



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

ADAR I, 5776 - ADAR II, 5776

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

MARCH 2016



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JNet, that is! Learn more about this popular young Professionals group.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Catch up with what your community has been doing.

PAGE 16



TEEN PHILANTHROPY

Jewish teens welcome to join B'nai Tzedek.

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Maimonides Society to host two lectures in March

Maimonides Society to Host Two March Lectures
On Sun. morning March 27 the Maimonides Society of San Antonio will host a lecture with Dr. Ilan Troen on "Taking the measure of BDS: the view from Israel and the American campus; From medicine to the humanities."

Troen was born and educated in Boston. He made *aliyah* in 1975 from the U.S and joined Ben-Gurion University where he was Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences and Director of the Ben-Gurion Research

Institute and Archives in *Sde Boker*. He is the author and editor of numerous books and articles in English and Hebrew in American, Jewish and Israeli History. He was sent by Ben-Gurion University to Brandeis to become the Director of its Schusterman Center for Israel Studies. His public engagements focus on disseminating an informed appreciation for Israel including a leading role in the campaign to counter BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions).



Dr. Ilan Troen



Dr. Daniel Drucker

The lecture is sponsored by the Maimonides Society, Greater Texas Region of the American Associates of Ben-Gurion University, and Methodist Healthcare.

On Wed. evening March 30 the Society will host the 11th annual Myron B. Zinn lecture with a program by Dr. Daniel Drucker on "Lessons from the Lancet-The Manduca affair." He will discuss the ethics of medical publishing and corporate responsibility.

Drucker is senior scientist

See **LECTURES**, page 7

U.S. Jewish leaders in Israel study 'timely, realistic, frightening' Middle East

By Maayan Jaffe-Hoffman
JNS.org

"Timely, realistic, and frightening" were the words that William Daroff, senior vice president for public policy and director of the Washington Office of the Jewish Federations of North America, used to describe reports about the Middle East security situation.

Speaking on the second day of the leadership mission of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Daroff's remarks came after an hour-long session focused on Iran after the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), otherwise known as the nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, and just before another hour-long panel discussion on "the Middle East volcano."

The 42nd annual Israel

See **MIDDLE EAST**, page 28

PJ Library & Barshop JCC co-present author Joanne Rocklin

On Sunday, Mar. 20 from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m., the Barshop Jewish Community Center and PJ Library will present author Joanne Rocklin as part of the JCC Author and Speaker Series.

Joanne is the author of PJ Library book, *I Say*



Shehechyanu, as well as other popular titles such as *The Five Lives of Our Cat Zook* and *The Very Best Hannukah Gift*, all of which

PJ LIBRARY PROGRAM

Sunday, March 20
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

incorporate Jewish themes and characters.

I Say Shehechyanu

See **PJ**, page 10

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



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EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS:

The submission deadline for the APRIL 2016 issue of the Jewish Journal is MARCH 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 APRIL 2016 ISSUE:

- Ad space reservations due no later than MARCH 12, 2016 by noon;
- Press ready ads due by MARCH 16, 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 MEMORIAM - Rev. Dr. Buckner Fanning

The Jewish community of San Antonio deeply mourns the passing of the Rev. Dr. Buckner Fanning. His death is a colossal loss for our city and for the Jewish people. During his long, illustrious ministry, he significantly expanded the scope of interreligious relations. He shattered barriers and erected bridges among peoples of diverse backgrounds and beliefs. Buckner eloquently and passionately imparted the values of justice and love taught by our Biblical prophets. He frequently voiced his ardent love



for the State of Israel, which he visited on myriad occasions. As Senior Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Buckner co-led San Antonio's first Christian-Jewish congregational tour to Israel. We extend our sincere condolences to his mourning family and pray that his memory will be an everlasting blessing.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Louis Pitluk

Neil Barney Polunsky

PJ Library invites you to...

March Madness!

Spring Break PJ Park Playdate

at Rodfei Sholom Playground

Tuesday, March 15

4:00 - 5:30 PM

The JCC Author & Speaker Series and PJ Library Present a Ta'am Ha'Ona program:

Joanne Rocklin

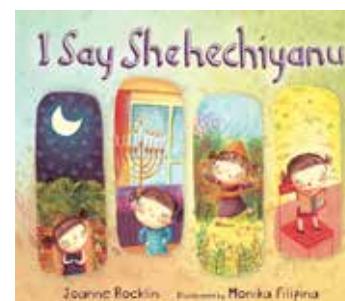
Author of "I Say Shehechyanu"

Sunday, March 20, 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Interactive author readings

at 1:30 & 2:30

Purim activities for kids of all ages



RSVP



@PJLibrarySanAntonio

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(210) 302-6960



Jewish Federation
OF SAN ANTONIO

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

YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday, March 4, 2016
Light Candles at: 6:18 p.m.
Shabbat, March 5, 2016
Shabbat Ends: 7:12 p.m.

Friday, March 11, 2016
Light Candles at: 6:22 p.m.
Shabbat, March 12, 2016
Shabbat Ends: 7:16 p.m.

Friday, March 18, 2016
Light Candles at: 7:27 p.m.
Shabbat, March 19, 2016
Shabbat Ends: 8:21 p.m.

Friday, March 25, 2016
Light Candles at: 7:31 p.m.
Shabbat, March 26, 2016
Shabbat Ends: 8:25 p.m.

Friday, April 1, 2016 Light
Candles at: 7:35 p.m.
Shabbat, April 2, 2016
Shabbat Ends: 8:29 p.m.

Life can be stranger than fiction

I was fortunate to have a genius of an advisor at graduate school, Professor Jon Levenson (who is also an uber-mentsch). I learned great depth and understanding about the Jewish calendar from Professor Levenson. One particular holiday with which Professor Levenson was obsessed was Purim. So much so that he offered a semester-long course solely on the Book of Esther. According to Professor Levenson, the greatness of the book lies in the exaggeration of the story of Esther. And the great irony is that the plot begins with an intent to murder the Jews of Shushan in Persia, but the opposite occurs. The Jews



Letter from
our CEO

RONIT
SHERWIN

are spared and their de facto leader, Mordechai, becomes the honored one. And the evil villain, Haman, is hung on the gallows, which he constructed for the Jews. As my father would say, life is stranger than fiction. And in the case of the Book of Esther, it is certainly true!

Last month I travelled to Budapest and Austria with a group of Federation professionals. We learned about the Jewish communities of both Budapest and Vienna, post-Holocaust, and how the

current Jewish communities identify with Judaism and with Israel. It was a fascinating journey. In Budapest I was struck by the passion of young thirty-something Jews who have experienced Taglit-Birthright Israel and are now immersed in understanding and embracing their own Jewish identity. In Vienna, I was moved by the young Iranian Jews I met who fled Tehran with visas from the Austrian government. How amazing that the Austrians, the greatest collaborators with the Nazis, are now assisting the Jews of Iran (formerly Persia in our Purim story) into a life of freedom.

Life is really stranger than fiction. Perhaps

the hyperbole and the ridiculous nature of many parts of the Book of Esther is not so crazy in reality. Unfortunately, we live in a crazy world in which the daily news reports events that we could only imagine as fiction, but that are not. The Book of Esther and the celebration of Purim are reminders – or perhaps a warning – of the madness of the world in which we live. At the same time, events can change course and righteousness has the possibility of returning to righteous people. And there will be cause for true celebration. *Chag Purim sameach* - Happy Purim!

Ronit Sherwin



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS: MARCH 2016

- March 1**
• Temple Beth-El Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- March 2**
• Temple Beth-El's Sisterhood Sip & Schmooze, 5:30 p.m.
• Nelly Toll Lecture, The Campus, 6:30 p.m.
- March 3**
• Speaker at Trinity University, 6 p.m.
• @TBE30s40s+ Israeli Wine Tasting, Davis Residence, 7 p.m.
- March 4**
• First Friday Family Shabbat & Dinner, Temple Beth-El, 6 p.m.
- March 5**
• Shabbat Lunch Havurah, Temple Beth-El, 11:45 a.m.
• TBE60s+ Singles view "Jesus Christ Superstar", The Playhouse, 6:15 p.m.
• Wine Tasting Event after Havdalah, Rodfei Sholom, 7 p.m.
- March 6**
• @TBE20s30s Blood Drive, Temple Beth-El, 8:30 a.m.
• Panel Presentation on Bullying, Temple Beth-El, 10:30 a.m.
• SAFTY Purim Carnival, Temple Beth-El, 12 p.m.
- March 8**
• Sisterhood Book Review, Agudas Achim, 10:30 a.m.
• UCSA Brotherhood/Sisterhood Annual Dinner, 6 p.m.
- March 9**
• L'Chayim Club Luncheon with Varda Ratner, Rodfei Sholom, 11:30 a.m.
• JFSA Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
• Parlor Meeting, Temple Chai, 7 p.m.
- March 10**
• Simcha Social Club, Agudas Achim, 11:30 a.m.
• JCC Beer Night, 7 p.m.
- March 11**
• Beth-Elders Dinner, Temple Beth-El, 5:30 p.m.
- March 14**
• Spring Break J-Camp (14th- 18th), 9 a.m.
- March 15**
• The Sacred Table with

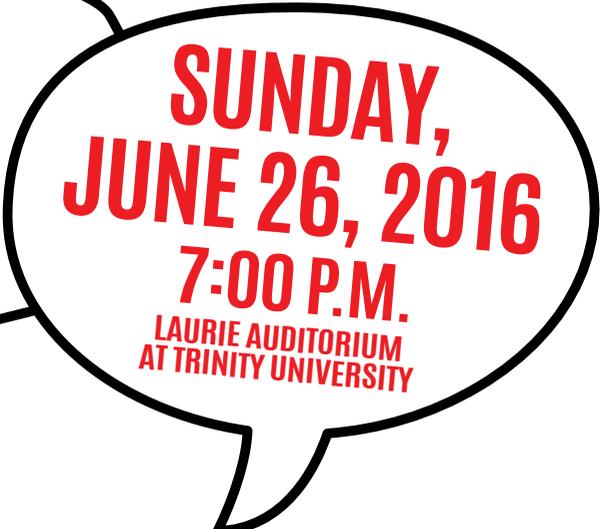
- Rabbi Mary Zamore, Temple Beth-El
• Spring Break PJ Park Playdate, Rodfei Sholom, 4 p.m.
- March 16**
• Torah on Tap, Temple Beth-El, 7:30 p.m.

- March 17**
• Sisterhood/NCJW Program, Temple Beth-El, 7 p.m.
- March 18**
• TBE50s+ Shabbat Potluck Dinner, Temple Beth-El, 8 p.m.

- March 20**
• PJ Library Author Event, JCC, 1 p.m.
- March 21**
• Golden Manor Board Meeting, The Campus, 7 p.m.
- March 23**
• Erev Purim

- Purim Palooza 5776, Agudas Achim, 4 p.m.
• Erev Purim Celebration, Temple Beth-El, 5:30 p.m.
• Megillah Reading, Rodfei Sholom, 8 p.m.
- March 24**
• Purim

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Benefitting Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services & Congregation Agudas Achim

CALENDAR cont.

- Purim Seudah, Rodfei Sholom, 6 p.m.
- March 25**
- @TBE20s30s After Hours, Temple Beth-El, 8 p.m.
- March 26**
- Purim Ball, Agudas Achim, 6 p.m.
- March 27**
- Jewish War Veterans Post 753, The Campus, 9 a.m.
- March 28**
- Jewish Family Service Board Meeting, The Campus, 7 p.m.
- March 29**
- Summer J-Camp Open House, The Campus, 3 p.m.
- March 30**
- JCC Board Meeting with 6pm Networking Event, 6 p.m.
- March 31**
- Agudas Achim Brews & Schmooze at Bigz Burger Joint, 5:30 p.m.
- April 1**
- First Friday Family Shabbat & Dinner, Temple Beth-El, 7:30 p.m.
- April 2**
- STARZ Presents: Seussical the Musical, 7 p.m.
- April 3**
- 5th Annual Walk Against Genocide, 2 p.m.
- STARZ Presents: Seussical the Musical, 2 pm & 4:30 p.m.
- April 5**
- NCJW: Trashy Book Club, 6:30 p.m.
- Temple Beth-El Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- April 7**
- Agudas Achim, Brews & Schmooze, Bigz Burger Joint, 5:30 p.m.
- @TBE30s40s+, Snacks and Spirits at Tudor residence, 7 p.m.
- “Four Children” led by Sam Stern, Temple Beth-El, 7:30 p.m.



PARTNERSHIP CORNER

Partnership Steering Committee Reflections: We are all interconnected

By Lauren Stanley, Israel and Overseas Co-chair & **Lauren Abraham,** Special Projects Coordinator at the Jewish Federation of San Antonio

Fort Worth, Texas was not exactly the place we would have dreamed we could feel so connected. But, at the Western Galilee Central Area Consortium Joint Steering Committee meeting in late January, we certainly had our pivotal moments! As we interfaced with both lay and professional leaders from all of the thirteen American cities in our Partnership region, and 12 Israeli representatives, along with the two

outstanding leaders from the Budapest consortium, Ana and Tomer, it was certainly an experience to remember. As the daytime meetings progressed, it became more and more apparent that Partnership2gether meant that even with oceans apart it is important to know we are all one. We not only heard about the medical, arts and community, academic, teen, young adult, and education task forces, but we learned, brainstormed and gained new insights about how communities in America are utilizing the partnership and how we can continue to put things into action.

Among our highlights,

we experienced a multisensory, elegant *Tu Bishvat* Seder at the Fort Worth Botanical Garden. While delving into interesting global facts about water, we solidified the idea that fruits and vegetables (growing on trees) and their makeup help us with better self-reflection and in-depth thinking. While hitting the Ft. Worth Stock Show and Rodeo was certainly a special evening of bonding and showcasing Texas pride, our shared favorite activity was the web (shown in our photograph) that all of the lay and professional staff made out of yarn. We

See **REFLECTIONS**, page 6

SAVE THE DATE
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HOLOCAUST MUSEUM BENEFIT
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The Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio is dedicated to educating our community about the dangers of hatred, prejudice and apathy.

Funds raised will directly support current and extended operations of the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio.

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The Holocaust Museum is a special program of:



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PARTNERSHIP CORNER

Partnership2Gether teachers to visit San Antonio

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio will welcome eleven teachers from the Western Galilee Partnership Region on April 13-17.

The teachers will visit area Jewish schools and meet with teachers. During their stay they will enjoy in home hospitality and learning about San Antonio and Texas.

The goals of this trip are for the teachers to engage more deeply with our partner Jewish communities, to learn how our community operates, the educational challenges San Antonio Jewish community faces and how San Antonio deals with them.

The most important aspect of this program, however, is for

teachers in the twin regions to make new connections.

The teachers will also be visiting Louisville, Kentucky and Fort Worth, also part of the Partnership Region.

This trip takes place every other year, and American teachers are invited to a seminar in Israel on the other year

REFLECTIONS

continued from page 5

“threw” and “caught” and “webbed” ideas and wishes for our partnership region for the upcoming year, and how we can work together.

More travel to Israel, and more of the mysteries of the grandeur of our country to unfold were our “web” wishes. As your eyes and ears at this steering committee, we are hopeful in this upcoming year that our San Antonio Jewish community can feel just a small bit of passion from this activity in Ft Worth, one of our amazing partner cities, and that you will be able to explore the magic of Israel in your own way! We are all interconnected.

BELDON LIBRARY NEWS

The Beldon Library Lithuanian Project to replenish books for the Vilna/Vilnius Jewish Library is still underway.

“We appreciate the benefactors who have given this project the generous donations to make this mitzvah happen. In order to send more books, monetary donations are welcome,” says Lynn Waghalter.

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.

Beldon Library hours are:

Monday
12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.;

Tuesday
10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Wednesday:
2:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR COMMUNITY WIDE



MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

יום הזיכרון

&

ISRAEL

INDEPENDENCE DAY

יום העצמאות

May 11th At the Jewish Campus

5:30pm

Yom Hazikaron Service

6:15pm

Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration

FEATURING



More details to come



LECTURES

continued from page 1

and professor of medicine at the Lunenfeld-Tananbaum Research Institute, Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto. Drucker graduated in medicine from the University of Toronto and received postgraduate training (medicine and endocrinology) at Johns Hopkins Hospital, the University of Toronto and the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Drucher has received numerous national and international awards in recognition of his research accomplishments elucidating the mechanisms of action and therapeutic potential of enteroendocrine hormones.

His lecture is underwritten by the Myron B. Zinn, M.D. Memorial Lecture Fund and the Annual Campaign of the Jewish Federation.

Myron Zinn was an adjunct

clinical professor of Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio for more than thirty years as well as maintaining a private practice. He had a deep and continuing interest in the quality of medical education and medical ethics. The Myron B. Zinn, M.D. Memorial Lectureship was established in his memory by his family, professional colleagues, patients and friends.

Both lectures are open to the public. RSVP is required. Seats for the brunch at 9:30 on the 27th and at 7:00 p.m. on the 30th are available for \$20 each. They include the lecture and meal (dietary laws observed). Those who only wish to attend the lecture can purchase gallery seats for \$10 for each event. Gallery seating will be available at 10 a.m. on the 27th and 7:30 p.m. on the 30th for \$10 per event. RSVP can be made online or by phone at 302-6960.



Attendees of the JNET SA February Restaurant Panel at Big'z Burger Joint

San Antonio Restaurateurs speak at JNet SA

By: Samantha Mazuz

On February 4, the JNet SA community gathered at Big'z Burger Joint to hear restaurateurs Lauren Stanley and Brandon Mckelvey share their stories of success, their love for what they do, and their insight about the San Antonio food scene.

February's Restaurant Panel allowed for these two Jewish chef/owners to open up about fitting in to San

Antonio's restaurant world, and how *hamantaschen* and matzo ball soup could bring the world closer.

Lauren Stanley is the owner of Big'z Burger Joint and her newest venture, The Well, which she describes as "the Big'z for adults." The Well is a Texas dance hall featuring live music, a beer garden, and Southern comfort food.

Mckelvey pours his heart

and soul into his popular food truck, Say.She.Ate. As a mobile chef, Brandon has won numerous awards, including Best Food Truck in San Antonio. Popular favorites on the menu include duck fat French fries and Akaushi beef sliders. Brandon is interested in the pop up food scene too and hopes to begin plans for a stationary Say.She.Ate. Brandon is also a partner at Alchemy Kombucha and Culture.

JNet SA brings young professionals together monthly for inspiration and insight by successful and motivated people in their respective fields. It is an opportunity to network and connect to other professionals in San Antonio, and it also gives the attendees a learning experience!

To be added to the JNet SA email list, contact Samantha Mazuz at mazuzss@jfsatx.org. Also visit the website at www.jnetsa.com, and connect to JNet SA on Facebook.

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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
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E-mail address: Temple@beth-elsa.org
Website: www.beth-elsa.org
Rabbi Mara Nathan, Senior Rabbi
Rabbi Marina Yergin
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website: www.chabadsa.com
Rabbi Chaim Block
Rabbi Yossi Marrus
Rabbi Levi Teldon

Congregation Israel of San Antonio (Conservative, Covenantal Judaism in Prayer and Practice)

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website: www.congregationisraelsatx.org
All Faiths Chapel:
5000 Fawn Meadow Drive at Floyd Curl
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Hazzan David Silverstein, JD,

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
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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.

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

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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.

After School Judaics (JAS @ The J)

12500 NW Military Hwy., 78231 / Phone: (210) 302-6969

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14535 Blanco Rd. 78216 / Phone: (210) 764-0300

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16550 Huebner Rd. 78248 / Phone: (210) 479-0429

JCC Block & Dreeben School for Young Children

12500 NW Military Hwy., 78231 / Phone: (210) 302-6846

Shmuel Bass Torah Academy

3003 Sholom Drive, Suite #200, 78230 / Phone: (210) 607-7261

CRC Commentary on Immigration in Texas

Last month the American Jewish Committee (AJC) Houston office held an Immigration Summit in Austin on “The Economics of Immigration Reform.” The keynote presenter was Ray Perryman, who runs an economic research and analysis firm based in Waco. Perryman has been called a “genius” by the *Wall Street Journal*, a “world class scholar” by *Business Week* and the “unofficial state economist” by the *New York Times*.

Perryman’s group recently published an analysis of the economic and fiscal impact of undocumented workers in Texas. The title of the analysis gives an unmistakable clue to the conclusion of the study: “Texas Needs the Workers!!” The study notes that twice as many undocumented workers have jobs in Texas as there are unemployed. If immigration restrictions were severely tightened



CRC
Commentary

JUDY
LACKRITZ

and undocumented workers were forced out of Texas, the consequences would be very negative. Even if the unemployed workers could fit into the remaining jobs, an unlikely scenario, there would be the same number of unfilled jobs.

The benefits generated by the undocumented workers outpace the costs of social services provided to the undocumented workers by government entities. The Perryman group estimates that the “net fiscal effect of the undocumented population includes benefits of \$32.9 billion each year, including \$20.1 billion to the federal government, \$11.8 billion to the State of Texas, and \$.9 billion to local governments within

Texas.”

The other three panelists at the summit bolstered the presentation by Perryman. Professor Steve Murdock, former Texas State demographer, stated that our future depends on how well immigrants do in Texas and the United States. He noted that to stay competitive we need to increase immigration of the highly skilled.

Todd Schulte, whose organization is committed to fixing “our broken immigration system,” recommends three reform principles: (1) Modernize our legal immigration system for today’s economy. He notes that the last update on the system was 25 years ago before modern technology had taken effect. (2) Add strong, sensible border security and e-verify. (3) Create a reasonable pathway for undocumented workers to earn legal status and citizenship. Schulte noted

that the United States was built by immigrants, who have been essential to our economic engine.

The fourth panelist, Jesus Romero, a professor of Spanish at Baptist University in San Antonio, also serves as Director of the *Immigration Service and Aid Center (ISAAC Project)*. He reported that his organization offers legal services to those who have been bilked by *notaries* or immigration consultants who scam monies out of the vulnerable undocumented every year. He recommended stronger penalties for the *notarios*.

Richard Foltin, a public policy expert, who is director of national and legislative affairs at AJC’s Washington office and was moderator of the panelists, noted that they were all in agreement. He challenged them about what immigration reform would look like and about the accusation that undocumented workers take

jobs.

Responses from the panelists were numerous and detailed. One stated that the legalization process should include paying back taxes, learning English and passing a criminal background check. No one disagreed about the need for good border security. Another posited that we need to fix the system to stop abuse by some employers. “When we diminish the undocumented, we diminish our own resources.”

Perryman recognized that the immigration system is very complex. Some sectors benefit while others are burdened. Although the economy may benefit as a whole, social service agencies bear costs for immigrant services. However, his overall conclusion was that restrictive immigration policy will cause substantial economic and fiscal losses so “Texas needs the workers!!”



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The theory of Anti-Semitism

Gabriel Noah Brahm, an associate professor at Northern Michigan University, will present a lecture on The Theory of Anti-Semitism: Jew-Hatred and the Jewish State in Post-Postmodern Times on Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapman Auditorium at Trinity University.

Professor Brahm specializes in literacy theory, Israel studies, film, popular culture, and the great works of Western civilization. He has been a visiting professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a research fellow at Brandeis

University.

The event is free and open to the public. A reception will follow.

For more information, contact professor Alan Astro at astro@trinity.edu or (210) 999-7533.

The event is sponsored by the Lecturers and Visiting Scholars Committee of Trinity University and the Departments of English, History, Modern Languages and Literatures, Philosophy, Political Science, Religion, Sociology and Anthropology and the International Studies Program.



Gabriel Noah Brahm, an associate professor at Northern Michigan University,

YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK



B'nai Tzedek students got together to volunteer at the Roy Maas Bridge in December and enjoyed time with teens living there temporarily. B'nai Tzedek includes monthly programs like this that help our community.

B'nai Tzedek teens come together to allocate funding

Teens involved with Federation's B'nai Tzedek service learning program will meet at the Jewish Campus on Sunday, March 20 at 4:30 p.m. to decide on allocations for their 2015-2016 funds.

Post B'nei Mitzvah students in grades 7 through 12 will meet at the Beldon Library (first floor) to hear pitches from organizations that would like to receive



some of the teens' funding. This opportunity to meet in a

social environment and learn more about the non-profit organizations in San Antonio prepares teens to make informed selections as local philanthropists.

For more information about B'nai Tzedek and this program, contact Lauren Abraham in the Jewish Federation of San Antonio office, (210) 302-6960.

PJ

continued from page 1

follows a little girl and her baby brother throughout the year as she says *Shehechyanu*, the blessing for expressing thanks when something takes place for the first time, or when it happens again after a long time.

As part of this event, Joanne will present two interactive readings of *I Say Shehechyanu*, participate

in a meet and greet with attendees, and host a book signing. Families attending this event, which is free and open to the community, can also expect activities for kids of all ages. Books will be available for purchase.

To reserve a space for this event, visit www.jccsanantonio.org/seasons, or call the JCC at (210) 302-6820.



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SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

David Komet



A San Antonio native, David Komet was a Rotary Exchange Student to Germany prior to graduating Magna cum Laude from Tufts University. His professional career since 1993 has been focused on investment and

development in capital markets, real estate and healthcare. He currently serves as the CEO of Alterninvest and Komedix Healthcare.

One special relatively unknown detail about David is that he lives in a very unique and creative

revitalized historic fire station downtown. It was an instant “fit” when West Side Development Corporation head Ray Flores contacted David to come have a look at an old fire station the city wanted to divest itself of. An historic building met an historic building redevelopment and architecture fanatic! Several rounds of improvements later, Old Firehouse 8 has brought business and community life back to a neighborhood institution. We caught up with David to learn more of his truly authentic values, lessons, and philosophies.

What brought you to San Antonio?

I actually grew up in San Antonio. Like many San Antonio families, it was a posting to Ft. Sam during World War II that brought my grandparents on my mother’s side to resettle here from Boston to raise a family. My father was from the Bronx and his family was the classic Jewish immigrant

to New York story. The San Antonio Jewish community has always been relatively small and over time seems to have neither really shrunk nor grown. At least that’s what the last community demographic study told us! There were a handful Jews in my High School, and yes, sometimes it was difficult being Jewish in San Antonio. I grew up in what I would describe as a secular Jewish family. While we weren’t a particularly observant family, we grew up with a great deal of pride about being Jewish. I’m pretty sure I was the only kid in town with a Magen David stenciled on his tennis racket strings! My grandparents made it a priority to cultivate strong family connections between and amongst their three children, their spouses and the resulting 12 cousins. We spent a lot of time together growing up and actually lived next door to each other for years. We had the kind of family you complain about as a kid (as there are always so many events to attend), but you appreciate as an adult!

What is your strongest Jewish memory?

This is a very tough question for me. I have so many. Taking each of my children to Israel one-on-one for their Bar and Bat Mitzvah experiences to

Israel would certainly stand out as a personal highlight for me.

Another intense Jewish memory stems from a Jewish Federation mission to Eastern Europe that my parents took me on as a college graduation gift. It was before the fall of the Berlin wall and we were travelling in then communist Poland and Hungary. After a day at Auschwitz/Birkenau a woman ran up to me from behind an airport security fence screaming in Yiddish, “every stone in Krakow runs with Jewish blood!” I was the youngest person on the trip and everywhere we went, older members of these dying communities were grabbing me and shoving things in my pocket, urging me to smuggle artifacts and evidence of Jewish life out of Eastern Europe so their communities would be remembered. There was so much fear in the air in those communities at that time. It certainly left a deep impression.

Also, in 1983 I was living in Germany for a second time as an exchange student. For the first time since the second world war unemployment was on the rise in Germany and a great deal of social anger was being directed at Turkish guest workers. It was also the 50th anniversary of Hitler’s rise to power. Looking more like a Turk than a German, I had a fair amount of “heat” directed at me on the bus, in the streets, in the stores. I got the tiniest taste of what it might have felt like to be a Jew in Germany in the early 1930’s as public

See **SPOTLIGHT**, page 10

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YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

SPOTLIGHT

continued from page 5

sentiment turned against the Jews. Today we can't possibly imagine the fear that the Jews felt during the time of the Holocaust.

In an odd way, I'm grateful I had the opportunity to "taste" that fear and develop a deeper awareness and appreciation for the plight of our families back then and families today in other parts of the world suffering similar fates.

And despite that, some may be surprised to know that, in a strange twist of fate, I became a cherished family member to a German family with a Waffen SS and Nazi party leadership history. We remain close to this day. But that's a story for another day!

What volunteer activities do you find most rewarding and why?

I am the chair of the Jewish Federation Israel and Overseas committee. I am very involved in the San Antonio Area Foundation as a board

member and chair of the investment committee. And I have been active for years in helping make the Catholic Jewish Hanukkah event a gem in our San Antonio community life. I also pride myself in being involved in the starting of Camp Ramah in the Rockies.

I generally try to divide my time in three ways; One third in intellectual work, one third in physical labor and one third in community service.

I think it is important to have a balance in the head and hands and I love to create things.

While I rarely achieve that ideal mix, I do find that having that goal and concept in mind has helped me to work towards a more balanced life. Volunteer activities are a big part of that picture.

I believe I have an obligation to the health and welfare of my community, both Jewish, my neighborhood, San Antonio, Israel and the world.

That's certainly not a unique idea, but often I am struck by some around me that don't understand that

a happier, healthier, more educated neighbor who has access to clean air, clean water and the opportunity to better themselves is good for us all! That's a big part of the joy I experience in helping to build in our community.

I have also found it rewarding to get my kids involved in community service. In fact, for years they loved coming to Super Sunday and calling for pledges! Family building is a community sport, in my opinion, so giving them a taste at a very young age was one of my ways of planting seeds for the future.

Please share your favorite Jewish holiday and why.

Passover would definitely be the one I consider the deepest. There are three big reasons why:

- Slavery: I think it is such a powerful Mitzvah to wrap our minds around the feelings, thoughts and images of being a slave.

It challenges us all to think more about the idea of what a more metaphorical and modern day slavery

looks like for each of us; whether a slave to things, a slave to ideas, a slave to habits. It's an opportunity to "reboot" each year and give serious consideration to our personal priorities.

- Redemption: I lived in Germany the first time in 1979 as an exchange student. As I mentioned before, I was welcomed into the home of a host family that had deep roots in a Nazi party past. Ever since, I've contemplated why and how that came to pass.

In fact, I gathered with this family and one of my sons in 2007 for an 8 hour "family meeting" about the unlikely possibility that our paths would cross and that love could and would grow amongst us.

If we could do it, so can others with similarly dark past connections. That is Passover...that is redemption...it's there for all of us as we make our way through our own personal Sinai experiences in our lives.

- Dayeinu: The concept of enough...of gratitude. Who among us doesn't struggle with that?! To have a point in time

where we stop and remind ourselves that sometimes "it's enough" ... it's enough that you are my friend, it's enough that you are my child, it's enough in what we achieve and seek... and even that message of grace to ourselves... we want to BE more, we want to HAVE more...just acknowledging to ourselves "I am enough" I see as a great gift of Passover. Dayeinu reminds me to be grateful and happy.

Name a hope or aspiration you have for the San Antonio Jewish community.

I hope we continue with the strong and mindful leadership we've historically enjoyed. That we continue a tradition of inter-congregational respect and tolerance, and that we continue to grow in diversity and levels of observance.

That we continue also to grow in our interfaith dialogues and relationships.. We have been blessed to get along rather well, and I hope this continues.

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Rob & Emily Kaufman



5th Annual Walk Against Genocide on April 3

The Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio and the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio, which are both founding members of the San Antonio Coalition Against Genocide (SACAG), are helping to host San Antonio's fifth annual "Walk Against Genocide." The walk will be held at the Campus for the San Antonio Jewish community, 12500 N.W.

Military Hwy. on Sunday, April 3 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Participants of all ages are invited to the walk with genocide survivors and to hear their stories of renewal and hope.

Prior to the walk the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio, will be open to the public from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. For more information, contact the Community Relations Council office at (210) 302-6960.



San Antonio Supplementary Jewish educators council joined Jenice Dames (front center) for a training session on student behaviors.

Jewish educators celebrate learning and the Super Bowl

By Lauren Abraham

Super Bowl Sunday was a true game-winning success! Forty-five teachers from the San Antonio Supplementary Jewish educators council joined together to score a "touchdown" as they welcomed renowned special education programming consultant Jenice Dames from Northside Independent School District (NISD).

Dames led an afternoon of study entitled, *West Coast Offense: Working Together as a team in the classroom so we can ALL WIN! Can I really change behavior, YES!* The afternoon focused on teachers working by grade level to establish student behaviors and the variety of "ways of knowing," including the triggers and how educators can help students discover a replacement behavior to

keep them in the "game" of learning.

The afternoon of study was sponsored by the Jewish Federation of San Antonio in conjunction with the supplementary schools at Temple Beth-El, Congregation Agudas Achim, Jewish After School at the Barshop JCC, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, and Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning.

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YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK



Jewish Family Service leaders Mickey Gross, Roseanne Atlas, Natalie Levine, and Marilyn Berkowitz each read PJ Library books to the children.



PJ Library friends decorated their / Love PJ Passports after hearing the book about Israel. They decorated with Jewish stars and hearts.

PJ Library comes together to celebrate reading

PJ (Pajama) Library hosted a tribute to reading on February 14, as families came together to celebrate their love of reading.

The afternoon was split into four categories: I LOVE Israel, I LOVE Animals, I LOVE Nature and I LOVE Family and Friends.

Four readers (Marilynn Berkowitz, Mickey Gross, Natalie Levine, and Roseanne Atlas) from Jewish

Family Service volunteered and read a story in each category to the PJ Library children. PJ Library children acquired and decorated heart passports at each station, then ended with a song about love in English, Spanish, and Hebrew.

The event took place in the Beldon Library at the Jewish campus and was attended by multiple generations of the San Antonio Jewish community.

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YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS

Tu B'Shevat with PJ Library

By Lauren Abraham

Pajama (PJ) Library welcomed Shelley Hoffman Dean (pictured) of Rhythm and Ruach entertainment in Saint Louis, Missouri for a special Tu B'Shevat outdoor Havdallah celebration and yoga session. The evening included planting and pot decorating, Havdallah spice bag and plate decorating, and light dinner and the Havdallah service itself. Shelley engaged the families with her love for singing, diverse musical instruments (including many that come straight from trees), and of course a tremendous amount of body movement and Hebrew infusion along with PJ Library story of "Dear Tree" set to yoga positions and music from popular PJ Library artists.

PJ Library mom and National Hadassah Leadership Fellow Leslie Carsman Hickey recently moved from Denver to San Antonio with her family, and she brought her daughter Hannah (age 5) to this PJ Library event. Leslie said "It was an amazing mother and daughter night for us. My daughter Hannah (pictured above) was so engaged and enjoyed doing Tu B'Shevat yoga with Morah Shelley. What a treat. She loved the musical instruments and Havdallah as well!"

PJ Library looks forward to welcoming more guest leaders. To find out more information about our upcoming programs find us on Facebook at PJ Library San Antonio.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

TU B'SHEVAT



PLANTING ROOTS FOR TU B'SHEVAT

Students from the JCC's Block & Dreeben School for Young Children participated in planting a tree in honor of Tu B'Shevat.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

TU B'SHEVAT



(L-R): Arianna Tawil, Maya Sarfati, Ella Bass, and Ronen Bass get involved in planting fun at the Tu B'Shevat Sunday Funday.

RODFEI SHOLOM HOSTS SUNDAY FUNDAY

On January 24, more than 150 people of all ages enjoyed lunch and a presentation by Congregation Rodfei Sholom's scholar-in-residence Adrienne Gold. There were also Tu B'Shevat activities for the children.

SEEDS OF SUNSHINE (AND PARSLEY!)

On Tuesday, Jan. 26, more than 50 seniors attended a Tu B'Shevat themed Sunshine Club Luncheon at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning. The event included a delicious salmon lunch prepared by Sunshine Club volunteers, and a parsley planting workshop with Courtney Silver which seniors can use for their Passover Seders.

The Sunshine Club is a joint program of the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning & Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services. All Sunshine Club events and activities are complimentary. Free transportation is available. For more information please call (210) 764-0300 or visit www.ChabadSA.com/SunshineClub.



Thursday, March 10th
6:30pm
Nelly Toll Exhibit and Beer Tasting for \$5 @ the JCC



RSVP Required: silerm@jcc-sa.org

During WWII 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 18 months. Nelly spent her time painting and drawing pictures of happier times. 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.

YAD's Upcoming Events



PURIM RECESS

Sunday, March 13th
6:30pm
@ the JCC

in the Wulfe Gymnasium

For more information or to get involved contact Samantha Mazuz:
(210) 302-6970 ✪ mazuzss@jfsatx.org ✪ [The Tribe](#)



Monday, March 21st

7pm

Adult Only Comedy Show

@ Jewish Campus

San Antonio

In partner with **Hillel** San Antonio



YAD is a program of The Jewish Federation of San Antonio providing a community of San Antonio area Jewish men and women, single and married, between the ages of 22-40ish.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

TU B'SHEVAT



CELEBRATING TREES FOR TU B'SHEVAT

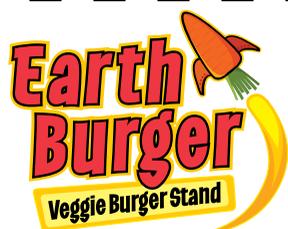
TASA 3rd and 4th graders celebrate Tu B'Shevat by gathering various tree fruits, helping with preparations and learning the significance of the the official "birthday" for trees in Israel.

GAN GANI PRESCHOOL STUDENTS CELEBRATED TU B'SHEVAT



Alamo Area Master Naturalist Stan Drezek serves as a guide on the trail at Phil Hardberger Park during Gan Gani Preschool's Tu B'Shevat Walk.

Preschoolers from Gan Gani celebrated Tu B'Shevat with three hands-on learning experiences: A walk at Phil Hardberger Park with Morah and Alamo Area Master Naturalists Dr. Wendy and Stan Drezek; planting a plum tree in front of Gan Gani Preschool with Mark A. Kroeze, CF, CA, Urban Forester and Lissa Martinez, Alamo Area Master Naturalist; and a "Brachot Fair", which included digging in the dirt to learn where root vegetables come from, tasting the seven fruits of Israel, and fruit painting. To learn more, visit www.GanGani.org or call (210) 492-1085.



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AbrahamL@jfsa.tx.org or (210) 302-6834

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Bob Gregerman, Ruth Friedberg and Marge Gregerman

JEWS IN TURKEY EXHIBIT

On January 23, a photo exhibit on Jews in Turkey was opened at the Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community. It was created by the Jewish Museum of Turkey (officially Quincentennial Foundation Museum of Turkish Jews), a cultural center established by the Quincentennial Foundation to provide information about the traditions and history of Turkish Jews. The Foundation was established in 1989 by 113 Turkish citizens, Jews and Muslims alike, to celebrate the five hundredth anniversary of the arrival of Sephardim to the Ottoman Empire and the Museum was inaugurated on Nov. 25, 2001 in Istanbul, Turkey.

The exhibit in San Antonio was sponsored by the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation and the Dialogue Institute of the Southwest. Dr. Ori Soltes, who was supposed to be the keynote speaker at the opening, was not able to attend due to snow in the Northeast, but he was able to come to San Antonio February 8, at which time he spoke about Jews in the history of Turkey.



Mehmet Oguz, Director of the Dialogue Institute of the Southwest in San Antonio, and Larry Cohen, M.D.



THE WHEELS ON THE BUS...

TASA 1st and 2nd graders pose in front of a VIA “Classroom on Wheels” bus after taking a short drive around the neighborhood while learning the importance of public transportation and how the city bus system helps to support all communities within San Antonio.



Gerry Miller-Hughes, Mickey Gross and Marlene Eichelbaum were “Best Western” winners.



Linda Baseman, Chaya Lomas, and Warren Lieberman (with his New Jersey belt buckle) were “Worst Western” winners.

COMMUNITY, COMEDY & CHOW

A group of about 75 gathered at Temple Beth-El on Saturday night, February 20 to chow down on chili, cornbread and dessert, socialize and enjoy “Blazing Saddles.” In spirit of the rodeo, the event was put on by a community-wide effort of Temple Beth-El, Congregation Agudas Achim, Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning, Congregation Rodfei Sholom and Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services, with support from Temple Chai and Congregation Beth Am. Prizes were awarded for best and worst western gear, and donations were collected for the Animal Defense League.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

THE JEWISH COURSE OF WHY



Deep discussions at the JLI course *The Jewish Course of Why* led by Rabbi Levi Teldon at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning.

The Jewish Course of Why, a new 6-session course presented by the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning, launched in San Antonio last month with over 70 students attending between both classes. The course addresses 50 of the most challenging, controversial, fun and quizzical questions in Judaism. Learn more at www.myJLI.com.



HELPING ONE ANOTHER TO BUILD COMMUNITY AND MORE

A TASA 7th grader helps a Kindergarten student learn the Hebrew alphabet, highlighting the value of strong youth mentorships at the school, which are created throughout the various grade levels to help encourage learning and leadership skills.



IT'S A WRAP!

Congregation Agudas Achim's Men's Club hosted its annual World Wide Wrap celebrating the mitzvah of wrapping tefillin with Inda Posner Religious School students.

RODFEI SHOLOM VOLUNTEERS AT FOOD BANK

During their tikkun Olam day at the San Antonio Food Bank, Congregation Rodfei Sholom volunteers, including Liat Rosenberg and Noa Coben (pictured), organized more than 5,000 pounds of food - -which translates into 4000 meals.



WHAT'S HAPPENING



TEMPLE BETH-EL WELCOMES MUSICIAN IN RESIDENCE

Well-known Jewish Singer/Songwriter Noah Aronson visited Temple Beth-El January 22-24 for a weekend of music, study and spiritual expression, in which Temple musicians, clergy and choir participated.

NEW YOUNG ADULTS HAPPY HOUR

On January 28, twenty-six young adults gathered for the first monthly happy hour of the year at Sherlock's Baker St. Pub and Grill. The group split up into teams and participated in Sherlock's weekly trivia game. For more information about the Young Adult Division of Jewish Federation or to get involved, contact Samantha Mazuz at mazuzss@jfsatx.org.



LITERACY CELEBRATED AT HEINTZ PRESCHOOL

Teaching literacy skills to emerging readers, Heintz Preschool hosted a mock wedding ceremony of the letters Q and U during a Yad b'Yad program co-sponsored by Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.



GRIDIRON FUN WITH SABABA GIRLS

Girls from the San Antonio BBYO Sababa BBG chapter attended a Super Bowl party at the Barshop JCC on Sunday, Feb. 7. Pictured, left to right: Neely Kasanoff, Ale Trillo, Allison Epner (front row), and Orren Shachaf, Hannah Crocker, Avery Hanna, Maggie Davis and Hannah Cohen (bottom row).



Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg with speaker Dr. Mordechai Kedar

MIDDLE EAST SCHOLAR DISCUSSES CHANGING TIMES

A large audience gathered to hear well known Middle East scholar, Dr. Mordechai Kedar, who spoke about *Israel in a Changing Middle East* on January 27.



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IN THE COMMUNITY

National Council of Jewish Women launches *Trafficked Teens* Project

In keeping with its mission to support educational programs and public advocacy for at-risk women, children, and families, National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW has announced its latest community project, *Trafficked Teens*.

The project was developed to help raise awareness through education about sex trafficking in San Antonio. The project provides teens and adults with “red flags”, and basic information. Materials for the project include: four fabricated life-sized free-standing figures of teens and pre-teens with the story of how each of them became a victim of sex trafficking; hand-outs printed in both English and

Spanish; a wallet size card teens can carry; a power point presentation with some basic information; and a 20 minute video, *The Chosen*.

Volunteers will be prepared to present this information to healthcare professionals, health fairs, youth groups, civic and professional organizations, and parent-teacher organizations. Presentations will be tailored to fit the needs of each venue. The next volunteer training session will be held Tuesday, April 19. For more information, visit www.ncjwsa.org or contact co-chairs Ruthie Wurzburg, (210) 365-6754, or Marcia Waldgeir, (210) 325-0775 or email them at Trafficked@ncjwsa.org.

Agudas Achim to Host Hadassah Shabbat

The annual celebration of the founding of Hadassah will be held at Friday night services at Congregation Agudas Achim on March 11 at 6:15 p.m. in the chapel.

Members of the San Antonio Chapter of Hadassah (both the Leah Goot and Rose Treiman groups) will take part in the Shabbat service and will be sponsoring an oneg Shabbat afterwards. Past group and chapter presidents will be honored.

Hadassah began on Purim over a century ago and was named in honor of Esther, the holiday's hero, whose Hebrew name was Hadassah.



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Temple Chai to offer *The Life of the Spirit* four-week free course

Temple Chai is offering a free four-week course on Jewish spirituality in April. “The Life of the Spirit” will be taught by Rabbi David Komerofsky on four consecutive Tuesdays at 7 p.m., beginning on April 12.

The course will explore a wide range of classical and modern Jewish texts, with a smattering of mysticism and kabbalah. Students will be challenged to question their assumptions about

the purpose of Judaism’s customs and rituals while exploring original sources that reveal how our ancestors were just as challenged and curious as we are.

The community is invited. All are welcome to participate and no specialized learning or experience is required. For more information or to register, visit www.templechaisa.org/spirit or call (210) 340-2090.

Agudas Achim hosts annual second night community Seder

Congregation Agudas Achim will host its annual second night community Seder on Saturday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the Gurinsky Family Social Hall.

Led by Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham and Hazzan Jeremy Lipton, the interactive family Seder includes a traditional meal, songs, Hagaddah readings and spiritual understanding. There will be

an attended kids’ corner in the social hall with toys and books for when the little ones need to “stretch their legs.”

This year Agudas Achim is offering a lower family friendly cover charge: \$25/adult, \$10/child 6-11, and children 5 and under are free. All are welcome. Call the synagogue office for more information and to RSVP at (210) 479-0307.

Traveling Chassidim to spend Shabbos at Rodfei

The Traveling Chassidim, a group of five Chassidic families from New York who have made it their *Jewish Unity* mission to travel around the country to spend Shabbos with as many communities

as they can, will lead the singing at Kabbalat Shabbat at Congregation Rodfei Sholom on Friday night, March 11, followed by a Friday night meal in the synagogue filled with *Zemirot*, *Shmuzing*, and

camaraderie. On Saturday night, March 12, they will host a musical and Havdallah ceremony at Rodfei. For more information, contact Congregation Rodfei Sholom at (210) 493-3557 or rodfeisa@gmail.com.

Alamo Brandeis B’nai B’rith Lodge to discuss Planned Giving

On Sunday March 13, Kathleen Finck, Director of Gift Planning from San Antonio Area Foundation, will share with members of the Alamo Brandeis B’nai B’rith Lodge how to establish a fund. The program begins

at 10:30 a.m., in room 227 of the Jewish Campus. Light refreshments will be served. There will be no solicitation or charge.

To RSVP, call Irwin Barath at (210) 341-4502. Following Finck’s presentation, there

will be a lodge business meeting.

The April lodge meeting will be held on Sunday April 10.

For news about B’nai B’rith visit their web site www.bnaibrith.org

The ethical tradition of Rabbinic Judaism at Temple Beth-El

The ethical teachings of the rabbis are timeless lessons on the importance of Torah, the history of the Jewish people, and the ways we can each be better people. Rabbi Marina Yergin of Temple Beth-El will present a 3-session course, *Pirkei Avot: How Torah Shapes Our Lives*, on March 15, 22, & 29 from 7 p.m. –

8:30 p.m. Participants are welcome to attend one or all.

Session 1: What is *Pirkei Avot* and what are we supposed to do with Torah?

Session 2: How do we

teach and study Torah?

Session 3: How does Torah shape us?

For more information, contact Temple Beth-El at (210) 733-9135.

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JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

The safety of the San Antonio Jewish community will be the topic of guest speaker Dr. Mark Brauer at the monthly meeting of the Jewish War Veterans post on Sunday, March 27 at 9 a.m. at the Jewish Campus. A light breakfast will be served.

On Tuesday, March 29, post members will gather at 6:45 p.m. at the CTC Audie Murphy VA Hospital for bingo, socialization and refreshments with patients until 8 p.m. Contact Ken Ashworth (210) 647-0330 for further information.

Thursday March 3, Frank Aleman, Ken Ashworth, Irwin Barath, Garland Scott, and Herschel Sheiness will attend the quarterly VAVS business meeting (this is the board of all volunteer services at Audie Murphy VA Hospital).

Thanks for the memories

The SA Post hosted the Mid Winter meeting of posts from Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma (known as TALO) in January. The Department Commander of TALO and guests extended their thanks to the San Antonio Jewish community for its efforts and hospitality extended to TALO members during their visit.

"A special thanks is extended to Agudas Achim for honoring members of TALO during Saturday Shabbat services," said JWV's Irwin Barath. "The food served at the oneg was excellent."

Chabad's Annual L'Chaim Event to be held April 3

Chabad's Annual L'Chaim Event will be held on Sunday, April 3 at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning at 14535 Blanco Rd.

Dennis Nixon, President and CEO of IBC Bank, and his wife, Bavi, will be honored with Chabad's Distinguished Community Service Award.

In addition to Nixon's myriad banking accomplishments and civic awards, he and IBC Bank have been stalwart friends and supporters of Israel and the Jewish communities of Laredo and San Antonio for many years.

The State of Israel honored Nixon with the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanities Award and many IBC Board members have been recognized for their efforts on behalf of Israel. IBC Bank is a big investor in Israel Bonds, supports AIPAC and was one of the Holocaust Museum of San Antonio's largest benefactors in honor of the late Oscar Ehrenberg.

"We are honored to extend to Mr. & Mrs. Nixon this well-deserved recognition on behalf of our community," said Rabbi Chaim Block of the Chabad Center.



Dennis Nixon, President and CEO of IBC Bank, and his wife, Bavi, will be honored at Chabad's annual L'Chaim event

Mr. George Alter, will be honored with the Dor L'Dor award.

George Alter will be celebrating his 93 birthday, G-d willing, this September. George is a WW11 and Korean War veteran. After retiring from the military as a LTC, he and his late wife Rae, moved to San Antonio and started his own successful business which employed over 50 people. He is a past president of the Alamo Heights Rotary Club, and a longtime member of B'nai B'rith and the Hebrew Free Loan. George has been

attending classes and services at Chabad for close to 30 years. His wit, charm, dedication and determination is an inspiration to all who know him.

Headlining the entertainment for the evening will be world class cantorial soloist Yaakov Lemmer. Cantor Lemmer has thrilled audiences around the world. He has appeared at the Tel Aviv Culture Hall with the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra and has been featured throughout the USA, England and at many



George Alter



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Temple Chai to host parlor meeting

Temple Chai, San Antonio's small and growing Northwest-side Reform congregation, will host a parlor meeting for members and the community on March 9 at 7 p.m. at Rabbi David Komerofsky's house.

This parlor meeting will focus on Temple Chai's education program for children in elementary and middle school and their families. Educator Lisa Goldstein, RJE, and Rabbi Komerofsky will share their vision and solicit feedback about how Temple Chai can best meet the needs and interests of these families.

"We're interested in knowing what people find compelling," said Goldstein. "There are many models of Jewish education out there and we can create something unique for our small population."

Komerofsky adds that "This is a chance to fit a program to kids' needs rather than the other way around."



LISA GOLDSTEIN, RJE



RABBI DAVID KOMEROFSKY

Temple Chai currently offers individualized B'nai Mitzvah education and monthly Chai KIDSPACE programs for younger children. Beginning in the Fall of 2016 there will be more robust offerings, and this parlor meeting is part of the process of designing and implementing those offerings.

For more information or to RSVP, visit www.templechaisa.org/parlormeeing or call (210) 340-2090.

Temple Beth-El's Erev Purim Celebration

Temple Beth-El will host *Haman's Happy Hour* on Wednesday, March 23, Erev Purim, beginning at 5:30 pm in the Temple's Barshop Auditorium. The evening will include kid and adult beverages (provided by Temple Brotherhood) and dinner (provided by Temple Sisterhood's Cooking Project).

The theme this year is *Star Wars* and

guests are invited to come dressed as their favorite *Star Wars* character – there will be kid and adult prizes for best costumes.

Following *Haman's Happy Hour*, the reading of the *Megillah* and a Purim *Shpiel* will be presented – sure to be fun for all, and open to everyone. For more information, call Temple Beth-El at (210) 733-9135.

Purim at Agudas Achim

Purim festivities at Congregation Agudas Achim begin Wednesday, March 23 with Purim Palooza from 5 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. The fun-filled event will include a kosher hot dog dinner, inflatables, *hamantaschen*, music, games and prizes, arts

and crafts. The cost is \$5/ person and under 2 years old is free. RSVP by calling (210) 479-0307.

Following Purim Palooza that evening, at 6:30 p.m. the congregation will host *Megillah Madness*. The free event includes a *Megillah*

reading interspersed with songs, parades and fun activities.

The congregation's Purim Ball 2016 will take place on Saturday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. Call the synagogue for ticket and table sale prices.

Rabbi Monty Eliasov to lead Purim service at Beth Am

Rabbi Monty Eliasov will be joining Congregation Beth Am on Wednesday evening, March 23, to celebrate Purim and read the *Megillah*. Rabbi Eliasov,

the spiritual leader of Congregation Shalom Rav in Austin, will bring insight and humor to the story of Esther. Those who attend are encouraged to wear costumes and bring

graggers (noisemakers).

The service will begin at 7 p.m. in the Jefferson Building of the First Unitarian Universalist Church at 7150 IH-10 (just off of the outbound access road). Following services, there will be a potluck dessert, featuring *hamantaschen* and other goodies.

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Heintz Preschool to launch new Literacy Summer Camp

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim will host a new literacy summer camp this year, running for nine weeks from June 14 through August 12. The camp will feature a different children's author every week and build on the themes from that book. When children read *Donald Crews Truck Comes Friday*, for example, the camp will bring in different types of transportation for the children to learn about and play on. The *Very Hungry Caterpillar* book will include a petting zoo.

"We are so thrilled for our new Literacy Summer Camp," said Heintz Preschool Director Celina Geidesman. "Join us in our journey through literacy where children can expand their imagination while enhancing their enthusiasm



for reading. There will also be daily outdoor water play and fantastic learning experiences throughout our exciting camp days."

In addition to opening its new camp, Heintz now has open enrollment for the school year as well. For more information, visit the Heintz Preschool during one of 4 upcoming Open House

Dates: March 4, March 7, March 28, or April 8 from 9-11 AM.

For more information about Heintz Preschool, please contact Preschool Director Celina Geidesman for information or a tour of Heintz Preschool, (210) 479-0429 or c.geidesman@agudas-achim.org.

Upcoming camps at the JCC

The JCC has several upcoming opportunities for parents to enroll their children in J-Camp, which provides a safe and fun environment during school breaks.

Spring Break J-Camp will be held March 14-18. Camps are available for kindergarten through eighth graders, and options include sports, tennis, and general camps that feature field trips, enriching activities, and opportunities to make new friends.

Registration for Summer

J-Camp is currently open to JCC members, and will open to the community Monday, Apr. 4.

The JCC offers camps for children entering grades K-10 (as of Fall 2016) from May 31-August 19. Two sessions of 4-week traditional camps will be offered, in addition to a series of 1-week Academy Camps, including Exploration for children entering first through second grades, Discovery for kids entering third through sixth grades, Sports for kids

entering second through ninth grades, Tennis for kids entering third through ninth grades, and Navigator for teens entering seventh through ninth grades.

A J-Camp Open House, with activities and inflatables for the campers and information for adults, will be Tuesday, Mar. 29 from 3:00 - 6:30 p.m.

For more information, www.jccsanantonio.org or call the JCC Youth & Camping Office, (210) 302-6859.

Purim celebration at Temple Chai

Temple Chai will celebrate Purim with an interactive Megillah reading at the Shabbat service on Friday, March 25 at 6:45 p.m. at 2121 Lockhill Selma. There will be singing, dancing, study, and refreshments to celebrate the holiday. Children and adults of all ages are encouraged to come in costume.

"Purim is a fun holiday with a profound message," said Rabbi David

Komerofsky. "Marcia Goren Weser has lead a monthly Women's Torah Study that has studied the *Megillat Esther*. There is a treasure trove of material for exploration, and Temple Chai will celebrate the holiday in a way that highlights the depth of meaning behind the masks, costumes and noise of the greggors."

For more information, visit www.templechaisa.org or call (210) 340-2090.

Western themed Purim at Rodfei

Rodfei Sholom will host a festive Purim meal on Thursday, March 24. This year's theme for the meal and costumes will be anything Western. In addition to "home cookin'" and "moonshine," a real Longhorn will be there to take pictures with and a mechanical bull to test

your cowboy skill. There will be a Megillah Esther reading prior to the meal and a Megillah reading Wednesday night. Everyone is encouraged to come in costume. For more information, contact the synagogue at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

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Block & Dreeben School hosts 16th Annual Diversity Conference

The Block and Dreeben School for Young Children will host the sixteenth annual Start Seeing Diversity Conference at the Barshop JCC on Friday, Apr. 1. Alissa Levey Baugh, Director of Early Childhood Services, says the goal of the Conference is “to promote inclusiveness, acceptance, and tolerance, as well as to combat the ‘isms’ of society through the exploration of our own biases, and to carry insights learned into the classroom.”

Keynote Speaker Barbara Coloroso, an internationally recognized speaker and author of parenting, teaching, school discipline, non-violent conflict resolution, and reconciliatory justice will discuss *The Bully, The Bullied, and the Bystander: Breaking the Cycle of Violence*.

Gordon Hartman, featured lunch speaker, decided, after a twenty-two year homebuilding career, to direct his focus toward helping children with special needs. He opened Morgan’s Wonderland and created the Gordon Hartman Family Foundation, “to help bring about positive transformation in the lives of our friends with special needs, their families, and caregivers.” Gordon’s motto is “Together, we ARE making a difference!”

The conference is geared to early childhood teachers, parent educators, and others who work with young children and their families.

Gan Israel to add new divisions to growing camp this summer

Camp Gan Israel is excited to open its doors for its 29th summer camp session. Camp will be open for seven weeks from June 21 - August 5.

CGI now has FOUR divisions:

- Mini Gan for ages 18M-4Y.
- A new special program for our PreK campers called Gan Izzy Junior! This program will be the best of both Mini Gan and Gan Izzy.

- Gan Izzy Gadol for girls ages 5Y-12Y and for boys ages 5Y-10Y.

- Another exciting new division is CGIT for girls ages 13Y-14Y and CGI Adventure Camp for boys ages 11Y-12Y. This program will run for a shorter period of time and offer extra trips and training opportunities.

A free Open House program will be held on Sunday, March 13 from 1:00 p.m.- 2:30 p.m. on camp grounds, 14535 Blanco Road. There will be Purim and camp related activities, snacks and prizes, lots more information on this year’s new ‘Electivities’ (including cupcake wars, knitting, raingutter regatta and so much more) and Early



NEW DIVISIONS

CGI now has FOUR divisions:

- Mini Gan for ages 18M-4Y.
- A new special program for our PreK campers called Gan Izzy Junior!
- Gan Izzy Gadol for girls ages 5Y-12Y and for boys ages 5Y-10Y.
- CGIT for girls ages 13Y-14Y and CGI Adventure Camp for boys ages 11Y-12Y. This program will run for a shorter period of time and offer extra trips and training opportunities.

Bird registration discounts (valid before April 3rd).

“Camp Gan Israel is a combination of good old fashioned camp fun, with the safety standards, professionalism and cutting edge programming of 2016, all with a palpably happy Jewish atmosphere and *ruach*. Our staff are the cream of the crop. Dedicated,

professional, loving and FUN! The summer of your child’s dreams awaits, and we couldn’t be more excited to be a part of it!” said Rochel Teldon, camp director.

For rates, registration and more information, please visit us online at www.GanIsraelSA.com or call Rochel at (210) 764-0300.



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Teens invited to NCSY Shabbaton

On March 25-26, more than 175 Jewish teens from all over Texas will be spending Shabbat together on the grounds of Camp Young Judea in Wimberley. Rodfei’s NCSY group

will be joining other teens for an uplifting and fun Shabbaton.

Teens interested in meeting new friends, seeing some old ones, and getting connected to Shabbos in

a way you never thought possible, are invited to contact Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg at asrodfei@gmail.com for more info and to sign up.

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FROM THE COVER

MIDDLE EAST

continued from page 1

mission for the Conference of Presidents, an umbrella body representing 50 U.S. Jewish organizations, kicked off Feb. 14 as the group of more than 100 delegates was welcomed with a speech by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The meeting minutes and panel discussions reflected the current gloom-and-doom picture of the region.

“Syria will leave us with two bad options: we will have either Daesh (Islamic State) or Iran on our border,” said Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Ya’alon on Feb. 15.

“I don’t think Israel has lost, I think the world has lost,” Member of Knesset Yair Lapid, the Yesh Atid party’s leader, said regarding Iran.

The Middle East has always been a region wrought with contradictions, but the conference highlighted how in the realm of security, Middle East experts are now unsure what is truth and what is façade, if what will happen tomorrow will be indicative of what will happen in 10 years, and if those we assume are our enemies might just be our friends (or vice versa).

Take the Iran deal. Dr. Emily B. Landau, senior research fellow at Tel Aviv University’s Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), quoted IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gadi Eizenkot as saying at the INSS conference last month that the Iran deal entails both opportunities and dangers. Landau said both are true.

“We are working on different timelines; there is a five-year timeline and there is a 15-year timeline,” she explained. “On the five-year timelines, yes,

this is a strategic turning point because [Eizenkot] believes the threat has been delayed....Iran will be focused on upholding the deal to get the economic and diplomatic benefits of the deal.”

But nothing has changed in terms of Iran’s strategic goals, and in 15 years Iran will likely have nuclear weapons, which translates into a nuclear Middle East, according to Landau.

“Delaying a threat is not taking care of a threat,” she said.

Here’s the next dichotomy: Conference experts said that while they feel the JCPOA has stunted the immediate growth of Iran’s nuclear program, the deal has empowered Iran in other ways. The reintegration of Iran into the world economic system has led to a real change in Iranian behavior, said Michael Segall, senior analyst for the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs think tank. He said Iran has moved from covert operations in the Middle East to overt operations.

“No one is trying to hide behind secrecy anymore,” said Segall. “We see Iran going from being perceived as part of the problem in the Middle East to part of the solution.”

But Segall said that is only a perception, and that Iran remains a very dangerous threat for Israel. While Iran partners with Russia to keep in power Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, who the Americans were confident would be out of office a few years ago, the Islamic Republic is simultaneously training and bolstering the Lebanese terror group Hezbollah. Even if Hezbollah is beaten down and banged up by its participation in the Syrian

civil war, Segall said that ultimately, “Hezbollah will come out strong and experienced in fighting. Hezbollah will be even more threatening in the future.”

How could the United States let this happen? Delusion? Ignorance? Innocence? It is likely a combination of all of the above, according to what Dr. Michael Doran, senior fellow at the Hudson Institute think tank, told the Conference of the Presidents. There lies the next contradiction: A world superpower entrapped by what Doran called “fantasy.”

“The president (Barack Obama) doesn’t understand Iran the way we do,” said Doran. “The president represents a trend in the U.S. national security elite, which sees Iran as a natural ally of the U.S. This is a strongly held secret opinion. They don’t like to advertise it because it is unpopular politically.”

Doran said this false belief is widely held—not only by Democrats, but by Republicans too. He said President Obama has convinced himself that in the end, Iran and the U.S. have the same interest of defeating Islamic State and that Iran doesn’t really want to destroy Israel.

“That is what Iran tells the U.S. behind closed doors....I don’t believe it for a second,” said Doran.

In the meantime, according to Segall, the U.S. has lost its place in the game—and it lost it in August 2013 when Obama’s “chemical redlines were crossed” by failing to push through military action against Syria following Assad’s use of chemical weapons. Russia has moved in to fill the American void.

“We all know the end result,” Segall said. In Israel, the U.S. seems

to be losing its foothold, too. In January, one Israeli poll named Russian President Vladimir Putin as its “person of the year” for 2015. Putin, whose country in 2015 was considered by international analysts to have surpassed North Korea as the United States’s greatest adversary, was the clear winner of the *Jerusalem Post* poll, with almost 30 percent of the vote.

Netanyahu told the Conference of Presidents, “We live in an era where there are two parallel but contradictory trends regarding the State of Israel.” On the one hand, Israel faces ongoing diplomatic hostility from longtime friends, including from the European Union and its member countries. On the other hand, non-traditional partners like India, China, Japan, Russia, and African

and Latin American nations are warming up to Israel.

“The first reason is the concern with the spread of militant Islam, which has become a global plague, and the terrorism that it produces,” said Netanyahu. “And countries want to have, to benefit from Israel’s experience, our intelligence. I mean military intelligence, special service intelligence, operational experience. They want to partake of that experience to help defend themselves.”

The old Middle East is gone, said Segall, and we don’t really know what the end result of the shifting dynamics will be.

Avi Issacharoff, the Middle East correspondent for the *Times of Israel*, added, “The new Middle East is not about black and white. It’s about 50 shades of gray.”



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Name change brings new logo

The Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of San Antonio (TASA) has a new logo design to correspond with the school's name change.

School officials say Shmuel Bass dedicated his life to helping others, learning Torah (and Jewish education in general), and supporting Israel. His last name "Bass" is a Hebrew abbreviation for "Ben Sofer," or, "Son of a Scribe" - one who carefully writes our sacred Torah. The quill in the logo's Star of David represents the Sofer, who dedicates his life to the continuity of Jewish traditions by ensuring the proper transmission of our holiest book.

The two lines under "Torah Academy" represent

two paths flowing in unison. TASA teaches both secular and Judaic subjects, but it is done in a way where each subject complements the other.

The two lines represent the idea that the path to success is paved with both a strong secular and Judaic upbringing.

School officials say the Star of David represents the Jewish faith and also symbolizes the school's unending support and connection to the State of Israel, which is where Shmuel chose to be buried.

TASA receives funding support from the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. To learn more about TASA, visit www.torahacademysa.com.

Hillel San Antonio off to great start

Hillel began the spring semester with *Leadership Lockdown*, a leadership development day for student leaders and students interested in taking a leadership position next semester. A couple of weeks later, Hillel participated in "Football and Philanthropy Day", in which students volunteered at the San Antonio Food Bank together with Rodfei Sholom in the morning, and watched the Super Bowl that same evening at Alan Yancelson's house. At the Food Bank, participants sorted through 5,311 lbs. of food, which translates to 4,182 meals for families in need. Coming up on March 21st at 7pm, Hillel will host a comedy show performed by *The Bible Players*, a comedic duo performing improv and stand up comedy. This is an event not to be missed! Also be in the lookout for the graduate student Shabbat dinner on March 25th.

If you know of any Jewish students in town, please let Alan Yancelson know at (210) 201-5397_or



Sam Fisher and Jessica Peden sort through food at the San Antonio Food Bank.



Students enjoy watching the Super Bowl at Alan's house.

e-mail him at AYancelson@HillelSA.org. Find us on Facebook as Hillel San Antonio and visit the website at HillelSA.org. To sign up for the newsletter, e-mail Alan.

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Texas Hillel's Israel Block Party celebrates its 18th Anniversary

By Ruthie Nathan

This year, Texas Hillel at the University of Texas - Austin will be celebrating its 18th Israel Block Party on March 30 on the East Mall of the UT Campus. The Israel Block Party, open to all, has become Texas Hillel's premier annual event and more than 200 student and community volunteers will work together to plan and execute the ambitious program. In addition to providing an engaging carnival experience, the party encourages a greater understanding of the rich cultural, religious, intellectual and

political diversity in Israel.

There will be variety of entertainment including a Bedouin tent experience, a replica Tel Aviv beach, and Henna tattoos. In addition, the Block Party will highlight six separate focus areas to educate students about the Israeli Defense Force, Israeli Government and Politics and more! Israeli food will be available for purchase.

"So far, it has been an amazing experience working with the dedicated students on our team and I can't wait for March 30 to see it all come together!" said UT sophomore and event co-chair Jenna Conwisar.

SENIOR NEWS

Join Councilman Nirenberg for a Walk in the Park

The community is invited for some social exercise at 8:30 a.m. at the Blanco entrance of Hardberger Park on Sunday, March 20 as Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services continues its Walk in the Park program with special guest, Councilman Ron Nirenberg.

Councilman Nirenberg was first elected to San Antonio City Council from District 8 in 2013 and was re-elected in 2015.

The walking route varies within Hardberger Park depending on conditions. If the ground is wet or muddy, the group walks the paved

paths. The basic group walk each Sunday is about 30 minutes (length varies) but if anyone wants to add another 15-20 minutes, then several members of the group continue together.

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

If you would like to join the email list to receive updates about the weekly walk, contact group leader Warren Lieberman directly wglieb60@gmail.com at or call the GMJSS office at (210) 302-6946.



Temple Beth-Elders Dinner and 50+ Shabbat worship

All those age 55+ are invited to join Temple Brotherhood as they host their 33rd annual Beth-Elders Dinner on Friday, March 11, at 5:30 p.m. Temple members are free, non-Temple members are only \$6.50. Contact Dollie Closna for reservations at (210) 733-9135, ext. 126, or dollie@beth-elsa.org.

After the dinner, a special Shabbat Worship will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Wulfe Sanctuary to honor all those who have been continuous adult members of Temple Beth-El for 50 or more years. The Union Prayer Book will be used. An Oneg Shabbat will follow the service.

PERSPECTIVE

The anti-Israel trend you've never heard of



Perspective:

DAVID
BERNSTEIN

violence is a form of oppression that is related ... to other forms of oppression," said one group

member.

"Sexual violence is a deeper political issue, and it cannot be divorced or separated from other oppressed identities," said another No Red Tape member.

See **TREND**, page 31

(JTA) - If you want to understand why the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement, or BDS, has gained so much ground in the past two years, look no further than intersectionality, the study of related systems of oppression.

Intersectionality holds that various forms of oppression – racism, sexism, classism, ableism and homophobia – constitute an intersecting system of oppression. In this worldview, a transcendent white, male, heterosexual power structure keeps down marginalized groups. Uniting oppressed groups, the theory goes, strengthens them against the dominant power structure.

As you might have guessed, the BDS movement has successfully injected the anti-Israel cause into these intersecting forms of oppression and itself into the interlocking communities of people who hold by them. So, it's increasingly likely that if a group sees itself as oppressed, it will see Israel as part of the dominant power structure doing the oppressing and Palestinians as fellow victims. That oppressed group will be susceptible to joining forces with the BDS movement.

At Columbia University, Students for Justice in Palestine managed to form an alliance with No Red Tape, a student group fighting sexual violence. What does opposing sexual violence have to do with Israel and the Palestinians?

"The way that No Red Tape conceives of sexual

Gary S. Gossen, M.D., F.A.C.G.

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TREND

continued from page 30

Intersectionality with the anti-Israel cause, unfortunately, has not been limited to groups working against sexual violence at Columbia. The anti-Israel website, Mondoweiss, recently declared that “since Mike Brown was shot by police in Ferguson ... solidarity between the Black Lives Matter and Palestine movements has become an increasingly central tenet of both struggles.”

Other examples of groups and causes intersecting with BDS supporters abound, both on and off campus.

While anti-Israelism has long found a sympathetic ear among segments of the far left, it has not, until recently, enjoyed much popularity among ethnic minorities. Moreover, until recently, BDS supporters probably weren't organized enough to do the necessary outreach to and stewardship of fellow marginalized groups. Now, evidently, they are.

While he never uses the term

intersectionality, Mark Yudof, president emeritus of the University of California system and chair of the recently established Academic Engagement Network, which aims to fight anti-Israel sentiment on campus, ominously describes efforts to “connect the dots” and “co-opt the language of human rights.” The BDS movement is “moving to integrate itself with nearly every progressive campus cause,” Yudof said.

In other words, intersectionality with anti-Israel forces is not just some faddish academic theory bandied about by radical academics and sociology majors. BDS supporters are building alliances, and using those relationships as an opportunity to sell their cause. Much more than a theoretical framework, intersectionality is a comprehensive community relations strategy.

Nor will intersectionality remain primarily a campus phenomenon for long. Yudof worries that “future leaders of America will be viscerally anti-Israel because of the distorted discourse on today's campuses.” He points out that “what happens on

campus never stays on campus.”

Indeed, the growing acceptance of intersectionality arguably poses the most significant community relations challenge of our time. Ultimately, how popular – and threatening – intersectionality becomes depends on the degree to which the far left, constituting about 10 percent of society, is successful in inculcating its black-and-white worldview, simplistic perspectives and resentment toward those perceived as powerful with the mainstream left. But, we can influence the direction of this discussion.

Publicly attacking intersectionality and its adherents is not likely to do much damage. To the contrary, calling out Israel's detractors can paradoxically have the effect of popularizing their views and bringing them further into the mainstream.

Rather, the Jewish community and, especially, the Jewish community relations movement, must do more to establish our own intersectionality with groups on the mainstream left, which is not nearly as prone to radical currents. Strengthening

ties to these more moderate groups will erect a firewall between the far left and mainstream left on Israel, making it far less likely that the latter will ever take the bait from the BDS movement. To do this, we need to understand the various issues and causes of the groups that make up this segment of the population, and make common cause whenever possible. Promoting Israel alone is not going to cut it, because the various groups will have no reason or incentive to join forces with us. Just as BDS supporters embrace the agendas of the groups they seek to persuade, we must work on issues our key partners deem important.

We may not be able to discredit intersectionality with Israel across the board, but we can limit its reach.

David Bernstein is the new president and CEO of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the voice of the Jewish federations' 125 Jewish community relations councils on domestic and international issues, and which represents 14 national organizations.

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Applications must be received no later than Thursday, April 12, 2016.

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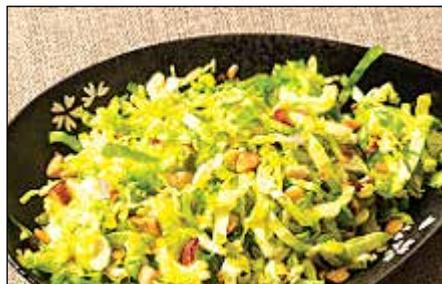
210.302.6960 | strayerc@jfsatx.org



In the Kitchen...This Passover

If you're busy preparing your menu for Passover and are looking for something new and different, look no further than this tasty and modern recipe from kosher expert and author Paula Shoyer (www.TheKosherBaker.com), featured in her book, *The New Passover Menu* (Sterling/January 2014).

SHREDDED BRUSSELS SPROUTS SALAD
SERVES 6-8
PREP TIME 20 minutes



ADVANCE PREP May be made 1 day in advance

EQUIPMENT

Cutting board • Knives • Cookie sheet
• Measuring cups and spoons • Small bowl • Whisk

1 pound Brussels sprouts (preferably larger-size ones), ends trimmed, 2 outer layers of leaves removed
3/4 cup whole almonds, toasted
1/2 small red onion, chopped into

small pieces (about 1/4 cup)
3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice (from 1 lemon)
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon honey
1/8 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon black pepper

CUT the Brussels sprouts in half the long way, from the stem end to the top, and thinly slice. Place the sliced sprouts in a bowl. Roughly chop the toasted almonds and add to the bowl, along with the chopped onion. In a small bowl, whisk together the lemon juice, oil, honey, salt, and black pepper. Pour the dressing over the salad and toss.

At every family meal, I make sure to serve some raw vegetables in addition to the cooked ones. You will be surprised by how much you like this crunchy salad of raw Brussels sprouts
—Paula Shoyer

Agudas Achim MovieClub presents *Race*

Congregation Agudas Achim will be presenting the film *Race* at a private screening on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 8 p.m. at Santikos Embassy Theater.

Race is the true story of gold medal champion Jesse Owens culminating in his participation at the 1936 Berlin Games.

Grab a coffee or wine after the movie – dessert will be served in the theater.

Reserved seating is \$25/person and general admission seating is \$15/person. Adults only please.

RSVP to (210) 479-0307 or rsvp@agudas-achim.org. All tickets must be purchased in advance.

Remembering Jewish Military Veterans

Jewish War Veterans of America San Antonio Post 753 asks you remember these Jewish military veterans whose yahrzeits (anniversary of the individual's death) occurs in the month of March and who are buried in a local cemetery.

If you know of a name that is missing, please contact Herschel at (210) 468-5598.

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ALTER, JACK H
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ARBETTER, MILTON
BEILIN, HARRY
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BLAKKHARTT, JESSIE
BRIDGES, JAMES
BRITTON, HOWARD
BROOK, BERNARD
BROOK, BOB
COHEN, HAROLD
DOMAN, SAMUEL
DORF, JEROME
DYM, DAVID
ELLNER, BERNARD
FEINBERG, RAYMOND
FINDER, RUDOLF
FORTGANG, HERBERT
FREEDMAN, LESTER
FREIDMAN, BEN
GILBERT, HENNON
GOLD, PAUL
GREENFIELD, LOUIS
HIRSCH, LOUIS
JACOBSON, HARRY
JARROW, LYLE
JASIE, MAX

KAPLAN, JAMES
KAUFMAN, LESLIE
KNITTLE, GERALD
KRAUSS, SOLOMON
LADENSOHN, SAMUEL
LANE, FRANK
LAWRENCE, HARRY
LITOFKY, JACK
MARCUS, HYMAN
MAZUR, GERALD
MEYER, SAUL
MILLER, JOSEPH
MILLER, SIDNEY
MORGAN, DAVID
MYRELL, JOSEPH
NEWMAN, MORRIS
O'KRENT, MURRAY
ORTIZ, DAVID
PANZER, CHARLES
PINCUS, HAROLD
POMERANCE, HARVEY
PTASHKIN, NORMAN
RISKIND, REUBEN
ROMAN, JOSEPH
ROSEN, HERBERT
ROSENBLATT, JULIUS
ROSETT, FORREST
RUBIN, HARRY
RUBIN, LESTER
SACKS, HARRIS

SARTOR, BURT
SCHWARTZBACH, ROBERT
SEEMAN, NORMAN
SINGER, HERBERT
SOLIS, JACOB
SOSKIN, MARSHALL
STRUM, JEROME
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The Kremlin in Moscow. Credit: Dion Hinchcliffe via Wikimedia Commons.

Israel and Russia to sign free trade agreement

(JNS.org) Russia and Israel are planning to sign a free trade agreement that will allow for the establishment of joint ventures in the high-tech and agriculture sectors, the Russian news agency TASS reported February 12.

Both Israeli Agriculture Minister Uri Ariel and Russian Deputy Agriculture Minister Sergey Levin confirmed that the agreement is expected to be finalized.

“We’ve discussed the prospects of forming a free trade zone, which the government plans to put on paper within the shortest period of time,” Levin said.

Israel officials told *Ma’ariv* that Ariel visited Russia with Member of Knesset Yoel Razvozov (Yesh Atid), who together with Israeli Ambassador to Russia Zvi Heifetz met with Kremlin officials—among them Russia’s deputy prime minister, Arkady Dvorkovich—to discuss the agreement.

Representatives from both sides also discussed pension payments by the Russian government to Israeli citizens who had immigrated to the Jewish state from the former Soviet Union.

Rivlin to US Jewish leaders: Don’t politicize relationship with Israel

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli President Reuven Rivlin told American Jewish leaders that the relationship between Israel and the United States should remain “beyond debate” during the U.S. election season.

Rivlin addressed a delegation from the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations on February 18, the last day of its five-day mission to Israel.

“Many of you have different political views, support different candidates, and possibly vote for different political parties. But whichever party or candidate you support, there are important issues on which everyone must agree,” Rivlin said. “Support for Israel in the United States has never been, and must not become, a party political issue.”

“During the elections season, it is my deep hope that the close relationship between Israel and the United States

remains beyond debate. American friends of Israel should be able to feel free to express their democratic right and vote as they want, and know that whatever happens, the bonds between Israel and the U.S. are strong.”

Rivlin also called for unity in the fight against the rising threat of anti-Semitism.

“Across the world we are seeing a rise in this old, and new disease, and there is more and more pressure to boycott the world’s only Jewish state. We must stand firm against these threats; Israel is your partner in this fight,” he said.

The delegation met with a range of Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, opposition leader Isaac Herzog, Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon and Education Minister Naftali Bennett.

Before arriving in Israel, the group also met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Hezbollah leader threatens attack

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah threatened to hit large ammonia gas tanks in Haifa that he said would wreak damage and

casualties equal to a nuclear attack. Nasrallah made the threats about a future attack on northern Israel during a speech in Beirut.

“This would be exactly

as a nuclear bomb, and we can say that Lebanon today has a nuclear bomb, seeing as any rocket that might hit these tanks is capable of creating a nuclear bomb effect,” he said.

Israel’s environmental protection minister, Avi Gabbai, later told the Israeli media that he had ordered the ammonia storage facility be moved to the Negev Desert in the southern part of Israel.

Nasrallah added that Hezbollah’s military might is preventing attacks by Israel, and Israel would not attack unless it knew it could win and in a short amount of time.

He also accused Israel of planning to topple Syrian President Bashar Assad, saying those plans have failed.


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U.S. & WORLD NEWS

Yeshiva University sheds half of \$1B endowment along with medical school liabilities

(JTA) — Yeshiva University's \$1 billion endowment will be cut nearly in half as part of financial and operational split with the Albert Einstein School of Medicine, which is to become a separate entity, the Forward reported.

The university's transfer of funds to the new venture — a total of \$465 million — is disclosed in financial documents the school released last month and revealed in the Forward report on February 19.

"These assets will no longer be Y.U.'s," said one faculty member, who spoke to the Forward on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation. "They will be transferred to Einstein — and that's a big chunk."

A spokesman for the



One of the buildings on the Bronx campus of Albert Einstein College of Medicine. (Wikimedia Commons)

university confirmed the figure but emphasized that the money in question had originally been designated for the medical school and was not taken from funds meant for the university's other schools or departments.

Einstein, a celebrated school in the larger Y.U. system, has been losing tens of millions of dollars

annually. And Y.U., which is facing its worst financial crisis in recent memory, determined that the Bronx medical school was largely responsible for the university's financial woes, including large budget deficits and degraded credit status by bond rating agencies, according to the Forward report.



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Bar Mitzvah: Ilan Benjamin Haas

Ilan Benjamin Haas, son of Daphna and Daniel Haas and brother of Ethan Haas, will be called to the Torah to become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, March 5 at Congregation Agudas Achim in San Antonio.

Ilan is a 7th grader at Great Hearts Northern Oaks. For his mitzvah project, Ilan has been volunteering at San Antonio Pets Alive where he works with dogs and cats. He feeds, walks, plays with, and bathes the animals that are in the care of the shelter. In his free time, he enjoys diving, fishing, and snow skiing.



Bar Mitzvah: Hayden Ross Eichelbaum

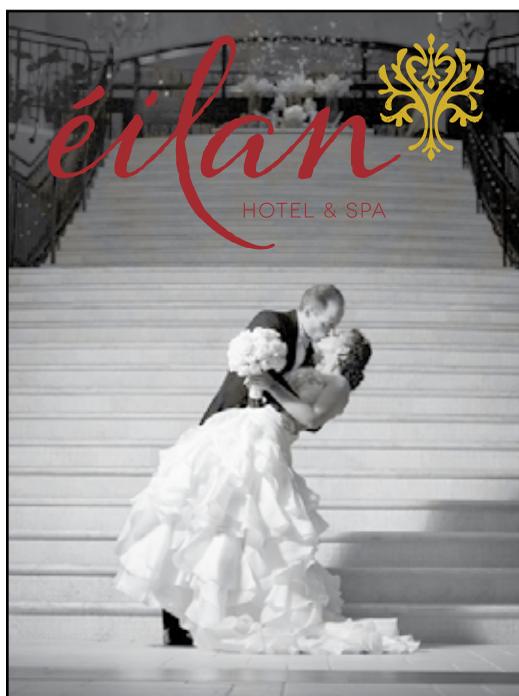


Hayden Ross Eichelbaum will become a Bar Mitzvah on March 5 at Temple Beth-El. He is the son of Rob and Jennifer Eichelbaum, and brother of Hannah. His grandparents, Mel and Marlene Eichelbaum, and Joan Baskin join us in celebrating this simcha.

Hayden is a straight A student at Rawlinson Middle School. He enjoys playing percussion in the Rawlinson Band, playing piano, and going to Greene Family

Camp each and every summer. Hayden plays Basketball for Texas Prime, an AAU club level team, as well as his school's 7th Grade Team. He is incorporating his love of basketball in his *Tzedakah* project by organizing a shoot-a-thon to raise money for the Spurs Foundation Silver and Black Give Back, an organization that provides uniforms, coaches, and facilities for over 20,000 kids in the San Antonio area.

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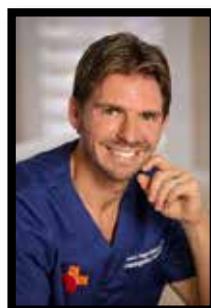
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