Towering authority on Catholic-Jewish relations to speak at Hanukkah Celebration

On Thursday, Dec. 14 at 11:30 a.m., members of the San Antonio-area Roman Catholic and Jewish communities will gather for their 16th annual interfaith Hanukkah celebration. The event will be held at San Fernando Cathedral Hall, 231 West Commerce. The Jewish Federation of San Antonio and San Fernando Cathedral are the co-sponsors.

Featured speaker will be Rabbi A. James Rudin, Senior Interreligious Advisor of the American Jewish Committee (AJC.) He is a graduate of George Washington University with academic distinction and was ordained a rabbi at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. As a member of the (AJC) professional staff for thirty-two years, Rabbi Rudin served as the AJC’s Interreligious Affairs Director.

He was the rabbi of congregations in Kansas City, Missouri and Champaign-Urbana, Illinois and a United States Air Force Chaplain stationed in Japan and Korea. He is the author or editor of 17 books and has been a commentary writer for the Religion News.

Israel to leave UNESCO alongside US, Netanyahu says

(JTA) — Israel will prepare to leave UNESCO alongside the United States, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement praising President Donald Trump for the pullout announced by the Department of State.

The U.S. announced October 12 that by 2019 the United States will leave the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) over its alleged anti-Israel bias and need for reform.

Netanyahu, in a statement, called it “a courageous and ethical decision because UNESCO has become a theater of the absurd and instead of preserving history, distorts it.”

The Israeli leader instructed his foreign ministry to “prepare Israel’s withdrawal from UNESCO in parallel with the United States,” read the statement.

The Paris-based body,
CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday, November 3
Light Candles at: 6:28 p.m.
Shabbat, November 4
Shabbat Ends: 7:21 p.m.

Friday, November 10
Light Candles at: 5:23 p.m.
Shabbat, November 11
Shabbat Ends: 6:17 p.m.

Friday, November 17
Light Candles at: 5:19 p.m.
Shabbat, November 18
Shabbat Ends: 6:15 p.m.

Friday, November 24
Light Candles at: 5:17 p.m.
Shabbat, November 25
Shabbat Ends: 6:13 p.m.

Friday, December 1
Light Candles at: 5:16 p.m.
Shabbat, December 2
Shabbat Ends: 6:13 p.m.
Thanksgiving: Giving thanks for family, community

I believe that Thanksgiving is the most Jewish of secular holidays. Ok, just stay with me for a moment. First of all, the day is about giving thanks. Second, the celebration is centered on a big meal. Third, it is a ‘yontif’ day from work, and we all stay home, literally. And lastly, the Hebrew word for turkey is ‘hodu’, which also means ‘thanks.’ It does not get much more Jewish than that!

I love Thanksgiving because it is simple, at least compared with our Jewish holidays. While there may be levels of observance with Thanksgiving, I am rarely in danger of offending someone at my table with a variant demonstration of the ritual or an alternative prayer. There are no rules and no texts. Therefore, each family is left to create their own traditions and make the day what we each choose fit for our own family style.

What I do appreciate most is simply yet another opportunity to give thanks – to God, to each other and to whatever we feel enables us to feel abundance and joy.

Just a month ago we embraced the holiday of Sukkot, also a time in which we acknowledge our blessings and the might of the universe. We sat outside and we were humbled by the awe and power of nature. In many respects, we Jews “get” thanks better with Sukkot than with Thanksgiving. It is easier to feel gratitude when sitting outside in nature and feeling the elements than it is to do so when sitting in the comfort of one’s home with a glutinous buffet of food, watching football on a big screen television.

Nevertheless, Thanksgiving is about family, friends and being reminded that an extra day of rest, with a focus on gratitude is a good thing. Enjoy the month of November, whether it be actual turkey or ‘praises and thanks.’

Daniel Mendelsohn
Memoirist, essayist, critic, columnist, and translator

Author of The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million (2006)
and An Odyssey: A Father, a Son, and an Epic (2017)

Too Clever by Half: What We Learn from the Mistakes of Great Literary Characters

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2017
7:30 p.m. | Ruth Taylor Recital Hall

Humanities Collective
For more information, contact humanities@trinity.edu or 210-999-8426.
Author/Columnist Abigail Pogrebin addresses Federation Leaders

Jewish Federation of San Antonio (JFSA) leaders gathered on October 2 at the home of Claire Golden, to support the Federation’s 2017 Annual Campaign and to hear from author and columnist, Abgail Pogrebin.

Pogrebin is the author of the new book, My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew, which came out in March 2017. The book is a much-expanded chronicle of her popular column for The Forward, for which she spent twelve months researching and observing every holiday in the Jewish calendar.

She spoke about what she discovered, how it changed her and why she believes the Jewish calendar is a blueprint for life, regardless of faith.

Board Chair Jonathan Gurwitz thanked Lauren Stanley for her efforts in chairing the 2017 Annual Campaign, and campaign volunteers for their support as campaigners and donors. Gurwitz also thanked all in the room for their generosity and for their leadership, and shared his pride in the accomplishments and impact of the Federation locally, in Israel and around world.

JFSA’s goal for the 2017 Campaign is $1,540,000. The goal represents an increase over the previous year, and is imperative, in order to meet the needs of the community.

If you’re interested in contributing to or learning more about the annual campaign, contact Suzi Kariv, Federation’s Chief Development Officer, at (210) 302-6968.
I was born in the former Soviet Union in 1970. My mother's side of the family is from Rumania, and as such, my mom grew up with some exposure to her Jewish roots. In 1940, the Russians chopped off a part of Rumania and my mom's family suddenly became citizens of the USSR.

This meant that there would no longer be any practice of Judaism under the communist regime. My father's side of the family came from White Russia. They had been under the laws of the USSR since 1917, so his family had never been allowed to practice Judaism.

Even though my parents, as adults, were never able to be openly Jewish, they always knew who they were inside and to which people they belonged. They always hoped for an opportunity to immigrate. They wanted their children to grow up Jewish and to be able to practice Judaism openly and freely.

Then something amazing happened in 1979, the year that we left the former Soviet Union. It happened to be a bad year for crops in the USSR, specifically, it was a bad year for wheat. Since bread was the main staple for the country, the USSR turned to America for help with wheat. Rumors were going around that the US would help with wheat supply, if the USSR would "let their people go." In essence, the country would trade "wheat for Jews."

It was a window of opportunity, and my family was very fortunate to be among those who were granted permission to leave. At the time of our immigration, my father, z'1, was 50, my mom was 41, my brother was 13 and I was 9.

I was extremely fortunate, with the help of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, to be able to attend the Jewish Day School, where I was a student for five years. The impact that the Jewish Day School made on my life was irreplaceable. Not only was I able to receive a Jewish education for the first time, but equally important was the fact that my parents were able to learn vicariously through me as

See SPOTLIGHT, page 6

PJ Library invites you to...

PJ GIVES THANKS:
An Intergenerational Mitzvah Morning!

Adante Senior Living
2702 Cembalo Blvd

- Special Thanksgiving snack
- Exciting art projects for children, parents, grandparents & grandpals!
- Songs, stories & mitzvah projects with the seniors of Adante!
- Light Kosher breakfast served

SUNDAY
November 19th
10AM -12 PM

THE JEWISH JOURNAL A publication of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio NOVEMBER 2017 5
SPOTLIGHT
continued from page 5
well. The education and the values that I received in the Jewish Day School remain with me to this day. It is part of who I am.

Following high school, I continued my education in San Antonio with an undergraduate degree from UTSA and a Master’s Degree in Health Care Administration from Trinity University. I spent a number of years working in Hospital Administration and then as a consultant for physician group practices.

Two years ago, I was approached with a unique and beautiful idea of forming a patient advocacy organization for the Jewish Community of San Antonio. With much support from our board, local Rabbis and volunteers, Ohr Lanu was born. Today, I’m proud to say that we are quite active in the San Antonio Jewish Community. We have worked with over 150 patients to date… assisting them in navigating our complicated health care system. Some of the services we offer include recommendations/referrals to physicians, transportation to medical appointments, assistance with medical insurance plans and long-term care policies, coordination with hospitals, home health agencies and hospice.

For me, Ohr Lanu Foundation is an ideal opportunity. It is a chance to work in the healthcare field, to help fellow Jews, and to be able to give back to this amazing Jewish community that took care of my family 37 years ago.

What brought you to San Antonio?
Our journey out of the former Soviet Union was arranged by and paid for by HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society). It required a stay in Austria, which for my family lasted two weeks, followed by a stay in Italy, which for us was two months. During our time in Italy, members of HIAS approached my family and asked us where we wanted to go… Having settled on the United States as a destination point, the next question was which city and state. We now know that we have family both on the east coast and the west coast, but at the time, we had no knowledge of it. The only request from my parents was to not be sent to New York. They had heard from their friends who had previously immigrated to New York about the lack of assimilation. And my parents were determined to mainstream their children and to raise us to be proud American Jews. So, with no particular destination in mind, members of HIAS picked San Antonio, Texas. The warmth of this community was so incredibly breathtaking, that my family has never left. San Antonio is where I met and married my husband Craig Klein and where we have raised our two children, Joseph, 18, and Shayna 13. It is the place we call home and the place where we still keep in touch with our “First American Friends.”

What is your strongest Jewish memory?
I grew up hearing the term HIAS at home, accompanied by phrases such as “they helped us” and “we owe them.” Long before I truly understood what HIAS was, I knew that I should be grateful to them. The arrangement with HIAS at the time was such that after settling in one’s new homeland, the family had 5 years to repay their debt. The debt consisted of airfare only, as all other expenses of the journey – hotels, meals and accommodations, were absorbed by donations. The airfare, once repaid, went to assist the next family in their efforts to immigrate. One of my strongest Jewish memories was the celebration in my parents’ home the day that they sent in their last check to HIAS. They were so very proud of what they had achieved, and well they should have been. It was a tremendous display of discipline and perseverance. I remember their comments at the time, about how this money can now be used to help another Jewish family to immigrate and to be free.

What volunteer activities do you find the most rewarding and why?
Many years ago, I served on the board of the San Antonio Lighthouse for The Blind. It was a tremendously rewarding experience helping those who struggled and were in need. I spent 8 years serving on the board of the Jewish Day School of San Antonio. It was an opportunity to give back to the school that gave me my identity. Today I proudly serve on the Executive Board of Congregation Rodfei Sholom, a position that I have held for several years. It is a privilege to serve at the synagogue that has been my second home since the day we arrived in San Antonio.

This is also my second year serving on the Women’s Philanthropy Board of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. I co-chair the Social Action Committee, working on an annual event that benefits those in need within our community.

I’m not sure that I see any of these activities as
PJ Get Together grants bring San Antonio families together

PJ Library of San Antonio was recently selected for the second time by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation as a pilot site for PJ Get Togethers in our community.

All PJ Library families were eligible to sign up to take part in this special experience.

With the help of $150 grants per event from the Foundation, during the summer of 2017, 35 different PJ parents planned Get Togethers all over the city of San Antonio.

Events included a moms night learning to crochet, Shabbat dinners, a kids Challah bake off, an afternoon of bowling, and a mother/daughter tea party.

Other activities involved fun in the sun at pool parties, splash pads, and backyard barbecues.

Get Togethers were limited to three to five families each with the intention that families could get to know each other on a personal level without the program being too large.

PJ Library San Antonio organizers say they look forward to continued learning and advocating for community building with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

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For more information, visit www.hadassah.org/yahrzeit, call 877.212.3321 or email yahrzeit@hadassah.org.
PJ Library hosts *Hands-On Sukkot at JCC*

PJ Library teamed up with the Barshop JCC for an afternoon of outdoor fun to celebrate Sukkot (Festival of Booths).

Children of all ages attended this drop-in event to learn about Sukkot, participate in Sukkot activities, and socialize with friends.

PJ Library set up activity stations near the sukkah, where children decorated Sukkot cookies and made sukkah picture frames. PJ kids put icing on their cookies and placed an edible etrog/lulav or sukkah on top. They also made sukkah picture frames to take home by gluing popsicle sticks and tissue paper on cardstock.

Between activities, children gathered for story time near the sukkah. PJ reader, Lauren Abraham read the story, *The Best Sukkot Pumpkin Ever*, one of the newest PJ Library books in circulation, which focuses on helping those in need. The afternoon was filled with fun, creativity, togetherness, and really captured the spirit of Sukkot.

PJ kids making Sukkah picture frames to take home

PJ kids decorating Sukkah cookies with icing, cereal, and candy

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In the Community

Congregation Agudas Achim to host day of giving and Interfaith program – Nov. 19

Congregation Agudas Achim is working hard to give back this year for Thanksgiving.

The Inda Posner Religious School students from 3rd through 12th Grade will be volunteering together on Sunday, Nov. 19 with Sunday School students at Woodlawn Baptist Church. The students will be volunteering at the farm and garden associated with the San Antonio Food Bank.

At the same time the older students are volunteering together, the younger students in Pre-K through 2nd Grade will be helping out at the PJ Library PJ Gives Back event at Adante Senior Living.

Then that same evening at 7 p.m., Agudas Achim will host the first ever Abrahamic Traditions Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. The service will involve dozens of local synagogues, churches, and mosques to bring everyone together to celebrate our shared traditions and importance of bringing everyone together to give thanks for the good we have in our lives. There will be a dessert reception following the service.

“Giving back to our community and praying together are integral parts of Judaism, but also shared with our Christian and Muslim neighbors and friends,” said Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham. “It will be a beautiful day and evening to bring our community together for a good cause and to give thanks.”

Congregation Beth Am signs lease with First Unitarian Universalist Church

Congregation Beth Am, San Antonio’s only Reconstructionist congregation, is happy to report the signing of a new lease with the First Unitarian Universalist Church for the current 5778 year.

“We’ve been at the Unitarian Campus for years and years. It’s a good fit for us, and we’re thrilled to be continuing our friendly, mutually beneficial relationship,” said President Terri Foose.

Beth Am has been an innovative, vibrant congregation, boasting the first female rabbi in San Antonio. The congregation has pioneered egalitarian participation, a blend of rabbinic and lay leadership, a pay-as-you-see-fit dues structure, and a no-ticket High Holiday policy.

In November, Beth Am will have a Kabbalat Shabbat service and potluck dinner at the home of Rhoda Rappaport at 6:30 p.m. on November 3, and Saturday morning services at 10 a.m. at the UUC on November 11 and 18. There will be no service over the Thanksgiving weekend. The congregation’s schedule for future months will be published in its monthly bulletin and on Beth Am’s web site.

Giving thanks with Temple Chai

In the spirit of the Thanksgiving holiday, Temple Chai will host a special Shabbat service on Friday, Nov. 24 at 6:45 p.m.

Using an original liturgy that combines the traditional Shabbat prayers with uniquely American themes, the service will celebrate the history of American Judaism.

Readings will include selections from the founding documents of the U.S.A., various iterations of Reform siddurim (prayer books) and early American religious libertarians.

All are welcome to celebrate. The service will be at 2121 Lockhill Selma, at the northeast corner of NW Military Hwy. For more information about the congregation, call (210) 340-2090 or visit www.templechaisa.org.
Community Unity March Honoring the Legacy of MLK, Jr.

Monday, January 15, 2018

The CRC is organizing our ENTIRE Jewish community, regardless of congregational affiliation, to march together under a single banner. Details and logistics will be provided to each congregation in the days to come.

Please contact Ellen Ollervidez at 210.302.6962 or ollervideze@jfsatx.org for more information.
The Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning will host a Shabbat weekend with noted author and scholar Rabbi Chaim Miller in early December.

On Friday, Dec. 8, services will begin at 5:15 p.m. at the Chabad Center, 14535 Blanco Rd., followed by Shabbat dinner and a talk entitled Don’t Mess With the Zohar! How the Zohar became the most important text of Kabbalah and what you need to know about it, at 6:15 p.m. A children’s program during the lecture will be provided. Cost for Friday night dinner is $20/ adults, $12 children under 12. Saturday, Dec. 9, morning services will begin at 9:30 a.m., Torah reading at 10:30 a.m. followed by a Kiddush luncheon and a presentation So what’s this thing called The Tanya? This incredible book has changed the lives and plans of millions of people. A tour through the Tanya’s key ideas and how they can benefit your life, at 12:15 p.m. The luncheon and address are free and open to the entire community.

Educated at Leeds University and at the Haberdashers’ Aske’s School in London, England, Rabbi Chaim Miller first began to explore his Jewish roots in full-time Torah study at the age of twenty-one. Less than a decade later, he published the best-selling Kol Menachem Chumash.

Miller’s 2011 compilation, the Lifestyle Books Torah, was distributed to thousands of servicemen and women in the U.S. Army. In 2013, he was chosen by the Jewish Press as one of sixty “Movers and Shakers” in the Jewish world. He lives in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife Chani and seven children.

For more information and reservations, visit www.ChabadSA.com/Miller or call (210) 764-0300.

Temple Chai Rabbi welcomes disagreement over coffee

“My role is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.”

That was part of Temple Chai Rabbi David Komerofsky’s message during Rosh Hashanah this year.

“We cannot be silent for fear of offending people. Being popular or being liked means nothing in the long run. So here is my challenge this Rosh Hashanah: In the coming year, make someone mad. Argue with someone you love. Push back against what you don’t like and do not back down.”

Recognizing that there are divergent viewpoints amongst the membership of the 85-family congregation, Rabbi Komerofsky encouraged those who disagree with his interpretation of current events to scheduled time for a conversation over coffee so that they can listen to each other.

“If you’re comforted by my words, my work is done. If you’re afflicted by what I’m saying, my work has just begun. Some are uncomfortable or upset that I raise questions about the status quo, or express frustration with Jewish life in its current form. I’d rather we talk with each other than about each other, and hope that we can disagree without being disagreeable.”

Anyone wishing to talk about comfort or affliction is welcome to schedule a coffee with the rabbi by visiting www.templechaisa.org/rabbi.

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IN THE COMMUNITY

JBNO and CAA Men’s Club to host NFL game watching

On Thursday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. Congregation Agudas Achim Men’s Club and Jew Boys Night Out (JBNO) will host a night of grilling and football watching. Thursday Night Football will be showcasing the Dallas Cowboys are playing the Washington Redskins.

All San Antonio area Jewish men are invited to for a free night of food, drinks, and of course football. Participants will grill kosher hamburgers, hotdogs, at Agudas Achim and enjoy the company of other Jewish men in San Antonio.

“Jew Boys Night Out is one of our most successful Jewish programs,” said Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Rabbi at Congregation Agudas Achim. “We are thrilled to be hosting JBNO again for a fun free night of grilling, football watching, and hanging out together.”

JBNO founder Howie Nestel added, “We love our monthly night out. A chance to just get out, slow down and meet for dinner and drinks somewhere around the city. It’s so great to have local Jewish organizations partner with us occasionally to expand the reach of JBNO and get Jewish guys more active in our Jewish community.”

For more information, contact the Agudas office at (210) 479-0307 or go to JBNO.org.

Temple Beth-El Hurricane Relief funds to go to From the Heart Fund for Matagorda County

The Landsman Family Relief Fund of Temple Beth-El, Temple Beth-El Religious School, and Temple Beth-El Sisterhood have pledged to send Hurricane Relief Funds to “From the Heart Fund” for Matagorda County.

“From the Heart Fund” was established by Temple Beth-El member Barry Chasnoff and his brother, Dr. Ira Chasnoff, who grew up in Bay City in Matagorda County, Texas, which was recently devastated by Hurricane Harvey. This is a very small, low-income community that has been overlooked by disaster relief organizations, and needs a tremendous amount of help.

The “From the Heart Fund” for Matagorda County seeks to support families and schools by:

• Providing support for trauma-informed mental health services to children in all Matagorda County’s schools and trauma-informed education for County families.
• Collecting and distributing emergency funds to individual families in Matagorda County who need economic support as they rebuild their lives and homes.
• Collecting and distributing emergency funds to individual families in Matagorda County who need economic support as they rebuild their lives and homes.

To help individuals and families in need, and to be sure your contribution goes directly to those who need it, you may make an online donation at www.matagordaheart.org. All administrative costs, such as travel and housing for the psychologists being brought in, are being paid by Barry and Ira so that all money raised will go for the benefit of families in need.
IN THE COMMUNITY

Jewish National Fund CEO to speak at Agudas Achim

Congregation Agudas Achim will host Jewish National Fund (JNF) CEO, Russell Robinson on November 28 at 7 pm. He will speak on Beyond the Trees: What JNF Is Doing in Israel Today.

This is the first visit to San Antonio for the CEO of one of the top three Jewish organizations in the world.

JNF is commonly known for planting trees throughout Israel, but there is more to the organization than trees. JNF helps build communities, establish water solutions, preserve historic sites, and provides services for individuals with disabilities and special needs, just to name a few initiatives.

Robinson, was recently ranked 26th on the Jerusalem Post's list of the 50 most influential Jews in the world! “Russell Robinson is an amazing speaker and I hope the entire community comes out to hear him and about all of the fantastic things JNF is doing for Israel today,” said Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham.

The event is open to the community and dessert will be served. Please RSVP to jnf.org/sanantonio by November 16th.

For more information, please contact Reagan Weil, JNF Executive Director, Southwest at (512) 410-1438 or rweil@jnf.org.

MAIN EVENT

continued from page 1

at the 2000 Tucson Games*. Harry also served on the JCC Board in 2007-08. Mary’s connection to the JCC goes back to the JCC Rampart location, where she served as a Pre-K teacher in the Early Childhood program, which she continued for a few years at the Campus; and now serves as the Judaic Specialist.

Harry is a Past President of Temple Beth-El.

He currently serves on the board and Executive Committee of the Jewish Federation, chairing the Allocations process. He is involved nationally as Treasurer of the Board of Trustees for the Union for Reform Judaism.

Mary has played a significant leadership role at Temple Beth-El as an advisor in the SAFTY program, and she later accepted a role as Regional Director for NIFTY TOR (Texas/Oklahoma Region). Also being honored at The Main Event is Alissa Levey Baugh, who is widely recognized for her expertise in early childhood education. She accepted the Early Childhood Director’s position at the JCC in 1989, and immediately breathed new life into the program.

Over the past 28 years, Alissa and the Block & Dreeben School have raised a generation of youth, many whose own children are now enrolled.

Alissa has championed community-wide initiatives, including the Cultural & Friendship Exchange Program, the Start Seeing Diversity Conference, and Precious Minds, New Connections.

Funds raised at the Main Event benefit youth and senior services, scholarship programs, and future projects at the JCC through the Walter and Reba Viner Charitable Fund.

More information, including ticket and sponsorship opportunities, is available online at www.jccsanantonio.org/mainevent.

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JOYCE KLEIN sells the city
TASA SUKKAH HOP
Torah Academy students dress up as the Ushpizin (seven holy guests) for the Annual TASA Sukkah Hop in October.

SUKKOT UNDER THE STARS
Rodfei Sholom’s Evening Under the Stars on October 7 included a traditional Sukkot celebration filled with food, friends and fun.

TASA SUKKAH HOP
Torah Academy students dress up as the Ushpizin (seven holy guests) for the Annual TASA Sukkah Hop in October.

SILLY SUKKAH SPECTACULAR
Inda Posner Religious School held a silly Sunday Sukkah Spectacular on Sunday, Oct. 8. Students and teachers dressed up in silly hats and socks while enjoying fun and educational experiences all morning long.

SUKKOT UNDER THE STARS
Rodfei Sholom’s Evening Under the Stars on October 7 included a traditional Sukkot celebration filled with food, friends and fun.

SHAKES IN THE SHACK
Children and families enjoyed a Kids Shakes in the Shack at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning on Sunday, Oct. 8. The afternoon included Sukkot-themed creativity booths, inflatables and face-painting, milkshakes and the opportunity to shake the Lulav and Etrog in the Sukkah. For upcoming Kids events visit www.ChabadSA.com/cKids or call (210) 764-0300.

JAZZ IN THE SUKKAH AT TEMPLE BETH-EL
Temple Beth-El’s Saturday night Sukkot event was Jazz in the J.Y. Golden Sukkah, featuring live jazz, and proved to be a relaxing way to spend time with friends in the Sukkah.

SILLY SUKKAH SPECTACULAR
Inda Posner Religious School held a silly Sunday Sukkah Spectacular on Sunday, Oct. 8. Students and teachers dressed up in silly hats and socks while enjoying fun and educational experiences all morning long.

ALL YOUTH KICKOFF
Some of Temple Beth-El’s K-12th graders getting the year started at their fun All-Youth Kickoff.
RODFEI TASHLICH
Congregation Rodfei Sholom continued its tradition of Tashlich by the River at the Pearl Brewery Amphitheatre on Sunday, Oct. 1.

DYNAMIC LEARNING AT CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL
Jewish learning springs to life for students ages 5-12 at Chabad Hebrew School. Curriculum highlights include Hebrew reading, Jewish history, holidays, tradition, values, and the new MadTorah curriculum that indulges children’s natural curiosity with live scientific experiments, sparking lively discussions about the hidden Jewish life lessons embedded in G-d’s magnificent universe. For more information please visit www.ChabadSA.com/HebrewSchool or contact Rochel Teldon, Director at (210) 764-0300 or rochel@chabadsa.com.

THROUGH A CHILD’S EYES AT GAN GANI
Throughout October, Gan Gani Preschool students immersed in imaginative work and play, experiencing the joy of learning lifelong skills along Jewish values and traditions. For more information, call (210) 492-1085 or email director@gangani.org.

ANNUAL CAA SISTERHOOD FASHION SHOW
Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood hosted its annual Fashion Show and Torah Fund luncheon on October 15. This year models included Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham and Hazzan Jeremy Lipton, (far right).
Around the World
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JOAN NATHAN
Thursday, November 9
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Presented by The Pomegranate Society Co-Chairs
Lizette Feld & Pat Kalmans

Joan Nathan is “The queen of American Jewish Cooking” and a multiple James Beard Award Winner. She has made it her mission to uncover the forgotten recipes of the Jewish diaspora. In King Solomon’s Table, she draws on her decades of travels to give us unique and diverse Jewish recipes from around the world and across the ages.

They see FRIENDSHIP.
We see COMMUNITY.

Shabbat Shalom, Y’all!

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio will “gift” $1000 to first time Jewish overnight campers through One Happy Camper grants. Help your children build community while being Jewish and having fun!

Contact Lauren Abraham for more information at:
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To sign up visit:
www.onehappycamper.org
YOUTH AND SENIORS GATHER TOGETHER UNDER THE SUKKAH AT CAA FOR YAD B’YAD PROGRAM

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim held a Yad b’Yad program in the sukkah this year with Grandpals and seniors from around the city. This program is in partnership with San Antonio Jewish Senior Services. The next Yad b’Yad program is for Thanksgiving on November 17 at 9:15 a.m.

RODFEI GIVES BACK – THANKSGIVING 2018

This month, Rodfei Sholom will continue its annual tradition of providing Thanksgiving meals to police officers and firefighters at various local stations.

Organizers say congregants “take great pride in continued efforts to thank the valued officers who make our community safe, even when it takes them away from their own families on cherished holidays.”

Congregants and members of the community are invited to help prepare and deliver food on Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, Nov. 23. Children are encouraged to participate in this meaningful and fun mitzvah project. For more information, contact the Rodfei office at (210) 493-3557.
WHAT’S HAPPENING

CHILDREN’S SERVICES AT TEMPLE BETH-EL
Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Children’s Services at Temple Beth-El were well-attended and fun for all ages!

CTEENS SUKKAH HOP
San Antonio’s CTeen chapter rode around town for their Sukkah Hop in a flatbed Sukkah Mobile which they built and decorated with spray paint. The trip included blessings on the Lulav and Etrog, and visits to three family Sukkahs. For more info follow www.Facebook.com/cteenSA or call (210) 764-0300.

Catholics & Jews Celebrate Hanukkah Luncheon

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017
San Fernando Cathedral Hall
231 W. COMMERCE

LUNCHEON AT 11:30AM
Featuring Guest Speaker: Rabbi A. James Rudin
Senior Interreligious Advisor of the American Jewish Committee

Tickets: $36 Table of 10: $360

SAN FERNANDO CATHEDRAL

To reserve your seat, purchase tickets or for sponsorship information, please contact Louis Sanchez at (210) 227-1297 ext. 129 or by email at lsanchez@sfcathedral.org
WHAT’S HAPPENING

RODFEI SUNDAY TALMUD TORAH FOR SUKKOT
On Sunday, Oct. 10, Congregation Rodfei Sholom hosted a festive Talmud Torah Sukkot family experience which included Havdalah, Sukkah S’mores, and crafts.

YOUTH NEWS

Camp Rodfei to host Winter Camp – December 25-29

Rodfei Sholom’s Winter Camp and SEED Counselors will return December 25-29 for a week of winter wonderland fun featuring trips, friends and the beloved Camp Rodfei slurpee machine. All community children, age 4-12, are welcome to participate. The hours will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more details, contact the synagogue office at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557 or e-mail Rabbi Ashi Gluck directly at ugluck87@gmail.com.

FAMILY 4-PACK
SAVE 25% when you buy 4 tickets

The Nutcracker
November 24-26, 30
December 1-3

Ballet San Antonio

Harbour Hospice
The only Jewish certified Hospice
Anna Gorehow, RN
CEO/Administrator
Phone: (210) 403-9911
Fax: (210) 403-9926
Toll Free: (877) 403-9911
**TASA BUDDIES**
TASA older students working with their younger “Buddies.”

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**Fall J-Camp Fun at the JCC**

The Barshop Jewish Community Center is offering a Fall J-Camp November 20 through 22. Camp is open to children in kindergarten-sixth grade and registration is available by the day.

Campers will participate in arts and crafts, spend time in the gym and on the playground, and enjoy Thanksgiving-themed activities. The group will also go on a field trip to the South Texas Maize in Hondo. J-Camp is open to the community; discounted rates are available to JCC members.

For registration information, please visit www.jccsanantonio.org/fallcamp or call the Youth & Camping Office at (210) 302-6859. The JCC will also be holding a Winter J-Camp from December 21 to January 5. Flexible registration is available to accommodate school and travel schedules.

For more information on either of these programs, please contact Rachel Rustin at rustinr@jcc-sa.org or (210) 302-6969.

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**TASA Chessed trip to senior centers**

Around the High Holidays, TASA students engaged in a two-stage Chessed program. Before Rosh Hashanah, TASA students baked hundreds of cookies to be distributed to residents of local senior living centers. Before Yom Kippur the students visited Adante and Madison Estates senior living centers. TASA students visited with the residents and performed several songs for them. The students also presented the residents greeting cards and the cookies that they baked for the seniors.

The two part program put into practice several of the values and principles emphasized at TASA. TASA’s focus is on caring for others. TASA students had a concrete, hands-on opportunity to engage in G’milut Chasadim (acts of kindness) and v’Hadarta P’nei Zakein (respecting our elders). They practiced a unique aspect of selflessness by baking cookies for others without partaking of the cookies for themselves.

They learned that tzedakah (charity) is not limited to money, but includes giving of one’s time, effort, and attention - and that giving something they made themselves is more meaningful than giving something store bought.

Organizers say onlookers were struck by how the students worked with a true spirit of cooperation (Achdut) as they prepared the cookies for the seniors, and by how much the children enjoyed engaging with the seniors.

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**Chicago Bagel & Deli**

We have Hebrew National Salami, Corned Beef, Pastrami

Wurzbach & Vance Jackson 691-2245
Monday-Friday 6am-3pm • Saturday 7am-3pm • Sunday 7am-2pm

Like us on Facebook!

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**Temple Chai**

San Antonio’s Small Reform Congregation
A Member of the Union for Reform Judaism

Service is more than an hour of praying.

Join us to honor the service of active duty military and veterans.

Friday, November 10 at 6:45 PM
2121 Lockhill Selma

www.templechaisa.org

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**North Park Lexus of San Antonio**

NorthParkLexus.com
210-308-8900
NCJW’S Thank a Senior program provides meals for Thanksgiving

In cooperation with Jewish Family Service, the National Council of Jewish Women is raising funds to provide Thanksgiving meals to seniors and shut-ins. A donation of $25 to NCJW’s Thank a Senior program will furnish a complete meal for a senior in need. Donations may be mailed to: NCJW, San Antonio Section, P.O. Box 780506, 12951 Huebner Rd., San Antonio, TX. 78230 or visit, http://www.ncjwsa.org/thank-a-senior, to make a donation.

SAJSS hires new Program Director

San Antonio Jewish Senior Services (SAJSS) has hired Mindy Cohen as the new Program Director. A graduate of Texas A&M University, Cohen has extensive experience in radio, television, and theater, as a writer, director, and producer. After spending 15 years in New York, Cohen returned to the Alamo City 2015, and joined The Patient Institute as a marketing consultant. She assisted the non-profit in its rebranding to reflect its new focus on seniors.

In her new position with SAJSS, Cohen will be planning and implementing new SAJSS programs. Cohen is also involved with the Nonprofit Council, serving as Chair of The Big Gig 2018: Nonprofit SNL.

Assistance with Medicare Open Enrollment

San Antonio Jewish Senior Services, (SAJSS) is hosting Certified Benefits Counselors from AACOG’s Bexar Area Agency on Aging to help with Medicare open enrollment questions and concerns November 2 and 16 this year. Counselors can explain your options for prescription drug plans, health plans and supplements through free and impartial counseling.

Whether you have original Medicare, a Medicare Advantage plan, or a Part D prescription drug plan, you have one opportunity each year to make changes. This opportunity is Medicare’s annual enrollment period, which this year is October 15 – December 7.

These sessions are only available by making an appointment and will take place on at the SAJSS office – 13409 N.W. Military Hwy. #210. To schedule your assistance, call the Alamo Service Connection’s Health Information Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) at (210) 477-3275.

Luther, Anti-Semitism, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer: a reflection on the legacy of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation

Lecture by Claire Hein Blanton

November 14, 2017 6:30pm

Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the Jewish Community
12500 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, TX 78231
Holzman Auditorium
RSVP to EVENTS @HMMSA.ORG

Claire Hein Blanton is a doctoral student in Ethics and Systematic Theology at the University of Aberdeen. She holds a BA in History from Rice University and a Master’s of Divinity in Biblical and Theological Studies from Baylor University’s Truett Seminary. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German pastor and key founding member of the Confessing Church, a movement within German Protestantism during Nazi Germany, that arose in opposition to government-sponsored efforts to unify all Protestant churches into a single pro-Nazi Protestant Reich Church. Arrested in 1943 by the Gestapo, Bonhoeffer was executed by hanging.
YOUR JEWISH COMMUNITY

JEWS IN SAN ANTONIO

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

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Sherwinr@jfsatx.org / (210) 302-6961

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Lynn Waghalter, Librarian Beldon Library
waghalterf@jfsatx.org

SAN ANTONIO CONGREGATIONS

Congregation Agudas Achim (Conservative)
16550 Huebner Road, San Antonio, TX 78248
Phone: (210) 479-0307 Fax: (210) 479-0295
website: www.agudas-achim.org
Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Senior Rabbi
Hazzan Jeremy Lipton
Samantha Mazuz, Director of Congregational Learning
Congregation Beth Am (Reconstructionist)
7150 IH 10 West, San Antonio, TX 78213
Phone: (210) 492-2173 Fax: (210) 342-8935
website: www.bethamsatx.org
Lay Leader Marion Bernstein
Congregation Rodfei Sholom (Orthodox)
3003 Sholom Dr., San Antonio, TX 78230
Phone: (210) 493-3557 Fax: (210) 492-0629
E-mail address: rodfeisa@gmail.com
Website: www.rodfeisholom.org
Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg
Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg
Temple Beth-El (Reform)
211 Belknap Place, San Antonio, TX 78212
Phone: (210) 733-9135 Fax: (210) 737-3946
E-mail address: templebeth-elsa.org
Website: www.beth-elsa.org
Rabbi Mara Nathan, Senior Rabbi
Rabbi Marina Yergin
Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl, Emeritus
Cantor Julie Berlin

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

Chabad Lubavitch of South Texas
14535 Blanco Rd., San Antonio, TX 78216
Phone: (210) 492-1085 Fax: (210) 493-9460
website: www.chabadsa.com
Rabbi Chaim Block
Rabbi Yossi Mann
Rabbi Levi Teldon

Congregation Israel of San Antonio (Conservative, Covenantal Judaism in Prayer and Practice)
Mailing: 2652 Inwood Briar,
San Antonio, TX 78248
Phone: (210) 387-2436
Fax: (210) 764-0295
website: www.congregationisraelsatx.org
Facebook: Congregation Israel of San Antonio

Congregation Israel of San Antonio (Orthodox)
16550 Huebner Rd, San Antonio, TX 78248 / Phone: (210) 479-0429

Shmuel Bass Torah Academy
14535 Blanco Rd. 78216 / Phone: (210) 764-0300

Hillel San Antonio
1435 Blanco Rd. 78216 / Phone: (210) 764-0300

Heintz Preschool
14550 Huebner Rd. 78248 / Phone: (210) 479-0429

Chabad Lubavitch of South Texas
14353 Blanco Rd., San Antonio, TX 78216
Phone: (210) 492-1085 Fax: (210) 493-9460
website: www.chabadsa.com
Rabbi Chaim Block
Rabbi Yossi Mann
Rabbi Levi Teldon

Congregation Israel of San Antonio (Conservative, Covenantal Judaism in Prayer and Practice)
Mailing: 2652 Inwood Briar,
San Antonio, TX 78248
Phone: (210) 387-2436
Fax: (210) 764-0295
website: www.congregationisraelsatx.org
Facebook: Congregation Israel of San Antonio

Jewish Federation is dedicated to building a strong Jewish community in San Antonio and worldwide through its annual campaign, and by providing quality opportunities for Jewish individuals & families.

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: jcc@jccsa.org
President: Dana Halff Website: www.jccsanantonio.org

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
President: Steve Butler Website: www.thecampusstx.org

San Antonio Jewish Senior Services
13409 N.W. Military Hwy. Suite 210, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 616-4811 Website: www.sajss.com
Interim Executive Director: Mike Kelke President: Suzanne Huber

Hadassah, the Women’s Zionist Organization of America
Website: www.hadassah.org, www.facebook.com/hadassah
Phone: (212) 355-7900 (National) or (210) 394-7405 (Local)
Contact: Roberta Abelman, rabelman@satx.rr.com

Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Antonio
P.O. Box 780264 San Antonio, TX 78278 Phone: (210) 736-4352

Jewish Family Service
12500 NW Military Highway, Suite 250, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6920 Fax: (210) 302-6952
Executive Director: M. H. Levine President: Marion Bernstein

National Council Of Jewish Women (NCJW)
Website: www.ncjwsa.org Membership: Cathy Potott - capot52@gmail.com

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

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

Cantor Julie Berlin
Rabbi abbey Scheinberg
Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg

San Antonio Holocaust Memorial Museum
200 N. New Braunfels Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78210
Mailing: P.O. Box 19544, San Antonio, TX 78219
Phone: (210) 302-6801 Fax: (210) 408-2322
Director: Michael S. Nutter Website: www.sahmmsa.org

Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Antonio
P.O. Box 780264 San Antonio, TX 78278 Phone: (210) 736-4352

Jewish Family Service
12500 NW Military Highway, Suite 250, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6920 Fax: (210) 302-6952
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Gan Gani 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

WE ARE JEWISH SAN ANTONIO.

Founder in 1922, the Jewish Federation is dedicated to building a strong Jewish community in San Antonio and worldwide through its annual campaign, and by providing quality opportunities for Jewish individuals & families.
Applications available at hmmsa.org. Submit nominations via email to education@hmmsa.org or mail to 12500 NW Military Hwy, Ste. 200, San Antonio, Texas 78231. All nominations due by January 5th, 2018. This award will be presented at the Hope for Humanity Gala, March 7, 2018.

**Maxine Cohen**
*Hope for Humanity Educator Award*

**Maxine Cohen is a longtime leader** in the San Antonio Jewish Community. She has spearheaded Holocaust education in San Antonio and South Texas. In both her professional and personal life, Maxine has demonstrated her passionate belief in the importance of civic engagement in our democratic society.

**Nominate an inspirational educator** in your community today! Awarded to a K-12 educator who has demonstrated the moral courage of an Upstander in defiance of prejudice and discrimination, and in support of humanity. **Hope for Humanity Educator Award**

The San Antonio Jewish War Veterans Post 753 will host its monthly breakfast meeting on Sunday, Nov. 26 at 9 a.m. at the Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community, Room 277. The group will recap their events in October which included a bingo/social at CTC Audie Murphy VA Hospital.

There are many activities in which the SA Post is involved in, centering on the Veteran and his family. For further details please contact Junior Vice Commander David Marne at (210) 281-1604. **Jewish War Veterans Corner**

HFLA and JWV offering interest free loans for veterans: The SA JWV Post in conjunction with SA Hebrew Free Loan has arranged an opportunity for veterans and their immediate families to borrow money with no interest. For further information please contact Hebrew Free Loan at (210) 736-4352.

In honor of Veterans Day, and with the help of Jewish War Veterans Post 753, Temple Chai will host a service and Oneg Shabbat to honor service members and veterans on Fri., November 10th at 6:45 p.m. at its Lockhill Selma facility.

Patriotic melodies and readings from the U.S. Armed Forces Siddur will be included in the service, and the Sisterhood will prepare the Oneg Shabbat. All are welcome to attend. For more information, visit www.templechaisa.org or call 210.340.2090.

**Maxine Cohen is a longtime leader** in the San Antonio Jewish Community. She has spearheaded Holocaust education in San Antonio and South Texas. In both her professional and personal life, Maxine has demonstrated her passionate belief in the importance of civic engagement in our democratic society.

Nominate an inspirational educator in your community today! Awarded to a K-12 educator who has demonstrated the moral courage of an Upstander in defiance of prejudice and discrimination, and in support of humanity.

**JEWISH VETERANS**

**New partnership creates transportation resource for Jewish vets and dependents**

Jewish military veterans and their dependents now have an additional resource for transportation to area congregations or the Campus, thanks to a special transportation fund created by San Antonio Jewish Senior Services and Jewish War Veterans Post 753. SAJSS and JWV Post 753 have each contributed to the fund to ensure that Jewish veterans and their dependents stay connected to the larger Jewish community.

“Because of demand, SAJSS has to limit the number of rides we provide per week, per person,” said Suzanne Huber, SAJSS Board President, “but the practical effect of this fund is to remove that cap for veterans and their dependents.”

“As our veterans and their dependents age, transportation becomes more important,” said Herschel Sheiness, JWV Post 753 Commander. “Maybe they no longer feel comfortable driving at night, or maybe they’ve stopped driving altogether – it really doesn’t matter. They need the opportunity to stay connected to the community, and if the number of events they’d like to attend exceeds the cap, this will allow them to do so without having to choose one over the other. It’s a small ‘thank you’ to the veterans who have made sacrifices for the rest of us.”

Those wishing to use this fund for transportation should call the SAJSS office, (210) 616-4811, and identify themselves as veterans or dependents. They will be asked to provide evidence of eligibility, such as a retired military ID or dependent ID, or Form DD-214.
BELDON LIBRARY NEWS

Did you know? It’s Jewish Book Month

Celebrate Jewish Book Month, November 12 – December 12, at the Beldon Library. Jewish Book Month is a national month-long celebration of Jewish books.

The Mitzvah Project with the Vilnius Jewish Public Library in Lithuania is ongoing. Monetary donations to help with shipping costs of books are appreciated. For more information contact Beldon Librarian Lynn Waghalter at waghalterl@jfsatx.org or (210) 302-6805.

FALL 2017 BELDON LIBRARY HOURS

Mondays
12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesdays
12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

ARTS & CULTURE

Giddy up into the Wild West Book Fair

Heintz Preschool and the Inda Posner Religious School at Congregation Agudas Achim will host a Wild West themed Scholastic Book fair from November 5 - 17. The book fair will be open Sunday through Friday for two weeks, including special hours during the 5th Annual Texas Kosher BBQ championship on Sunday, Nov. 12 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The book fair will feature both Judaic and non-Judaic books. This is a great way for both parents and grandparent to stock up on books for the holidays. For more information, call (210) 479-0429 or by email at j.peden@agudas-achim.org.

Houston author Ali Katz to speak at the JCC

As part of the Author & Speaker Series, the Barshop JCC will welcome Ali Katz on Thursday, Jan. 18.

Ali’s book, Hot Mess to Mindful Mom: 40 Ways to Find Balance and Joy in You Every Day, is divided into three parts that help parents become more mindful: everyday practices, tools used as needed, and attitude adjustments along the way. These small changes help parents find more calm and balance in day to day life.

The book also advocates for parents to reconnect and take care of themselves in order to better care for those they love.

The Jewish Book Council remarks that “Ali’s uncanny ability to make the concepts of self-care, mediation and mindfulness feel relatable, and downright fun, truly sets her apart from the traditional self-help crowd.”

Tickets are available by calling (210) 302-6867 or online at jccsanantonio.org.

Mayor Nirenberg leads trade mission to Israel

In October, Mayor Ron Nirenberg led a group of San Antonio business leaders on a trade and cultural mission to Israel designed to deepen relationships with local leaders, align economic development opportunities in targeted industries and strengthen cultural and educational ties between the two countries. The mission, organized the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, included meetings with local government leaders and business executives and focus on cybersecurity, healthcare, biosciences, entrepreneurship and startups.

“There is broad recognition in international business and diplomatic circles that economic partnerships don’t just happen,” Mayor Nirenberg said. “They require lots of work and relationship building that happens on trade missions just like this.”

Israel is a targeted country in the city’s 2015 trade and investment strategy, which was developed through the Brookings Institution’s Global Cities Initiative (GCI).

A joint project of the Brookings Institution and JPMorgan Chase, the initiative is designed to help metropolitan leaders grow their regional economies by strengthening international connections and competitiveness.

The delegation, which included local business representatives such as president and CEO of the Texas Research and Technology Foundation and chairman of the innovation hub VelocityTX, met with a number of different tech, venture and bioscience firms, including the cybersecurity think tank and startup accelerator Team8.

Watch for further details on the trip in the December issue of the Jewish Journal.
EVERYONE COUNTS.
CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?

WE ARE FAMILY! In the wake of natural disasters or hard times of any sort. Together, we are there helping to rebuild, restore security, and hope.

Federation is there for all people — we can’t do it without you. Help us continue to reach out in ways no else can, in San Antonio, Houston, Israel or wherever we are needed. GIVE TODAY.

We are Jewish San Antonio…
We are STRONGER TOGETHER.

Lauren Stanley, Chair, 2017 Annual Campaign | Jonathan Gurwitz, Board Chair

JewishFederation@jfsatx.org | 210.302.6960 | JFSATX.ORG
The Comatose Warrior

The most remarkable character in Nathan Englander’s new novel, Dinner at the Center of the Earth, is given a title – the General - but no name. Most of the story is set in 2014, when the General lies in a coma, attended by his faithful factotum Ruthi. As his bloated body finally fails him, the General’s mind wanders back through his brilliant but tarnished career in the Israel Defense Forces and as prime minister.

He is tormented by memories of the massacre he carried out in the Arab town Qibya and his son’s accidental gunshot death. The General - “warrior, peacemaker, murderer, saint” - longs for reconciliation. Anyone familiar with Israeli history will recognize the General as a fictional version of Ariel Sharon, the most successful and controversial of Israeli commanders.

Another character, referred to as Prisoner Z, is an American schlemiel who bungled the enterprise of espionage and now languishes in solitary confinement at a black site in the Negev. Recognizing that he had become complicit with atrocity, he changed his mind about spying for Israel. As a result, the General ordered his imprisonment more than a dozen years ago, and no one else but Ruthi and Ruthi’s son, who is hired, off the books, to be his only guard, knows of Prisoner Z’s existence. Throughout his secret incarceration, Prisoner Z, unaware that for the past six years the General has been incommunicado, has been writing letters to him, pleading for release or at least recognition.

The General, too, is trapped. By the time he is ready to renounce militarism and chauvinism, he is lying in a coma. See PERSPECTIVE, page 27

UNESCO

which is responsible for UN efforts to educate and preserve heritage sites worldwide, delighted Palestinians in July when it declared the Old City of Hebron in the West Bank an endangered world heritage site. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu complained that the language of that resolution did not sufficiently acknowledge the religious attachment of Jews to Hebron.

Prior to that resolution UNESCO also passed several resolutions ignoring Jewish ties to Jerusalem, drawing Israeli officials’ fury and criticism by Western countries – including by France, which supported the resolutions during votes.

Six years ago, the United States cut off more than $80 million a year, about 22 percent of its entire budget for UNESCO, in reprisal for its acceptance of Palestine as a member, Foreign Policy reported.

The Obama administration said it had to cut funds because a 1990s-era law prohibits U.S. funding for any U.N. agencies recognizing Palestine as a state. Israel also suspended its funding for UNESCO.

As a result of U.S. funding cuts, it owes more than $500 million to UNESCO, according to Foreign Policy. The decision to withdraw from UNESCO owes partly to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson’s desire to stop the growing debt.
BAR MITZVAH: Jeremy Michael Schwartz

Jeremy Michael Schwartz became a bar mitzvah on October 28 at Congregation Rodfei Sholom. Jeremy is the son of Charles and Marcia Schwartz. He is the grandson of Robert Schwartz, z”l and Janice Schwartz, Brad Ross, z”l and Ethel Ross, z”l. Jeremy is a 7th grader at the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy. His interests are tennis, basketball, and electronics. He also loves his twin cousins. For his bar mitzvah project, Jeremy supported American GI Forum - National Veterans Outreach Project which provides veterans with employment and training services, as well as housing services. He feels no veteran, who fought for our freedom, should be homeless. Jeremy wants to be a cardio-thoracic surgeon when he grows up.

PERSPECTIVE

The wishful belief that if Lee Harvey Oswald had been anywhere but Dallas on November 22, 1963, John F. Kennedy would have withdrawn the modest contingent of U.S. troops from Vietnam and created a Golden Age of peace and prosperity has a parallel in Israeli politics. After a flamboyant career as a ruthless warrior and right-wing hawk, Prime Minister Sharon enraged his supporters by unilaterally withdrawing from Gaza. Many are convinced that Sharon was on the verge of dismantling Jewish settlements on the West Bank and recognizing a Palestinian state when he was incapacitated by a stroke in 2006. Powerless to do anything, even feed himself, he remained in a coma for eight years, until his death in 2014.

The same man who declared that: “I am willing to volunteer to do the dirty work for Israel, to kill as many Arabs as necessary, to deport them, to expel and burn them, to have everyone hate us” also warned that: “You cannot like the word, but what is happening is an occupation – to hold 3.5 million Palestinians under occupation. I believe that is a terrible thing for Israel and for Palestinians.” Such a contradictory personality provides rich raw material for fiction while posing a problem for politics.

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

Gary S. Gossen, M.D., F.A.C.G.
Diplomate of the Board of Internal Medicine
Diplomate of the Board of Gastroenterology
Fellow of The American College of Gastroenterology

Gastroenterology Clinic of San Antonio, P.A.
8550 Datapoint Dr. Suite 200
San Antonio, TX 78229
210-615-8308
Fax: 210-615-8313

Practice limited to Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Please visit our website at drgossen.com
ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT
While it Lasts!
22 Competition Teams Cooking
Literally 1 Ton of
Brisket, Chicken, Salmon plus Beans!
Sign up online to be a Judge

Showdown at Sundown
A Pre-Q. Party
Saturday, November 11
7:30pm-11:30pm
Burgers, Hot Dogs, DJ, Dancing
Adult Piñata $10
Casino
Additional $10 buy in gets
$1,000 in chips for Black Jack & More
winnings redeemable for prizes
VIP Poker Tournament
For information contact Mia Spigel at
miaspigel@gmail.com

5th Annual
Texas Kosher
BBQ Championship
Sunday, November 12, 2017
10am-3pm

For Information & Tickets
www.txkosherbbq.com

Advance Purchase Adult Combo Sat & Sun
$25
Advance Purchase Adults (Sunday only)
$15 ($20 at the gate)
Kids (Sunday only) 6-11 yrs
$5
VIP Parking $100 (only 60 spots available)
Free Shuttle Service from
Olmos Creek Shopping Center 10am-5pm
(N.W. Military Hwy & Huebner Road)

At Congregation Agudas Achim
16550 Huebner Road, San Antonio, Texas 78248
210-479-0307
www.txkosherbbq.com