

Happy New Year, 2016 from the Jewish Federation of San Antonio!



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

TEVET 5776 - SH'VAT 5776

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

JANUARY 2016



PARTNERSHIP2GETHER COMES TOGETHER

Delegates from Israel and Budapest visit San Antonio.

PAGE 5



A SURVIVAL STORY

Recovered Torahs stolen during WWII tell story of Jewish people.

PAGE 7



HANUKKAH HI-LIGHTS

Find out what's been happening in the San Antonio Jewish Community.

PAGE 16



Shower Our Community with LOVE event builds Community

By Julie Schack,
Federation Director of Women's Philanthropy

Oh what a night! Over 175 women gathered on Thursday evening, Dec. 3 for the first annual *Shower Our Community with LOVE* event held at the Campus auditorium. This event was organized by the Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation. Eleven families in need were identified in the community with the help of Jewish Family Services, Temple Beth El, Congregation Agudas Achim and Congregation Rodfei

See **SHOWER**, page 15



Area women invited to participate in a free trip to Israel

The Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation, in partnership with the Jewish Women's Experience and the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project (JWRP), will be offering a FREE (with the exception of airfare) women's trip to Israel July 10-19, 2016. This trip entitled MOMentum is geared for women who still have children 18 and under in the home. This 8-day journey will connect women to the land of Israel, to their Jewish values and to each other. "You leave as acquaintances, and come back as sisters," said Melissa Fiero, who travelled on the MOMentum trip last year. "I wish I could do it again. It was an amazing experience."

There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, Jan. 24 at 10 a.m. at the home of Gabriella Tawil, 2015 JWRP leader, and well known speaker Adrienne Gold who will share insight and expectations about the trip and

See **MOMENTUM**, page 4

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



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

EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS:

The submission deadline for the FEBRUARY 2016 issue

of the Jewish Journal is JANUARY 12, 2016 at noon. All materials submitted after this date will be considered for the following issue.

How to submit: Email submissions to jewishj@jfsatx.org

- Articles & Announcements - Email as word documents. Articles submitted for consideration are subject to editing.
- Photos - Email high resolution images (300 dpi) in jpg attachments only.

ADVERTISING:

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

Ad deadlines for FEBRUARY 2016 ISSUE:

- Ad space reservations due no later than JANUARY 12, 2016 by noon;
- Press ready ads due by JANUARY 12, 2016.

Please include a contact name and phone number with all submissions.

The Jewish Journal is a free publication of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, and is published in print and online 11 times a year as a public service to the community. Donations to offset production and mailing costs are always welcome.

JEWISH JOURNAL EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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

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

IN LOVING MEMORY

Rose Rosin

Suzanne Malka Patrick

Edith Weiss Newhouse

CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday, Jan 1, 2016 Light Candles at: 5:28 p.m.
Shabbat, Jan 2, 2016 Shabbat Ends: 6:25 p.m.

Friday, Jan 8, 2016 Light Candles at: 5:33 p.m.
Shabbat, Jan 9, 2016 Shabbat Ends: 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan 15, 2016 Light Candles at: 5:39 p.m.
Shabbat, Jan 16, 2016 Shabbat Ends: 6:36 p.m.

Friday, Jan 22, 2016 Light Candles at: 5:45 p.m.
Shabbat, Jan 23, 2016 Shabbat Ends: 6:41 p.m.

Friday, Jan 29, 2016 Light Candles at: 5:51 p.m.
Shabbat, Jan 30, 2016 Shabbat Ends: 6:47 p.m.

Friday, Feb 5, 2016 Light Candles at: 5:57 p.m.
Shabbat, Feb 6, 2016 Shabbat Ends: 6:52 p.m.

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YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK



Letter from
our CEO

RONIT
SHERWIN

It's a New Year, all year long

We are blessed with many things from our Jewish tradition, and one of them is the concept of multiple

New Years. We have several such celebrations in the Jewish calendar. We have the New Year of the world,

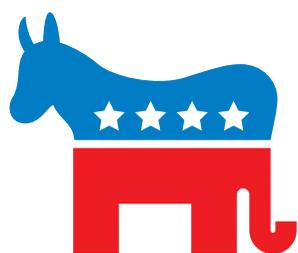
which is *Rosh Hashanah*; we have the New Year of the trees, *Tu B'Shevat*; and we also have the New Year

of *Nisan*, the month, which commemorates our Exodus from Egypt. *Nisan* serves as the New Year of the months, too, so *Nisan* is the first month. Granted, the concept of multiple New Years is challenging to implement, so we stand by *Rosh Hashanah* as THE Jewish New Year that we celebrate.

As American Jews who live our lives by a Gregorian calendar as well, we also embrace the New Year of January 1. Like the December holidays, the New Year has become an overly-commercial festive time. All the same, the start of another year allows us to think of new beginnings and fresh starts. While we Jews have this concept on a weekly basis with *Shabbat*, we can always take another opportunity to think ahead with hope and promise.

And in this month of January, we do celebrate a Jewish New Year, *Tu B'Shevat*. On January 25, we will embrace the New Year of the trees. In Israel, this is a wonderful time in which students go out and plant saplings and seeds. We in Texas also see the beginnings of life again in nature. While it is still winter in Israel as well, spring is not too far away and the buds of life re-emerging are present. Trees are the ultimate symbol of life that we celebrate.

Judaism is all about life. And it is at this time, more than ever, that we need hope. The months of November and December carried events and fears of terror and murder, leaving many of us feeling anxious and sad. Judaism is a tradition of life. Let's celebrate the New Year, both the secular and the arboreal, as an opportunity for peace and hope. *L'chaim!*



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS: JAN. 2016

January 1

- *New Years Day*
- First Friday Family Shabbat & Dinner, Temple Beth-El, 5:30 p.m.

January 5

- Sisterhood Book Review, Agudas Achim, 10a.m.
- Temple Beth-El Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

January 6

- Book Club, Rodfei Sholom, 7:30 p.m.

January 7

- AIPAC Club Event, 6:30 p.m.

January 9

- JCC Jewish Film Festival Prequel, 7 p.m.

January 10

- EDC Book Fair & Story time with Miss Anastasia, The Campus, 1p.m.
- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Annual Fundraiser, 5 p.m.

January 12

- JFSA Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

January 14

- @TBE30s40s, 7 p.m.

January 15

- Sisterhood Shabbat, Agudas Achim, 6:15p.m.

January 18

- *Martin Luther King Day*
- GMJSS, Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

January 19

- Musician in Residence: Noah Aronson, Temple Beth-El, (19th-24th)

January 20

- L'Chayim Club, Rodfei, 11:30 a.m.

January 21

- JCC: Cooking with Green Vegetarian Cuisine, 7 p.m.

January 22

- Scholar in Residence, Melave Malka, Rodfei (22nd-24th)
- Shabbat Dinner with Adrienne Gold, Rodfei, 7 p.m.
- Shabbat with Speaker, Adrienne Gold, Rodfei 11:30a.m.

January 24

- JCC Author & Lecture Series with Dr. Joshua

Furman, 5 p.m.

January 27

- Speaker Event with Dr. Mordechai Kedar, Rodfei 12 p.m. & 7 p.m.
- JCC Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

February 2

- Board Meeting, Temple Beth-El, 7 p.m.

February 4

- The Vex Presents, *The Diviners*, 2:30 p.m.

February 4

- The Pursuit of Harmony, Concert & Conversation, Temple Beth-El (5th-7th)

February 5

- First Friday Shabbat & Dinner, Temple Beth-El, 6 p.m.

February 6

- NCJW's "Bye-Bye Rabbi", 7:30p.m
- The Vex Presents, *The Diviners*, 8:00p.m.

February 7

- Jewish Community Leadership Day, 8:30 a.m.
- City-Wide Teacher In-Service for Jewish Supplementary Schools, 12:30p.m.
- The Vex Presents, *The Diviners*, 2:30 p.m.

FROM THE COVER

MOMENTUM

continued from page 1

answer any questions. Please note that space on the trip is limited and women must complete an application and interview to be considered. Please RSVP to the

informational meeting to Julie Schack, Director of Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation at (210) 302-6960 or schackj@jfsatx.org or Michal Sheinberg at (210) 323-9063 or Mich12a@gmail.com. The location address will be provided at that time.

ABOUT THE JW RP

"Inspire a woman, you inspire a family. Inspire enough families, you inspire a community. Inspire enough communities, you can change the world."

If you wanted to have the greatest influence on the direction of the Jewish people, whom should you target? The Jewish mother, that's who.

In 2008, eight Jewish women from different walks of life, affiliations, observance, and ages began a powerful dialogue. They agreed that it was time to empower and inspire women with the rich beauty of their Jewish heritage, and the JW RP was born.

The JW RP seeks to inspire women to transform themselves, their families, their communities, and the world. Their flagship program is MOMentum, an eight-day journey through Israel. MOMentum is more than a tour of Israel; it is an opportunity to deeply explore ourselves. Thousands of women from 19 different countries have already experienced this life-changing trip, paying only their own airfare, and returning home with the best gift of all—a deep, eternal connection to Israel, a profound kinship with each other, and a heart filled with Jewish values.



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2016 Allocations Process Coming Soon

The application will be available online beginning January 4th. Submissions are due February 15th.

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JFSA FUNDING PRIORITIES

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Young Adult delegation from our Partnership2Gether in perfect time for Hanukkah

In December, San Antonio hosted five delegates from Federation's Partnership2Gether consortium, from Israel and Budapest; Dror Arnstein, Elichai Rubin, Heidi Benish, Barbara Nemes-Jeles and Petra Balint. San Antonio, along with thirteen other cities from around the U.S. and Budapest share the Western Galilee as a Partnership for programming, special projects, and many *Tzedek* initiatives that strengthen our bond with Israel and Jewish people around the world.

Delegates Dror Arnstein and Elichai Rubin (from Israel) spend their free time working on projects in the Western Galilee to better the community. Dror is currently compiling stories of Holocaust survivors that he would like to make accessible via the internet, and Elichai spearheads the Lone Soldier program in the region. Lone Soldiers are young adults that choose to join the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) voluntarily and make the move to Israel alone, allowing Elichai, along with other volunteers to bring them into their homes. The soldiers are given a place to feel at home and comfortable, and provided with a support system outside of the army. Barbara Nemes-

Jeles and Petra Balint from Budapest also volunteer with the Partnership through the program called "Building Bridges," in which they enrich the lives of young adults by creating relationships with people of other faiths. The group of volunteers was joined by a Partnership2Gether professional from the Western Galilee, Heidi Benish, who works endlessly to inspire her community, and those from the partnership cities to be connected and build lasting relationships.

During their time in San Antonio, the group visited synagogues, schools, and met with leaders in the Jewish community, celebrated Hanukkah at multiple venues, and joined young adults at happy hours each evening as well. They were able to spend one-on-one time with our Jewish Federation board president Richard Planto who shared with them the history of San Antonio as well as his philosophies of being a volunteer leader in our Jewish community. The group ended their San Antonio stay by heading to the Jewish Catholic Hanukkah lunch at San Fernando Cathedral where leaders from both the Jewish and Catholic communities came together to celebrate and acknowledge the Festival of Lights.

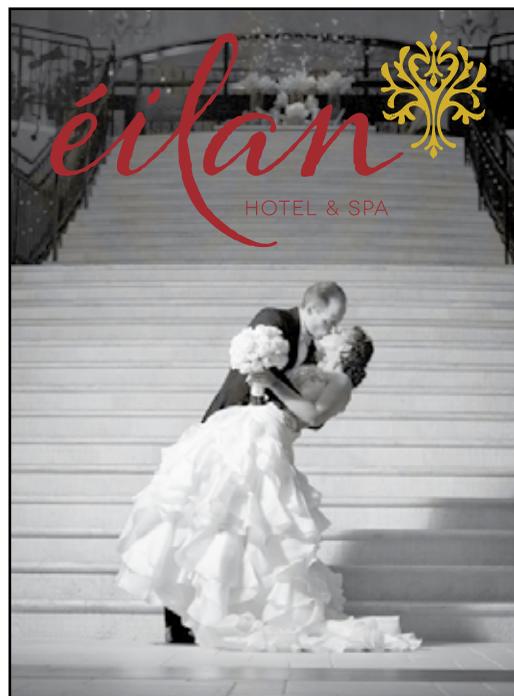


The Partnership2Gether delegates received a private tour of Federation's Holocaust Memorial Museum with docent David Present (far right).



The 4th, 5th and 6th graders of Agudas Achim Inda Posner Religious School asked intriguing questions of delegates from Israel and Budapest during their presentation.

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YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

Intergenerational Thanksgiving brings children and seniors together

The children of PJ Library came together with Golden Manor board members and volunteers to celebrate Thanksgiving with the seniors at Adante Independent Living Center. The event began with a variety of Thanksgiving crafts, featuring the building of pine cone turkeys, Thanksgiving masks, edible acorn making, and hand print turkeys.

Golden Manor President, Alice Troy, and Past President Shari Pulman read stories about giving thanks while the children munched on harvest snacks. PJ Library Coordinator Lauren Abraham also led the group



PJ Library children, their parents and Adante Senior Living friends enjoyed building pine cone turkeys together.

in the singing of Jewish songs. Organizers say the event – in the spirit of L'dor V'dor (from generation to generation) - brought the

mitzvah (commandment) of *Chidur P'nei Zakein* (honoring the elders) to the forefront of the children's thoughts.

This was the first partnership between PJ Library and Golden Manor. "There was a true feeling that we can all work

together to bring the Jewish community a true sense of thankfulness for one another," said Abraham.



Golden Manor President Alice Troy reads a story about thankfulness to the PJ Library children.

PJ Library gets "Hands On" at Chanukah event

PJ Library San Antonio hosted a table with a special edible treat at the annual *Hands on Chanukah* event at the Barshop Jewish Community Center on December 1. With the help of the leaders on the PJ Library committee, the children were able to read PJ books, listen to PJ Library story time every half hour, and make an edible dreidel out of pretzels, marshmallows, and Hershey's Kisses. Organizers say it was the perfect way to kick off the Hanukkah season.



Slight change in Beldon Library hours

The Beldon Library Lithuanian Project is still underway. The Beldon Library is shipping books to restore the Jewish library in Vilnius. Monetary donations to cover shipping costs are welcome.

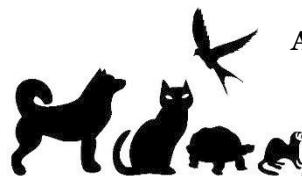
The next Beldon Used Book Sale will take place on Sunday, May 15 and Monday, May 16, 2016. Donations of gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and LPs for children and adults are being accepted.

NEW HOURS FOR THE BELDON LIBRARY ARE:
Mondays: 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Wednesdays: 2 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

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Imagining a Better World: The Artwork of Nelly Toll

The Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio will display the *Imagining a Better World: The Artwork of Nelly Toll* exhibition at the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio with the sponsorship of the Light One Candle Foundation.

During World War II in Nazi occupied Poland, Nelly Toll and her mother were forced into hiding. They found refuge with a Catholic family and did not leave the home for eighteen months. Nelly spent her time painting

and drawing pictures of a happier time. Her imagined world brought her hope and comfort in the midst of tragedy and became a powerful vehicle for making sense of the history around her.

The exhibit will be open to the public by appointment from January 4 until March 31 in the Fisher Boardroom. Visitors are asked to check first with the Holocaust Memorial Museum at rodriguez@jfsatx.org for reservations to see the exhibit.



Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg (second from right) and others look at one of the Torah scrolls.

RECLAIMED FROM THE HOLOCAUST

In December, the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio (HMMSA) and Congregation Rodfei Sholom co-sponsored a program about dozens of Torah scrolls that are being rescued from a town in Russia. One hundred and eighteen scrolls have been located there. Two of them were on display at Congregation Rodfei Sholom for a program presented by Sibyl Silver of the Jewish Heritage Foundation. HMMSA is a program of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

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Ori Soltes to speak at opening reception for Turkish Jews

On January 23, Dr. Ori Soltes will speak at an opening reception for The Quincentennial Foundation Museum of Turkish Jews Exhibition. The reception will be held in the Federation Board Room of the Campus for the San Antonio Jewish Community at 7:30 p.m. There will be a reception at 7:30 p.m., Soltes will speak at 8 p.m., and then he will lead a tour of the exhibit at 8:30 p.m.

The program is open to the community, but reservations are required at (210) 302-6960 or lackritzj@jfsatx.org.

The exhibit was created by the Jewish Museum of Turkey (officially known as the *Quincentennial Foundation Museum of Turkish Jews*), a cultural

center established by the Quincentennial Foundation to inform the society of the traditions and history of Turkish Jewry. It was inaugurated on November 25, 2001. The Quincentennial Foundation was established in 1989 by 113 Turkish citizens, Jews and Muslims alike, to celebrate the five hundredth anniversary of the arrival of *Sephardic Jews* to the Ottoman Empire. The idea of a museum was proposed by Naim Güleriyüz, who is now its curator and the foundation was underwritten by the Jewish Kamhi family.

Ori Z Soltes currently teaches theology, philosophy and art history at Georgetown University. Dr.

Soltes has lectured at dozens of museums across the country, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian Institution, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

The exhibit is sponsored by the Dialogue Institute, the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, and The Quincentennial Foundation Museum of Turkish Jews. The exhibit will be on display at the Jewish Campus for three weeks following the opening, until February 12. For more information, call the Community Relations Council at (210) 302-6960.

YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

JEWISH HISTORY IN A FLASH AUTHOR LECTURES AT THE CAMPUS



Marcelo Sanchez Blanchet with Israel History in a Flash Educator Ronnie Halibard, Steven Rosenblatt, MD and Peter Eggert. Halibard presented a multimedia overview of four thousand years of Jewish history on December 17.

Educating our community about the dangers of hatred and apathy

The Holocaust Memorial Museum, a program of the Jewish Federation, is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon and Sunday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. The Museum is located at the Jewish Campus, 12500 N.W. Military Hwy.

There is no admission fee, but a donation of \$1 per student and \$3 per adult is recommended.

Walk-in visitors are provided with a self-guided



tour of our four exhibit areas, while trained docents lead scheduled tours for groups of 15 or more.

For more information, visit www.hmmsa.org.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Jewish community honors MLK Jr.

The 29th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Citywide Interfaith Service will be held at St. Gerard Catholic Church, 1523 Iowa Street on Sunday, Jan. 17 at 4 p.m. Interfaith leaders from the community will participate, including Rabbi David Komerofsky, Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, and Cantor Julie Berlin. Also, there will be praise dancers and the Arathi School of Indian Dance will perform. Justice Jason Pulliam will be the featured speaker. There will be a reception held after the event.

On the following morning, Mon., Jan. 18, the Community Relations



Council welcomes Jewish community members to walk with our Latino and Black partners in the Martin Luther King March. Participants meet in the parking lot of St. Philip's Performing Arts Center, 1801 Martin Luther King Drive at 9:15 a.m. Car shuttles will take participants to the initial point of the

parade at the Eastside Branch of the Boys & Girls Club, 3503 Martin Luther King Drive. The end point of the San Antonio March is Pittman-Sullivan Park.

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

Temple Beth-El Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith services

As part of MLK observations this year, Temple Beth-El will host two special interfaith events:

Interfaith Shabbat Service with Antioch Baptist Church
Friday, Jan. 15, 6:30 p.m.

During Shabbat Evening Worship in the Temple's Wulfe Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m, Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Kemp from Antioch Baptist Church will speak. The Antioch Baptist



(l to r) Temple Beth-El Rabbi Mara Nathan, Cantor Julie Berlin and Rabbi Marina Yergen will lead interfaith services with Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Kemp of Antioch Baptist Church.

Church choir will sing during the service.
Interfaith Service at Antioch Baptist Church
Sunday, Jan. 17, 11 a.m.
Rabbi Mara Nathan, Cantor Julie Berlin and

the Temple Beth-El choir, Kol Simcha, will help lead an interfaith service at Antioch Baptist Church, 1001 N. Walters Street, 78202.

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Graduating students of Wednesday's JLI's Journey of the Soul on Dec 2.

The Jewish Course of Why being offered by Chabad's JLI

What happens when you survey 30,000 people, asking them to submit the questions they are most curious about, and address those enigmas with insights from some of the greatest minds in Jewish history?

You develop *The Jewish Course of Why*, the newest six-session course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI).

The Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning will offer *The Jewish Course of Why* at two different times: Six Tuesday afternoons with Rabbi Chaim Block, beginning Feb. 9, 12 p.m.-1:15 p.m. at the Law Office of Golden Steves Cohen & Gordon, 300 Convent St., Suite 2600, and

six Wednesday evenings with Rabbi Levi Teldon, beginning Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m. at the Chabad Center, 14535 Blanco Rd.

The topics covered span a diverse range, from fun, light, and off-the-beaten-track questions, to more complex and controversial issues. Ever wondered why there are so many Jews in Hollywood? Why Jews eat gefilte fish, and wish each other *mazal tov* and *l'chaim*? Why the Bible sanctions slavery and animal sacrifices? What is the cause of anti-Semitism? What Judaism says about Christianity?

For more information call (210) 764-0300 or visit www.myJLI.com.

Dr. Mordechai Kedar to speak at Rodfei Sholom on January 27

Dr. Mordechai Kedar, Director of the Center for the Study of the Middle East and Islam (under formation), Bar Ilan University, will be the guest speaker at Rodfei Sholom *Distinguished Speakers Series* on Wednesday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. Kedar's lecture is entitled "*Israel in a Changing Middle East- Challenges and Opportunities.*"

Kedar, one of Israel's leading figures in understanding the Arab world, is a research associate of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies and a frequent guest in the Israeli, Arab and international media. In January of 20, he spoke on Capitol Hill on *Why is the Middle East Such a Difficult Area for Americans and Westerners to Understand.*

Kedar served in IDF Military Intelligence for 25 years, specializing in Arab political discourse, Arab mass



Dr. Mordechai Kedar

media, Islamic groups and the Syrian domestic arena.

Lecture sponsors include the Israel Public Action Committee of Congregation Rodfei Sholom (IPA) and is co-sponsored by the Center for Terrorism Law at St. Mary's University School of Law. Center Director, Professor Jeff Addicott, will be signing copies of his new book, *Radical Islam, Why?*

For more information contact Rodfei Sholom IPA at (210) 493-3557 ext. 212.

Temple Beth-El offers new curriculum for basic Judaism and conversion Course

Temple Beth-El's introduction to Judaism program has a new curriculum for 2016.

The course is comprised of three sections. Anyone interested in converting to Judaism must complete all three sections. Fees for each section are separate and are listed below:

Section 1-Stepping Stones to Jewish Knowledge - January 1-April 27 (14 sessions)-\$180

Section 2-Beginning

Hebrew, The Aleph Bet - May 18-June 29 (7 sessions)-\$80

Section 3-Choosing Judaism (8 sessions) - October 26-January 11-\$100

An orientation and the first class for Section 1 will take place on January 6 from 7-9 a.m. To register, visit <http://tinyurl.com/tbe-ssjk>. Registration is requested.

For further information, contact Iris Berman-Smith at (210) 733-9135, ext. 106, or iris@beth-elsa.org.

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IN THE COMMUNITY

Congregation Agudas Achim hosting trip to Israel

Congregation Agudas Achim is planning a community trip to Israel from June 5 – 17, 2016. Led by Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham and trip co-chairs, Ellen and Rikko Ollervidez, the trip, designed for first-timers and return visitors alike, will include highlights of Israel while including some unique opportunities for the group such as a BBQ dinner with Israeli troops, spending time on a kibbutz and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience Shavuot at the Kotel in Jerusalem.

“I’m so excited to be

working with Ellen and Rikko on this trip,” said Rabbi Abraham. “We’ll have the amazing adventure of visiting all Israel’s great sites, meeting the wonderful people of Israel, and most importantly, showing our solidarity with the birthplace of our heritage.”

The trip is open to the community. Contact Rabbi Abraham or Mindi Stern at (210) 479-0307 for more information including cost, accommodations, extensions to Eilat and Petra and all tour details.

(Re)Inventing the Bible at Trinity University

The Trinity University Religion Department will host the 2016 Lennox Seminar Series, *(Re)Inventing the Bible*. The series looks closely at how communities throughout history have created and recreated their bibles, and how the constantly shifting nature of authoritative texts, collections, and interpretations forces us to reconsider what we mean when we talk about “The Bible.”

On Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. Professor

Michael Satlow of Brown University will deliver the opening lecture: *Who in Antiquity Read the Bible?* Professor Satlow earned his Ph.D in Ancient Judaism at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and is the author of several books, including *Jewish Marriage in Antiquity* (Princeton University Press, 2001), *Creating Judaism* (Columbia University Press, 2006), and *How the Bible Became Holy* (Yale University Press, 2014). The lecture will take place

at the Stieren Theater on Trinity University’s campus, and is free and open to the public.

The series will continue with three additional lectures, all of which are free and open to the public.

Trinity University’s Lennox Seminar lecture series is made possible by the Martha, David and Bagby Lennox Foundation. For more information, visit ReInventingTheBible.com or contact Chad Spigel at cspigel@trinity.edu.

NEWS FROM ALAMO BRANDEIS B’NAI B’RITH

B’nai B’rith’s monthly meeting will held at the JCC on Sunday, Jan. 10 at 10:30 a.m. in Room 227.

Fiesta Fundraiser

Fiesta is 4 months away, but it isn’t too soon to secure your tickets for the Friday and Saturday night parades. As they have for the past 45 years, the Alamo Brandeis Lodge will be selling tickets beginning February 1. Funds raised support the Hillels in San Antonio, Austin, and College Station and other organizations. For information, call Lydia at (210) 928-1188.

Membership Drive

Eager to get involved with B’nai B’rith or learn more about what they do? There’s no better time. For new members, the lodge is offering a free one-year membership. All they ask in return is that new members attend 4 meetings during the year. For more information, contact Lodge President Irwin Barath at (210) 341-4502.

Agudas Achim Sisterhood Shabbat Weekend

Agudas Achim’s Sisterhood will host a Shabbat Weekend from Friday, Jan. 15 – Saturday, Jan. 16. Friday night will include a Shabbat dinner following Friday Night with Friends Musical Kabbalat Shabbat. Services begin at 6:15 p.m. Special guest, Carol Simon, President

of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism, will be speaking at the service. Meet Carol at the Sisterhood sponsored Shabbat Kiddush luncheon on Saturday following Shabbat services.

For more information and Shabbat dinner prices, contact Agudas Achim at (210) 479-0307.

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Saturday, January 23rd @ 6:30 PM
Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community
Tu B'Shevat with Shelley Hoffman Dean of Rhythm and Ruach

A light, kid-friendly kosher dinner will be served



PJ Library is a program of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, Nathalie and Gladys Dalkowitz Charitable Trust and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation

Congregation Rodfei Sholom hosts Adrienne Gold



Adrienne Gold

Congregation Rodfei Sholom will welcome Canadian television celebrity Adrienne Gold the weekend of January 22-24. Gold will participate in a Shabbat dinner and speak on both Shabbat and at a Sunday lunch.

Gold was a fixture on Canadian television for over 15 years, both as host of her own daily fashion and beauty program and as a regular contributor on scores of other topics. She left television and today is an international lecturer and a popular teacher at The Village Shul in Toronto.

JCC hosts Rice University professor Joshua Furman for January lecture

The Barshop Jewish Community Center will host Dr. Joshua Furman for a lecture on Sunday, Jan. 24 at 5 p.m. The event is co-sponsored by Congregation Agudas Achim, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, and Temple Beth-El.

The lecture, *Justice Shall You Pursue: Interfaith and Interracial Cooperation in American Jewish History*,

will examine how Jews have reached across religious and racial boundaries to pursue justice and help create a more diverse and tolerant American society from the twentieth century until today.

Furman, a San Antonio native, is the Stanford and Joan Alexander Postdoctoral Fellow in Jewish Studies at Rice University. He is a specialist in American Jewish history, with research

interests in family life, fatherhood, and Jewish education since World War II.

Admission is \$10 for members of the community and \$5 for JCC members. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.jccsanantonio.org/authorspeakerseries, call (210) 302-6820, or email Rachel Rustin at rustinr@jcc-sa.org.

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Rodfei Sholom's Annual Fundraiser on Sunday, January 10, 2016

Congregation Rodfei Sholom will honor local Latino political figures at its annual fundraiser on Sunday, Jan. 10.

Honorees include Mayor Henry Cisneros, long considered the grandfather of the Latino/Jewish relationship in San Antonio, Congressman Joaquin Castro, State Senator Leticia Van De Putte and Diana Hagee.

"Congregation Rodfei



Paul Begala

Sholom takes great pride in the diverse backgrounds of our membership and

the greater San Antonio community," said a release promoting the event. "We, as a congregation, not only cherish the rich Latino influence within our Rodfei family, but also on local

political figures that have always supported us and our mission. The influence of the Latino community on our local government and culture has provided people of all walks of life and religious backgrounds an atmosphere of acceptance."

The featured speaker for the evening will be CNN commentator Paul Begala. For more information, contact Rodfei Sholom at (210) 492-0629.

Agudas Achim social clubs offer something for everyone

Congregation Agudas Achim's monthly social clubs will be out and about in January and the community is invited to join them. Events include:

- 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. (No RSVP necessary). Thursday, Jan. 7 from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Young Couples Club

of Agudas – A fun no-host dinner at Napa Flats on 1604, Saturday, Jan. 9 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, AACOG is presenting a program on Medicare Fraud. Thursday, Jan. 14 at 11:30 a.m.
- Moonlight Supper Club at Scuzzi's Italian Restaurant

on 1604 – 60+ no-host dinner club. Thursday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m.

- Club Agudas Achim at The Hoppy Monk on 1604 – this 40's/50's club is getting together for a fun night of drinks and dinner on Saturday, Jan. 30 at 7 p.m.

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

Check the calendar in upcoming Jewish Journals for future events.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Hadassah members learn about MS

The San Antonio Chapter of Hadassah will learn the “basics” of Multiple Sclerosis from an expert on Sunday, Jan. 24, at 3 p.m. Rebecca Gray, a programs and services specialist for the local office of the Lone Star Chapter, National MS Society, will discuss this neurological disease and answer audience questions.

Gray, a Texas Certified Community Health Worker (CHW), will discuss symptoms and treatments for this frequently debilitating disease. Multiple Sclerosis is known to impact various ethnic groups, including members of the Ashkenazi Jewish community. Although there's no known cause or

cure for this mysterious silent disease, Hadassah Hospital is playing a major research role, investigating ways to cure, mitigate, or prevent MS.

The MS Basics program will take place in the National MS Society office conference room in the Colonnade office complex 9830 Colonnade Blvd., Suite 130, at I-10 at Wurzbach.

Due to space limitations, reservations should be made as soon as possible to Debbie Linck by phone at (210) 391-3594 or by email marketinglinck@yahoo.com to hold your place. Light refreshments and beverages will be served.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

San Antonio Post of Jewish War Veterans will host the mid-winter meeting of the Department of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma from January 22-24.



The weekend includes:

Friday, Jan. 22 - 7 p.m.
Shabbat services at Fort Sam Houston followed by refreshments

Saturday, Jan. 23 - 10 a.m.
Shabbat morning services at Congregation Agudas Achim (Oneg sponsored by San Antonio Post)

Saturday, Jan. 23 - 1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Informal get together at Fort Sam Houston

Saturday, Jan. 23 - 7 p.m.

Banquet and Installation of officers at the Barn Door Restaurant

Sunday, Jan. 24

9 a.m. – business meeting and goodbye brunch If you're a Jewish war veteran and would like to join the post, contact Irwin Barath at 210-341-4502.

IN THE COMMUNITY: YOUTH

B'nai Tzedek students give thanks and learn, too

High School students in the B'nai Tzedek Program got together right before Thanksgiving to “race” around the Jewish campus and learn about all the ways our Jewish community helps the world. They ended with pizza and a fun, yet meaningful Thanksgiving art project that was then donated to area seniors.



Registration open for JCC's Block and Dreeben School's 2016–2017 year

The JCC Block and Dreeben School for Young Children will hold a meeting for prospective families Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. The philosophy and curriculum will be highlighted and a tour of the classrooms given.

Registration for currently enrolled families begins Thursday, Jan. 14. Following the February 3 meeting, registration opens to JCC members not currently enrolled in the school. Community registration begins Monday, Feb. 8. JCC

membership applications must accompany registration forms.

The program, which offers a play-based curriculum for children six weeks to four year olds (pre-kindergarten), is the only Jewish NAEYC accredited program in San Antonio. It is open year-round, Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with full-time and limited part-time schedules available.

Director Alissa Levey Baugh states, “Our program fosters Jewish identity through an experiential approach to Judaism in a relaxed

atmosphere which provides openness, spontaneity, creativity, joy, and love. We provide an array of activities to promote aesthetic and cultural awareness, academic readiness, motor development, and social skills, while encouraging independence, self-confidence, respect for others, and a sense of belonging in a group. Additionally, we offer love and support to each child and family.”

For more information, visit www.jccsanantonio.org or call (210) 302-6846.

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www.templechaisa.org/parlormeting

C-Teen Program launching new semester



C-Teens enjoying a recent trip to Enchanted Rock with C-Teen leader Rabbi Yossi Marrus

After concluding the *Jewish Love Secrets* Torah class course with some twenty five participants, the San Antonio C-Teen group celebrated the end of the semester with a Regional Texas Shabbaton in College Station, Texas, hosted at Chabad Student Center of Texas A&M. Some 40 teens gathered for a Shabbat experience from C-Teen chapters from Dallas and Houston for a weekend of inspiration, fun and activities.

The new semester will begin in early January 2016 with a six-week course

entitled *Living Your Dream*. *Living Your Dream* explores the concept of success, challenging teens to dream big, to push the boundaries of what they think is possible, and to create a plan to transform that dream into a reality. Throughout *Living Your Dream*, teens will examine the key areas in which success is necessary including: career and finance, personal well-being (physical and emotional), family and relationships, dealing with challenges, and making a difference. The Torah class is held on

Wednesday evening from 7:30-9 p.m. beginning January 6, 2016 at the Chabad Center. Cost of the six-week course is \$100 or \$20 per class.

Additionally, a number of social activities are planned for January-February, including a luncheon with the Sunshine Club and the International C-Teen Shabbaton in New York.

For more information on C-Teen, contact Rabbi Yossi Marrus at (210) 764-0300 or email at rabbimarrus@chabadsa.com.

Heintz Preschool announces Movie Night and expanded hours

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim will host its annual Movie Night featuring the film *Inside Out* on Sunday, Feb. 21 at 4:30 p.m. There will be artificial snow for the children to play with, along with pizza, popcorn, and other snacks. A new addition this year is a family friendly silent auction and raffle. Cost is \$10/adult, \$5/children ages 3-12, children 2 and under are FREE.

“Last year was such a success that we decided to add a silent auction and more raffles, making for a more exciting event,” said Heintz Preschool PTO President, Vicki Adelstein.

Heintz Preschool is also

extending its core hours beginning in January to 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in addition to being open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. It’s after school extracurricular programs will continue from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. with Art on Mondays, Soccer Shots on Tuesdays, Tumblebus on Thursdays, and Kid Tech Computer classes on Fridays.

“We’re delighted to accommodate our Heintz Preschool parents’ ever growing busy schedules by extending our day and offering more of our superb curriculum”, said Heintz Preschool Director Celina Geidesman.

Call (210) 479-0429 for more information.

Jewish Day School TASA to host open house

The Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of San Antonio (TASA) will hold an open house for the 2016-2017 school year on Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

While discussing Jewish education, TASA’s President Aaron Sarfati called it a misnomer. He stated, “It implies only Judaic or Hebrew studies. This isn’t accurate. It really means ‘Education for Jews.’ The TASA program provides Jewish students a well-rounded education – the academic skills necessary for the real world along with the traditions and language of the Jewish people within an environment that cultivates Jewish ethics.”

He continues, “A 2004 study by the Hebrew University and JFNA found

that 77% of those who attended Jewish day schools marry Jewish, 58% find ‘being Jewish’ to be very important, and 39% are ‘very attached to Israel.’

For those attending only a supplementary program, the percentages are much lower. And for Sunday school only, even lower. That study suggests a communal interest in promoting day schools.

“At TASA, we believe in our mission: high-quality Jewish education is a right that should be accessible to every Jewish student,” said Sarfati. “That is why our tuition is among the lowest in the nation and will continue to be. We have never and will never turn away anyone because of finances.”

For more information, visit www.TorahAcademySA.com.

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IN THE COMMUNITY: SENIORS

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services opens satellite office

To accommodate significant expansion in programs and staff, Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) will open a satellite office near the Jewish Campus in early January 2016.

The office will be located in the Acropolis building at 13409 NW Military Hwy, Suite 210, on the west side of the street, just north of George Rd.

“In addition to more floor space for our growing staff and programs, there’s plenty of parking behind the building to accommodate people gathering for meetings, classes, and other activities,” said Daniel Laser, GMJSS executive director.

“Our strong desire was to continue to house all of GMJSS’ operations at the Campus, but additional office space was not available to meet our needs,” said Alice Troy, president of GMJSS’ board of directors.

“We will continue to maintain our presence and a number of our activities at the Campus for the

foreseeable future,” she added.

“In addition to our partnerships with our local

congregations, agencies and other organizations that offer opportunities to enrich the lives of Jewish

seniors, we have a number of programs that we will be providing directly, now that we will have the space.”



Join us for an informational meeting and light breakfast to hear more about this incredible women’s only MOMentum Israel Experience!



Meet Adrienne Gold, a celebrated Canadian Television personality who now is an international lecturer and a popular teacher at The Village Shul in Toronto. She also leads several yearly Birthright for Mom’s style trips to Israel with The Jewish Women’s Renaissance Project, MOMentum!

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CLOSED SABBATH

WHAT'S HAPPENING

SHOWER

continued from page 1

Shalom. The families had provided a wish list of items that they could use and women brought items to the Shower from a Target registry as well as gift cards from Target, HEB, restaurants and more.

Upon arrival, women shopped from several local vendors who generously contributed 20% of their evening sales back to the annual campaign. Once the doors opened, the women wrapped gifts for the families and enjoyed wine and dessert. The evening came together with a brief program about the important work of Women's Philanthropy and then

women beaded a beautiful unity bracelet created by local artists Aliza Cantu and Wendy Bolerjack.

Proceeds from the evening will benefit the Women's Empowerment Program in Israel that provides support and job training for women living in poverty. Event co-chairs of the Shower were Susan Blumenthal, Elisa Reinsmith, Jodi Starr and Leslie Tramer.

In total, the local families received gifts and gift cards valued in excess of \$7,000 that was generously donated by women in our community. The theme of the evening was COMMUNITY coming together to do a WORLD of good.

Mission accomplished!



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR ANNUAL INTERFAITH HANUKKAH CELEBRATION

On Thursday, December 10, at 11:30 a.m., members of the San Antonio-area Roman Catholic and Jewish communities gathered for the annual interfaith Hanukkah celebration at San Fernando Cathedral Hall. The event was sponsored by the Jewish Federation of San Antonio and San Fernando Cathedral.

This year, the event marked the 50th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*, the Vatican II document which revolutionized Catholic-Jewish relations. The guest speaker was Rabbi Jack Bemporad, the founder and director of the non-profit Center for Interreligious Understanding. He is widely acknowledged as the leading Jewish spokesperson at the Vatican.

The Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S, Archbishop of San Antonio presided over the celebration with the Very Rev. Tony Vilano, JCL, Rector of San Fernando Cathedral, and Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth-El, leading the proceedings.

A memorable moment was the kindling of Hanukkah lights by clergy and lay leaders from the Jewish and Catholic communities, and a choir performance by Providence High School.



Kathy Flinn, Lois Cahodas, Rene Wender and Hana Ross



Dr. Alfonso Chiscano and Rachel Stern light the Hanukkah while Rabbi Sam Stahl looks on.



Henry B. Gonzales III with Speaker of the Texas House Joe Straus

Sister Jane Ann Slater and Barbie Scharf-Zeldes with Rabbi Stahl



WHAT'S HAPPENING



Wilma Fischer, Lety Vargas, Lauren Sandoval, Christina Weinfield, Daniel Laser



David Komet with his mother Eleanor 'Bitsy' Komet

Archbishop
Gustavo Garcia-
Siller lights a
Candle with
Rabbi Aryeh
Scheinberg with
Rabbi Sam Stahl
observing



Buzz Trustin with Joshua Sutin



Laura Ehrenberg-
Chesler, Tiffany
Bockerstette and
Federation CEO
Ronit Sherwin



Rabbi Jack Bemporad, keynote speaker

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CHANUKAH ON THE RIVER



Featuring a river cruise with Menorahs on the barges, a Chanukah Wonderland carnival and a live performance by Moshav Band, Chabad's 18th Annual Chanukah on the River brought Jewish unity and pride to the heart of San Antonio in La Vallita.



HANUKKAH MACCABABIES AT HEINTZ

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim "Maccababies" had a blast at their Hanukkah program. They danced, they sang and were costumed as dreidels, presents and puppies. After the performance, everyone enjoyed a festive latke lunch.



CELEBRATING HANUKKAH IN STYLE

Temple Beth-El's Adult Hanukkah party on December 10 was a successful Fundraiser and "Funraiser." Guests included (back row) Lisa Rosenbloom, Amy & David Sokol, Amy Sugarman & Dan Weingart, (front row) Jeff Rosenbloom, and Alice & Sergio Viroslav. To see other photos, visit the Temple's Facebook Page at "Temple Beth-El San Antonio."



CELEBRATING THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

TASA students created Hanukkah decorations during art class to help support the schools annual Glow in the Dark holiday party.



BETH-EL CELEBRATES HANUKKAH WITH GOLDEN ESTATES

On December 6, Temple Beth-El volunteers brought joy into the lives of residents at Golden Estates with a Hanukkah party, thanks to support from Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services and Anna Gorchow-Garcia.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



HANUKKAH HAPPENINGS AT THE J

In December, youth participated in a variety of Hanukkah-themed events, including *Hands on Chanukah* at the JCC and a Cultural Friendship Exchange Program (pictured) at the Block & Dreeben School for Young Children with students from University Presbyterian Children's Center, DePaul Learning Center, Blessed Sacrament Academy, and Carmelite Learning Center.



BETHEL20S30S STRIKE UP SOME FUN FOR HANUKKAH

Temple Beth-El's 20s30s Group hosted a Hanukkah party at Bowlero on December 7. For more information about the group, contact Alex Stubbs-Trevino at (830) 401-9985 or alex.stubbstrevino@gmail.com.

HANUKKAH PRESCHOOL STYLE



(L-R) M. Sarfati, T. Benatar and T. Kluger enjoyed a moment of friendship together at Chanukah Family FUN NIGHT on Tuesday, Dec. 8 at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning.

Gan Gani Preschool hosted a Chanukah Family Fun Night for the community on Tuesday, Dec. 8. The event featured a silent auction of the children's artwork, Chanukah reading and play centers, a menorah lighting with Rabbi Chaim Block and a dinner with the traditional latkes and jelly donuts. For more information about Gan Gani Preschool please call (210) 492-1085 or visit www.GanGani.org.



GMJSS LIGHTS THE NIGHT

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services had the opportunity to light the menorah on the second night of Hanukkah at The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community. GMJSS representatives, including (l to r) Daniel Laser, Executive Director of Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services; Alice Troy, GMJSS President; and Howard Feinberg, Vice President of GMJSS; were joined by students of JAS.



WHAT'S HAPPENING



HANUKKAH PARTIES FOR AREA SENIORS

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services, Temple Beth-El and Agudas Achim hosted Hanukkah celebrations for seniors living at Golden Estates, Madison Estates and Adante Senior Living during December. Festivities at each location included singing, playing dreidel and lighting the menorah. As shown above, Madison Estates residents were led in song by Hazzan Jeremy Lipton of Agudas Achim and snacked on latkes, cookies, jelly donuts and more on Wednesday, Dec. 9.



LOTS OF LATKES AT AGUDAS ACHIM

Congregation Agudas Achim's *Lots of Latkes* on December 9 included holiday foods including lots of latkes, of course, plus a concert by Joe Buchanan and was co-sponsored with Camp Young Judaea.



HANUKKAH WITH YJSA AND PEARL

Young & Jewish San Antonio (YJSA) partnered with Pearl to bring the joy of Hanukkah and the Menorah's message of religious freedom, tolerance and hope to the broader San Antonio community. Mayor Ivy Taylor (right) lit the Shamash candle on the 9 ft. Menorah while Tera Ferna, a local rock-and-soul band entertained the crowd with a number of Hanukkah songs. Kosher food was sold by Green Kosher Cuisine.



For more information on upcoming events for 20s-30s, visit www.YJSA.org.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



MAKING MEMORIES & MORE!

Congregation Rodfei Sholom hosted a Chanukah Marketplace and Workshop on November 22. Among those in attendance were (at right) Orah Bass with her daughter Ella and above l to r) Kelly Maisel with daughter Sari, Gloria Kenigstein with her grandson Louis, Lisa K. Abramson, Tania Arzi, and Idelle Abramson.



GMJSS HITS THE ROAD FOR A "DAYCATION"

On Wednesday, Nov. 18, seniors with Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) were treated to a VIP tour of Sandy Oaks Olive Orchard by owner Sandy Winokur. Along with a tour of the orchard, guests were educated on the various benefits and uses of olive oil, and various olive oil and olive leaf-based skin care products it produces. They also enjoyed an olive oil and balsamic vinegar and olive tasting, lunch and the opportunity to shop. For more information on the next planned outing, contact GMJSS at (210) 302-6946.

NCJWSA [®] **Saturday, February 6, 2016**
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WHAT'S HAPPENING



MAIN EVENT AT THE JCC

The JCC honored (top photo) David & Karen Palans and Courtney & Steve Silver at the 2015 Main Event, which had over 400 people in attendance. Guests included (bottom photo) Dana & Bruce Hendin and 2014 Main Event honorees Pat Kalmans & Mike Ozer.



GIVING THANKS TO FIRST RESPONDERS

Congregation Rodfei Sholom took time out from their family celebrations to deliver Thanksgiving meals to San Antonio firefighters and police on Thanksgiving Day.

TASA LENDS A HAND

The entire TASA student body visited the San Antonio Food Bank and sorted and boxed nearly 5,400 lbs. of dry and canned goods in 1 1/2 hours, which directly fed approximately 4,300 meals to families in need.



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TASA THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

TASA 1st and 2nd grade students had the opportunity to work on their public speaking skills during the school's Thanksgiving Program for parents.



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(l to r) Israel Bonds San Antonio Chair Dr. Michael Ozer, honorees Lizette and Brian Feld and Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg of Congregation Rodfei Sholom.

ISRAEL BONDS HONORS FELD FAMILY

On November 15, Israel Bonds San Antonio honored Lizette and Brian Feld for their dedication to the Jewish Community of San Antonio and to the State of Israel. Brian gave a heart-felt presentation of the Feld Family L'Dor V'Dor program he and Lizette created to buy Israel Bonds for their children and help them forge their own connection to Israel. Over 170 attendees listened to keynote speaker, columnist Jeff Jacoby of the *Boston Globe*, explain the change in Israel's public image over the last 30 years. With a high participation rate of over seventy percent, those in attendance expressed an interest in investing more than \$600,000 in the State of Israel. San Antonio is year to date investment is over \$2.5 million.

IN THE COMMUNITY: COLLEGE



Students from all over San Antonio celebrate Chanukah at our annual Matzo Ball Party.

Hillel San Antonio celebrates successful semester

Hillel San Antonio, a collaboration between Texas Hillel at UT-Austin and the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, had a strong finish to the Fall semester. Hillel engages with students in San Antonio and connects them to Judaism in ways that are relevant and exciting. Recently a group of students delivered blankets for patients at the Start Center for Cancer Care. Trinity students participated in a Jewish current events lunch-and-learn at Moshe's Golden Falafel. More than forty students enjoyed a Hillel Hanukkah party hosted by the Peden Family.

Temple Beth-El hosted a Shabbat dinner for Hillel in conjunction with Texas Lutheran University students as the last event in the civic engagement initiative. Students shared questions with Rabbi Mara Nathan in the spirit of interfaith dialogue.

Hillel students look forward to next semester and welcome any program or event ideas. For more information visit www.HillelSA.org or contact Alan Yancelson



Jessica Peden delivers blankets to cancer patients at the Start Center for Cancer Care.

at ayancelson@HillelSA.org. Check out Hillel San Antonio on Facebook,

and subscribe to the e-newsletter and share with your friends.

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UTSA celebrates Hanukkah with Chabad on Campus

On the second night of Hanukkah, students, professors and friends gathered in the main Plaza at UTSA for the historic first public menorah lighting on campus. At the lighting, President Ricard Romo addressed the crowd and spoke of the first Jews in Texas and their Sephardic origin. Romo (above) lit the *Shamash* candle and Dr. Yaacov Herszage (below) lead the *Brachot* and lit the candles. Organizers say the festive event included Hanukkah music, sufganiot, chocolate gelt and a feeling of unity and pride.



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Ronit Sherwin, Chief Executive Officer
Sherwinr@jfsatx.org / (210) 302-6961

Lauren Abraham, Special Programs Coordinator
abrahaml@jfsatx.org

Leslie Komet Ausburn,
Marketing/Editor *The Jewish Journal*
jewishj@jfsatx.org

Tiffany Bockerstette, Chief Financial Officer
bockerstettet@jfsatx.org

Linda Brown, Campaign Administrator
brownl@jfsatx.org

Alan Carney, Accounting Manager
carneya@jfsatx.org

Matthew Faulkner, Programs Manager,
Holocaust Memorial Museum
faulknerm@jfsatx.org

Susan Avitan Kariv, Chief Development Officer
karivs@jfsatx.org

Judy Lackritz,
Community Relations Director and
Director Holocaust Memorial Museum
lackritzj@jfsatx.org

Sandy Leigh, Advertising Director
The Jewish Journal, advertising@jfsatx.org

Nathan Ratner, Coordinator
San Antonio Jewish Coalition for Literacy
ratnerne@jfsatx.org

Samantha Mazuz, Young Adult Division
Director & Marketing Manager
mazuzss@jfsatx.org

Danielle Roberts, Accounting Associate
robertsd@jfsatx.org

Kristin Rodriguez, Education Associate,
Holocaust Memorial Museum
robertsd@jfsatx.org

Juana Rubalcava, Education Director
Holocaust Memorial Museum
rubalcavaj@jfsatx.org

Julie Schack,
Director of Women's Philanthropy
Schackj@jfsatx.org

Caitlyn Strayer, Office Manager

Lynn Waghalter, Librarian Beldon Library
waghalterl@jfsatx.org

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Barshop Jewish Community Center

12500 NW Military Highway, Suite 275, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6820 Fax: (210) 408-2341

Executive Director: Saul F. Levenshush Email: jcc@jcc-sa.org

President: Stephen J. Kramer Website: www.jccsanantonio.org

A birth through life organization, JCC programs include a nationally-accredited nursery school, after school care and programs, summer camp programs, programming for adults and senior adults, plus cultural, educational and recreational programs open to the community.

Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus

of the San Antonio Jewish Community

12500 NW Military Hwy, Suite 100, San Antonio Texas 78231

Phone: (210) 302-6801 Fax: (210) 408-2322

Director of Operations: Mike Griffin

President: Alice Viroslav Website: www.thecampustx.org

The Campus features a variety of spaces available to rent for small or large events.

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services

12500 N.W. Military Hwy. Suite 260, San Antonio, TX 78231

Phone: (210) 302-6946 Website: <http://www.goldenmanor.net>

Executive Director: Daniel L. Laser President: Alice R. Troy
Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) works to enhance the lives of Jewish seniors in the San Antonio Area by providing transportation and direct programming and through partnerships with other organizations for programs that benefit San Antonio area Jewish seniors.

Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Antonio

P.O. Box 780264 San Antonio, TX 78278 Phone: (210) 736-4352

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Jewish Family Service

12500 NW Military Highway, Suite 250, San Antonio, TX 78231

Phone: (210) 302-6920 Fax: (210) 302-6952

Executive Director: M. H. Levine President: Marion Bernstein
Jewish Family Service (JFS) offers a wide range of professional counseling, social services, advocacy for victims of crime, and services for seniors including senior living and care options.

National Council Of Jewish Women (NCJW)

Website: www.ncjwsa.org

For Membership Information: Cathy Pottorf - catpot52@gmail.com
NCJW is a grassroots organization that advocates for women, children and family issues both locally and nationally.

Hillel San Antonio

Website: www.hillelsa.org Phone: (210) 201-Jews (5397)

Contact: Alan Yancelson Email: ayancelson@hillelsa.org

San Antonio Hillel serves college students throughout the San Antonio area.

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website: www.agudas-achim.org

Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Senior Rabbi

Hazzan Jeremy Lipton

Rabbi Ariel Greenberg, Director of

Congregational Learning

Congregation Beth Am (Reconstructionist)

7150 IH 10 West, 78213

Phone: (210) 492-2173 Fax: (210) 342-8935

website: www.bethamsatx.org

Lay Leader Marion Bernstein

Congregation Rodfei Sholom (Orthodox)

3003 Sholom Dr., 78230

Phone: (210) 493-3557 Fax: (210) 492-0629

E-Mail address: rodfeisa@gmail.com

Website: www.rodfeisholom.org

Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg

Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg

Temple Beth-El (Reform)

211 Belknap Place, 78212

Phone: (210) 733-9135 Fax: (210) 737-8946

E-mail address: Temple@beth-elsa.org

Website: www.beth-elsa.org

Rabbi Mara Nathan, Senior Rabbi

Rabbi Marina Yergin

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Temple Chai (Reform)

2121 Lockhill-Selma

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website: www.templechaisa.org

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Hazzan David Silverstein, JD,

Bye Bye Rabbi! — murder mystery comedy

On Saturday, Feb. 6 National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) – San Antonio Section is presenting an interactive murder mystery comedy. The event will be held at the IBC Bank, Branch Event Center, 8650 Fredericksburg Road.

Picture this scenario: A venerable Jewish

congregation is in financial trouble. A real estate developer is offering to buy the property and solve the money problem. The Temple's Rabbi, played by Ron Aaron, does not want to sell. Congregants and temple staff are divided on the course of action needed to save the temple. A congregational

meeting has been called to decide the Temple's fate – audience attendees are the congregants.

In addition to Ron Aaron, the cast includes Lee Markman, Amy Wulfe, Sharon Greenwald, Varda Ratner, Janet Neuenschwander, Debby Zucker, Rhonda Grimm and David Jackson. The

play was conceived by Lee Markman and Sheryd and David Jackson.

For information about sponsorships or table sales (seating for eight), please contact Beth Keough at (210) 481-0828 or bkk42@aol.com.

Individual tickets at \$54 per person may be purchased by contacting Sheryd

Jackson at (210) 558-2010 or sherydsheryd@sbcglobal.net.

A dessert reception, wine and schnapps are included in ticket price. Proceeds from this event will be used to sustain and enhance local NCJW programs and projects for women, children and families.

Gryphon Trio to perform at Temple Beth-El

The San Antonio Chamber Music Society will present the third concert in its 2015-2016 series, featuring the Gryphon Trio at Temple Beth-El on January 24 at 3 p.m.

The Gryphon Trio, with Annalee Patipatanakoon on violin, Roman Borys on cello and James Parker on piano, will perform Debussy's *Trio in G Major*, Wijeratne's *Love Triangle* and Ravel's *Trio in A Minor*.

Tickets for the concert are \$25, and may be purchased online at www.sacms.org.

The Diviners on stage next at The Vex

Tickets are on sale January 4 for the Sheldon Vexler Theatre's third production of the season, *The Diviners*, by Jim Leonard, Jr.

Journey to a parched town in southern Indiana during the earliest days of the Depression. Witness the dramatic story of a disturbed young boy who is paradoxically deathly afraid of water, while at the same time being miraculously blessed with water divination,

something vital at this particular time period.

Co-directed by Vex Production Manager Dylan Brainard and Tami Kai, the cast features a mix of Vex veterans and newcomers alike. Of utmost importance in casting the show was finding the perfect actor to portray Buddy Layman, the young boy in the story. When Isaac Oullette, who is new to The Vex stage, auditioned, they were certain they'd found their

guy; a read-through early on with the cast cemented that feeling.

The Diviners opens Thursday, Feb. 4 and will run through Sunday, Feb. 28. Performances are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased beginning Jan. 4 by calling The Vex Box Office at (210) 302-6835 or in person at the JCC. Visit www.vexler.org for more information about the show.



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Take a musical journey with Temple Beth-El's musician in residence

Noah Aronson, Temple Beth-El's musician in residence, will share a weekend of musical exploration from January 22-24.

On Friday, Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m., Aronson will join Rabbis Mara Nathan and Marina Yergin and Cantor Berlin in leading Shabbat Evening Worship.

On Saturday, Jan. 23, Aronson will join in the weekly group dialogue for Torah Study at 9 a.m., followed by Shabbat morning worship at 10:30 a.m. That event at 7 p.m., Aronson will present *Am I Awake*, a musical through his soulful compositions.



The weekend will wrap on Sunday, Jan. 24 at 10:30 a.m., as Aronson leads an adult learning experience exploring how composers take a text and make it into music. He will also discuss his Left Side of the Page project in which he took the texts from the left side pages of *Mishkan Tefillah* and wrote new music for Temple Beth-El services.

Marvin Hamlisch documentary kicks-off JCC Jewish Film Festival

The Barshop JCC's 15th Annual Jewish Film Festival will kick-off Saturday, Jan. 9 with a documentary about the life of composer Marvin Hamlisch. Known for work from stage to screen and everything in between, Hamlisch was the recipient of four Grammys, four Emmys, three Oscars, three Golden Globes, one Tony Award, and a Pulitzer Prize before his death in 2012, making him one of only two PEGOT winners ever.

Director Dori Bernstein, an award-winning filmmaker and Tony Award-winning producer, interviews a number of legends and A-list collaborators, including Barbra Streisand, Carly Simon, Christopher Walken, Sir Tim Rice, Woody Allen, and more, in this deeply personal portrait of Hamlisch's life. Known for such hits as *The Way We Were*, *Nobody Does It Better*, as well as scores for the films *Sophie's Choice* and *The Sting*, and,



of course, his well-known musical *A Chorus Line*, Hamlisch was a go-to composer and performer for film, Broadway, and every US president since Reagan.

Tickets for this one-night only event are \$10 and may be purchased online at www.jccsanantonio.org/filmfestival, in person, or over the phone at (210) 302-6820. Doors open at 7 p.m. for a dessert reception; the film will begin at 8 p.m.

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AROUND TEXAS

Kinky Friedman concert to benefit Congregation Beth Jacob Galveston

Kinky Friedman, the colorful Texas Country singer, songwriter, humorist, cowboy and best-selling mystery writer, will be center stage Saturday, March 26, at 8 p.m., for *An Evening with Kinky Friedman Benefitting Congregation Beth Jacob Galveston* at the 1894 Grand Opera House in Galveston. Friedman will perform signature songs from his celebrated 40-year music career, plus selections from his newly released CD, *The Loneliest Man I Ever Met*. *An Evening with Kinky Friedman* will celebrate the 85th anniversary of the historic Congregation Beth



Kinky Friedman will perform at a fundraiser for Congregation Beth Jacob Galveston on March 26.

(Synagogue) by the Shore.” The congregation nearly met its demise in 2008 after Hurricane Ike ravaged its buildings. This year, standing strong, the synagogue ushers in its 85th anniversary year. Concert benefit tickets, priced from \$45-\$100, are available online at:

thegrand.com/calendar.asp (scroll down to March 26.) The 1894 Opera House is located at 2020 Post Office Street. For further information on sponsorships or tickets, visit www.galvestonshul.org or call David Rockoff, (409) 762-4545.

At Issue: Welcoming the Stranger

The Passover seder reminds us each year that we were slaves in the land of Egypt. And one of the lessons to be learned throughout the year from that ancient memory is that, according to Exodus 23:9: “You shall not oppress a stranger, since you yourselves know the feelings of a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” We were also strangers in Persia, Spain, Russia, Iraq, Poland, and Germany, when hospitality was indistinguishable from hostility. Empathy for strangers is as Jewish as *matzo brei*.

Fleeing violence that has claimed more than 240,000 lives, four million Syrians are now strangers in strange lands. Most have gone to Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan, but the Gulf Arab states have accepted almost



Perspective:

STEVEN G. KELLMAN

none. Hundreds of thousands have made the arduous and dangerous journey to Europe, where Germany and Sweden have provided safe haven and Hungary has erected barbed wire to keep them out. Nor are they welcome in the Czech Republic, Denmark, and Slovakia. In distant Canada, the new prime minister, Justin Trudeau, pledged to bring in 25,000 Syrians by the end of February. But after President Barack Obama announced a modest plan to resettle 10,000 refugees in the United States throughout 2016, opposition has been fierce. Warning that terrorists would use the

plan to infiltrate, Governor Greg Abbott, who lacks legal authority to do so, said he would prohibit Syrian refugees from entering Texas.

The carnage in Syria has created what all agree is the worst refugee crisis since World War II. A natural, if imperfect, analogy is to the plight of millions of Jews who, facing extermination, were turned away by nation after nation, including the United States. Because of the 1976 movie *Voyage of the Damned*, many know the sobering story of the MS *St. Louis*, the ship that set sail from Hamburg to Havana on May 13, 1939 carrying 937 passengers, almost all of them Jews who believed they were escaping Europe just in time. When they reached Cuba, they were refused entry. Sailing up the Atlantic Coast, they

were also denied permission to disembark in the United States. Anxious passengers sent urgent cables to the Roosevelt administration pleading for permission to land, but in response the State Department dispatched a telegram that ordered them to “await their turns on the waiting list and qualify for and obtain immigration visas before they may be admissible into the United States.”

The *St. Louis* was forced to return to Europe. Many of the Jews did find temporary refuge, though researchers at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum concluded that 254 perished in the Holocaust: “Most of these people were murdered in the killing centers of Auschwitz and Sobibór; the rest died in internment camps, in hiding or attempting to evade the Nazis.”

The story of a few Jews who did manage to receive asylum in the United States is less widely known. On June 12, 1944, after millions had already been slaughtered, President Franklin D. Roosevelt yielded to pressure from American Jewish groups and his own Treasury Department, which sought to outmaneuver anti-Semites in the State Department, by creating the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter. Located in Oswego, New York, the gated, guarded facility accepted 982 refugees, most of them Jews. It was the only refugee camp maintained within the United States, but its detainees could be excused for confusing it with Nazi concentration camps many had fled. Surrounded by barbed wire and denied permission to

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Helping to fortify Israeli citizens against terror

By Winslow Swart

Nearly 100 terrorist knife attacks and several other acts of terror have plagued Israel in the past few months and it became clear after only a few weeks into this *unofficial* intifada that I was fully incapable of standing by and doing nothing. The action I felt compelled to take was to go to Israel and help fortify the people there by conducting situational awareness and defensive tactics seminars for both civilians and uniformed peacekeepers. Quite suddenly, with the help and support of this community

and several dear friends and acquaintances, I was able to raise most of the funds needed to fulfill a two-week training mission in Israel which took place November 22 through December 6.

I conducted 12 seminars in and around Jerusalem, Tel Aviv/Holon, Ashqelon, Har’*e* Yehuda, and The Negev for participants that included at-risk youth, tech-sector workgroups, high school and college yeshivas and seminaries, and Elite IDF Forces. This wide-range of participants required the recalibration of training content which turned out to be, based upon the feedback,



Swart (4th from left) with members of the Jerusalem Security Police. quite successful.

Three key-thrusts that comprised the training program, developed to match the current conditions and crisis in Israel, were:

1) Everything learned today can be used today. The defensive tactics techniques taught for use against knife attacks were movements the body can do well naturally,

the strikes were those where natural strength exists, and the target areas inherently vulnerable;

2) Situational awareness must be 360°, training for developing both sight and perception was a key component;

3) The shift from being victim to warrior is not an option. Hyper-stimulated amygdala-based flight or fight responses, as taught in krav maga, are not sustainable. The bio and emotional mechanics of effective command presence and energetic

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ISSUE

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leave the camp, the refugees were in effect imprisoned by the United States for the duration of the war. The rationale was that these unfortunate people might really be Nazis intent, as late as 1944, on sabotage within the United States.

One Nazi spy did, in fact, try to pass himself off as a Jewish refugee. As recounted in an article by Daniel A. Gross posted in November at Smithsonian.com, Herbert Karl Freidrich Bahr was a 28-year-old German engineer who was arrested immediately after he slipped into the United States posing as a Jew. After confessing to the FBI that he had been assigned by the Gestapo to bring back industrial secrets, he was tried, convicted, and sentenced to 30 years in prison. Opponents of asylum seized on the Bahr case to argue that during the wartime emergency no Jews should be admitted into the United States, lest a Nazi agent sneak in among them. However, it could

instead be argued that Bahr was a unique case, that the vetting process immediately exposed him as a fraud, and that it is a terrible irony for Jews to be treated as if they were their Nazi persecutors. It was also a terrible irony for the United States to be fighting against totalitarian injustice while at the same time interning thousands of loyal Japanese American citizens.

Current vetting procedures by U.S. authorities require up to two years of intensive investigations. It is another terrible irony for Americans to assume that Syrian refugees are really the brutal terrorists they are fleeing. It is wise to remember that we are all strangers.

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

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed in Perspective and At Issue do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

The quest to document Jewish cemetery gravestones with photographs

San Antonio resident Roger Adler has volunteered to coordinate a project for JEWISHGEN, a nonprofit Jewish genealogy site that helps Jews find their roots throughout the world.

Adler along with professional photographer Daniel Grunfeld, have undertaken a task of documenting approximately 3,000 readable gravestones of the Oradea Jewish Velenta Cemetery in Romania.

Adler's grandfather was born in Oradea, once home to a large and vibrant Jewish community, before Hitler's rise and World War II. In the 1940s, of the city's 90,000 people, about 30,000 were Jewish, and many people made important and lasting contributions in areas such as the arts and sciences, commerce, industry, and humanitarian service.

Adler says it is important to document these gravestones in order to keep



the memory of this important Transylvanian Jewish community alive for future generations.

Grunfeld coordinates the preparation and photography of the stones, and uses a number of techniques to enhance any obscure lettering of hard to read gravestones. Foam, for example, is applied in the engraved letters and a photograph is quickly taken. Specialty lighting is also

used.

The completed files are loaded onto the JEWISHGEN.org website, so Jews can discover their ancestors' burial sites.

So far Adler and Grunfeld team have documented a little under 500 gravestones. For more information on the project and how you can help, contact Adler at Baldreal@Sbcglobal.net or (210) 273-5185, or visit www.JewishGen.org.

TERROR

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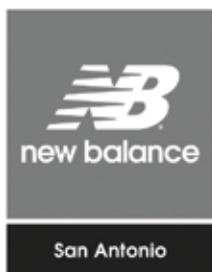
power and focus serves higher-order functioning while under combat or terrorism and the ability to attain a profound sense of inner-confidence, inner-calm which also off-sets the stress effects of having remained at heightened alert for prolonged periods. While in the Jerusalem, I worked with extensively deployed PTSD affected combatants who now serve on security details in the Old City, one of whom commented he had waited 15 years for this kind of training. Much progress was made in a very short time.

The program was so well received in Israel that requests for more training from several

additional groups and organizations remain. Plans to return to Israel soon to meet this demand are already underway.

I did not charge any fees for these seminars while in Israel, though I feel I was paid with love. Israel put its arms around me and embraced this program, and for that I am grateful and feel compelled to do even more.

Winslow Swart is a Japanese trained 7th Dan, Kendoshi Sensei in the martial art of Kenseido, the highest ranking master instructor outside of Japan. Winslow has trained federal law enforcement agencies, has served in the United States Presidential Motorcade, and currently teaches self-defense to children and adults in San Antonio.



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Rob & Emily Kaufman

UAW strikes down BDS resolution approved by local branch

(JTA) — The United Auto Workers International Union struck down a boycott resolution against Israel.

The University of California Student Workers Union, UAW Local 2865, which represents more than 13,000 teaching assistants, tutors and other student workers in the UC system, approved a resolution in December 2014 to join the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, or BDS, against Israel.

On December 15, 2015, the UAW International Executive Board stated its “unanimous belief” that BDS “espouses discrimination and vilification against Israelis and UAW members who are of Jewish lineage.”

The board determined that “the provisions of the BDS Resolution, despite semantical claims to the contrary by the local union, can easily be construed as academic and cultural discrimination against union members on the basis of their national origin and religion.”

“The UAW board also called the BDS resolution “a clear and convincing breach” of the union’s constitution, and “would

harm UAW-represented workers and other union members” by boycotting companies that employ these individuals, leading to “direct economic deprivation.”

Informed Grads, a UC student group that had opposed the resolution, said the UAW had set a national precedent by denying the local organization the right to adopt such a measure.

“The anti-Semitism and active promotion of hate that ran rampant throughout this BDS campaign cannot and must not be tolerated. We applaud UAW International for taking a firm position against BDS and discrimination based on religion or national origin,” Karra Greenberg of Informed Grads, who testified at the appeal hearing, said in a statement.

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In an ultra-wealthy Moscow suburb, a luxurious JCC opens its doors

By Cnaan Lipshiz

ZHUKOVKA, Russia (JTA) — On the only road connecting this affluent village on Moscow’s western outskirts, Russian secret service agents are blocking all inbound traffic. Drivers bound for Zhukovka pull over and step out to smoke while chatting with other motorists as a line of luxury cars grows on the shoulder of a two-lane road.

The closures are a frequent occurrence because Zhukovka and the adjacent riverside village of Barvikha are home to some of Russia’s richest and most powerful people. Among the combined 5,500 residents living in the villages are Ukraine’s ousted president, Viktor Yanukovych, who has a \$52 million mansion in the area, and the Russian Jewish construction magnates Boris and Arkady Rotenberg. All three are associates of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

“Ordinary” millionaires who live here must wait patiently as VIPs travel in motorcades to and from Moscow, or receive visits by senior officials. So do the tourists who come here

to catch a glimpse of the village’s sprawling villas, with their private tennis courts and hedge mazes.

But in December, Muscovites, and Jews especially, received a more accessible attraction in Zhukovka: A \$20 million Jewish community center and synagogue opened here on Dec. 6 amid fanfare and in the presence of 400 guests, including Israel’s chief Ashkenazi rabbi, David Lau. And while the new JCC is seen as a demonstration of this community’s robustness, it nonetheless comes amid growing Jewish emigration that is widely attributed to the financial crisis in Russia and concern over its government’s nationalist agenda.

From the international design firm Gensler, the Zhukovka JCC is a doughnut-shaped structure

with a granite facade, 54,000 square feet of floor space, a small cinema and 24 luxury guest rooms that are intended to be used free of charge by Shabbat overnights.

At the heart of the building is a synagogue with a capacity of 400 worshippers and modular tables made of Swedish wood. The basement has still-unfinished, warm-water mikvah ritual baths. The building is under the watchful eye of 24/7 security guards, who operate airport-grade body and luggage scanners. The basement of the center, which was built with money donated by wealthy Jews (and some non-Jews), has a gourmet kosher restaurant. Its kitchen is overseen by two Italian chefs, including the renowned restaurateur Uilliam Lamberti.

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Top Reform bodies renew call for Redskins to change name, logo

WASHINGTON (JTA)

— Two top Reform movement groups reiterated their call on the NFL's Washington Redskins to change the team's name and logo.

"Redskin" is a racial slur that references the deplorable treatment of American Indians that has been a significant part of this country's history," Rabbi Jonah Pesner, who heads Reform's Religious Action Center, said in a letter delivered Monday to the franchise's headquarters by the group Change the Mascot.

"The logo, seemingly attempting to draw upon the archetype of an Indian warrior, blatantly mocks a culture that struggles to survive," said the letter addressed to owner Dan Snyder, who is Jewish. Snyder in the past has

called on Jewish groups to defend him against what he perceived to be anti-Jewish slurs.

Also writing to the team was the Reform movement's Central Conference of American Rabbis.

"The intransigence of Redskins' ownership is appalling, particularly in light of the tremendous offense that Native American Indians continue to experience as a result of the team's inappropriate, insulting name," said the letter signed by Rabbi Denise Eger, the CCAR president, and Rabbi Steven Fox, its CEO.

Reform bodies for decades have advocated for the team to change its name. The Anti Defamation League has also repeatedly called for a name change.

Turkey, Israel strike preliminary agreement to normalize relations

(JTA) — Israel and Turkey reached a preliminary agreement to renew normal relations.

The tentative agreement, hammered out during meetings in Switzerland, would include the reinstatement of ambassadors in both countries, Reuters reported Thursday, citing an unnamed Israeli official.

The Associated Press said the deal was reached by Israel's Mossad Chief Yossi Cohen and the Turkish Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Feridun Sinirlioglu.

Under the agreement, Israel will create a compensation fund for the families of the 10 Turkish



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan clapping during the 2015 Turkish Academy of Sciences award ceremony at the presidential complex in Ankara, Turkey, December 14, 2015. (Yasin Bulbul/ Presidency/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images)

citizens killed by Israeli forces on the Mavi Marmara in 2010. The ship was part of a flotilla of boats filled with pro-Palestinian activists attempting to break Israel's naval blockade of the Gaza Strip. After the incident, Turkey cut off relations.

JNI media reported that the compensation fund

will total \$20 million.

According to The Times of Israel, Turkey has agreed to drop legal proceedings against the Israel Defense Forces soldiers involved in the Mavi Marmara raid and to crack down on terrorist groups. In addition, it will expel a Hamas leader said to be running operations out of Turkey.

Kosher culinary arts center closes professional training programs

(JTA) — The Center For Kosher Culinary Arts has closed its professional training programs.

The Brooklyn center, which trained more than 500 people during the program's eight years of operation, will

continue to offer cooking classes to the public.

"With pride and professionalism, we trained a community of culinary and pastry chefs who now share their skills and talent with the kosher food world," founder Jesse Blonder said. "They bring exemplary skills and passion to restaurants, catering, manufacturing, media, management as personal chefs, and more. We know they will continue to make us proud."

The center was the only kosher cooking training school outside of Israel, Kosher Today reported. Blonder told Kosher Today that he "would regroup and search for ways to continue training chefs in this age of high demand for kosher chefs."

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Krakow Holocaust survivors featured in '16 calendar

WARSAW, Poland (JTA) – The portraits of 12 Krakow Holocaust survivors are featured on a calendar put out by the JCC Krakow in cooperation with the Child Survivors of the Holocaust Association.

The 2016 calendar contains the survivors' stories and lists their achievements after the war.

Jewish community center representatives say it is the first calendar featuring Polish Holocaust survivors.

"Our survivors are the cornerstone of our community and serve as an invaluable resource for

Jewish communities across the world, but especially for young Poles, many of whom have only recently learned they are Jewish," said Jonathan Ornstein, executive director of the JCC Krakow.

Anna Grygiel-Huryn, 73, was among the child survivors featured on the calendar.

"For me, the JCC is a very important place where I can meet Polish Jews," she said. "I am particularly happy that the JCC looks after us, the child survivors of the Holocaust."

The 2016 calendar was made possible with funds



raised by the 2015 Ride For The Living, a 55-mile annual bicycle ride from the Auschwitz-Birkenau museum to the JCC Krakow. To buy the calendar, contact office@jcckrakow.org.

Paris synagogue goes mildly poisoned by irritant smeared on lock

(JTA) — Fourteen people were mildly poisoned by a toxic substance that was applied to the keypad of an electronic lock of a synagogue south of Paris.

Members of the Jewish community of Bonneuil-sur-Marne on December

14 called rescue services to report a sudden strong burning sensation in their eyes and itchy rashes on their skin, *Le Parisien* reported.

Some 25 firemen rushed to the synagogue, which is under police and military protection

whenever it is open. They treated congregants who were poisoned and traced its source to the lock. Described as a non-lethal irritant, the substance found on the pad was sent for analysis at a police forensic lab.

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Jewish War Veterans Remembering those who served

Jewish War Veterans of America Post 753 asks you to remember these Jewish military veterans whose yahrzeit (anniversary of the individual's death) occurs in the month of January and who are buried in a local cemetery. To add someone's name, please contact Herschel at (210) 494-8768.

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British Chief Rabbi supports teaching Islam in Jewish schools

(JTA) — British Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis recommended that Jewish schools teach Islam.

In an interview with the London-based Jewish Chronicle published December 16, Mirvis' spokesperson said that teaching Islam will give children the opportunity to learn about a "poorly understood" religion.

"It is more important than ever that our children have a better understanding of Islam and that we build strong relationships with British Muslims," a spokesman for Mirvis told the newspaper.

"As such, the Chief Rabbi has recommended that schools take this opportunity to teach students Islam, a faith which is widely discussed but often poorly understood in public discourse," the spokesman said.

Beginning in September, British schools will be required to teach two faiths as part of their curriculum in order to receive a General Certificate of Secondary Education certification in religious studies. Religious groups had lobbied against the new requirement.

Mirvis has not issued any formal guidelines on the subject.

The requirement to teach two religions was implemented by the British government as part of efforts to counter religious extremism and promote tolerance.

Streit's Matzo factory may be converted into Manhattan condos

NEW YORK (JTA) — Developers are considering building condominiums on the historic former site of Streit's Matzo factory in Manhattan.

Manhattan-based Cogswell Realty filed tentative plans with the New York attorney general's office to build 45 residential condo units, a commercial condo and 26 storage units on the property, The Real Deal reported.

According to the attorney general, Cogswell filed a "CPS-1" application on December 3, which allows developers to "test the market" before officially filing a condo offering plan, the real estate publication reported.

Streit's Matzo, a 90-year-old matzah-making facility at 148-154 Rivington Street in New York's Lower East Side, closed up shop in May after the busy Passover baking season. The factory was the last producer of the unleavened Jewish bread in Manhattan.



Streit's, the last family-owned matzah company in the United States, announced in 2014 that it would be permanently closing its 90-year-old factory because of persistent mechanical problems and economic concerns. Production was moved to other company plants.

"The economics just finally caught up with us," Alan Adler, the owner of the factory and the Streit's Matzo store, told JTA in January. "It was very sad, a very hard decision to make."

Manhattan-based Cogswell Realty paid \$30.5 million for the Lower East Side property. With Manhattan property prices shattering records — in July, the average cost

of a Manhattan apartment approached \$2 million — rumors of a pending condo development of the property immediately began to swirl.

Despite the wide-reaching gentrification and reinvention of the Lower East Side, stalwarts of the neighborhood's rich Jewish history, including Economy Candy and Russ and Daughters.



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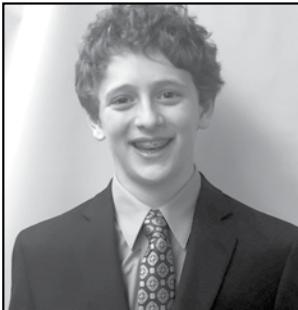
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MAZAL TOV

Bar Mitzvah: Benjamin Lewis Sutin

Benjamin Lewis Sutin will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Friday, Jan. 15 and Saturday, Jan. 16 at Temple Beth-El. Benjamin is the son of Miranda and Joshua Sutin and the brother of Noah, Naomi, and Ari. He is the grandson of Janet Bazemore of San Antonio, Malka and Jonathan Sutin of Albuquerque, and Randy and Barbara Wisener of Dallas.

Benjamin is a seventh grade student at the Alamo Heights Junior School where he runs cross country and plays the cello. Benjamin's greatest passion in life is baseball, and he plays with the Nationals Baseball select organization. Benjamin also enjoys playing the piano, reading, playing basketball, spending time with his friends, and attending Greene Family Camp each summer.



For his Mitzvah project, Benjamin volunteered with the Alamo Heights Challenger League, a division of Little League that enables kids with physical and mental challenges to enjoy the game of baseball. He will donate a

portion of the proceeds from his Bar Mitzvah gifts to the Alamo Heights Challenger League and will continue to volunteer with this great organization this spring.

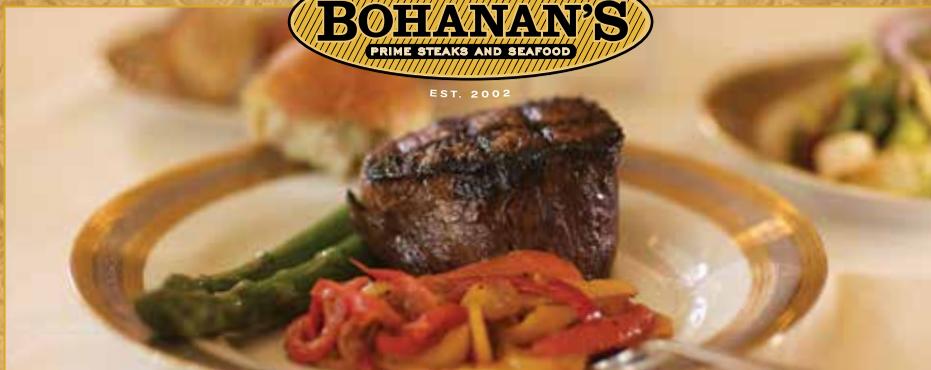
Christian-Jewish aid group plans to double aliyah efforts in 2016

(JNS.org) The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews ("The Fellowship") humanitarian aid group said it plans to double its organizing of immigration to Israel (aliyah) in 2016.

During 2015, aliyah flights initiated by The Fellowship

brought more than 2,000 immigrants to Israel from the Ukraine, France, Moldova, North Africa, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela, and an unnamed Arab country. Due to the rise of anti-Semitism and violence against Jews worldwide, The Fellowship said it expects to help 4,000 Jews move to Israel this coming year, and that it will increase its aliyah efforts in countries such as Spain and Russia.

"The historic focus on aliyah as Israel's national program to rescue the world's Jews and build the Jewish state has dimmed, but we are ramping up a new, independent aliyah movement to help Jews from around the Diaspora who are still threatened by anti-Semitism and economic hardship," said Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, founder and president of The Fellowship.



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