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# THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

IYYAR 5775 - SIVAN 5775

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

MAY 2015



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PAGE 7



## NEW HOLOCAUST MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Federation hires "new" leader for HMMSA.

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## NEPAL RELIEF FUND

JFNA has set up a relief fund to help survivors and recovery efforts in Nepal.

PAGE 39

## Partnership 2GETHER works to strengthen involvement

As one of the fourteen communities in the Western Galilee partnership region, San Antonio was represented by Jewish Federation CEO Ronit Sherwin and Special Events Coordinator Lauren Abraham (whose duties include the Partnership with Israel program), at the annual meeting of the Partnership 2GETHER Steering Committee. This year the



Steering Committee was hosted in Louisville, Kentucky. San Antonio joined our Central Area Consortium of: Canton, Dayton, Toledo, and Youngstown, Ohio, Indianapolis, Northwest Indiana, South Bend, Indiana, Louisville, Kentucky, Des Moines, Iowa, Omaha, Nebraska,

See **PARTNERSHIP**, page 11

## In aftermath of Nepal quake, Israelis sends help and looks for their own

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Rabbi Chezki Lifshitz was in the middle of the Torah reading on April 26 when he felt the ground shake.

It was "as if a small windmill was underground and was moving the entire area," the Kathmandu Chabad rabbi said.

That night, by the end of the first phase of Nepal's worst earthquake in 80 years, hundreds of Israelis were crowded into Lifshitz's courtyard, huddled in their tents and sleeping bags. Local hospitals were

See **NEPAL**, page 11

## Jewish Federation of San Antonio spearheads revival of Yom Hazikaron commemoration and Yom Ha'Atzmaut festivities

The night began in a somber tone with the voices of our rabbis and cantors, community leaders, and native Israelis as the San Antonio community remembered the fallen Israeli soldiers and the hardships Israel has faced in the Yom Hazikaron commemoration. The over three hundred community members in attendance heard a siren blast, lit a candle to remember "Yizkor," and among other songs, readings and poems, came together for the Mourner's Kaddish. To end the somber ceremony, the next generation, children from all of the synagogue

Religious Schools, Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy, and Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of San Antonio came together to raise their voices for Israel to the words of the Star Spangled Banner, Hatikvah, and Am Israel Chai.

Festivities then turned to Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day celebrations. Downstairs in the gymnasium, our San Antonio Jewish community danced to the tunes of the band "The Best Little Klezmer Band in Texas," enjoyed falafel

See **FESTIVITIES**, page 21



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Also read the Journal online at: [www.jfsatx.org](http://www.jfsatx.org)



THE JEWISH JOURNAL  
OF SAN ANTONIO

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**EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS**

The submission deadline for the JUNE/JULY 2015 issue of the Jewish Journal is MAY 12, 2015 at noon. All materials submitted after this date will be considered for the following issue.

**How to submit:** Email submissions to [jewishj@jfsatx.org](mailto: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](mailto:advertising@jfsatx.org).

**Ad deadlines for JUNE/JULY 2015 ISSUE:**

- Ad space reservations due no later than May 12, 2015 by noon;
- Press ready ads due by May 16, 2015.

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

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

**JEWISH JOURNAL EDITORIAL POLICY**

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

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

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

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

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# YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

## IN LOVING MEMORY

Julian Aronson

Selig Frank

Mildred Gelfer

Darleen Gregory

Fira Kenigstein

Aaron Konstam

## The spirit of Partnership

This past March, I had the honor and pleasure of attending a meeting of our Partnership 2GETHER Steering Committee of the Western Galilee region. Lauren Abraham, our Partnership 2GETHER Coordinator on behalf of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, accompanied me to this meeting that took place in Louisville, Kentucky. San Antonio has been an active community in this collaborative partnership along with 12 other communities since 1998.

Partnership 2GETHER is a unique program that allows our Jewish community of San Antonio



Letter from  
our CEO

RONIT  
SHERWIN

to develop personal relationships with our family in Israel through the lenses of education, the arts, medicine, academia and more.

I am pleased that our community once again has an active voice in the Partnership, and I encourage everyone in our community to find a personal connection to the people and land of Israel through this project.

What I want to share

most about this two and a half day meeting I attended with Lauren in Louisville is the spirit of the gathering.

I attend many meetings both locally and nationally on behalf of the Jewish Federation, and this meeting was special.

It felt like a gathering of old friends and family. In many respects this meeting was like most in that it included both volunteers and Jewish communal professionals, but this group felt more like family than colleagues or professional partners.

The atmosphere was

See **LETTER**, page 7



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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS: May 2015

- May 1**
- JCC Fore! the Kids Golf Tournament, 12 p.m.
  - Agudas Achim Friday Night with Friends Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:15 p.m.
- May 2**
- BBYO Beau/Sweet heart Dance, 7 p.m.
  - Young Couples Club of Agudas Achim Cinco De Mayo Party and Games Night, 7:30 p.m.
  - The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents, *Rumors*, 8 p.m.
- May 3**
- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents, *Rumors*, 2:30p.m.
  - Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Installation & Mother's Day Luncheon, 11 am
  - Congregation Rodfei Sholom *Tim's Vermeer* Documentary Screening, 6:30 p.m.
  - Jewish Family Service Mother's Day Event, 6 p.m.
- May 4**
- Agudas Achim, Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Abraham, 12 p.m.
  - "Breakneck through the Bible Class", Congregation Rodfei Sholom, 8 p.m.
- May 5**
- Hillel San Antonio 7 p.m.
- May 7**
- Barshop Jewish Community Center Silver Cinema, 1 p.m.
  - Lag B'Omer, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, 4 p.m.
  - Lag B'Omer Picnic and Celebration at Agudas Achim, 5 p.m.
  - The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents, *Rumors*, 7:30p.m.
- May 8**
- Barshop Jewish Community Center Early Childhood Shabbat Dinner, 6 p.m.
- May 9**
- The Jewish Film Festival, The Sequel featuring, *Quality Balls*, 7:30
  - The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents, *Rumors*, 8 p.m.
- May 10**
- The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents, *Rumors*, 2:30p.m.
  - Torah Academy of San Antonio Casino Night, 7 p.m.
- May 11**
- *Breakneck through the Bible Class*, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, 8 p.m.
- May 12**
- Agudas Achim Sisterhood Book Review with Hazzan Lipton, 10 am
  - Jewish Federation Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- May 13**
- Congregation Rodfei Sholom Book Club, 7:30p.m.
- May 14**
- Agudas Achim Simcha Social Club- Senior Program, 11 am
  - Congregation Agudas Achim Brews & Schmooze, Bigz Burger Joint, 5 p.m.
  - The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents, *Rumors*, 7:30p.m.
- May 16**
- Barshop Jewish Community Center NOVA Troupe Presents, *Alice in Wonderland Jr.*, 7 p.m.
  - The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents, *Rumors*, 8 p.m.
- May 17**
- L'Chayim Club, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, 10 am
  - Congregation Rodfei Sholom Yom Yerushalayim Commemoration, 10 am
  - Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Honors Luncheon, 12 p.m.
  - Barshop Jewish Community Center Silver Cinema, 1 p.m.
  - Barshop Jewish Community Center NOVA Troupe Presents, *Alice in Wonderland Jr.*, 2 p.m.
  - Barshop Jewish Community Center Spring Adult Tennis Social, 2 p.m.
  - The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents, *Rumors*, 2:30p.m.
  - Leah Goot Hadassah Speaker Event, Adante Senior Living, 3 p.m.
  - Barshop Jewish Community Center Dance Academy Recital, 5 p.m.

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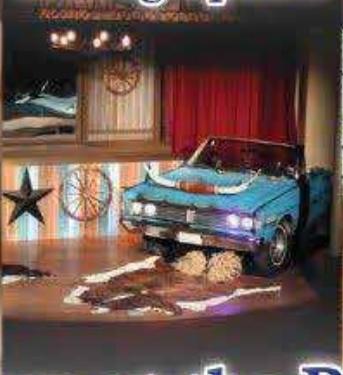
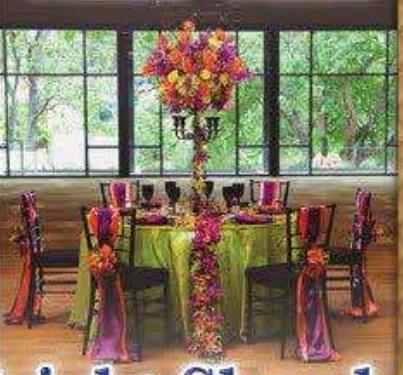
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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS: May 2015

▪ Women of Valor Honors Evening at Congregation Agudas Achim, 7 p.m.

## May 18

▪ “Breakneck through the Bible Class”, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, 8 p.m.

## May 20

▪ Barshop Jewish Community Center, Author Lecture, 7 p.m.

## May 21

▪ Barshop Jewish Community Center Silver Cinema, 1 p.m.  
 ▪ The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents, *Rumors*, 7:30p.m.

## May 23

▪ Agudas Achim Pray at the Wall, Special Shabbat Service, 9 am  
 ▪ Agudas Achim in Partnership with Temple Chai Tikkun L'eil Shavuot, 9 p.m.

## May 24

▪ Shavuot  
 ▪ Agudas Achim Shavuot Service, with Children's Service at 9 am  
 ▪ The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents, *Rumors*, 2:30p.m.

## May 25

▪ Shavuot

▪ Memorial Day 12 p.m.

▪ *Breakneck through the Bible Class*, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, 8 p.m.

▪ Agudas Achim Shavuot and Yizkor Service with Children's Service at 11 am  
 ▪ Shavuot and Yizkor, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, 9 am

## May 27

▪ Young Couples Club of Agudas Achim, Couples Cooking Class, 7 p.m.  
 ▪ JCC Annual Meeting, 7 p.m.

## May 28

▪ The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents, *Rumors*, 7:30p.m.

## May 30

▪ The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents, *Rumors*, 8 p.m.

## May 31

▪ The Sheldon Vexler Theater Presents, *Rumors*, 2:30p.m.  
 ▪ Torah Academy of San Antonio Annual Gala, 7:30p.m.

## June 1

▪ *Breakneck through the Bible Class*, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, 8 p.m.

## June 7

▪ PJ Library Play at Rodfei!, 10 am  
 ▪ Jewish Federation Annual Meeting, 4 p.m.  
 ▪ Torah Academy of San Antonio End of Year Dinner, 7 p.m.

## June 8

▪ *Breakneck through the Bible Class*, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, 8 p.m.

## June 11

▪ Congregation Agudas Achim Brews & Shmooze, Bigz Burger Joint, 5 p.m.



**PJ LIBRARY PLAY AT RODEFEI!**

**Sunday, June 7th at 10:00AM–Noon**  
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## CANDLE LIGHTING

### Friday, May 1

Light Candles at: 7:53 p.m.

### Shabbat, May 2

Shabbat Ends: 8:49 p.m.

### Friday, May 8

Light Candles at: 7:57 p.m.

### Shabbat, May 9

Shabbat Ends: 8:54 p.m.

### Friday, May 15

Light Candles at: 8:02 p.m.

### Shabbat, May 16

Shabbat Ends: 8:59 p.m.

### Friday, May 22

Light Candles at: 8:06 p.m.

### Shabbat, May 23

**Eve of First day Shavuot,**  
 Light Holiday Candles after:  
 9:04 p.m.

### Sunday, May 24

#### **Eve of Second day Shavuot**

Light Holiday Candles after:  
 9:05 p.m.

### Monday, May 25

Holiday Ends: 9:06 p.m.

### Friday, May 29

Light Candles at: 8:10 p.m.

### Shabbat, May 30

Shabbat Ends: 9:09 p.m.

### Friday, June 5

Light Candles at: 8:14 p.m.

### Shabbat, June 6

Shabbat Ends: 9:13 p.m.

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# YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

## Rutman returns for Zinn lecture series

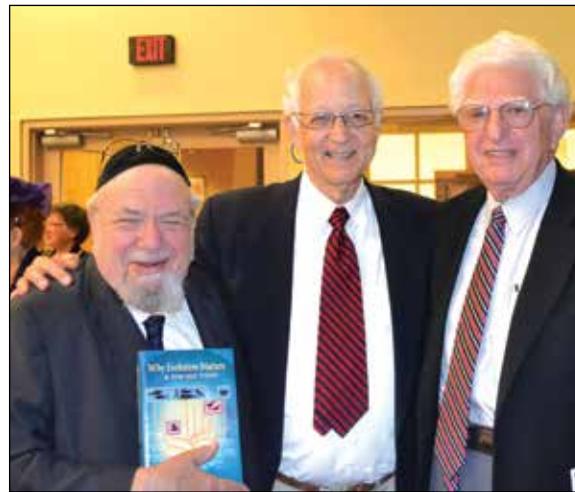
Alvin and Nola Marx, and Hedy Rutman



Pat Kalmans, Larry Hoberman, Judy Hoberman and Dr. Tibor Ritter



Mike Ozer, Richard Wayne and Shelly Braverman



Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg, Joel Rutman and Elliot Weser



Betty Zinn, Jed Maebius and Ellie Forland

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Zinn lecture of the Maimonides Society of San Antonio on April 10 featured former San Antonian Joel Rutman, M.D. Now living in Israel, Rutman discussed ideas in his recently published book *Why Evolution Matters: A Jewish View*.

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# YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

## PJ Library partners with Temple Beth El for Passover Plague Party

**By Lauren Abraham,**  
San Antonio PJ Library Coordinator

Frogs here, frogs there, frogs were jumping everywhere! On March 29, the Sunday before Passover, PJ Library partnered with Temple Beth El in its first ever synagogue collaboration program. Rabbi Mara Nathan led the PJ Library children in a PJ Library story *Let My People Go*

along with song and dance to prepare for the Passover holiday.

Temple Beth El volunteers helped the children complete their very own Passover plague packets to enjoy during their family Seders. The children got to view live plagues of bugs and frogs, and enjoy a delicious edible plague bag full of marshmallow hail balls, gummy snakes, wild animal crackers, and more.



PJ Library readers (l to r) Alejandra Viramontes and Gabby Shinder won raffle prizes of PJ Library books to take home and enjoy.

*PJ Library's next synagogue collaboration program will be hosted by Congregation Rodfei Sholom on June 7. It's time for a PJ Playdate on the playground complete with ice cream just in time for summer.*

ABOVE: Rabbi Mara Nathan and her helpers (l to r) Audrey, Miriam and Batya read and had the children act out the PJ Library book *Let My People Go!* with the story of Pharaoh and the Egyptians experiencing the ten plagues.



Eli Apodaca works on decorating a paper hand with "boils" and band aids for his plague pack.



ABOVE: Roman Lubetzky completed his plague packet.

## BELDON LIBRARY NEWS

The Holocaust collection in the Beldon Library has increased with the addition of books from the Holocaust Museum. These books are now available to be checked out.

The Beldon Librarian, Lynn Waghalter reports that the Book Sale was a "huge success. She thanks all the volunteers and all those who donated books for the sale."

Regular library hours are:

**Monday:**  
12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.;  
**Tuesday:**  
10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.;  
**Wednesday:**  
1:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### LETTER

continued from page 3

warm and welcoming and the conversation was lively and robust. We agreed and we disagreed and enjoyed being together.

This is Partnership 2GETHER, and this is our family. We are more than our Jewish community

locally. We are a global family of Jews.

Once again, I encourage you to learn about our Partnership region of the Western Galilee. Please watch for information to follow on summer parlor meetings, which will allow you to better understand Partnership. This is our mishpacha – family.

# YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK



Marchers line up for the Walk Against Genocide

## Annual Walk Against Genocide

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk Against Genocide was held at the Jewish Campus with participants of many different backgrounds from across the city. One speaker called for recognition of the Armenian Genocide, another noted that if genocides are planned, they are also preventable and yet another sang a song of the survivors of the Rwandan genocide. The program was planned by the San Antonio Coalition Against Genocide.



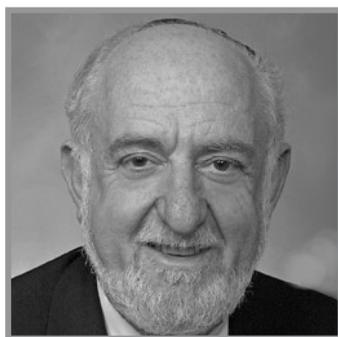
Juana Rubalcava, education director of the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio (a program of the Jewish Federation), provided information about the Stages of Genocide.

# SAVE THE DATE



Jewish Federation<sup>®</sup>  
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## Annual Meeting & Community Dessert Reception



**Sunday, June 7, 2015 | 4:00 PM**

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## DON'T MISS OUT!

The next issue of the Jewish Journal will be a combined issue for June and July.

Submissions for the June/July issue are due no later than May 12 at 12 noon.

Submissions for the August issue will be due by 12 noon on July 13.

All editorial submissions should be sent to [jewishj@jfsatx.org](mailto:jewishj@jfsatx.org). Advertising inquiries should be sent to [advertising@jfsatx.org](mailto:advertising@jfsatx.org).

Calendar submissions should be sent to [strayerc@jfsatx.org](mailto:strayerc@jfsatx.org).

## SPOTLIGHT ON...

## Meet a Literacy Coalition Volunteer

Loretta Van Coppenolle, a volunteer for the San Antonio Jewish Coalition for Literacy, retired twice from different professional positions before becoming a volunteer.

She knew that she wanted to tutor on a one-to-one basis with a student who needed improvement with reading skills. She viewed this setting as her way to make a difference.

On her own initiative in March 2009, Van Coppenolle called the Larkspur Elementary School (located near the intersection of Lockhill Selma and NW Military Highway) in the North East Independent School District (NEISD).

She started with a second



Loretta Van Coppenolle is a volunteer for the San Antonio Jewish Coalition for Literacy. grade boy at Larkspur who was very behind on his reading level. He was the oldest of five children in a single parent family with a very young mother.

While he did a great deal of talking about many things, he let her know that he appreciated what she was doing for him. Because of her efforts, she believes that the boy made significant progress in his reading ability.

Van Coppenolle continued to work with the same boy in third grade and began to tutor a second student at the same time. In the years since, she has continued to work with other students at Larkspur. Early on, Van Coppenolle intersected with the Jewish Coalition and became one of its tutors. She has found that she has looks forward to her weekly tutoring activities during the regular school year. She feels that all of her tutored students have great potential, with at least two of them having the ability to run for the Presidency of the United States. Van Coppenolle urges "more people to get involved as SAJCL volunteer tutors and mentors because I think that they will truly enjoy this activity as much as I do."

Those interested in joining the SAJCL together with Van Coppenolle and other volunteers, can contact Nathan Ratner, the Coordinator of the SAJCL either by telephone (210-302-6972) or e-mail ([ratnern@jfsatx.org](mailto:ratnern@jfsatx.org)). Ratner says that he "is looking forward to hearing from those who can help make a difference in our community by volunteering to mentor a student."

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# YOUR JEWISH COMMUNITY

## JEWISH FEDERATION OF SAN ANTONIO

Main Number: (210) 302-6960 / Holocaust Memorial Museum: (210) 302-6807 / Beldon Library: (210) 302-6805

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**Juana Rubalcava**, Education Director  
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**Lauren Sandoval**,  
Graphic Designer, *The Jewish Journal*

**Rachel Stern**,  
Coordinator B'nai Tzedek and The Tribe  
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**Caitlyn Strayer**, Office Manager

**Lynn Waghalter**, Librarian Beldon Library  
*waghalter@jfsatx.org*

## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

### Barshop Jewish Community Center

12500 NW Military Highway, Suite 275, San Antonio, TX 78231  
**Phone:** (210) 302-6820 **Fax:** (210) 408-2341  
**Executive Director:** Saul F. Levenshus Email: [jccfjcc-sa.org](mailto:jccfjcc-sa.org)  
**President:** David Palans **Website:** [www.jccsanantonio.org](http://www.jccsanantonio.org)  
Programs include a nationally-accredited nursery school, an after-school center for school age children, summer camp programs, programming for senior adults, plus cultural, educational and recreational programs.

### Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus

of the San Antonio Jewish Community  
12500 NW Military Hwy, Suite 100, San Antonio Texas 78231  
**Phone:** (210) 302-6801 **Fax:** (210) 408-2322  
**Director of Operations:** Mike Griffin  
**President:** Alice Viroslav **Website:** [www.thecampustx.org](http://www.thecampustx.org)  
The Campus features a variety of spaces available to rent for small or large events.

### Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services

12500 N.W. Military Hwy. Suite 260, San Antonio, TX 78231  
**Phone:** (210) 302-6946 **Website:** <http://www.goldenmanor.net>  
**Executive Director:** Daniel L. Laser **President:** Shari P. Pulman  
Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) works to meet the needs of Jewish seniors in the San Antonio area by providing transportation and direct services, and through grants to other organizations for programs that benefit San Antonio area Jewish seniors.

### Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Antonio

P.O. Box 780264 San Antonio, TX 78278 **Phone:** (210) 736-4352  
Non-profit organization offering interest-free loans to members of the San Antonio Jewish community in need of temporary assistance

### Jewish Family Service

12500 NW Military Highway, Suite 250, San Antonio, TX 78231  
**Phone:** (210) 302-6920 **Fax:** (210) 302-6952  
**Executive Director:** M. H. Levine **President:** Ilene Kramer  
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](http://www.ncjwsa.org)  
For Membership Information: Cathy Pottorf - [catpot52@gmail.com](mailto:catpot52@gmail.com)  
NCJW is a grassroots organization that advocates for women, children and family issues both locally and nationally.

### San Antonio Hillel

**Website:** [www.sahillel.org](http://www.sahillel.org) **Director:** Rachel Rustin  
**Phone:** (210) 201-Jews Email: [Info@sahillel.org](mailto:Info@sahillel.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

### Gan Gani Preschool

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

### Heintz Preschool

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

### JCC Block & Dreeben School for Young Children

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

### Torah Academy of San Antonio

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

## SAN ANTONIO CONGREGATIONS

### Congregation Agudas Achim (Conservative)

16550 Huebner Road, 78248  
**Phone:** (210) 479-0307 **Fax:** (210) 479-0295  
**website:** [www.agudas-achim.org](http://www.agudas-achim.org)  
Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Senior Rabbi  
Hazzan Jeremy Lipton

### Congregation Beth Am (Reconstructionist)

7150 IH 10 West, 78213  
**Phone:** (210) 492-2173 **Fax:** (210) 342-8935  
**website:** [www.bethamsatx.org](http://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](mailto:rodfeisa@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.rodfeisholom.org](http://www.rodfeisholom.org)  
Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg  
Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg

### Jewish Community of the Hill Country

Kerrville, Texas  
For information: (830) 331-8941

### Temple Beth-El (Reform)

211 Belknap Place, 78212  
**Phone:** (210) 733-9135 **Fax:** (210) 737-8946  
**E-mail address:** [Temple@beth-elsa.org](mailto:Temple@beth-elsa.org)  
**Website:** [www.beth-elsa.org](http://www.beth-elsa.org)  
Rabbi Mara Nathan, Senior Rabbi  
(July 1, 2014), Rabbi Elisa Koppel,  
Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl, Emeritus  
Cantor Julie Berlin

### Temple Chai (Reform)

Meets at the Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community  
12500 N.W. Military Hwy., 78231  
**Office:** 7410 Blanco Road, Suite #340  
San Antonio, TX 78216  
**Office phone:** (210) 340-2090  
**website:** [www.templechaisa.org](http://www.templechaisa.org)  
Rabbi David Komerofsky

### Chabad Lubavitch of South Texas

14535 Blanco Rd., 78216  
**Phone:** (210) 492-1085 **Fax:** (210) 493-9460  
**website:** [www.chabadsa.com](http://www.chabadsa.com)  
Rabbi Chaim Block  
Rabbi Yossi Marrus  
Rabbi Levi Teldon

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

**Office & Mailings:**  
16320 Huebner Road at St. Andrew  
San Antonio, Texas, 78248  
**All Faiths Chapel:**  
5000 Fawn Meadow Drive at Floyd Curl  
San Antonio, Texas 78240  
**Phone:** (210) 387-2436  
Hazzan David Silverstein, JD,  
Founding Ritual Leader  
Rev. David Miron UMC,  
Accompanist and Choral Director

## PARTNERSHIP

continued from page 1

Austin and Fort Worth, Texas, and Budapest, Hungary. Representatives from each community came together to discuss and enhance the mission to promote mutually beneficial endeavors between the people of the Central Area Consortium and the Western Galilee. By forging the relationships through programs that build Jewish identity and strengthen ties and connections among and between our communities, we strive to build a strong *klal yisrael* – community of Jews.

The Steering Committee meetings included strategic planning

workshops, brainstorming and collaborative sessions about the ways we are each utilizing the Partnership 2GETHER programs in our communities. One of the benefits of working together is the opportunity to learn from each other and build collaborations.

Inspirational presentations were made by the Northern Israel Center for Arts and Technology in Akko, the medical doctors from the Western Galilee Hospital, the educational task force of Partnership 2GETHER, and committed lay volunteers that have developed vast resources in their respective cities.

Both Sherwin and Abraham reported that the Steering Committee

meeting gave them a chance to meet with key leaders of the Western Galilee, the Israel team, as well as an opportunity to discuss future plans for San Antonio, with a focus on early childhood, educational twinnings and more.

There are many upcoming exciting opportunities to engage in the partnership, including the Young Adult Mission to Israel in August, the 2015 Teen Summer Mission, the Partnership2Gether@20 Mega Mission currently being planned, and a cyclist mission for bikers to explore the country.

San Antonio is proud to host the April 2016 Partnership Seminar for Israel educators. During this time,

teachers from schools in the Western Galilee Partnership region will come to America and learn side by side with educators of our Jewish schools in our Partnership 2GETHER region in America.

Look for upcoming opportunities to engage with our Partnership 2GETHER region in the Western Galilee, and know that this region is one way to connect our San Antonio Israel and Jewish programs to the homeland itself.

If you are planning a trip to Israel, please contact Lauren Abraham at [AbrahamL@jfsatx.org](mailto:AbrahamL@jfsatx.org). She will help you make arrangements to see the Partnership 2GETHER region or to meet with specific leaders in Israel.

## NEPAL

continued from page 1

overflowing with patients, so Lifshitz recruited local doctors to treat lightly injured Israelis at his home.

“All the Israelis got here quickly and just stayed here in shock,” Lifshitz told the Israeli radio station Reshet Bet. “People were frightened. The buildings were swaying as if they’re a leaf in the wind.”

At press time, some 150 Israelis were among those reported missing in the wake of the 7.8-magnitude

earthquake that struck Nepal on April 26. Nearly 5,000 people in and around the capital of Kathmandu were reported killed. Nepal has long been a popular destination for young Israelis, many of whom travel there for extended periods following their years of mandatory military service. Israelis used social media to share news of missing relatives. A 260-person Israel Defense Forces mission, carrying 95 tons of supplies and 40 doctors, departed for Nepal 48 hours after the

quake where they were to remain for two weeks.

Half the Israeli team set up a field hospital — including operating rooms, X-ray equipment and pediatric care — to provide emergency medical services to the wounded. The other half are conducting search-and-rescue missions in collapsed buildings.

IDF spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Lerner expected Israel’s field hospital to be the first in operation in Nepal. In the past, the IDF has set up field hospitals following natural disasters in Haiti, the Philippines and Japan.

“It’s one of the missions the IDF sees itself prepared for and willing to do,” Lerner told JTA. “The Home Front Command is ultimately built to carry out evacuation-type scenarios in Israel, so they plan and prepare for buildings that have collapsed. If we can take that knowledge and help people across the world who desperate, it’s the right thing to do.”

A separate, private mission organized by three Israeli emergency response organizations — United Hatzalah, Zaka and First Israel — traveled from Tel Aviv to Nepal and planned to stay two to three weeks.



## JFNA sets up Nepal Relief Fund

In the wake of the devastating earthquake, Nepali and international aid agencies are struggling to provide relief to the hundreds of thousands affected.

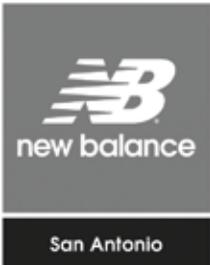
The death toll is expected to rise sharply. Tens of thousands remain homeless. Aid groups are only now beginning to understand the extent of the destruction across Nepal’s remote villages. Due to the poor conditions of the roads and landslides, rescue teams are struggling to reach those who are require immediate aid. The needs of the local communities are expected to rise dramatically as supplies of clean water, food, fuel and electricity dwindle.

To assist, Jewish Federations of North America have opened a Nepal Relief Fund. One hundred percent of all money raised will be allocated toward relief efforts.

To donate or learn more, visit [www.jfna.org](http://www.jfna.org).

Along with search-and-rescue operations, the mission will provide basic medical care to far-flung villages near the quake’s epicenter whose health clinics are either

destroyed or invalidated with wounded. IsraAid, which has sent aid missions to 28 countries, and Magen David Adom also planned to send delegations.



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# Rodfei Sholom to commemorate Yom Yerushalayim with Scholar in Residence and screening of *Above and Beyond*, May 17

Dr. Yehezkel Caine, former Surgeon General of the Israel Air Force who has participated in many secret missions to help Jews around the world, will share some of his experiences following a special showing of the acclaimed film *Above and Beyond*.

The free screening will take place on Sunday, May 17, at 11 a.m. at Rodfei Sholom in honor of Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day), which commemorates the anniversary of the liberation and reunification of Jerusalem under Jewish sovereignty that occurred in 1967 during the Six Day War.

Before the film, brunch will be served at 10 a.m. The cost for breakfast is \$8 for adults; \$5 for students. There is no charge for seniors thanks to a generous



Dr. Yehezkel Caine, Rodfei Sholom's May Scholar in Residence

grant from Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services. Reservations are required. Babysitting is available.

The film *Above and Beyond* is about a group of Jewish American pilots answering a call to help

Israel fight in the War for Independence. In secret and at great personal risk, they smuggled planes out of the U.S., trained behind the Iron Curtain in Czechoslovakia and flew for Israel in its War of Independence. This ragtag band of brothers not only helped to turn the tide of the war, they also embarked on personal journeys of discovery and renewed Jewish pride.

*Above and Beyond* is their story. The first major feature-length documentary about the foreign airmen in the '48 War, *Above and Beyond* brings together new interviews as well as stunning aerial footage to present a fascinating, little-known tale filled with heart, heroism and high-flying chutzpa. The documentary has won more than twelve Best Documentary Awards in Jewish Film festivals throughout the U.S. and has been shown in several countries.

Dr. Caine will also serve as Rodfei Sholom's Scholar in Residence during Shabbat services Saturday, May 16 and Sunday May 17.

On Shabbat, immediately following services, Dr. Caine will speak about Medicine Under Missile Attack. A Kiddush luncheon will follow. The community is invited.

On Sunday, Yom Yerushalayim, after the screening of the documentary *Above and*

*Beyond*, Dr. Caine will speak about The Rescue of Ethiopian Jewry, the Modern Air-Force Central Role in Operation Solomon. A Question and Answer session will follow.

For the past 19 years, Dr. Caine has the Director General of the Herzog Memorial Hospital in Jerusalem, Israel's foremost center for geriatric, respiratory, mental health and psycho trauma care, treatment and research. Under Dr. Caine, the hospital is building an underground Emergency Hospital, to house and treat the patients in their beds during an attack. It will be built as part of an underground parking lot and will be equipped accordingly using the latest protective equipment. This is a direct result of the Second Lebanon War and recent Gaza conflict, as building requirements for hospitals have been revised to include expanded shelters for the protection of patients from rocket fire.

Dr. Caine has served as Surgeon General of the Israeli Air

See **ABOVE**, page 14

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# IN THE COMMUNITY

## S.A. Giveback

Volunteers from the SA GIVEBACK program served dinner at the Wounded Warrior and Family Support Center on Easter Sunday. The dinner was underwritten by the Joel A. Toubin Community Relations Council Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.



Deborah Miller and Jacob Miller headed up the serving line.



Jimmy Toubin served ice cream desserts and cookies with his great niece Eden Miller.



Volunteers Morris Miller and Joe Keough served in the food line at the Wounded Warrior and Family Support Center.



Jordan Gurwitz, Ron Schlesinger and Isaac Miller served at the drink station.

## ABOVE

continued from page 13

force and is a past President of the International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine. Dr. Caine holds an M.D. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a M.Sc. in Business and Industrial Management from Ben Gurion University. He specialized in surgery at Hadassah University Hospital, Jerusalem. Dr. Caine was a fellow of the Department of Aerospace Medicine, Ohio State University and has been a visiting lecturer and scientist at Harvard University and at MIT in Boston, Mass. In 1978 he was assigned to the Advanced Aerospace Medicine program at Brooks AFB, in San Antonio where he first met the local community. He has visited a number of times since.

For more information or to RSVP, call Bobbie Ghitis at the IPA office (210) 493-3557.

### BARRY L. EFRON

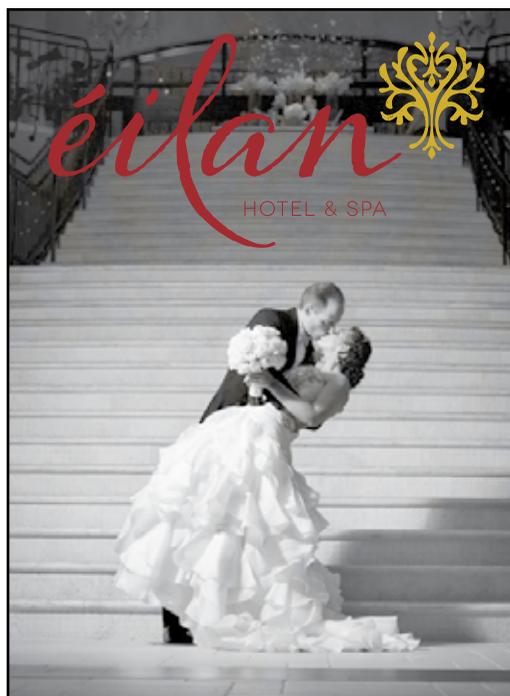
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## NCJW Book Buddies share the joy of reading

Area children in the Pre-K for SA program enjoy story time on a regular basis from volunteer readers with the San Antonio Section of NCJW. The organization's Book Buddies Project also provides a book for each child.

NCJW is always looking for more readers, as well as donations. For more information, contact Joyce Scheiness at [jsheines@swbell.net](mailto:jsheines@swbell.net).

## JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

### Upcoming events:

**Sunday, May 17:**

**10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Post fundraiser seeking donations at Walmart located at Blanco and Wurzbach Pkwy.

**Sunday, May 24: 9:30 a.m.**

277 Post meeting & light breakfast - Jewish Campus, Room 277 - Guest speaker will discuss training veterans to assist other veterans

Flag emplacement at graveside of veterans buried at Jewish cemeteries in preparation for Memorial Day

### Membership Drive 2014-2015

The JWV Post is celebrating a successful membership drive. Junior Vice Commander Luis Hernandez credits the Post's focus on taking care of veterans and their families both discharged and those still on active duty.

"We stand ready to assist all veterans no matter what the situation brings forth," Hernandez said.

For additional information, contact Hernandez at (210) 521-1113.

## Brew & Schmooze summer schedule

Congregation Agudas Achim's family night out, Brews & Schmooze, announces its summer schedule at Big'z Burger Joint, 2303 N. Loop 1604 W, 78248. Dinner options now include a veggie burger and fish sandwich. This relaxed event is open to all and will be held Thursdays, May 14, June 11, July 9, August 6 and September 3 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. No RSVP necessary.

## Hadassah to hear about balance and balanced nutrition

The Rose Treiman group of Hadassah will host Rita Avendano at a meeting on Wednesday, May 20, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community, 12500 NW Military Hwy., in the Fisher Board Room. Avendano will discuss the health issues of balance and nutrition. The event is free and open to the community. Refreshments will be served.

For information and reservations, call Micheline Rotblut at (210) 822-3830.

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# IN THE COMMUNITY: SHAVUOT

## Rodfei Sholom celebrates Shavuot

### **Saturday, May 23:**

**On Erev Shavuot** starting at midnight, Rodfei Sholom youth will enjoy the beautiful tradition of *Tikun Leit Shavuot* by joining the adults in a night learning session at Rodfei Sholom. Classes, Chevrotas (learning partners), and more are open to all, and everyone is welcome. There will be coffee to keep you awake and goodies to munch on while you learn. With the morning sunrise, those who stay up

all night will daven Shacharit morning service at 5:30 a.m.; all others will join regular morning services at 9 a.m.

College students are invited to join. If there are any college students who would like to enjoy a nice holiday meal in the neighborhood, please contact the synagogue.

### **Sunday, May 24:**

#### **First Day of Shavuot.**

Children of all ages, dressed in white and colorful spring outfits, adorned with floral

crowns, will bring “Bikurim” (fruit baskets) to the Bimah. The children will be accompanied by older students and Rodfei teachers and will walk to the sounds of special Shavuot melodies. During the service, the children will have an Aliyah and will be called to the Bimah, as guarantors of the Torah, to receive a special blessing.

At the conclusion of the service, there will be an Intergenerational Celebration

of Yom Tov with Rodfei’s annual Kiddie Kiddush honoring all the children. The Kiddie Kiddush will be sponsored by Rabbi Aryeh and Judy Scheinberg, as has been their tradition for many years past. There will be ice cream, Mt. Sinai cupcakes, and more. The Kiddush for adults will be in honor of the senior members of L’Chayim Club. The Kiddush will be co-sponsored by Rodfei Sholom and a grant from

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.

### **Monday, May 25: Second Day of Shavuot and Yizkor.**

Morning services will begin at 9 a.m., with the Women’s Torah Reading from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Following services, Rodfei Sholom will honor its Shabbat School and Junior Congregation teachers with a traditional Kiddush Lunch.

Everyone is welcome to participate.



Grandparents/Grandpals and preschool students work hand-in-hand during Yad B’Yad programs.

## Celebrate Shavuot on May 20 with Yad B’Yad

Students at Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim will mark the last Yad B’Yad of this school year celebrating the Shavuot holiday on Wednesday, May 20 from 9:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Since Shavuot celebrates Moses receiving the Ten Commandments, this hands-on program will have many components related to the number 10. An Israeli themed lunch will be provided to all of the

adults (children will eat their lunches brought from home.)

Yad B’Yad Intergenerational Program is made possible by a grant from Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services. Anyone who qualifies for a senior discount, anywhere, is invited to be a grandparent or grandpal to work hand-in-hand with the students.

For more information or to RSVP for this program, contact the Heintz Preschool office (210) 479-0429.

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## Beth Am hosts Rabbi Marcy Greene for Shavuot celebration

Rabbi Marcy Greene of the L'Chaim Center in Houston will visit Congregation Beth Am for two events on Saturday, May 23.

That morning, Rabbi Greene will lead services and provide a d'var Torah on Parshat *Bamidbar*. Services begin at

10 a.m. at the Fellowship Hall of the UUC.

The evening, the congregation will celebrate Shavuot with services, study and a dairy potluck dinner at the home of Marga Speicher. Please call Marga at (210) 541-8441 to RSVP.

## TASA students pledge *Never to Forget*

Upon returning from Passover/Spring break, the students at the Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of San Antonio (TASA) began a special unit on Yom Hashoah-Holocaust Remembrance Day. In preparation for the observance held on Thursday, April 16, students engaged in a week-long education unit.

The cross-subject lessons (including both general and Judaic studies) focused on grade appropriate information, books, videos and stories, bringing the story and message of the Shoah to students on their own level. In grades K-2 teachers focused on the role of the United States in WWII and how many good people fought against the Nazis in the hope of beating them. In grades 3-4 the unit focused on "Thinking about Prejudice."

The objective was to develop critical thinking and also a social/emotional application for the students. In grades 5-6 the students viewed multiple films including *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* and *Life is Beautiful*, and watched a section of personal recollections by Holocaust survivor and former chief rabbi of Israel, Israel Meir Lau.

After watching these accounts of the Holocaust, they wrote a comprehensive English essay on the subject and shared their thoughts with their peers.

On Yom Hashoah, the students gathered for a full-school assembly and service



and participated in lighting six candles and standing at attention for a moment of silence.

"In a time when there are so many Holocaust deniers, and others who wish to do the Jewish people harm, it is more important than ever to educate our youth about the atrocities of this horrific time. We must teach our children not only the 'Never Again' but also, to live, breathe and celebrate life as Am Yisrael," said Rabbi Yossi Marrus, director of Judaic Studies at TASA.

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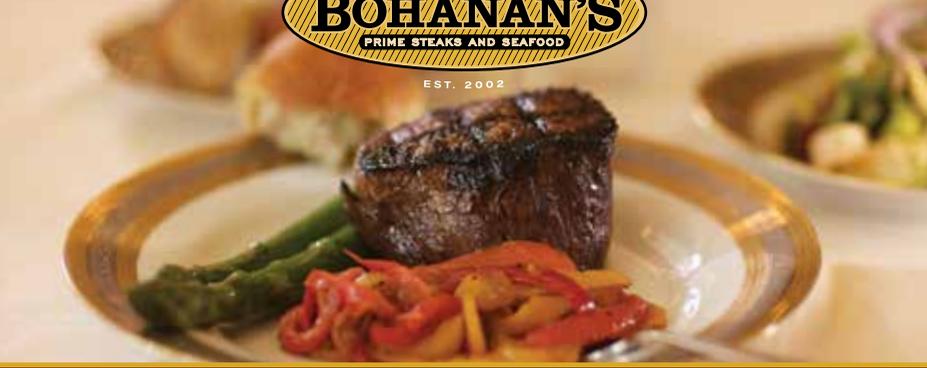
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# WHAT'S HAPPENING



## HEINTZ EDUCATORS HEAD TO DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

Thanks to the generosity of their Parent Teacher Organization, Heintz Preschool of Agudas Achim sent nine teachers and specialists to the 15th Annual Diversity Conference at the Barshop Jewish Community Center. This professional development day united the staff and gave the educators an opportunity to hear from many guest speakers, including the keynote address about emotional development and lunch address from Mayor Ivy Taylor about her passion for early childhood education.

## SHAPING MINDS AND THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE



(l to r) Holocaust Memorial Museum docent and former Executive Director Maxine Cohen with Lauren Abraham, Special Projects Coordinator at the Jewish Federation.

Holocaust Museum former director and docent, Maxine Cohen, led a workshop entitled “Looking at the Past: Imagining the Future” at the 15th Annual Diversity Conference led by the Barshop Jewish Community Center. Cohen’s interactive lecture featured an exploration of ways to help educators help children understand that we are all connected to each other as human beings. The goal of her workshop, overall, was to help leaders empower children with the understanding that the choices they make each day will shape the world we live in.

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## CHABAD CENTER CELEBRATES THREE DECADES



The Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning celebrated its 30 year anniversary on Sunday, March 22. Chaired by Dr. Andrew and Faryl Greller, the Annual L'chaim Event honored Rabbi and Mrs. Chaim and Rivkie Block for their 30 years of dedicated service to the San Antonio Jewish community. Members of the event committee included Rabbi Yossi and Malkie Marrus, Steven and Michelle Coben, Brian and Lizette Feld, Peter and Darcy Hoberman, Jason and Simone Kboundi, and Adam and Stacey Schwartz.

ABOVE:  
(L-R) Rabbi Yossi Marrus, Dr. Andrew Greller, Rabbi Chaim Block, Rivkie Block, Malkie Marrus and Faryl Greller



ABOVE:  
(L-R) Simone Kboundi, Darcy Hoberman, Lizette Feld



The congregation looks on for the stomping of the glass.

## Q AND U TIE THE KNOT

During the March Yad B'Yad Intergenerational Program, Heintz Preschool Pre-K students participated in a Jewish mock wedding for the letters Q and U. Following the exchange of candy rings, the Q Groom and U Bride were blessed by Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham while wrapped in a special quilt made with Pre-K photos.



Groom Zachariah and Bride Hannah prepare for the Q & U mock Jewish wedding.

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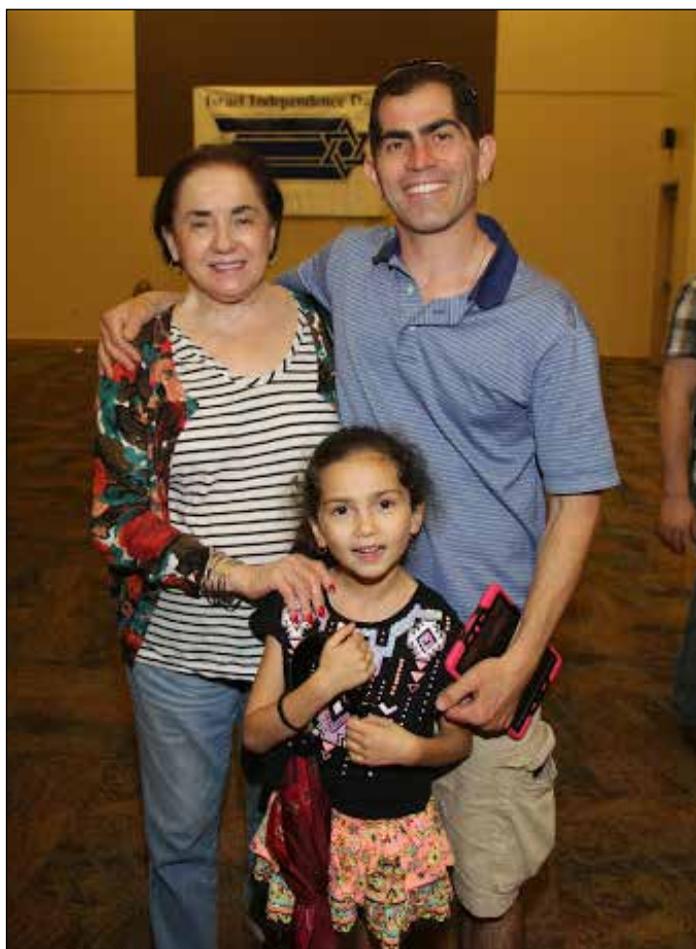
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# WHAT'S HAPPENING



## ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Following a memorial service for fallen Israeli soldiers, the Jewish campus came alive with food, dancing, music and celebration for Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel Independence Day).



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

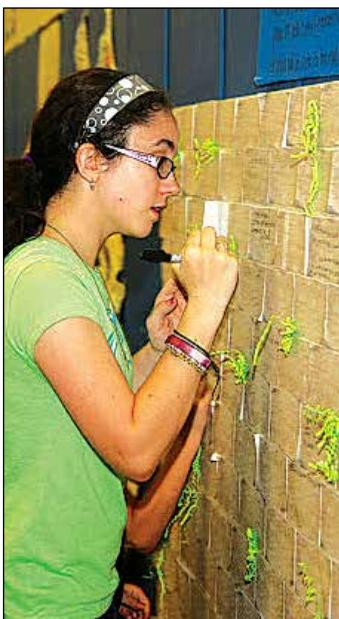


## FESTIVITIES

continued from page 1

and hot dogs from Irene's Kosher Catering, took home souvenirs from the Israeli consulate, and budding artists and children were able to take part in the family friendly Israel section. PJ Library sponsored a variety of activities, including live writing of prayers on a replica of the Western Wall, Israeli map city finding, blue and white bracelet beading, time to read PJ Library books about Israel, and other fun crafts including magnet decorating and Israeli banner making.

"It was a night for everyone, and a special tribute to Israel's 67th birthday," said coordinator Lauren Abraham.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING



## NCJW'S DAY ON THE HILL

Members of the San Antonio Section of National Council of Jewish Women met with Texas lawmakers in Austin during their biennial Day on the Hill on February 16-17.



## VISITING THE "OLD" AGUDAS ACHIM

It was a trip down memory lane when St. Paul's Community Center and Agudas Achim co-hosted an afternoon at the former Agudas Achim on Donaldson Avenue. Participants were treated to tours of the renovated synagogue (now a thriving Catholic Community Center) and a look at a mural uncovered from 50 years ago.



(L-R): Yosef Carretero, Arielle Sharabani with moms Roxy Carretero and Emmanuelle Cahane, Michal Scheinberg with daughter Rus, and Barbara Powell at Rodfei's Sunday Funday.



(L-R): Sophie Powell and Avigail Salzman learn to polish silver in preparation for Passover at Rodfei's Sunday Funday.

## RODFEI SHOLOM SUNDAY FUNDAY

Members of Rodfei Sholom had fun getting ready for Passover during Sunday Funday on March 22.



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING



LEFT: J-Serve volunteers spend quality time with the puppies and dogs rescued by San Antonio Pets Alive.

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LEFT: J-Serve Committee Members (l to r) Jack Rosenblatt, Tori Shiver, Maggie Davis, Halle Michel and Lainey Komerofsky were instrumental in planning the program, which is coordinated by the JCC.



## TEENS TURN OUT TO J-SERVE

J-Serve 2015 brought together more than 125 teens and chaperones to perform community service around San Antonio on Sunday, March 29.

LEFT: (l to r) Jake Goldberg and Ethan Weiss volunteer at a gardening project at the SAMM Shelter.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING



Rodfei kids and congregants visited with members of the San Antonio Fire Department during the event.

## OUT WITH THE CHAMETZ

Rodfei Sholom hosted a Pre-Passover ice cream party and fire truck visit during the burning of the *Chametz* on Friday, April 3.



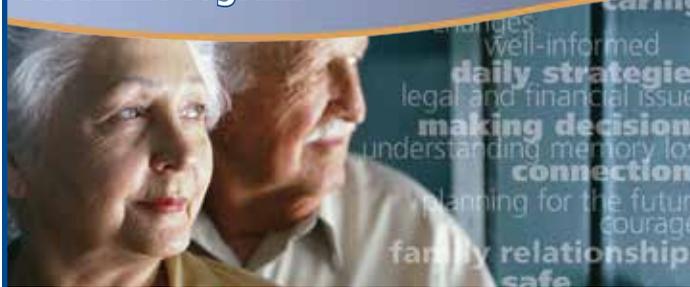
RIGHT: Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg supervises the burning of the *Chametz*.



## THE PASSOVER EXPERIENCE – CHILD'S PLAY AT THE JCC

JCC Early Childhood students enjoyed a Passover experience at the Block & Dreeben School for Young Children. Children experienced Passover in a variety of ways, such as putting plastic frogs on Pharaoh to represent the plagues, and flattening Play-Doh to “make matzah.”

## Living with Alzheimer's for Caregivers - Latter Stage A FREE Program



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING



## **MULTI-SENSORY PASSOVER ON FULL DISPLAY AT HEINTZ**

Heintz Preschool students participated in a multi-sensory Passover experience to culminate their preparation for the holiday. The children participated in a mock Seder led by Rabbi Abraham, Ms. Jen and Ms. Aliza, tried a multitude of sensory tubs and open-ended projects, sang and danced to Pesach music with Ms. Mindy, and they worked together on their hand-made Hagadot.

Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of San Antonio presents

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your tickets TODAY or call the TASA  
office at 210-607-7261.

## **Lackritz named Director of HMMSA**

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio has named Judy Lackritz as the new Executive Director of the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio (HMMSA), located on the second floor of the Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community.



Lackritz has been a valued member of the Federation staff for many years. In her new full-time position, she will continue serving as Director of the Community Relations Council in addition to managing the operations and programs of the museum.

Lackritz replaces former HMMSA director Francesca Garrett who departed in April to pursue new opportunities in Atlanta.

For more information on the museum, please visit [www.hmmsa.org](http://www.hmmsa.org).

# WHAT'S HAPPENING



Lauren Abraham of PJ Library reads to the children. *Photo courtesy of Warren Lieberman*



Warren & Iris Lieberman and Dave & Marge Present at the Kosher for Passover Dinner



Med students Zachary Spigel and Brian Milman and dental student Ellis Shwarts at the Kosher for Passover dinner



Shannon Goodman and family attended the Kosher for Passover dinner

## JCC HOSTS KOSHER FOR PASSOVER DINNER

The Barshop Jewish Community Center hosted their inaugural Kosher for Passover dinner on Wednesday, April 8. Seventy-five people spanning multiple generations were in attendance at what is hoped to become an annual event. The menu featured Matzah lasagna, sweet carrots, salad, Matzah brownies, cake with fruit, and beverages, prepared by Irene's Kosher Kitchen. A highlight of the evening for the children and adults alike was Lauren Abraham of PJ Library who read and told Passover-themed stories. All-in-all, the event was a great success.



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## JCC BLOCK & DREEBEN SCHOOL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN ENJOY ANNUAL INTERGENERATIONAL PASSOVER SEDER

On March 24 seniors and pre-k students from the Block and Dreeben School for Young Children gathered at noon for the JCC's annual Intergenerational Passover Seder. Once everyone was seated, Rachel Rustin, Director of Jewish Journeys, welcomed everyone and began to discuss the various elements present on each table's Seder plate. Rachel also led the group in a brief Seder including songs, participatory readings and blessings. For some seniors and pre-k students, this was their first Passover experience. Others discussed their favorite part of the Seder or Passover foods.



Pre-k students from the Block & Dreeben School for Young Children enjoy a Seder lunch with members from JCC Senior Services.

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## CHAMETZ BURNING AT THE AGUDAS ACHIM PRE-PASSOVER PIZZA PARTY

Congregation Agudas Achim hosted a pre-Passover pizza party highlighted by burning the chametz with the SAFD. Everyone had a great time at this new Agudas Passover tradition.

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SPECIAL TO THE JEWISH JOURNAL

## TASA changes name in memory of Shmueli Bass

The following letter is adapted from a speech delivered by Aaron Sarfati, President of the Shmuel Bass Torah Academy at Congregation Rodfei Sholom on April 11, 2015.

Our mission statement, written almost three years ago, says in part the following: we want to provide high quality “Torah and secular education for our students by instilling in them strong Torah values, ethics, and *Middot*.” We knew from the very beginning that it wasn’t sufficient to open a school that taught high quality secular studies or in-depth Judaic studies without incorporating a strong emphasis on living an ethical, moral, and Torah values-based life.

We’re proud not only of our strong, high-quality academic programs, but principally focused on the *middot* expressed inside our school and by our students. We believe it is important to focus on Torah values, ethics, and *middot* not simply because they are the morally right things to do, but because we believe they are foundational attributes of our future Jewish leaders. We’ve recently adopted a new motto for our students – “Enter to Learn, Exit to Lead.” Being a good and honorable person, we believe, is a quality that is an absolute necessity for our next generation of leaders.

We take this part of our mission so seriously that we decided to change our name to reflect our dedication to raising our next generation of morals-based leaders.

About a year and a half ago, this community lost a pillar of *chesed*, of loving

kindness. Someone for whom the monikers *Tzadik* & *Chassid* are accurate. He was a person as humble as they come, with an enormous heart and an even bigger smile, with a great love for the Jewish people, and with a great love for this community.

He was someone who poured his heart and soul into everything he did, never expecting anything in return – preparing countless *Shalosh Seudases*, serving as Rodfei’s lead *gabbai* for many years, baking thousands of challahs, preparing literally hundreds of *Mishloach Manot*, handing out candies to the children (always making sure they remembered to say Shabbat Shalom and Thank You), taking care to water the Shul’s plants, providing a Siddur turned to the correct page to someone who didn’t have one – the list goes on and on. And that’s only a partial list of the things most people knew he did.

In his final months, which consequently were TASA’s first months, he worked tirelessly making sure the school was ready. From buying school desks at auction, to providing laptops and printers, to helping decorate the classrooms, he was there making sure TASA was a success.

Shmuel Bass, ז”ל, was someone who embodied the very essence and ideal of who we want our students to become. Humble leaders,

filled with a joy for life, a drive for the Jewish people, a passion for goodness and kindness. We want to instill our students the values Shmueli espoused and lived innately on a regular basis. It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Board of Directors of TASA unanimously approved honoring and remembering Shmueli’s life by renaming our school *Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of San Antonio*.

It is my sincere hope that you will join me and The Shmuel Bass Torah Academy in remembering and honoring a life to be emulated by all of us and by the future leaders to be educated in the halls of our school.

For more information, visit [www.TorahAcademySA.com](http://www.TorahAcademySA.com).

## It’s cap and gown time for HPS scholars

By Aliza Cantu,  
Exec. Director of Heintz  
Preschool

Heintz Preschool Red Birds are preparing to “fly from the nest” this spring as graduates embarking on new school adventures. A graduation ceremony and art show is slated for Thursday, June 4 at 6 p.m. in the Agudas Achim sanctuary.

Heintz Preschoolers will don blue graduation caps and gowns for the festive occasion highlighting songs and dances the children learned at school in Hebrew, Spanish and English. Following the ceremony, family and friends are guests at the Red Bird (Pre K) art show, which showcases a year’s worth of work that reflects the children’s study of great artists. In keeping with tradition, each child will receive a signed diploma and personalized tzedakah box to commemorate this rite of passage.

Heintz Preschool is a nurturing Jewish school for young children that encourages individuals to reach their full potential. Opportunities for academic, emotional, and



Heintz Preschool students and their teacher work on footprints-the first of a series of “steps” to create a colorful rendition of a Jackson Pollock painting. Their creations will be displayed during their graduation art show on June 4.

spiritual growth are presented through a carefully created curriculum that balances open-ended and teacher-led lessons. For more information, email [preschool@agudas-achim.org](mailto:preschool@agudas-achim.org) or call Heintz Preschool at (210) 479-0429.

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# JCC's Summer Camp *Shlichah* is ready for Texas

The Barshop Jewish Community Center's Summer J-Camp offers many opportunities for children to learn, grow, and have fun over the summer. The staff strives to emphasize the "J" in J-Camp.

"One way we do that is by bringing *Shlichim* (Hebrew for "messengers" or "emissaries") from Israel to interact with and teach campers about Israel and what it is like to live there. These unique interactions make learning about Israel more fun and memorable, versus learning the same in a traditional classroom setting," said Samantha Mazuz, JCC Coordinator of Teen and Young Adult Services.

The *Shlichim* also spend time with different host families throughout the summer, giving them the opportunity to fully immerse in the local community. Host families have the special opportunity to share their



child's camp experience and build their own personal connection to Israel, as well. Powerful relationships between the *Shlichim* and their host families grow around dinner tables, on car rides, and in the small moments at home. It is common for relationships between a *Shlichim* and their host family to last for years to come.

This summer, J-Camp's *Shlichah* is Maia, from the center region of Israel. Maia has completed her army service and is looking forward to her trip to the

United States. She recently attended a *Shlichim* training weekend, where she had fun learning new things to bring to camp. Maia is very excited to come to San Antonio, and is eager to share what she learned at the *Shlichim* training with campers and J-Camp staff alike.

Housing a *Shlichim* can be an enriching experience for families. If you or someone you know is interested in hosting Maia this summer, please contact Samantha Mazuz at (210) 302-6867 or [mazuzs@jcc-sa.org](mailto:mazuzs@jcc-sa.org).

# CYJ hires an Inclusion Specialist

Camp Young Judaea (CYJ), located in the Texas Hill Country, has been providing Jewish children with a summer camp experience since 1952. This summer, for the first time, children with disabilities will have an opportunity to participate in the camp program thanks to the hiring of inclusion specialist Rachel Kurinsky. Her position was funded by the Foundation for Jewish Camp's Ruderman Inclusion Initiative with additional support from the Stanford and Joan Alexander Family.

Kurinsky holds a master's degree in special education and joins CYJ with significant accomplishments in the area. She has worked as an inclusion specialist before and has also been responsible for developing individual education plans (IEPs) and behavioral plans. In addition to her skills at prioritizing



CYJ Inclusion Specialist Rachel Kurinsky

and assessing a child's needs, Kurinsky brings experience in creating and implementing differentiated accommodations for individual children.

"I am looking forward to a wonderful summer of love, laughter and friendship at CYJ. An inclusion program teaches unity and acceptance. It builds strong friendships for years to come," said Frank Silberlicht, CYJ Camp Director.

Silberlicht says currently, CYJ's program will be a good fit for children who can thrive in a group setting, possess age appropriate self-care skills and who do not require one-on-one assistance. If you have questions about whether CYJ's inclusion program is a match for your child, contact CYJ at (713) 723-8354 or email [Rachel@cyjtxas.org](mailto:Rachel@cyjtxas.org) for more information.

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## Camp Gan Israel launches partnerships with local artists

Camp Gan Israel works hard each year to incorporate innovative ideas and brand new activities into its program.

In a single day, your child could learn to fly a model rocket, create a ceramic masterpiece, and take a swimming lesson. While making new friendships and experiencing the joy of their Jewish heritage.

Some of this summer's elective activities will include weekly Darbuka drum workshops with Kevin Cooley of Drumming Around, drama and theatre workshops with The Playhouse, motorized Lego workshops with Bricks4kids,



Cupcake decorating workshops are among the offerings at Camp Gan Israel this summer.

cupcake decorating workshops with AGS Cake Supply, canvas painting with The Royal Canvas, and more.

This year's sports program, coached by professional sports instructors for all ages and

skill levels, will include a rotation between soccer, basketball, frisbee and field hockey.

For more information on enrollment, call camp director Rochel Teldon at (210) 764-0300 or visit [www.GanIsraelSA.com](http://www.GanIsraelSA.com).



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## Congregation Agudas Achim welcomes new Heintz Preschool Director

Congregation Agudas Achim has hired Celina Geidesman as their new Heintz Preschool Director. "We're so pleased that Celina will be the preschool director," states Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham. "Celina has all the traits we were looking for. She's nurturing and creative with a strong early childhood resume. Celina will maintain the quality of excellence our Jewish

preschool maintains."

Celina brings a wealth of early education experience to the synagogue with over 25 years of preschool management and teaching. She has owned and operated preschools in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico and Laredo, Texas and most recently worked as a court appointed special child advocate and area representative for Ident-A-Kid Services of America.



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## IN THE COMMUNITY: YOUTH/TEENS

### ECD teacher named Education of Young Children Teacher of the Year

Kristin Rubio has received the distinguished award as the 2015 San Antonio Association for the Education of Young Children (SAAEYC) Teacher of the Year. A parent of one of Kristin's students said, "To say that she is an incredible educator, leader, and inspiration isn't quite enough. Kristin has a personal connection with the children that inspires them to want to learn in a fun, challenging, interactive, and nurturing way. She brings out the best in each of their young personalities."

Kristin has taught at the JCC Block and Dreeben School for Young Children for the past nine years, working with children as young as six months old through five year olds. According to JCC Director of Early Childhood



Kristin Rubio works with students at the Block & Dreeben School for Young Children

Services, Alissa Levey Baugh, "Kristin is a master teacher. She carefully pays attention to each child and provides just what that child needs to grow optimally. She has ultimate respect for the capabilities and competencies of each child and creates a classroom

environment that is joyful and stimulating for each student." Kristin serves as a mentor for other teachers at the JCC, as well as students at local colleges and universities.

Kristin was recognized at the annual SAAEYC Breakfast of Champions on April 15.

### Block & Dreeben School for Young Children welcomes new Assistant Director

Calla Pfeifer-Campos has been appointed as Assistant Director of Early Childhood Services of the JCC Block and Dreeben School for Young Children. Calla has been a lead teacher in the program for the last nine years.

She has a degree from UTSA and is certified in early childhood education. Additionally, Calla is a kindergarten teacher at the religious school at Temple Beth-El, and she was the Barshop JCC Children and Youth Coordinator. Director of Early Childhood Services, Alissa Levey Baugh, said



Calla Pfeifer-Campos

"Calla brings a tremendous knowledge of Judaism as well as high-quality early childhood education, along with her familiarity of the JCC."

## Israeli soldiers visit with San Antonio area high schoolers

Two Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers shared their personal experiences with area high school students as part of the annual Israeli Soldiers Tour sponsored by StandWithUs (SWU) in February. Tamir and Elad (last names omitted for security reasons) spoke with students at will the International School of America, San Antonio Christian High School, Northern Hills Church and Congregation Rodfei Sholom.

Tamir and Elad shared their backgrounds, and details about life in Israel and the Israel Army. The goal of SWU's "Israeli Soldiers Tour" is to put a human face to the IDF uniform.

Tamir was born in New York, and moved to Israel with his family at the age of 7. An alumnus of StandWithUs' 2012 Israel Fellowship, he is studying political science and communications at Tel Aviv University. Tamir served as an officer and company commander in the Paratrooper Brigade. He



participated in Operation Cast Lead in 2009.

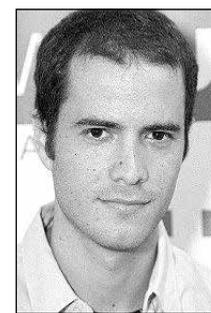
In 2011, he commanded 140 soldiers on Israel's northern border with Lebanon and was responsible for border patrols, lookouts and various missions to defend Israel's citizens.

Elad was born in Israel, and resides in Kibbutz Ma'ayan Baruch, a small town near the Lebanese border. He served in an infantry unit

as a combat soldier and a mortars sergeant. He participated in many operations during the second Intifada, including one where he was shot and critically injured in what was dubbed the "Attack in the Worshipper's Route" in Hebron in 2002. Elad was nominated for a citation award for his actions in battle. After two months of recovery, he volunteered in his unit, and commanded a



Tamir



Elad

mortars platoon in the West Bank and Lebanon. Elad was discharged with honors after almost 4 years of service. After release, he volunteered in an organization that aids underprivileged and at-risk youth in preparation for army service. Elad has a degree in nutrition science from Tel-Chai Academic College and is an alumnus of the 2013 StandWithUs Israel Fellowship.

The high school talks are through SWU's MZ Teens High School Internship, a year-long program that educates teen leaders about Israel advocacy.



## CTEENS SCENE

The San Antonio chapter of CTeens got together before Passover for a Nosh on Chametz Bash. For more information on upcoming CTeen events, follow CTeens on Instagram at [www.instagram.com/cteensa](http://www.instagram.com/cteensa).

## L'Chayim events for seniors at Rodfei Sholom

### Thursday, May 7 – Lag B'Omer

Rodfei Sholom's Lag B'Omer celebration will be held on the synagogue grounds. There will be a barbecue picnic featuring outdoor grilled burgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings. The event will conclude with a fire, which is customary on Lag B'Omer, symbolizing the light of the Torah. There is no charge for seniors, thanks to co-sponsorship by a generous grant from Golden Manor.

### Sunday, May 24 - Shavuot

All seniors are invited to Rodfei Sholom's annual intergenerational event on the first day of Shavuot. Following services, there will be a traditional Kiddush honoring children and seniors.

For more information, please contact the synagogue office at (210) 493-3557

## Senior Chefs make charoset

Everyone makes their charoset for Passover a little differently. Some use recipes passed down from grandparents while others take a contemporary twist. On April 7, JCC seniors got the chance to experiment with a variety of ingredients and make their own charoset as part of a new JCC program called Senior Chefs. Maya Siler, Coordinator of Adult & Senior Services and Rachel Rustin, Director of Jewish Journeys, shared the history behind charoset and assisted the seniors in making their own batch.

By making charoset, each senior, whether Jewish or not, made a unique connection to the Passover experience.



While traditional ingredients such as walnuts, apples, honey and grape juice were available, seniors also had the option to add almonds, candied pecans, a variety of dried fruits, spices, and four different kinds of apples to their charoset.



Seniors line up to make their own charoset for Senior Chefs.

## Simcha Social Club starts again at Agudas Achim

Congregation Agudas Achim's re-launch of their senior program kicks off on Thursday, May 14 from 11a.m. – 12:30 p.m. with a Simcha Social Club Shavuot featuring a Shavuot discussion with Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham and a craft project with Lauren Abraham. A casual luncheon will be served. Participants over the age of 65 are free and under the age of 65 is \$5/person. To RSVP please call Linda Brown at (210) 473-8307 or email [rsvp@agudas-achim.org](mailto:rsvp@agudas-achim.org). The Simcha Social Club is generously underwritten by grant from Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.

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Students and recent grads gather together to celebrate freedom at Trinity University

## Students and recent grads gather together to celebrate freedom at Trinity University

Every year, Jews around the world prepare for the weeklong holiday of Passover by cleaning their homes of all the chametz, food shopping for Kosher for Passover items, setting the table for the Seder, preparing a festive meal for family and friends, and arranging the order of the Seder by making it their own. Not all students have the opportunity to go home for the holiday, which is why Hillel has worked hard to create a sense of family amongst the Jewish students in San Antonio.

This year, San Antonio Hillel hosted a Seder of its own. Students created their own Haggadah filled with the traditional components of the Seder: the four cups of wine, blessing and eating the karpas, matzah, bitter herbs, and charozet, washing their hands the traditional two times, hiding and

finding the afikomen, and most importantly, sharing and passing on the special story of our ancestors. The meaningful Seder for forty students was paid for and hosted by Trinity University in the Skyline Room, overlooking San Antonio's downtown area.

Students from across San Antonio, along with recent graduates, student leaders of CUFI from UTSA, and Jonathan Eisenberg, a major in the U.S. Air Force, participated as well.

San Antonio Hillel continues to build a strong network of Jewish students and recent graduates throughout the city. As the semester comes to an end, there are a number of events on the calendar.

Contact Samantha Mazuz at [Samantha@sahillel.org](mailto:Samantha@sahillel.org) for more information, if you know a Jewish student or recent college graduate in San Antonio.

## San Antonio BBYO Beau/Sweetheart Formal

San Antonio BBYO is hosting their Beau Sweetheart Formal, one of largest local events of the year, on Saturday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m. The event has a Las Vegas theme and will feature dancing and walk-downs honoring Bailey Sweetheart and Danny Beau. At the conclusion of the evening, a new Beau

and Sweetheart will be announced for the upcoming year.

Current BBYO members are invited to attend and reservations are required. A dairy dinner is included in the admission cost of \$75 per couple or \$45 per individual.

BBYO is open to all Jewish teens in grades 9

through 12. This popular youth-led program allows members to have fun, learn life-long skills and form lasting friendships. For more information about the Beau Sweetheart dance or joining San Antonio BBYO, contact Dylan Ashworth at (210) 302-6869 or [ashworthd@jcc-sa.org](mailto:ashworthd@jcc-sa.org).



Molly Rosenblatt reads from the Hagaddah during the 2015 Hunger Seder at the Jewish Campus

## Why on this night... do so many children go hungry?

Federation hosts Hunger Seder for teens

On April 8, the sixth night of Passover, Jewish teens held a 2015 Hunger Seder at the Jewish Campus. The 2015 JCPA Hunger Seder included educational resources about the challenges of hunger in the United States and the importance of engaging in anti-hunger service and advocacy.

The Passover Seder noted that Passover celebrates freedom from hunger and oppression, yet in the United States people continue to suffer from the oppression and hardship of hunger. In the Haggadah, the fourth question is, "how could so many children still suffer from hunger when we live in a society of tremendous wealth and abundance," the 10 plagues include "a single mother who gives the last

bits of food to her toddler while she goes hungry" and "APATHY, the greatest plague of all – the failure to make ending childhood hunger a national priority."

The Seder was a program of the B'ani Tzedek program Jewish Federation of San Antonio. The B'nai Tzedek program for youth philanthropy encourages young teens to establish and build endowments for the purpose of giving to non-profits that are making the world a better place. Other youth groups also joined, including BBYO (formerly the B'nai B'rith Youth organization) coordinated by Dylan Ashworth at the Barshop JCC, SAFTY, the senior youth group at Temple Beth-El (grades 8-12) coordinated by Sam Stern, and USY, United Synagogue Youth for grades 9-12 at Congregation Agudas Achim, coordinated by Eric Steitz.

## Highlights: Chabad on Campus

### Passover

Chabad on Campus hosted 50 students between two Seders this Passover. Students at each Seder enjoyed an interactive night of Jewish unity and pride with gourmet, homemade Passover dinners. Chabad on Campus expressed thanks to the many supporters who helped bring Passover to so many students across San Antonio.

### Graduates

Congratulations to Chabad on Campus alumni Jonathan Barris of the University of Incarnate Word and Amanda Weidlich and Yoni Adler of University of Texas at San Antonio on their graduation.

### What's upcoming

Plans for fall semester 2015 are underway. The newly elected student board for the 2015-2016 school year are busy working on



San Antonio Jewish students gather around to light holiday candles before the first Passover Seder 2015.

several new initiatives in the fall.

Chabad on Campus will be hosting Shabbat dinners and socials throughout the

summer for students taking summer classes.

If you know of a student who will be taking classes in San Antonio this summer or

in the fall, contact Campus Rabbi, Ari Weingarten at (210) 391-3621 [Rabbi@ChabadonCampusSA.com](mailto:Rabbi@ChabadonCampusSA.com).

## ARTS & CULTURE

### *Rumors* returns to The Vex

When the Sheldon Vexler Theatre opened its doors in 1999, they did so with Neil Simon's side (and back)-splitting farce *Rumors*.

The comedy was well-received and set the standard for the caliber of performance one has grown to expect at The Vex.

As the sixteenth season comes to a close, The Vex has decided to revive that inaugural production.

This one, however, will include an (almost) all new cast, director, set, costumes, and both new and old patrons alike.

At a large, tastefully appointed

Sneden's Landing townhouse, the Deputy Mayor of New York has just shot himself.

Though only a flesh wound, four couples are about to experience a severe attack of Farce.

Gathering for their tenth wedding anniversary, the host lies bleeding in the other room and his wife is nowhere in sight.

His lawyer, Ken and wife Chris, must get "the story" straight before the other guests arrive. As the confusions and mis-communications mount, the evening spins off into classic farcical hilarity.

Directed by Michael Burger, who previously performed on The Vex stage in *The Arabian Nights*, *Rumors* features a cast of both Vex newcomers and veterans: Jared Stephens (Ken), Megan Van Dyke (Chris), Ben Scharff (Ernie), Lisa Fritschle (Cookie), Robert Gonzalez (Glenn), Chelsea Ortuno (Cassie), Scott Leibowitz (Lenny), Theresa Bishop (Claire), Carlos Alvarado (Officer Welch), and Erin Polewski (Officer Pudney). Oh – and rumor has it JCC President/CEO Saul Levenshus returns as the elusive Deputy Mayor.

*Rumors* runs May 2 through May 31, with performances on Thursdays at 7:30pm, Saturdays at 8pm, and Sundays at 2:30pm.

In observance of Shavuot, there will not be performances on Saturday, May 23 or Sunday, May 24. Please note: this production contains adult themes and language.

Call The Vex Box Office at (210) 302-6835 to reserve your seats. For more information about the production, visit [www.vexler.org](http://www.vexler.org).

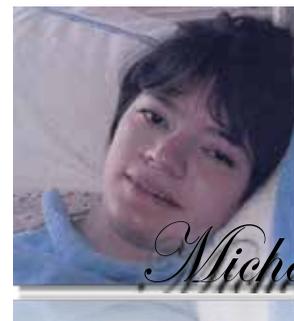
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## Agudas Achim Sisterhood May Book Review

Hazzan Jeremy Lipton will be reviewing *My Grandfather's Gallery* by Anne Sinclair on Tuesday, May 12 at 10 a.m. in the Gurinsky Family Social Hall.

Drawing on her grandfather Paul Rosenberg's intimate correspondence with Picasso, Matisse, Braque, and others, Sinclair takes readers on a personal journey through the life of a legendary member of the Parisian art scene in *My Grandfather's Gallery*.

Rosenberg's story is emblematic of millions of Jews, rich and poor, whose lives were indelibly altered by World War II. Sinclair's journey to reclaim her family history paints a picture of modern art on both sides of the Atlantic between the 1920s and 1950s that reframes twentieth-century art history.

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

## Rodfei Sholom Book Club to meet May 13

Rodfei Sholom Book Club will meet on Wednesday, May 13, to discuss *The Coffee Traders*, a historical fiction by David Liss.

In the book, Liss travels back in time to a crucial moment in financial history. Amsterdam 1659, a mysterious world populated by schemers and rogues,

where deception rules the day. Protagonist Miguel Lienzo, a once-envied and sharp-witted trader, has lost everything in a sudden shift in the sugar markets. Impoverished, he is forced to rely on the charity of his younger brother. Miguel's journey to restore his wealth and reputation ensues.

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## Summer 2016 Trip to Israel Meeting

All are invited to join Israel Trip Co-Chairs Ellen Barshop Ollervidez and Rikko Ollervidez at the Congregational Trip to Israel informational meeting hosted by ITC Tours on Thursday, May 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Gurinsky Family Social Hall at Congregation Agudas Achim.

Along with learning basic information about the trip, such as package costs, accommodations and tour highlights, potential participants will be asked to share their suggestions to make this trip to Israel the trip of a lifetime.

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## JCC youth theatre troupe performs *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.* in May

The JCC NOVA Theatre Troupe will present a stage adaptation of Disney's *Alice in Wonderland Jr.* in May.

"*Alice in Wonderland, Jr.* will be a great show for the whole family and promises to be a lively event with a wide range of great characters," JCC Director of Jewish Journeys Rachel Rustin said.

*Alice in Wonderland, Jr.* will be performed Saturday, May 16 at 7pm and Sunday, May 17 at 2pm in the Holzman Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 each and are available by calling Lauri at (210) 302-6859.

Actors in NOVA are in second thru fourth grade and rehearse Friday afternoons throughout the semester for their performance. For more information about NOVA, please contact Rachel Rustin at [rustinr@jcc-sa.org](mailto:rustinr@jcc-sa.org) or (210) 302-6969.

# U.S. & WORLD NEWS

## Swastika returns to Kiev Holocaust memorial

(JTA) — The monument commemorating Jewish victims of the Babi Yar massacre in Kiev was desecrated for the fourth time in recent months, possibly on Adolf Hitler's birthday.

The perpetrators sprayed a swastika on the "Menorah" monument marking the slaughter of more than 33,000 Jews in 1941 by Nazi occupation forces and their collaborators, the news site [evreiskiy.kiev.ua](http://evreiskiy.kiev.ua) reported on April 23.

The desecration of the monument at Babi Yar, one of the largest single killing operations of the Holocaust, may have been timed to coincide with

Hitler's April 20 birthday, according to the report by the website, affiliated with a not-for-profit that monitors anti-Semitic incidents in Ukraine.

The vandalism at the Menorah monument is the fourth targeting of the site in recent months. The last anti-Semitic incident there was documented on January 27, International Holocaust Memorial Day. On that day, too, vandals daubed swastikas on the monument.

In 2014, the monument was targeted three more times. [Evreiskiy.kiev.ua](http://Evreiskiy.kiev.ua) criticized authorities for not doing enough to find the culprits.

"The CCTV cameras behind the monument are still there," the organization wrote in a statement, "yet police were not able even once to identify the culprits or punish them."

Ukraine, where anti-Semitic incidents are less prevalent than in some Western European states, has seen an increase in such cases in the wake of its 2013 revolution.

The revolution resulted in fighting between pro-Russian separatists and government troops, as well as Ukrainian nationalists. Both sides have blamed one another for encouraging anti-Semitism.

## AJC to host conference in Brussels on European anti-Semitism

(JTA) — Citing gaps in the fight against anti-Semitism in Europe, the American Jewish Committee is organizing a conference on the subject in Brussels.

The event, titled "A Defining Moment for Europe" and scheduled to take place on May 5, is meant to "raise consciousness to the problem" and arrive at "concrete proposals for an AJC/European action plan," AJC wrote in a statement.

While countries like France have taken "real steps to fight anti-Semitism," AJC Director David Harris told JTA, "what we see in France is not what we see throughout Europe."

Harris noted the rejection on April 19 of a resolution against anti-Semitism at the annual general meeting of the Britain branch of Amnesty International. Opponents said they objected to language that singles out of anti-

Semitism from other forms of xenophobia.

"It did not come as a surprise," he said. The failure of the draft motion at the Amnesty vote, Harris added, "illustrates the point that not only organizations but governments don't want to understand the specificity of anti-Semitism, opting for a broader and seemingly well-meaning approach that fails to address or tackle" the hatred of Jews.

For action against anti-

Semitism, "one needs to name the problem, name who is responsible for the problem — and in Europe many of those responsible belong to Muslim communities."

In Denmark, "there was an unwillingness by many officials to identify the source of the problem" after the slaying in February by an Islamist of a Jewish volunteer guard outside Copenhagen's main synagogue.

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## Key congressional committees approve anti-BDS amendments

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Key congressional committees approved amendments to a major trade act that would require U.S. negotiators to discourage trading partners from boycotting Israel or Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

The amendments, authored by Sens. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and U.S. Rep. Peter Roskam (R-Ill.) were unanimously approved April 22 by the Senate Finance Committee and April 23 by the House Ways and Means Committee.

They were attached to this year's

Trade Promotion Authority bill, which helps to shape objectives in trade pact talks between the United States and other countries. The so-called BDS movement supports boycotts, divestment and sanctions targeting Israel.

Specifying the ongoing Transatlantic and Trade and Investment Partnership talks with European nations, the amendment describes as a "principle negotiating objective" to "discourage politically motivated actions to boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel" and to seek the removal of

existing barriers to trade with Israel.

It includes in its definition of boycotts those that target "Israel or persons doing business in Israel or in Israeli-controlled territories."

Including the West Bank could complicate negotiations; the European Union and a number of European countries discourage boycotts of Israel, but also regulate trade with settlements in the West Bank.

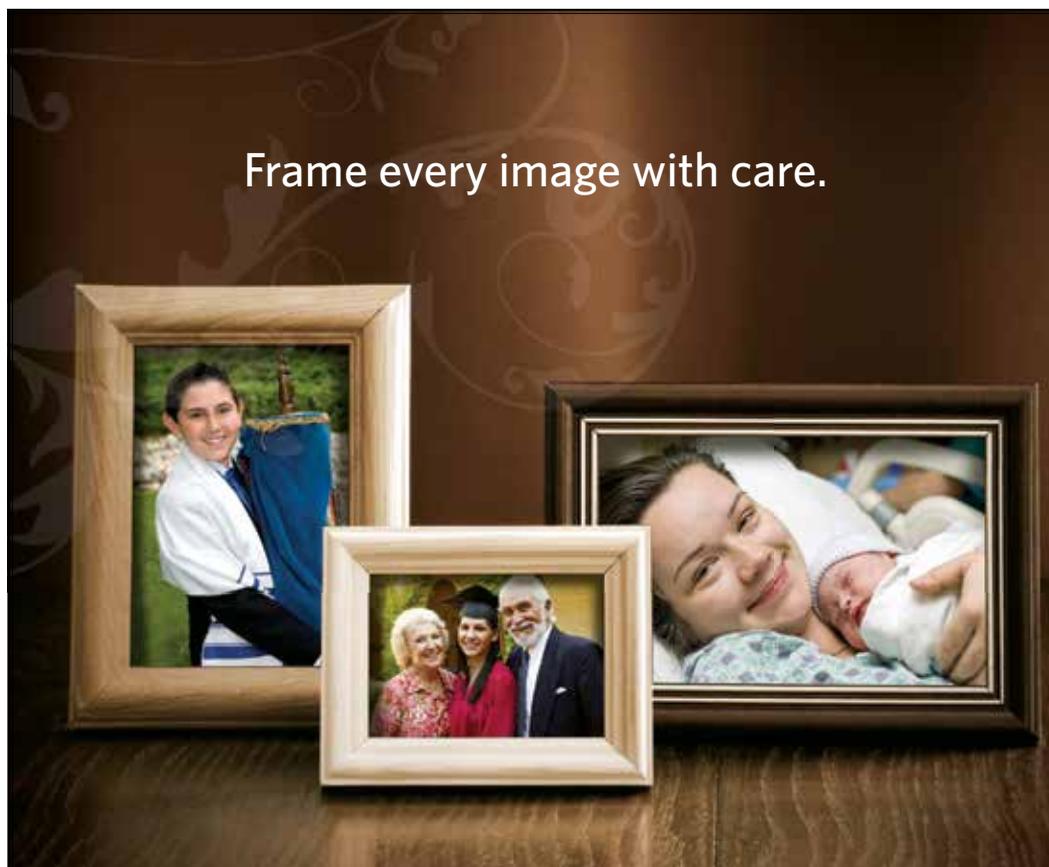
"We may not agree with every Israeli policy, but we cannot allow our potential trading partners in the E.U. to fall prey to efforts that threaten Israel's

existence," Cardin said in a joint statement with Roskam and Portman praising the committees for passing the amendments.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee praised passage of the amendments, which it had made a lobbying priority.

J Street and Americans for Peace Now decried the amendments.

Each group noted its opposition to broader boycotts of Israel but said the language banning restrictions on trade with settlements was counterproductive.



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## Twitter praised for adopting stricter policy on hate speech

(JTA) Following aggressive lobbying and legal action by Jewish and non-Jewish anti-racism groups, Twitter toughened its policy on hate speech.

The new policy adopted April 21, extends Twitter's prohibition on making threats beyond "direct, specific threats of violence against others" to include also "threats of violence against others or promot(ing) violence against others," Twitter's head of product management Shreyas Doshi said in a blog post. The previous policy "was unduly narrow and limited our ability to act on certain kinds of threatening behavior."

The Anti-Defamation League, a New York-based international watchdog on anti-Semitism and other forms of xenophobia, commended Twitter's policy change, calling it an "important step in the realm of combating hate" on social media.

"We are pleased that Twitter has recognized the

need to respond to hateful content more effectively than they have in the past," said Christopher Wolf, who is ADL's civil rights chair.

In 2013, the Paris Court of Appeals ruled against Twitter in a lawsuit brought the previous year by the Union of Jewish Students of France over the hashtag #UnBonJuif, which means "a good Jew" and which was used to index thousands of anti-Semitic comments that violated France's law against hate speech.

Twitter resisted pressure to ban the phrase and refused to disclose the identities of users who wrote it, citing the need to observe freedom of speech and to allow users to exercise what the California-based website calls "counter speech."

Activists heralded the ruling as a watershed moment in the fight against hate speech online, citing what they said was growing willingness by other social media to implement censorship after the ruling.

## Family of victim of U.S. drone attack ‘disappointed’ in Washington

(JTA) — The family of a Jewish Al-Qaeda hostage killed in a U.S. drone strike is disappointed in how Washington dealt with the situation, the hostage’s wife said in a statement.

Elaine Weinstein said April 23 the assistance her family received from the U.S. government was “inconsistent and disappointing.”

President Barack Obama said earlier in the day on April 23 that he takes full responsibility for the January counterterrorism mission that inadvertently killed Warren Weinstein, an American Jew, and Giovanni Lo Porto, an Italian.

“We hope that my husband’s death and the others who have faced similar tragedies in recent months will finally prompt the U.S. government to take its responsibilities seriously and establish a coordinated



Warren Weinstein, who had been held hostage by al-Qaida, was killed along with Italian hostage Giovanni Lo Porto. (YouTube)

and consistent approach to supporting hostages and their families,” she said.

“We were so hopeful that those in the U.S. and Pakistani governments with the power to take action and secure his release would have done everything possible to do so, and there are no words to do justice to the disappointment and heartbreak we are going through,” the statement said. “We do not yet fully understand all of the facts surrounding Warren’s death,

but we do understand that the U.S. government will be conducting an independent investigation of the circumstances.”

Obama spoke with Elaine Weinstein as well as Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi.

The White House said compensation would be paid to the Weinstein and Lo Porto families.

Weinstein, 73, of Rockville, Maryland, was kidnapped in August 2011 outside Pakistan while he was working for J.E. Austin Associates, a private company that advises Pakistani businesses.

Weinstein, who was captured as he neared the end of a contract assignment with the U.S. Agency for International Development, and Lo Porto were killed during a drone strike against an al-Qaeda compound in Pakistan, near the Afghan border.

## Congress introduces \$286 million bill for missile defense in Israel

(JNS.org) A new bipartisan bill introduced April 22 by U.S. Reps. Derek Kilmer (D-Wash.) and Jim Bridenstine (R-Okla.) would authorize \$286 million in funding for the joint U.S.-Israel David’s Sling missile defense system.

David’s Sling is currently being jointly developed by Israel’s Rafael Advance Defense Systems and American’s Raytheon Company. The system defends against medium-range and long-range rockets and missiles that are outside the range of the highly successful Iron Dome system, which



A test of the David’s Sling missile defense system. Photo courtesy United States Missile Defense Agency.

primarily defends the Jewish state against short-range rockets.

“Israel faces an immediate and growing missile threat.

Hamas and Hezbollah and their supporters in Iran and Syria are developing more sophisticated and longer-range missiles aimed squarely against our best ally in the Middle East,” Kilmer said in a statement.

Noting the success of the Iron Dome system, Kilmer added, “David’s Sling will provide additional protection by intercepting incoming missiles too far out of range for the Iron Dome. U.S.-Israeli co-development of David’s Sling demonstrates the unshakable American commitment to Israel’s security.”

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# MAZAL TOV

BAT MITZVAH:

## William Plotkin Kavy



William Plotkin Kavy will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on May 16, 2015 at Congregation Agudas Achim. He is the son of Jeff and Cary Plotkin Kavy and brother of Emily and Hannah. William is the grandson of Mike and Leanore Kavy, of San Antonio, and William Plotkin and Anna Jane Rodebaugh of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, all of blessed memory.

William is a 7th grader at the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy, which he has attended since kindergarten. William has played club soccer with the Lonestar Soccer Club for the past three years and also plays on the EKHLA Ram's basketball and soccer teams. William has studied piano since age 4 with the European Piano Academy and plays tennis. He attends Camp Young Judea in the summer.

For his Mitzvah Project, William will donate a portion of his Bar Mitzvah gifts to the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind, which supports the visually impaired community of San Antonio and South Texas. William's great uncle, Selig Frank (of blessed memory), served on the Board of the San Antonio Lighthouse for 50 years and William has chosen this project in his honor and memory.

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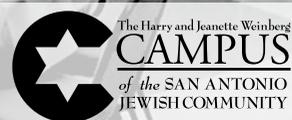
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## Remembering deceased Jewish military veterans

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

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BERNAL, DOMINGO	GRODMAN, ALAN	KLINE, LEONARD	MEYER, CHARLES	SCHLOSBERG, DANIEL	WEINSTEIN, BERNARD
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CROPUN ALEX	JACOBS, HAROLD	LAUDERSTEIN, HERBERT	MILLSTEIN, CONAN	SOLOMON, ELKAN	ZALAZNICK, SAUL
ELSON, DAVID	JACOBS, MORRIS	LIEBERMAN, ALEXANDER	POMERANTZ, JOSEPH	SPECTOR, OSCAR	ZIMMERMAN, JACK
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