjoy extraordinary Akaushi beef, Chef/Owner Mark Bohanan’s large custom cuts of aged corn-fed beef, and succulent seafood flown in daily. We’re located downtown, just a block from the River Walk. Imbibe a classic cocktail at the first-floor Bar at Bohanan’s, then join us upstairs for the best steak you’ve ever had.

At Magen David Adom, we’re often saving lives before our ambulances even arrive.

At Magen David Adom, Israel’s national EMS service, help begins the moment the phone is answered. Because EMS handles the calls, they can provide lifesaving instructions while dispatching ambulances and first responders on Medicats. And now, with 15,000 CPR-certified civilian Life Guardians joining our team, help can be just seconds away.

As we celebrate Chanukah, please give the gift of life, and make your year-end tax-deductible donation today.

**HADASSAH**

Who will say Kaddish? Hadassah will. Every year. Forever.

For more information, visit www.hadassah.org/yahrzeit, call 877.212.3321 or email yahrzeit@hadassah.org.

Happy Hanukkah!

—

**ANNUAL KOSHER BBQ ONE FOR THE BOOKS**

More than 5,000 people attended the 5th annual Texas Kosher BBQ Championship hosted by Congregation Agudas Achim on November 12. Organizers are already planning next year’s event — set for November 11, 2018.

**STEPHEN TOBOLOWSKY SPEAKS AT JCC**

Author and actor Stephen Tobolowsky was at the Barshop JCC Sunday, Oc. 29 as part of the Author & Speaker Series. Tobolowsky read an excerpt from his book, My Adventures with God, and took questions from the more than one hundred attenders. After the event, he signed autographs and took photos with the attenders.
Jewish veterans and active duty military display the TASA student artwork and thank you letters.

**TASA HOSTS VETERANS DAY PROGRAM**
The Shmul Buck Torah Academy of San Antonio Veterans Day Program began with the National Anthem and Hatikvah. Head of School, Rabbi Nymchinsky, then spoke about the importance of showing appreciation and thanks to our veterans and how doing so is an important expression of Hakarat HaTov. Guests included a number of military veterans and active duty military from the San Antonio Jewish community, who introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their military service. Capt. Herschel Nimchinsky, then spoke about the importance of showing appreciation in a fun and educational way, almost like a shot in the arm to children 8 years old. Heintz Preschool Veterans Day Camp will run with its special “Winter Wonderland” theme. It will feature science experiments, games, arts and crafts, sports, cooking projects and more! Children will paint with frozen “Ice Pops”, make shaving cream snowmen, and pipe cleaner snowflakes, just to name a few of the exciting activities.

Camp will be held Monday to Friday from December 18 to December 29 (no camp will be held on December 25) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Early and late stay is available from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Registration is available in daily rates, or weekly rates. For more information about Winter Camp or Heintz Preschool in general, including touring the school, contact the Heintz Preschool Director, Taryn Brezowal at taryn@agnus-achim.org or (210) 479-7032.

Camp Gan Israel winter camp

Registration is open for Chabad’s Camp Gan Israel Winter Camp for children ages 18 months - 12 years. Held during the first week of winter break, it begins on Monday, Dec. 25 and goes until Friday, Dec. 29. Drop off is at 9 a.m. and pick-up is at 3:30 p.m. Energized by a team of dedicated staff, the children will enjoy electivities, rock wall climbing, Jewish fun time, two field trips, hot cocoa club and much, much more—all in the epic Camp Gan Israel spirit.

“We look at this time as an opportunity for kids to connect with Jewish friends in a fun and educational way, almost like a shot in the arm to children 8 years old,” said Rochel Teldon, the camp’s director. For more information and to register, please visit www. Ganoraida.com or call (210) 764-0300.

JCC offers winter camp

The Barshop Jewish Community Center is offering Winter 1-Camp from December 21 to January 5. Campers will participate in crafts, cooking projects, games in the gym, and much more. In addition, Sports Camp will be offered December 26-2, and Tennis Camp will be offered January 2-5. Registration is available by the day, with discounts available for multi-day registrations. Camps at the JCC are open to the community with discounted rates available to JCC members. Winter 3-Camp offerings are open to children in kindergarten through sixth grade.

For registration information, please visit www.jccsanantonio.org/camp or call the Youth and Camping Office at (210) 302-6859. The JCC will also be holding a Spring Break J-Camp March 12-16, as well as one-day programs when school is out of session January 15, February 19, March 30, and April 27. For more information on these programs, please contact Rachel Rustin at rustinr@jcc-sa.org or (210) 302-6869.
JEWISH WAR VETERANS

Remembering our Jewish Military Veterans

Jewish War Veterans Post 753 asks you to remember those Jewish military veterans whose yahrzeit (anniversary of the individual’s death) occurs in the month of December and who are buried in a local cemetery. If you know of a name that is missing, please contact Merle at (210) 488-5089.

Aaron, Bernhard
Aaronson, Abe
Alberto, William
Aquino, Rosy
Baruch, Sam
Biren, Eshkahn
Blewin, Carl
Chace, Albert
Cohen, David
Cohen, Solomon
Coppard, Anthony
Dawson, Daniel
Davis, Michael
Deutsch, Raphael
Dorman, Robert
Duff, Janet
Elliasson, Ben

FROM THE COVER

Jewish War Veterans Post 753 will host its last meeting of the year on December 24 at the Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community starting at 9 a.m. The meeting will include a light breakfast, followed by a business session which will include important year-end reports and the election of post officers for 2018.

On December 25, post members will walk the wards of Audie Murphy VA Hospital distributing cookies and ice cream to staff on duty and patients who could not be home for the holiday.

The event starts at 1 p.m. in the main hospital recreation room.

In January, in lieu of a regular post meeting, the installation of officers will take place at the Barn Door. The next post meeting will take place Sunday, Feb. 25.

(Jewish War Veterans Post 753)

JWV Corner

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(Jewish War Veterans Post 753)
COMMUNITY HANNUKKAH EVENTS

Chabad Center
Senior Citizens Social Club Latkes & Brisket Lunch
Tuesdays, Dec. 3 – 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. at Chabad Center, 14353 Blanco Rd. Showcase your favorite and/or most sentimental Menorah or sacred Judaica. RSVP via (210) 764-6000 or email mily@chabadsa.com. To arrange free transportation, call Latzy at (210) 616-4811.

C’vin Can Menorah Parade
Saturday, Dec. 16 – 6:45 p.m. Departures from Chabad Center, 14353 Blanco Rd. Spread the Miracle of Lights while cruising with a Car Menorah.

Israel Chumukh Party
Saturday, Dec. 16 – 10:30 p.m. The Brookynite, 516 Brokiny Ave. Includes Menorah lighting, Sufganiyot, Israeli music, and drinks. To RSVP, call Tal Shaul at (210) 877-4218.

Chanukah on the River Festival
Sunday, Dec. 17 – 3 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Chabad’s Chanukah Cruise Experience is $6 per person, and with river barges loading and departing from Arneson River Theater at 4 p.m. The event features include a barge ride, live music, interactive entertainment, surprise performers, donuts and prizes. There is no charge for the Moshav Band Concert & Menorah Lighting, which begins at 5 p.m. at the Arneson River Theater. For more information, visit www.ChanukahOnTheRiver.com or call Chabad at (210) 734-0412.

Chanukah Celebration at Pearl
Monday, Dec. 18 – 6 p.m. at The Historic Pearl, 303 Pearl Plaza. Enjoy live music by Lonely Horse, the lighting of Pearl’s 9 ft. Menorah. A gourmet Hanukkah dinner will be prepared by Absolutely Delicious Catering, and music provided by Barshop Ollervidez Entertainment. For more information, visit www.thepearl.com or email RSVP@agudas-achim.org.

Hanukkah Storytime with Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham
Congregation Agudas Achim
Sunday, Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; 10:30 – 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Storytime will include stories, songs, games, and Hanukkah gelt for all. Storytime will be followed by a no-host dinner next door at Grandale’s. This event is free and all are welcome to attend.

Hands on Hanukkah will be held at Vineyard Whole Foods on Sunday, Dec. 10 from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. The free event will include complimentary latkes, a variety of Hanukkah games and crafts, and a visit from Danny the Dreidel! All are welcome to attend!

Hanukkah HulaHalo! Agudas Achim’s newest event will include a full Hanukkah dinner, winter circus carnival, and activities for the entire family. The event will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 5:30 p.m. $15 for members, $20 for nonmembers; $5 for children ages 6-12, and children 5 and under are free. Reservations are required by December 11 at RSVP@agudas-achim.org or (210) 734-0307.

Donuts and Dreidels will be held on Monday, Dec. 18 at 4:30 p.m. at Shipley Donuts on Bitters Road off of Blanco Road. This is an annual free event open to all! Guests will enjoy sufganiyot (donuts), play dreidels, enjoy arts & crafts, and light their personal Hanukkah menorahs together. Donuts and Dreidels is generously underwritten by Linda and Marvin Abboff.

Young Couples Club of Agudas (YCCA) will host a candle lighting on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Laura & Greg Benjamin’s House. Participants are asked to bring a small gift and a white elephant gift. For more information, email RSVP@agudas-achim.org.

Menorah lighting, Sufganiyot, Israeli music, and drinks. To RSVP, call Tal Shaul at (210) 877-4218.

Congregation Agudas Achim
Hanukkah Storytime with Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham
This annual event is one of the Temple’s social highlights of the year and members from across the community are welcome to attend. Event details including ticket and raffle information are available at www.beth-elsa.org or (210) 733-9135.

Temple Beth-El
Temple Beth-El will host a festive Light Up the Night Adult Hanukkah Party on Thursday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. A gourmet Hanukkah dinner will be prepared by Absolutely Delicious Catering, and music provided by Barshop Ollervidez Entertainment. This annual event is one of the Temple’s social highlights of the year and members from across the community are welcome to attend. Event details including ticket and raffle information are available at www.beth-elsa.org or (210) 733-9135.

PJ Library & Barshop JCC
Hans on Chanukah Thursday, Nov. 30 from 3-6 p.m. Crafts, games, latkes and applesauce!
JCC Jewish Film Festival kicks off in January

San Antonio’s Sylvia Weiss flew to Rome in September for the Institute for the Study of Global Anti-Semitism and Policy’s (ISGAP) recent conference titled Contemporary Anti-Semitism as a Gateway to Terrorism. Participating organizations included the Vatican, the Italian Parliament and La Sapienza - the University of Rome.

The conference brought together Christians, Muslims and Jews and was opened by Tony Blair, former British Prime Minister, who emphasized “We need to … include the theme of respect for others, tolerance and religious freedom. Religion should not be politicized, and when it becomes totalitarian ideology, it becomes a danger because it excludes other minorities.”

ISGAP has taken a monumental step in challenging the ideas that breed Anti-Semitism at universities throughout the world as they offer summer programs in London that help train professors from all over the world to develop and teach courses on contemporary Anti-Semitism at their home universities.

San Antonio’s Sylvia Weiss with former British Prime Minister Tony Blair at ISGAP conference.
Available at your San Antonio Alon Market Store, 8503 NW Military Highway • (210) 479-4300
Prices good thru Sunday, December 24, 2017, while supplies last.