Microgrants up for grabs through JFSA’s new initiative

The Young Adult Division of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio announces a new community initiative with the inaugural Gefilte Fish Tank.

Anyone, anywhere with an idea to enhance Jewish life in San Antonio is encouraged to learn more and apply online for a micro-grant of $300 - $1,000 before May 25, 2018. Individuals, including young leaders, high school or Hillel students, entrepreneurs, or organizations can apply.

See Gefilte, page 6

Federation hosts Shin-Dig to commemorate San Antonio’s Tricentennial year

With six San Antonio native Jewish bands taking the stage, and Grand Marshall, Mayor Ron Nirenberg, cutting the ribbon, the 2018 Tricentennial “Shin-Dig” was in full swing on April 15. The event was in celebration of San Antonio’s 300th birthday and Israel’s 70th. Over thirty vendors from Jewish agencies in town and store fronts in San Antonio filled the streets of the Monte Vista neighborhood in order for community members to meet up, eat together, and catch up. Mister Softee, Campus Kosher

See 300, page 14-15

IDF says downed Iranian drone was on mission to attack Israel

(JTA) — The Israeli army said an Iranian drone that infiltrated into Israeli airspace in February, leading to an Israeli retaliatory raid, was on an attack mission — an assessment that is sure to heighten regional tensions.

“After flight path analysis & an operational & intelligence-based investigation of the Iranian UAV that infiltrated Israeli airspace on 2.10.2018, the IDF concluded...

See DRONE, page 23
WE'RE GOING GREEN!

Jewish Federation is excited to offer our readers a new way to receive The Jewish Journal.

Beginning in October 2018, you, your family members, and friends will now be able to receive The Journal via email. This allows for more timely communications, and saves two valuable resources: Trees and Federation dollars.

Don't Miss out! Please take a moment to ensure we have the correct email addresses on file for you and your family members. We've included a handy form below for you to fill out and mail or feel free to email Alexis Benedict at BenedictA@jfsatx.org with your email information. This information will only be used by the Jewish Journal, unless you say otherwise.

If you’d prefer to continue receiving a printed copy of The Journal, please let us know! You will need to notify us to continue receiving it by mail.

For questions, please contact our editor, Leslie Komet Ausburn, at jewishj@jfsatx.org.

Cut out and mail to Jewish Federation of San Antonio, 12500 NW Military Hwy, Suite 200 San Antonio, TX 78231

Yes! I am excited to receive the The Jewish Journal by email beginning October 2018. Please make sure you have the following email addresses in your database:

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Name / Email

___Please feel free to share important Federation information with me in the future.

___Please only use this email address to send me The Jewish Journal.

I prefer to continue receiving The Jewish Journal by mail. Please make sure you have my current mailing address:

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Address
Celebrating SA Jewish roots

Thank you to the San Antonio Jewish community for shin-digging with us on April 15th! It was a beautiful celebration of the city of San Antonio, our incredible Jewish roots in the community and the 70th anniversary of the State of Israel. And the weather was gorgeous as well. Special thanks go to Stevie Weissman, Rikko Ollervidez and Tina Alvarado for serving as our tri-chairs for the event. Please check out the photo spread in the pages that follow.

Henei ma’tov u-manayim shevet achim gam yachad – how good it is for us to be together as brothers (and sisters). The words to this Jewish song – the first one I learned in preschool – come to mind when I think of the joy and energy I felt at the Shin-Dig Tricentennial celebration last month. We seem to have fewer topics and fewer opportunities to come together as a united Jewish community.

I am inspired to aim higher and create greater occasions for togetherness.

My children spent the entire day during the Shin-Dig visiting every booth, on their own, running around as if they owned the neighborhood. They were safe and comfortable, like being amongst family.

I want more of that for my children and for myself in our San Antonio Jewish community.

We will soon celebrate the festival of Shavuot. It is on this holiday that we recall our receiving of the Torah and the great responsibility that came with it.

The Torah represents our covenant with God and our commitment to each other as a people and our responsibility to the world. We accepted the Torah together as one people.

May we continue our tradition of being a people committed to togetherness, and may we go from strength to strength.

YAD Board member and Shin-Dig Tri-chair Tina Alvarado showed off the official Shin-dig Fiesta Medal and shared news about the community-wide event, and Jacob Kluger, YAD Board Chair announced the newest YAD initiative, the Gefilte Fish Tank.

The next JNET event features entrepreneur Richard Seline on Sunday, May 6 from from 3 p.m. -5 p.m. at The Impact Guild, 708 W. Summit Avenue. It is free and open to the public.

To learn more about the quarterly JNET series, contact Eva Laporte, Federation’s Director of Women’s Philanthropy and the Young Adult Division at laportee@jfsatx.org or (210) 302-6965.

JNET with Marty Wender

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio kicked off a new quarterly JNET series with a breakfast meeting on Tuesday, March 20 at Rosella Coffee. Featured speaker Marty Wender shared his story and business insights with approximately twenty guests at the first of four JNET speaker events this year.

The next JNET event features entrepreneur Richard Seline on Sunday, May 6 from from 3 p.m. -5 p.m. at The Impact Guild, 708 W. Summit Avenue. It is free and open to the public.

To learn more about the quarterly JNET series, contact Eva Laporte, Federation’s Director of Women’s Philanthropy and the Young Adult Division at laportee@jfsatx.org or (210) 302-6965.

Tikkun For Troops

We are collecting materials to send to our troops deployed all over the world. In June, look for collection boxes at local synagogues & the Campus of the Jewish Community.

DONATE THESE ITEMS:

- Gum, mints, breath strips
- Toothpaste, tooth brush & floss
- Personal hygiene products
- Batteries (AA & AAA, 4 pack or less)
- Lip Balm/Chap Stick
- Dark color socks

For more information visit JFSATX.ORG or to get involved contact: 210-302-6960 or JewishFederation@JFSATX.ORG

July 8th 2018

10am - Noon

During the Event

Volunteers will help organize & pack donations

Enjoy a coffee & bagel breakfast

Kids can enjoy craft & story time with local soldiers

Donations will be accepted at the event!
Yom Hashoah at Rodfei Sholom

On Wednesday, April 11, the community gathered at Congregation Rodfei Sholom to commemorate Yom Hashoah with songs, scholarship, prayers, poetry and music. The Kindertransport: A Children’s Exodus, included our local survivors and their families, historian Dr. Jason Johnson and guest speaker, Henri Roanne Rosenblatt, a Belgian Kindertransport survivor.

Holocaust Memorial Museum staff members Amber Garcia and Kristin Hernandez with survivor, George Fodor

Belgian Kindertransport survivor, Henri Roanne Rosenblatt

Survivor Harry Weiss and his daughter, Rosemary

Teaching Holocaust History Confidently

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EASTER LUNCH AT WARRIOR AND FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER
Rabbi David Komorofsky (top photo at right) gave an opening prayer in celebration of Easter and Passover. Volunteers included (pictured l to r in middle right photo) Jonathan Gurwitz, his wife Rachel Gurwitz, Eva Balcazar and Ronit Sherwin. (In photo at bottom right, from l to r) Tom Jefferson, Jimmy Toubin, Melanie Taverna, Jean Schlesinger, Ron Schlesinger, and Richard Taverna. Not pictured are David Simon and Valerie Reese.

Community gathers for Yom Hazikaron
Tuesday evening, April 17, the San Antonio Jewish community came together at the Holzman Auditorium to commemorate Yom Hazikaron, the memorial day for the fallen soldiers of Israel and the victims of terror.
The evening included readings and prayers led by the local clergy and Yom Hazikaron chairs, Orah Abramoff and

See YOM HAZIKARON, page 7
SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

Richard S. Seline

I am a fourth generation Texan, originally from Houston. We moved to Washington D.C. twenty-seven years ago to work for the first George Bush White House, and then I started a national consultancy firm focused on regional technology and business strategies.

Though we lived on the East Coast for two decades, my wife Eleanor and I remained engaged with friends and family back “home.” Our son, Jay, was born in D.C. and moved to San Antonio with us – first to start his gap year program with CityYear and then to attend UIW in Sports Management.

What brought you to San Antonio?

I was approached to assess what the State of Texas could be doing in response to the major drought of record in 2011-2012. At the request of then Governor Perry and a cross section of civic, business leaders, I began a commute back and forth from Washington to San Antonio, under a contract with the Texas Research and Technology Foundation. We launched AccelerateH2O in San Antonio – the “Switzerland” of Texas – as a 501c3 in a neutral location with the comfort and support from other communities.

What is your strongest Jewish memory?

High school, when I completed my confirmation classes as one congregation for which our family formed, and transitioned to another congregation on my own to explore a deeper religious meaning and engagement in my life. The other is our Pesach family gatherings where a great-aunt led Dayenu with the greatest of baritone voice sung us through nearly 20 minutes.

What volunteer activities do you find the most rewarding and why?

Anything that involves youth and student entrepreneurs and innovators. I have been fortunate throughout my life to have incredible mentors from business, community and political life – and I feel a responsibility to pay it back as well as forward.

What is your favorite Jewish holiday, and why?

My favorite is a holiday that has the broadest inclusion of friends and families celebrating our spirituality with the rich, robust history of our people – Hannukah!

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

My goal through the upcoming Idea and Gefilte fish Tank initiative is to unleash the best of this community’s unusual and unique solutions to perplexing challenges and to spark a few businesses along the way. I was fortunate to co-lead the formation of ADL’s Young Leadership Program in Houston that went national, and I hope this happens here.
A publication of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio
continued from previous page

all while generating social buzz.”

HAVE AN IDEA? WORKSHOP IT AT A FREE IDEA SLAM
People interested in applying can attend a free “Idea Slam” session with entrepreneur Richard Seline on Sunday, May 6 from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Seline will lead a session brainstorming and working through ideas to enhance Jewish life in San Antonio today and in the future. The event is open to the public and will take place at The Impact Guild at 708 W Summit Ave. Check out more and RSVP on Facebook/J NET SA.

APPLY ONLINE BY MAY 25
Learn more and apply for a micro-grant at www.gefiltefishtank.com or contact Eva Laporte, Director of Women’s Philanthropy & the Young Adult Division at laporte@jfsatx.org

GEFILTE FISH TANK – JUNE 10
Audience members will enjoy music, entertainment, drinks and food at the event while casting their vote for the top pitches of the night. $5 tickets in advance; $18 VIP tickets include reserved seating. RSVP at www.gefiltefishtank.com

The Hope for Humanity Holocaust Memorial Museum benefit that was held in March was in every aspect a great success. With the dedicated support of Honorary Chairs Rene and Marty Wender and Linda and Phil Hardberger, the staff of the Jewish Federation and Museum planned a perfect event. It drew hundreds of people and focused attention on the important educational services the museum provides to schools in our community.

I was deeply honored and very grateful that the Holocaust Memorial Museum chose this year to create the Maxine Cohen Hope for Humanity Educator Award. Teachers are essential partners in the museum’s efforts to educate students about the dangers of hatred, prejudice and apathy. This year the award was given to Lisa Barry, a language arts and social studies teacher at Woodridge Elementary School in Alamo Heights.

She has dedicated her career to teaching students the important lessons of social justice and diversity. Learning about the Holocaust has been an essential part of the curriculum she developed. It is my hope that her work and this award will serve as an inspiration to other teachers in the years to come.

Forty-three years ago, the Jewish Federation launched an effort to teach Holocaust history in the public schools. Teachers immediately recognized its value and it quickly developed into a major project. I was fortunate to be part of those first efforts along with Phyllis Braverman and Paula Kaufman.

From the beginning, it was a labor of intense interest for the three of us and for the dozens of other volunteers and survivors who joined the project as it grew.

The Holocaust Memorial Museum that opened on the Jewish Campus in 2000 was an outgrowth of those first efforts. Thousands of students from different school districts in the area continue to visit the museum every year. The life lessons they learn from survivors and the history provided by docents are as necessary and timely today as they were four decades ago.

The benefit held in March was a landmark event. It reflected the growing educational influence in our community. I want to express my thanks to the many people who supported the event. Their generosity will ensure the continuity and growth of the museum’s educational programs. I was especially touched by the kind words of the many tributes. It was my good fortune to be able to do work that was especially meaningful to me. It enriched my life. I am deeply grateful to the Jewish Federation which supported our efforts from the beginning, to the teachers who saw merit in our work and to the students whose interest and curiosity stimulated us to reach higher and higher goals.

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HMMSA benefit a success

YOM HAZIKARON
continued from page 5

Hagit Lifshitz.
This year, vocalist Dr. Orit Eylon, Associate Professor of Music at the University of the Incarnate Word, began the ceremony with a moving Yerushalyim Shel Zahav and the evening included a video message from the Israeli counsel general, as well as video clips from Israel’s early leaders and modern day footages of sirens as the country stops to remember their loved ones.
JCC to hold annual meeting May 23

The Barshop Jewish Community Center will hold its Annual Meeting Wednesday, May 23 at 7 p.m. in the Holzman Auditorium.

The 2018-19 executive committee and new board members will be installed, and annual awards will be presented. Attendees will hear from both outgoing Chair Danna Halff and Chair-Elect Adam Zeldes, as well as JCC President/CEO Saul Levenshus.

JCC annual awards to be presented include the Charlie Pearl Award for volunteer of the year, the Lichtenstein Award for program of the year, the William Alter Awards for leadership, the Weldon C. Place Award for sports achievement, the Roselle Smith Award for BBYO Leaders of the Year, and JCC Staff of the Year awards. The evening will also include a special presentation to Alissa Levey Baugh, celebrating her tenure and retirement as JCC’s Director of Early Childhood services for the past 28 years.

The meeting is free and open to the community; refreshments will be included. RSVP to Diana Creel by Friday, May 18 at (210) 302-6822, by email at creeld@jcc-sa.org, or online at www.jccsanantonio.org/annualmeeting.

Temple Chai to host Shavuot celebration

Temple Chai, San Antonio’s small Reform congregation, will host a Shavuot celebration at its facility at 2121 Lockhill Selma on Saturday, May 19 from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. The evening will include a festival worship service, a pizza dinner, and a series of learning sessions with Rabbi David KomeroFSky, Lisa J. Goldstein, RJE, and others.

Shavuot commemorates the receiving of the Torah at Mount Sinai and is traditionally celebrated with a dairy meal and a night of study. All are welcome to participate. Visit www.templechaisa.org/shavuot for more information and to RSVP.

Senior lunch programs in the community

San Antonio Jewish Senior Services (SAJSS) continues partnerships with local congregations to provide monthly senior lunches and educational programs.

The May lunches are: May 5 at noon - Shabbat Lunch Chavurah at Temple Beth-El; May 10 at 11:30-1 p.m. - Simcha Social Club at Congregation Agudas Achim; May 16th at 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - LChayim Club at Congregation Rodfei Sholom; and May 20, noon -1:30 p.m. - the Sunshine Club at Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning.

In addition, SAJSS funds transportation for seniors to Jewish events; please call (210) 616-4811 to schedule a ride.

New four-week class Who Wrote the Bible? offered at Agudas Achim

Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Senior Rabbi at Congregation Agudas Achim is going to be teaching a brand new four-week course in May on “Who Wrote the Bible?” based from Richard Elliot Friedman’s book with the same title and other views on the topic. The course will run on four Wednesday nights in May from 6:30-7:30 PM. The Wednesdays will be May 9, 16, 23, and 30.

“I am incredibly excited to teach this controversial and innovative class during the month of May,” Rabbi Abraham said. “It is both an age-old and certainly modern question as to who really wrote the Bible. Was it God at Mount Sinai or as the rabbis in the Talmud would have us believe, a group of human beings divinely inspired, or different schools writing different sections that were then codified into one book. We will explore all of the different options and challenge ourselves to look at the Torah through new lenses as well.”

Abraham added that this four week intensive class is meant to open up discussions on the different theories and philosophies out there in our modern world.

This intensive four week class at Agudas Achim is only $18 for Agudas members at $36 for non-members. All are welcome to sign up. For more information, contact Jessica Peden at J.Peden@agudas-achim.org or (210) 479-0429.

New name, new volunteer opportunities for Beth-El’s community summer camp

Through Temple Beth-El’s partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank, the congregation will continue to serve free breakfast and lunch at it’s annual community summer camp, open to children in Temple Beth-El’s neighborhood.

These children live in a food desert where 100% of them are on the free meals program at school and are food insecure during the summer months. The free camp provides not only nourishment for their bodies, but a safe, cool place, where students can engage in fun, educational activities in a positive social setting.

The camp has been renamed for 2018: CreativKids SA at Temple Beth-El.

To highlight the many activities offered in the areas of art, music, STEM, physical fitness, cooking, tennis and more.

In order to make CreativKids SA at Temple Beth-El a success, volunteers and counselors are needed. Adults and children, ages 12 and older, are encouraged to volunteer their time and talents for an hour, a day or the entire summer. (Children under the age of 12 can volunteer with a parent.)

For more information, contact camp co-directors Kathi Kardon at kardon595@gmail.com or (210) 322-8017 or Robyn Rosen at snr711@aol.com or (210) 557-3251.

Supply donations and gift cards are also welcome and may be dropped off at Temple Beth-El, 211 Belknap Place.
In the Community

Congregation Beth Am
May holiday schedule

Congregation Beth Am will be celebrating both religious and secular holidays in May.
To acknowledge the Lag B’Omer celebration, the congregation’s First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat will be a service followed by a picnic potluck at the home of Gary Kurzban and Terri Ruiz on May 4 at 6:30 p.m.
On Saturday, May 12 at 10 a.m., the congregation will host the San Antonio Chapter of Hadassah for Hadassah Shabbat, a community-wide celebration. The weekend includes Yom Yerushalayim, Jerusalem Day, and Mother’s Day, a perfect time to honor the Zionist women’s organization. The event will be held at Beth Am’s regular worship space, the Thoreau Room at the Unitarian Universalist Church on the I-10 access road opposite Wonderland of the Americas.

The congregation will observe Shavuot on Saturday evening, May 19, at 7:30 p.m. with Havdalah, dairy desserts, and Torah study at the home of Karen Berkowitz.
Those who would like to attend home events should call Marion Bernstein at (210) 493-1801 to RSVP.

Congregation Agudas Achim hosts a Sweet Shavuot Spectacular and learning on Jewish Values

Congregation Agudas Achim will be hosting two new and improved Shavuot programs this year.
On Saturday night, May 19th, Agudas will host its annual Tikkun Leil Shavuot night of study from 9 PM to 12 AM. This year’s theme is “Jewish Values in the 21st Century” as those attending will have the opportunity to learn from Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Rabbi Sam Stahl, emeritus Rabbi from Temple Beth-El, and Namie Ichilov, Head of School at Brooks Collegiate Academy.

Then, on Sunday morning, May 20th, Agudas will be hosting its brand new Sweet Shavuot Spectacular program for children and families of all ages. The program will begin at 10:30 with rotations from edible projects, to art, to sports, to prayer and more just like “The Buzz” at Agudas for High Holidays. After the exciting rotations, everyone is invited around 11:30 for a delicious dairy and kid-friendly lunch including a spectacular ice cream sundae bar.
“I am incredibly excited for both of our new and updated Shavuot programs for this year,” Rabbi Abraham said. “This is a way for anyone of all ages to come and enjoy Shavuot from the engaging learning on Saturday night to the exciting family programming on Sunday morning.”
All are welcome to attend both FREE programs. For more information, please call (210) 479-0307 or info@agudas-achim.org.

Big Give SA provides additional funding for mental health services from JFS

On March 22, Jewish Family Service (JFS) participated in its first Big Give SA event, raising $6,680 during the 24-hour online day of giving. The goal of the annual Big Give SA event is to support nonprofits in the greater San Antonio area that are committed to serving others and making South Central Texas a great place to live, work, and play.

The funds raised by JFS will help remove the financial barriers to mental health and social services in San Antonio. For more information on JFS visit jfs-sa.org. If you or anyone you know is struggling, support and help are available by calling (210) 302-6920.

Celebrate Shavuot with Rodfei Sholom

This year Congregation Rodfei Sholom will celebrate Shavuot with a diary dinner and full night of learning on Saturday, May 19.
A special Kids Kiddush open to the community will take place on Sunday May 20, sponsored annually by Rabbi Aryeh and Judy Scheinberg.
The Kiddush will take place directly after morning services.
For more information on Shavuot services and learning, please contact the synagogue office at (210) 493-3557.
IN THE COMMUNITY: YOUTH

KESHER CHAI continues its focus on Jewish values

KESHER CHAI, Temple Chai’s education program for children, has had a year-long partnership with The Mussar Institute to offer Mussar for Children: Jewish Values for Everyday Living in its curriculum. This innovative program, designed to bring the best of Jewish ethics to children, families, and their communities, is part of every KESHER CHAI morning.

Lisa Goldstein, RJE, leads the weekly sessions focused on values that include friendship, trust, courage, honesty, patience, silence, and responsibility. “These values influence the rest of our curriculum, as they encourage learners to approach the study of Hebrew and the holidays in the same spirit as the Mussar program. Each value is explored via hands-on art projects, interactive stories, and discussions.”

KESHER CHAI is available to Temple members’ children in grades K-7. Participation is also available to non-members for a small fee. Visit www.templechaisa.org for more information.

A MESSAGE FROM ALISSA LEVEY BAUGH

Approaching retirement, I find myself reminiscing about the decades I’ve spent at the JCC. My earliest memories are of the Rampart location when it was on the edge of town. I swam there as a child, participated in BBYO and took driver’s education, and as a young adult, enjoyed Jazzercise. In 1989, I was offered the wonderful opportunity to become the Early Childhood Director.

What a journey these last 29 years have been, not only for myself, but my family as well! My children played sports and attended camps, and worked as camp counselors, lifeguards, and swim instructors. My husband coached youth teams and enjoyed shows at the Sheldon Vexler Theater. Both of my granddaughters have attended our early childhood program and participated in activities at the JCC.

I’ve engaged with children and families in an environment where childhood is a joyous and special time. In our program, children learn by exploring, discovering, and engaging in critical thinking in an environment where they’re respected and nurtured. I’ve helped so many families with the most rewarding and difficult job – parenting. I’ve been able to work with many wonderful, dedicated teachers, as well as other JCC professional staff.

I’m grateful to Mark Lit for hiring me, and to Saul Levenshus, who has not only helped and supported me throughout my tenure, but has grown the JCC and the early childhood program in myriad ways. The JCC will continue to be a special place for me as I embark on this new phase of my life.

New NCSY City Director

Rabbi Ashi Gluck will be taking over as NCSY’s new full-time city director. Rabbi Ashi, as he’s known, has been spending much of his time in the past two years focusing on San Antonio’s Jewish teens. Last year, NCSY connected with more than 100 Jewish teens in San Antonio.

Rabbi Ashi, as full time City Director, will now be able to focus all his energy and passion solely on our city’s teens.

His goal will be to provide learning, social programming, tikkun olam, public school clubs and Shabbaton opportunities to all of San Antonio’s Jewish teens.

For more information on NCSY programming or simply to get to know Rabbi Ashi, please contact him at glucka@ncsy.org or at (845) 300-6528.

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Proposed Slate:
Board Chair: Harry Levy
Immediate Past Board chair: Jonathan Gurwitz
Vice Chair, Campaign: Greg Davis
Vice Chair, P&A: Marc Schnall
Vice Chair, Programming: Jacob Kluger
Treasurer: Michael Swanson
Secretary: Leslie Selig Byrd
Chair’s Choice: Lauren Stanley

Proposed new Directors to join the Board
Dana Gorelik
Jean Karren
Joe Patrick
Elisa Reinsmith
Amy Saklad
Alice Troy

Jonathan Gurwitz, Outgoing Chair of the Board of Directors, Presiding

Presentation of the 2018 Awards:
- Joel A. Toubin Community Relations Council Award
- Sylvia F. & Harry Sugerman Young Leadership Award
- Grinspoon Award for Excellence
- Chair’s Award

SPECIAL GUEST:
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{RSVP} VargasY@jfsatx.org
Or JFSATX.ORG

96th ANNUAL MEETING

Monday | 7pm June 4, 2018
12500 NW Military Hwy
Holzman Auditorium
Heintz Preschool opening three new classrooms

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim is one of the fastest growing preschools in San Antonio. Due to continued growth, Heintz Preschool is going to be opening three new classrooms this fall in order to accommodate all of its students.

“Our school has more than doubled in size over the last year and a half,” said Heintz Preschool Director Taryn Bretado. “In order to ensure we do not keep children on the waiting list, we have decided to expand and open up three new classrooms for this fall.”

Heintz Preschool is open for infants 6 weeks through PreK.

Heintz Preschool prides itself on its innovative academics with its motto of ‘Creating Creative Curiosity’ in its students.

A new infant classroom will have the students participating in art, drama, Hebrew, Spanish, music, cooking classes, and more. Infants who are mobile will crawl or walk to their extra-curricular activities, while those who are not mobile yet, will be escorted by their teachers.

Heintz Preschool offers small class sizes with small student-teacher ratios, engaging teachers, and a curriculum geared towards kindergarten readiness.

The school day at Heintz runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with extended care available from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Enrollment at Heintz Preschool fills up quickly, so reserve your child’s spot by contacting the Preschool Director Taryn Bretado for more information or a tour at (210) 479-0429 or t.bretado@agudas-achim.org.

Rodfei Sholom welcomes new youth director

Congregation Rodfei Sholom has announced the hiring of new Youth Director, Rabbi Moshe Yehuda Rosenwasser. Rabbi Moshe will be moving to San Antonio next month to take over all of Rodfei Sholom’s programming for children and their families. Rabbi Moshe already has experience working with children both in the United States and Israel.

He is known for his positive energy and fun-loving personality. Rabbi Moshe is moving with his wife, Sarah Bracha, and their two children from Jerusalem, Israel where they have been living and studying for the past 3 years.

For more information on Rodfei Sholom’s children’s programming including Shabbat Clubs, Sunday Torah, summer and winter camp and Sunday Fundays, contact the synagogue office at (210) 493-3557.
Enrollment is open for the 2018-2019 school year at the Inda Posner Religious School at Congregation Agudas Achim.

Agudas prides itself on experiential creative learning, the warm relationship with its teachers and clergy, as well as an outside the box environment for Jewish learning. “Our goal is to help our students find a love and passion for Judaism,” said Director of Congregational Learning Samantha Mazuz. “We believe strongly in relationship building and forging the beginnings of a life-long friendships and creating an environment that allows our children to grow in their Judaism.”

Agudas continues to be the only Religious School in San Antonio to have its special track class for 3rd through 5th grade students who attend the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy (EKHLA). The class is taught on Wednesdays from 4:15-6:00 PM by Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham and other experienced teachers. “A child receiving Hebrew immersion in school five days a week needs a different type of learning during our Hebrew portion of our school on Wednesday afternoons,” said Senior Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham. “By continuing this special EKHLA track class, our students will be able to advance their Hebrew skills that much further.”

The Inda Posner Religious School is for children from kindergarten through 12th grade. Agudas Achim offers a special once a month Pre-K class as well.

For more information about Inda Posner Religious School at Agudas Achim or for a tour of the school, please contact Samantha Mazuz at (210) 479-0429 or s.mazuz@agudas-achim.org.

Summer is a busy time at the Barshop Jewish Community Center, with plenty of activities.

The JCC’s outdoor pool is not only a place for families to relax and have a good time, it is also a place for everyone to improve their swimming skills. From parent/child water acclimation for children as young as six months, to private and semi-private lessons for older kids, as well as the Josh Davis Swim Academy, the Sea Serpents swim team, and even swim programs for adults, the JCC has something for everyone. More information about swim lessons and programs is available at www.jccsanantonio.org/aquatics, or by calling (210) 302-6825.

The JCC also offers opportunities for members ages four and up to celebrate their birthdays with parties at the pool. Find out more info online at www.jccsanantonio.org/birthdays or call Dylan Ashworth at (210) 302-6959.

Additional programs this summer include tee-ball, the Elite Tennis program for teens, and a variety of enrichment classes for early childhood and elementary-aged children. To register, visit www.jccsanantonio.org/register.

Of course, summer at the JCC would not be complete without Summer J-Camp, which fully begins June 4 and will continue through August 24. Learn more about summer camp at www.jcccamp-santanonio.org.

Seeking Volunteers to Teach in the Museum

Are you or someone you know interested in the Holocaust Memorial Museum’s collections and exhibits?

Do you enjoy learning and working with the public?

Are you seeking a rewarding volunteer experience?

Consider becoming a docent at the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio. A history background is not required... just an interest in learning and a high level of enthusiasm. A partnership with Yad Vashem has allowed us to create an ongoing docent training program through an online digital portal. Training will continue with our Museum staff and experienced docents.

If you are interested, please contact Juana Rubalcava, Director of Education at 210-302-6812 or docents@hmmsa.org

The JCC also offers opportunities for members ages four and up to celebrate their birthdays with parties at the pool. Find out more info online at www.jccsanantonio.org/birthdays or call Dylan Ashworth at (210) 302-6959.

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Steve & Courtney Silver

IN THE COMMUNITY: YOUTH

Inda Posner Religious School 2018-2019 enrollment

Enrollment is open for the 2018-2019 school year at the Inda Posner Religious School at Congregation Agudas Achim.

Agudas prides itself on experiential creative learning, the warm relationship with its teachers and clergy, as well as an outside the box environment for Jewish learning. “Our goal is to help our students find a love and passion for Judaism,” said Director of Congregational Learning Samantha Mazuz. “We believe strongly in relationship building and forging the beginnings of a life-long friendships and creating an environment that allows our children to grow in their Judaism.”

Agudas continues to be the only Religious School in San Antonio to have its special track class for 3rd through 5th grade students who attend the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy (EKHLA). The class is taught on Wednesdays from 4:15-6:00 PM by Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham and other experienced teachers. “A child receiving Hebrew immersion in school five days a week needs a different type of learning during our Hebrew portion of our school on Wednesday afternoons,” said Senior Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham. “By continuing this special EKHLA track class, our students will be able to advance their Hebrew skills that much further.”

The Inda Posner Religious School is for children from kindergarten through 12th grade. Agudas Achim offers a special once a month Pre-K class as well.

For more information about Inda Posner Religious School at Agudas Achim or for a tour of the school, please contact Samantha Mazuz at (210) 479-0429 or s.mazuz@agudas-achim.org.
SHIN-DIGGIN’ WITH JEWISH SAN ANTONIO

300 continued from page 1

Catering, and Pita Pocket food truck were among the many food stands at the Shin-Dig.

The event opened with both the national anthem of Israel and America sung by local musician Vicki Adelstein, and continued with songs and cheer all day. Camp Young Judea was on hand for children to play GAGA (Israeli dodge ball), and in the children’s corner kids had the opportunity to take a PJ Library story walk through Israel and bounce in the King David’s biblical bounce house. Families could dance, Hula Hoop and enjoy tasty pastry samples from the professional chefs from Lola Patisserie Bake Shop in Akko in the Western Galilee.

WESTERN GALILEE CHEFS SHARE A VARIETY OF DESSERTS WITH GUESTS AT THE SHIN-DIG

Nataly Marciano and Jehudit Baranes of the Lola Patisserie Bakery were on hand from the Western Galilee in Israel. During the week the chefs baked hundreds of cupcakes, cookies, and more and on Sunday they had a tent where they engaged the crowd with Israeli flags, Israeli music, discussions about the Israel partnership region, and upcoming Israel travels. Children even got to decorate cake balls with mini Israeli flags and sprinkles. The chefs included the natural seven species of Israel, including dates, figs, and other fruits in their baked goods, and they were able to meet hundreds of guests at the Shin-Dig and make people-to-people connections to build friendships across the globe.
SHIN-DIGGIN’ WITH JEWISH SAN ANTONIO

Families and friends enjoyed a beautiful day at the Shin-Dig SA

Children used edible supplies to decorate a map of Israel

Acoustic guitarist Cooper Greenberg

Gal Shweiki of The Shweiki band kicked off Shin-Dig

Left to right: Jonathan Gurwitz, Ronit Sherwin, Mayor Ron Nirenberg, Tina Alvarado, Stevie Weissman

Families and friends enjoyed a beautiful day at the Shin-Dig SA
TASA students enjoy spending time with Senior residents of Adante and Madison House Senior Living Centers.

Torah Academy of San Antonio students shared Passover greetings and songs with Senior residents of Adante and Madison House Senior Living Centers. TASA students and residents enjoyed spending time together and getting to know each other. They shared stories and genuinely enjoyed each other’s company. TASA students shared the Passover spirit by singing Passover songs & stories with the residents. Before leaving the students presented greeting cards to the residents, that they made in school prior to the event.

AGUDAS ACHIM PRE-PASSOVER PARTY
Congregation Agudas Achim hosted their annual Pre-Passover Pizza Party where the San Antonio Fire Department was on hand to entertain the kids and watch over the fire used to burn chametz (leavened foods) in preparation for the holiday. The event also featured pizza, music, a bounce house, dancing and games.
WHAT’S HAPPENING

JEWISH TEENS GIVE BACK THROUGH J-SERVE
On Sunday, April 8, more than 90 San Antonio-area Jewish teens came together in the name of community service to volunteer at the San Antonio Food Bank and for the Texas Senior Games as part of J-Serve 2018. J-Serve is a global youth service day where Jewish teens in grades 7 through 12 fulfill the Jewish values of gemilut chasidim (acts of loving kindness), tzedakah (just and charitable giving), and tikkun olam (the responsibility to repair the world).

IPRS MATZAH MAKING
Congregation Agudas Achim’s Inda Posner Religious School students enjoyed a sweet treat during Passover with a matzah dessert making program while learning more about the Passover holiday.

ECD SENIOR SEDER
Pre-kindergarten students from the Block & Dreeben School for Young Children enjoyed a Passover Seder lunch with members from the Barshop JCC’s senior services program in their annual intergenerational Seder lunch. Rachel Rustin, Director of Camp & Youth at the JCC, led the lunch service, while volunteer parents and staff served the meal.

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THE JEWISH JOURNAL  A publication of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio  MAY 2018  17
TASA STUDENTS SHINE AT THIS YEAR’S MODEL SEDER
Torah Academy of San Antonio students participate in TASA’s annual model Seder. The model seder, coordinated by Rabbi Yossi Marrus, is an opportunity for the entire student body to get together and share what they have been learning in preparation for Passover, while enjoying the sights, sounds, and tastes of a Passover Seder. The Seder was led by the upper middle school students, assisted by the 5th and 6th graders, who provided commentary. The elementary school students added to the program with performances and songs. As Rabbi Nimchinsky (Head of School) explained, the Passover Seder is one of the most successful learning experiences in human history. It is a child centered, multi-sensory, learning-by-doing lesson plan, whose lessons still resonate around the globe after over 3300 years.

FIRST EVER SPRING BREAK CAMP
AT HEINTZ PRESCHOOL
During Heintz Preschool’s first Spring Break Camp, students enjoyed dance, yoga, cooking, music and more. Join Heintz Preschool for their innovative Literacy Summer Camp beginning June 4th! For more information contact Heintz Preschool Director Taryn Bretado at t.bretado@agudas-achim.org or call 210-479-0429.

Gary S. Gossen, M.D., F.A.C.G.
Diplomate of the Board of Internal Medicine
Diplomate of the Board of Gastroenterology
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A Sagora Senior Living Community
WHAT’S HAPPENING

Temple Beth-El’s second night Community Seder was fun and lively – pictured here are children reciting “The Four Questions” with Rabbi Mara Nathan and Cantor Julie Berlin.

SEDMERS AT TEMPLE BETH-EL

Temple Beth-El’s 20s30s Seder, held at the home of and led by Rabbi Marina and Dave Yergin, was filled to capacity with food, fun, and camaraderie.

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Temple Beth-El’s multi-generational Men’s Seder this year was led by Rabbi Alan Berlin at The Barn Door Restaurant, and had record attendance with over 80 men participating.

THE JEWISH JOURNAL A publication of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio MAY 2018 19
WHAT’S HAPPENING

TASA BUG DETECTIVES!
Torah Academy of San Antonio Kindergarteners combine their Torah Studies with Science lessons. The students took out their magnifying glasses and learned about the various insects that can infest every day produce. This is yet another example of the interdisciplinary hands-on learning at TASA.

TASA Kindergarteners search for bugs in produce in a combined Science & Judaics lesson.

ICE CREAM SEDER
Congregation Agudas Achim’s San Antonio United Synagogue Youth Group for teenagers held an Ice Cream Seder and Game night right before Passover. Members enjoyed re-learning the Passover story along with Havdallah, ice cream and games.

RODFEI PASSOVER PREPPING
Rodfei Sholom kids enjoy a tour of the firetruck and talk with the local firemen while burning the chometz before Pesach in April.

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YOUR JEWISH COMMUNITY LISTINGS

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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16550 Huebner Road, 78248
Phone: (210) 479-0307
Fax: (210) 479-0295
Website: www.agudas-achim.org
Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Senior Rabbi
Samantha Mazur, Director of Congregational Learning

Temple Chai (Reform)
2121 Lockhill-Selma
San Antonio, TX 78213
Phone: (210) 340-2090
Website: www.templechaisa.org
Rabbi David Komorefsky
Lisa J. Goldstein, Educator/Soloist

Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning (Orthodox)
14535 Blanco Rd., 78216
Phone: (210) 492-1085
Fax: (210) 493-9460
Website: www.chabadasa.com
Rabbi Chaim Block
Rabbi Yossi Marrus
Rabbi Levi Teldon

Congregation Israel of San Antonio (Conservative, Covenantal Judaism in Prayer and Practice)
Website: www.congregationisraelatsa.org
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

Jewish Community Organizations

Barshop Jewish Community Center
12500 NW Military Highway, Suite 275, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6320 Executive Director: Saul F. Levenshus Email: jcc@jcc-sa.org
Board Chair: Danna Half Website: www.jcc-sa.org

Hadassah, the Women’s Zionist Organization of America
Website: www.hadassah.org / www.facebook.com/ Hadassah
Phone: (210) 355-7900 (National) or (210) 394-7405 (Local)
Contact: Roberta Abelman, rabelmanesatx.rr.com

Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community
12500 NW Military Hwy, Suite 100, San Antonio Texas 78231
Phone: (210) 607-7261 President: Steve Butler Website: www.thecampusustx.org

Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Antonio
P. O. Box 78284 San Antonio, TX 78278
Phone: (210) 736-4352 Website: www.HFLA-SA.org
Executive Director: Laura Zausmer Richardson President: Tim Grossman

Hillel San Antonio
Website: www.sahillel.org Phone: (210) 201-124. (5397)
Contact: Natalie Steiner Email: natalie@hillelsa.org

Jewish Family Service
12500 NW Military Highway, Suite 250, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6920 Interim Executive Director: Tim Plant President: Steve Marks

National Council Of Jewish Women (NCJW)
Website: www.ncjwsa.org For Membership Information: Cathy Pottorf - catpot52@gmail.com

Ohr Lanu Foundation
14439 N.W. Military Hwy., San Antonio TX 78231
Phone: (210) 973-7172 Website: ohrlanu.org Executive Director: Margaret Gofman-Klein

San Antonio Jewish Senior Services
13409 N.W. Military Hwy. Suite 210, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6920 Executive Director: Stacey Kline Schwartz President: Suzanne Huber

San Antonio Jewish Service Organization (JAS @ The J)
12500 NW Military Hwy., Suite 200, San Antonio, TX 78231 / Phone: (210) 302-6920

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

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

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

THE JEWISH JOURNAL A publication of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio MAY 2018 21
Sheldon Vexler Theatre presents Steel Magnolias

The Vex’s 19th season will close with Robert Harling’s comedic drama, Steel Magnolias.

The all-female cast, directed by Mark McCarver, includes Tami Kai as M’Lynn, Elise Lopez as Truvy, Randee Lutterloh as Shelby, Whitney Marlett as Clairee, Kaitlin Muse as Annette, and Sherrie Shirky as Ouiser.

2018 marks the thirty-first anniversary of Steel Magnolias.

The play – which is based on some of the women in Harling’s life, including his sister who died due to complications from diabetes, and his mother, as well as her friends – ran off-Broadway for three years.

As noted in a 2017 article about the play in the magazine Garden & Gun, Steel Magnolias was written “as a tribute to the strength” of these women. Having been written in just ten days, it was also a way for Harling, who admittedly was not a writer, to process his sister’s death.

The Vex production promises to be moving, beautiful, funny, and unlike any adaptation anyone may have previously seen.

Performances are May 12 through June 10, Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. There will be no performances Saturday, May 19 or Sunday, May 20. Tickets may be purchased online at www.vexler.org/steelmagnolias, or by calling (210) 302-6835.

Temple Beth-El to host trivia event

Trivia fans have a chance to test their skills at the Inaugural Temple Beth-El Trivia Night on Saturday, May 12 at 7 p.m. Teams of 8 will compete for a special prize and the chance to call themselves TBE’s Trivia Masters.

The cost to enter is $120 per team, or $15 per person. Organizers say, “don’t worry, if you don’t have a full team we’ll make sure you’re put on a good one!” The entry fee covers the trivia event as well as light snacks and “grown up” drinks. Proceeds from the event will help support TBE’s Summer of Shalom programming.

For more information or to register, visit https://bethelsa.formstack.com/forms/trivia.

A Joyful Noise at The Tobin Center - May 6

The Temple Beth-El volunteer choir, Kol Simchah (pictured), will join with St. Mark’s Episcopal Church Choirs and the YOSA Philharmonic in a second performance of Leonard Bernstein’s Chichester Psalms on Sunday, May 6 at 8 p.m. at the Tobin Center. Ryland Angel will be the soloist. Tickets may be purchased online at tobincenter.org (search Joyful Noise). The performance, which will include other musical pieces as well, is part of YOSA’s regular concert season.

Germans charge ex-Auschwitz guard,
94, as accomplice in 13,335 murders

BERLIN (JTA) — A former Auschwitz guard, now 94, has been charged in Germany as an accomplice to 13,335 murders in the death camp.

State prosecutors in Stuttgart announced that the man, from the state of Mannheim, is charged with supporting the genocide through his function as a guard and on-call member of the SS at the camp from December 1942 to January 1943.

The man, whose name has not been released, was charged in youth court since he was 19 years old while working at the camp.

The Mannheim Regional Court must decide whether the charge is admissible, and whether the defendant is in a physical and mental condition to stand trial.
The months of May and June are busy ones for Jewish War Veterans Post 753.

Post members will be placing American flags on the grave sites of Jewish Veterans buried in the various Jewish cemeteries in the San Antonio area.

Post members will also be serving dinner at Wounded Warriors Ft. Sam.

The May JWV breakfast meeting will be held on Sunday May 27 at 9 a.m., in room 277 of the Jewish Campus. The speaker will be Tamara Weiss, a JROTC Student at Churchill High School, who will share her experiences of being in the ROTC program.

On May 29, post members will be conducting Bingo and serving refreshments at the CTC Center, from 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

Members of the post will attend the TALO meeting in El Paso, Texas June 22 to 24.

For further details and more information on all Post events call Herschel Sheiness (210) 468-5598.

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 who are buried in a local cemetery. If you know of a name that is missing please contact Herschel at (210)468-5598.

ABELOW, HARRY
ADLER, HARRY
ALWAIS, MELVYN
ARONSTEIN, MAURICE
BATALSKY, CAROLE
BENSON, BEN
BERNAL, DOMINGO
CARRILLO, ANTHONY
CHARLES, AARON
CROPUN, ALEX
ELSON, DAVID
FACTOR, SAM
FELDMAN, LAWRENCE
FAUSTO, PETER
FRUCHT, RAYMOND
GOLDBERG, MOSES
GOLDSTEIN, KATHLEEN
GREENBERG, DAVID
GRODMAN, ALAN
HARRIS, IRVING
JACOB, JERRY
JACOBS, HAROLD
JACOBS, MORRIS
JUNG, MANUEL
KATZ, LEWIS
KAUFMAN, BENNIE
KBODI, LOUIS
KELLERMAN, DANIEL
KOPPELMAN, BRUCE
LAUDERSTEIN, HERBERT
LIEBERMAN, ALEXANDER
MAGRISH, PHILIP
MAZEL, NOAH
MARKOW, FRANCES
MEYER, CHARLES
MILLEN, JAMES
MILLEN, LOUIS
MILLEN, SIDNEY
MILLSTEIN, CONAN
POMERANTZ, JOSEPH
RAY, BELLFOUR
RIBAKOWSKI, JAMIE
RUDY, MOSES
SCHLOBERG, DANIEL
SEEMAN, IRWIN
SHAPIRO, DAVID
SHAPIRO, HARRY
SPECTOR, OSCAR
SPRUN, ALFRED
STEIN, ALFRED
SHULER, SIMON
SWIDLER, LEO
WAYNE, LIONEL
SEMER, ARTHUR
WEINSTEIN, NERAND
WEINSTEIN, ROBERT
WILK, JOE
ZALAZNICK, SAUL
ZIMMERMAN, JACK
ZIMMERMAN, PAUL

DRONE

continued from page 1

that the Iranian UAV was armed with explosives & was tasked to attack Israel,” an Israeli Defense Forces spokesman said in April.

“By intercepting the Iranian UAV, IAF combat helicopters prevented the attack Iran had hoped to carry out in Israel. The UAV was identified & tracked by Israeli defense systems until its destruction, effectively eliminating any threat the Iranian UAV posed.”

A deliberate attack on Israeli soil would be an act of war, and the army’s assessment is likely to sharpen tensions just a week after another raid, reportedly by Israel, killed Iranian personnel in Syria.

After the drone infiltration in February, Israeli combat aircraft took out the drone launcher in Syria, Iranian-allied Syria downed an Israeli plane and Israel bombed Syrian bases. The Israeli crew on the plane crew ejected into Israel-held territory.

Russia, Iran and Iran’s Lebanese ally, the Hezbollah militia, have been propping up the Assad regime in Syria during the seven-year civil war in that country. As the war winds down, with that alliance seemingly on the winning side, Israel has said it cannot tolerate a permanent Iranian presence in the country.

Israeli warnings that it could strike Iranian targets in Syria have been spurred in part by President Donald Trump’s plans to withdraw U.S. forces from the country. An American absence from Syria is likely to fuel Israel’s determination to use every means at its disposal to drive out Iran.
Hurricane Harvey destroyed our synagogue
Here’s how we’re moving on

HOUSTON (JTA) — Over a four-day period at the end of August 2017, Hurricane Harvey drenched this city with over 50 inches of rain, inflicting $125 billion in damages.

The result of the flooding was especially devastating for the tight-knit and geographically close Jewish community of Houston. Seven major Jewish institutions have been severely impacted by Harvey, and an estimated 2,000 Jewish families were affected by the floodwaters.

United Orthodox Synagogues was particularly hard hit, as approximately one-third of our member households was damaged by the flood. The waters also destroyed our beautiful sanctuary, and ruined our daily and High Holidays prayer books as well as our extensive Judaica library.

Our current building has been the home of our merged congregation since 1960. Harvey was only the latest in a series of floods, including in 2015 and 2016. As I write these words, the main sanctuary, executive wing and classrooms are being demolished. A room that holds memories of so many happy occasions has become a place of tears.

We recently held a “farewell” to the building and joined together one last time in our beautiful sanctuary for morning services. It was a morning of mixed emotions as many spoke about memories of growing up in our synagogues. Others spoke about the “end of an era,” while others sat alone in small groups or alone and just cried.

Many were relieved to see the monumental stained glass mural that served as a dramatic backdrop to our bimah had been removed and safely stored away. We all hope to see it incorporated somehow in the new sanctuary.

I shared some thoughts with the congregation:
These walls brought together three different congregations and ultimately combined them into one united synagogue. The seats of this sanctuary cradled generations of families … grandparents, parents and their children, who came to pray here, to cry here and to rejoice here.

These walls have absorbed the sounds of our prayers and the wisdom of our Torah. This room has been the setting where we offered thanksgiving for our greatest triumphs and called out to God in turbulent times.

We have expressed our greatest hopes and dreams here.
Echoing off the walls of this holy chamber is...
Starbucks attacked for including ADL in bias trainings

(JTA) — A Women’s March leader mired in controversy because of her association with the virulently anti-Semitic Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan has attacked Starbucks for including the Anti-Defamation League among its advisers on bias.

Tamika Mallory in a tweet on April 17 accused the Jewish group of “constantly attacking black and brown people.”

On April 17, the coffee giant said that it had solicited counseling from a number of groups, including the ADL, the NAACP and others, after national outrage following the arrest in April of two black men sitting at one of its Philadelphia outlets.

Starbucks announced that it would close its more than 8,000 stores in the United States on the afternoon of May 29 to conduct racial-bias education with staff.

“So you are aware, Starbucks was on a decent track until they enlisted the Anti-Defamation League to build their anti-bias training,” Mallory tweeted. “The ADL is CONSTANTLY attacking black and brown people. This is a sign that they are tone deaf and not committed to addressing the concerns of black folks. Be clear about what’s happening here.”

Mallory wasn’t specific in her criticism, although the ADL had criticized her and Women’s March in February after Mallory tweeted enthusiastically about her attendance at a speech in which Farrakhan attacked Jews, women and the LG-BTQ community.

The ADL’s CEO, Jonathan Greenblatt, was one of several national and local experts Starbucks had asked to consult on racial bias following the weekend’s incident. The others include Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative; Sherrilyn Ifill, president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund; Heather McGhee, president of Demos; and former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder.

Mallory indicated that there are some “great” Jewish organizations that fight racism.

“My people … don’t be fooled … Pay close attention to the entire CHESS BOARD #boycottstarbucks,” she wrote in a second tweet, which also said that the ADL “should have never been enlisted in the first place. There are other great Jewish orgs who fight racism of All kinds every day: Jews for Racial Economic Justice (JFREG) [sic], Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, Jewish Voice for Peace.”

The ADL’s defenders noted that it has a long record in reporting hate crimes and bias against all groups, and has trained law enforcement in recognizing and addressing bias for decades, often in partnership with African-American and civil rights organizations.

Greenblatt, who worked in the White House as a special assistant to President Barack Obama, said he was “proud” to work with Starbucks and the other organizations chosen to provide advice on racial bias.

“This is a crucial next step in fighting implicit bias,” he tweeted.
Syracuse U expels fraternity over racist video

(JTA) — Syracuse University suspended a campus fraternity after a video surfaced of members using racist, anti-Semitic, homophobic and ableist slurs.

In the video, discovered by the Daily Orange, Syracuse’s student newspaper, a member of Theta Tau gets on his knees and repeats an oath with slurs against blacks, Hispanics and Jews, among others.

The video also shows members simulating sexual acts and mocking gay people. Another video features more anti-gay language, as well as a slur against people with disabilities.

The school’s administration suspended the fraternity, whose members attend the engineering school, after confirming the video’s authenticity in April.

“I am appalled and shaken by this and deeply concerned for all members of our community,” Syracuse Chancellor Kent Syverud wrote in an email to students, according to the Daily Orange. He added that the school is committed to “fostering a community where all our students feel welcome and are treated with dignity and respect. This behavior is unacceptable and contradicts our moral standards.”

Three other fraternities have been suspended at the school this academic year, including Alpha Epsilon Pi, a historically Jewish fraternity, for treating a new member unsafely.

The Impact Guild | 708 W Summit Ave

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the lifetime of our community … the multigenerational and diverse sounds that can only be created by a community like ours.

So many of us have seen our kids graduate from UOSGMS [the local Jewish Montessori preschool/ kindergarten program] and RMBA [Robert M. Beren Academy, our Modern Orthodox day school] on our bimah. And how many hundreds and hundreds of lollipops have been distributed up there … reminding our kids that Torah, shul and community are the sweetest treats they will ever get.

Yet there was also hope in the room that day. While it is simplistic and often insensitive to say things like “it’s just a building” or “it’s just stuff,” the community is resolute in believing that its strength derives from our members.

We are facing a choice of how to rebuild our synagogue and where exactly in the neighborhood it will be.

These are important questions, even as we know that we are each others’ most important resource. For now we will hold services and events in Freedman Hall, a nearby building that has the advantage of being elevated.

Since the flood, our community has seen its prayer books and library replaced, and funds have been raised to help our families recover from the devastation. The outpouring of concern, expressed by hundreds of volunteers coming to our neighborhood to help and provide food for flooded families for a full month after the hurricane, have been nothing short of extraordinary.

One of the most astonishing aspects of our recovery, however, is how flooded families have been helping each other.

Despite individual suffering and anguish, members of our community have continued to reach out to others. It is so easy (and understandable) for those suffering from loss to close
Goldstein, Gleisser engagement

Lisa and Maury Goldstein of San Antonio joyfully announce the engagement of their daughter, Missy, to Robert Gleisser, son of Pam and Brian Gleisser of Shaker Heights, Ohio.

Missy is the granddaughter of the late Frank and Marjorie Adler and Paula Goldstein of Stoneham, Massachusetts and the late Arnold Goldstein.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Jewish Studies and Bachelor of Science degree in Family, Youth, and Community Sciences from the University of Florida. Missy is working toward her Master of Arts degrees in Jewish Education and Jewish Nonprofit Management at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles, California where she will graduate in May.

Robert is the grandson of Idarose Luntz of Beachwood and the late Theodore Luntz and Helga Gleisser of Aurora and the late Marcus Gleisser. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degrees in Jewish Studies and Communication from The Ohio State University. Robert is working toward his Masters degree in Hebrew Letters and is a Candidate for Rabbinic Ordination at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio where he will be ordained in 2020.
Have you ever wondered about the Spanish and Jewish influence in South Texas and Mexico? Now is your opportunity to learn its significance! Join us for a discussion of the Sephardic culture with presentations by:

- Katia Schkolnik, Founder & Director, Centro Carvajal Sefarad
- Miguel Bedolla, Associate Director, UTSA Policy Studies Center
- Amanda Lipsitt, Author, Secret Society: Descendants of Crypto-Jews in San Antonio

**This event is free and open to the public**

Register today and be a part of the conversation:

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