As we approach the New Year and the High Holy Days, it’s an appropriate time to review our Jewish Federation’s accomplishments over the past twelve months, and the challenges that await us in 5778.

We are proud to have run an annual campaign that raised more than $1.5 million for our local communal agencies – the Barshop Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Service, the Shmuel Bass Torah Academy (TASA) and a growing Hillel San Antonio – as well as our overseas partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the American Joint

This year’s theme for Super Sunday and the 2017 Annual Campaign – EVERYONE COUNTS! – represents the values that our Jewish community holds. Everyone counts and everyone matters, no matter the age, race, gender, where one lives or where one has been. Our Jewish community of San Antonio is here for everyone.

On Sunday, September 17, The Jewish Federation will hold Super Sunday 2017 at The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community. Super Sunday Co-Chairs, Aliza & Willie Cantu invite all.

(1 to r): David and Michelle Vizurraga with co-chairs Aliza and Willie Cantu

Harry and Jeanette Weinberg

Campus of the San Antonio

Jewish Community. Super
Sunday Co-Chairs, Aliza &

Willie Cantu and Michelle

& David Vizurraga invite all

See SUPER SUNDAY, page 11
CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday, Sept. 1
Light Candles at 7:38 p.m.
Shabbat, Sept. 2
Shabbat Ends: 8:31 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 8
Light Candles at 7:29 p.m.
Shabbat, Sept. 9
Shabbat Ends: 8:22 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 15
Light Candles at 7:21 p.m.
Shabbat, Sept. 16
Shabbat Ends: 8:13 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 20
Eve of First day Rosh Hashanah,
Light Holiday Candles at 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 21
Eve of Second day
Rosh Hashanah,
Light Holiday Candles after 8:07 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 22
Light Shabbat Candles at 7:12 p.m.
Shabbat, Sept. 23
Shabbat Ends: 8:04 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 29
Eve of Yom Kippur,
Light Shabbat / Holiday Candles
at 7:04 p.m.
Shabbat, Sept. 30
Yom Kippur,
Shabbat/Holiday/Fast Ends:
7:56 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 4
Eve of First day Sukkot,
Light Holiday Candles at 6:58 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 5
Eve of Second day Sukkot,
Light Holiday Candles after 7:50 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 6
Light Shabbat Candles at 6:55 p.m.
Shabbat, Oct. 7
Shabbat Ends: 7:47 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 11
Eve of Shemini Atzeret,
Light Holiday Candles at 6:49 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 12
Eve of Simchat Torah,
Light Holiday Candles after 7:42 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 13
Light Shabbat Candles at 6:47 p.m.
Shabbat, Oct. 14
Shabbat Ends: 7:40 p.m.
WE INVITE YOU TO OUR SYNAGOGUE
FIRST YEAR OF MEMBERSHIP FREE FOR NEWCOMERS TO SAN ANTONIO...

At Rodfei Sholom we have outstanding Rabbis who have grown our community and grown up in our community, who have built and continue to build our congregation and our communal life. Our Congregation is an expression of their love and concern for one another and for Am Israel.

At Rodfei Sholom:

- you are part of a larger family, closely connected to Torah, tradition and Eretz Israel.
- you meet people of all ages, from many parts of the world and from all religious backgrounds.
- you hear English, Hebrew, Spanish, French, Russian, Yiddish, Hungarian and more.
- there is an intergenerational Kiddush every Shabbat
- there are educational opportunities for all ages
- children grow in an atmosphere of love & warmth
- children of all ages have special Shabbat groups every week
- you have an Israel Public Action Committee advocating for a secure Israel
- you hear outstanding speakers throughout the year
- everyone is appreciated and welcome

WE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR! 

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT rodfeisa@gmail.com or call 210-493-3557
Three leaders from Federation’s Western Galilee Partnership, Noa Friedman-Epstein, Michael Aronson, and Judy Yuda visited San Antonio to meet with professionals and lay leaders, and to promote the partnership between the Western Galilee region in Israel and San Antonio.

During their trip, the leaders enjoyed a visit and tour of the Riverwalk, as well as Hotel Emma in the Pearl, which relates to the current renaissance project of the city of Akko in the Western Galilee.

The Israeli leaders shared the many upcoming opportunities for San Antonio to host Israeli and Hungarian delegations in the upcoming year.

Beldon Library News

Ten children participated in the Beldon Library Summer Reading Program. This 8 week program took place June 14 – August 9. The children read 16 (or more) books from the Beldon Library. “Congratulations on a job well done to: Emma Molinar, Josephine Molinar, Eddie Quintana, Ytzaak Quintana, Yosef Quintana, Gianna Seib, Aaron Sherer, Jonah Sherer, Batya Sherwin, and Natan Sherwin”, said Beldon Librarian Lynn Waghalter.

“I look forward to our next Summer Reading Program in June, 2018.”

“The Beldon Used Book Sale was very successful. Todah rabah to everyone who donated books and other materials for this sale and to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped,” said Waghalter.

NEW BELDON LIBRARY HOURS
Mondays
12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Wednesdays
12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

For more information please contact Samantha Mazuz at 210-479-8889 or s.mazuz@agudas-achim.org
Where will you ‘be’ in 5778?

During Rosh Ha’Shanah we read of the akeda, the binding of Isaac, from the Torah. This is the narrative in which Abraham nearly sacrifices his beloved son, Isaac.

When God first calls out to Abraham, instructing him in this task, Abraham responds, heneini, meaning ‘here I am.’

This phrase is found a handful of times in the Torah, as a response to God or another human being. It is a powerful one-word response in Hebrew, noting not only a physical state, but also an emotional and mental state. I am here, fully in the moment.

For me, heneini is more an aspiration. While I may be in one space physically, my mind is typically in at least three or four other places simultaneously.

I exercise very early in the morning, before the sun rises and before my family members rise as well. I do this not only because I am somewhat meshugenah, but also because the physical activity helps organize my varied thoughts and sometimes shakes out the extraneous ones as well.

This routine is perhaps my way of getting to heneini a state of being able to focus on what is happening to me at that moment.

Even still, I often sit in meetings at work, thinking of what needs to get done at home. And vice versa, the days that I take off work in order to prepare my kids for school, for example, I am frequently checking emails and responding to texts. When I am saying “here I am” it is often me calling out from the office. I may be “here;” but, I am also elsewhere.

Like all human beings, I am a work in progress. And the Jewish New Year allows for me to start anew and commit to being the best version of myself.

I want to be “here” for the community, fully dedicated to working on behalf of the Jewish people, aspiring to grow and build our community to be what we need it to be for today and for the future.

I also aspire to be “here” for my family and my friends, nurturing those relationships for which I am committed and from which I gain love and inspiration. And I also need to be “here” for myself, ensuring time and space for me to learn, refresh and evolve constantly.

Wishing you and your families a healthy and sweet new year, as well as a year full of heneini moments in which you are present and ready to be what you need to be.

L’shalom,
Ronit
JOIN US!

SUPER SUNDAY 2017
SEPTEMBER 17th
9:30am to 4pm
Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community

EVENT CHAIRS:
Willie & Aliza Cantu and Michelle & David Vizurraga

EVERYONE COUNTS
CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?

REGISTER FOR YOUR VOLUNTEER SHIFT TODAY!
WWW.JFSATX.ORG
210.302.6960

We are Jewish San Antonio...
We are STRONGER TOGETHER.
Lauren Stanley, Vice Chair Development | Jonathan Gurwitz, Board Chair
Victoria Aarons was born in NYC and received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. She currently holds the position of O.R. and Eva Mitchell Distinguished Professor of Literature in the English Department at Trinity University, where she teaches courses on American Jewish and Holocaust literatures. She is the author and editor of seven books, including *A Measure of Memory: Storytelling and Identity in American Jewish Fiction* (1996), and *What Happened to Abraham: Reinventing the Covenant in American Jewish Fiction* (2005), both recipients of the Choice Award for Outstanding Academic Title, *The New Diaspora: The Changing Landscape of American Jewish Fiction* (2015), Bernard Malamud: A Centennial Tribute (2016), *The Cambridge Companion to Saul Bellow* (2017), *Third-Generation Holocaust Narratives: Memory in Memoir and Fiction* (2017), and *Third-Generation Holocaust Representation: Trauma, History, and Memory* (2017). She is a contributor to the two-volume *Encyclopedia of Holocaust Writers*, and she was an invited speaker at the 80th birthday celebration/symposium for Elie Wiesel. She is a judge of the Edward Lewis Wallant Award, a prize awarded each year to a rising American Jewish writer of fiction. She is chair of the Holocaust Education Committee of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. Aarons has published well over 70 articles and book chapters, and her work has appeared in a number of scholarly venues. She is on the editorial board of Philip Roth Studies, Studies in American Jewish Literature, and Women in Judaism. She is the recipient of the Piper Professor Award for Outstanding Scholarly and Academic Achievement and the Z. T. Scott Faculty Fellowship for Outstanding Achievement in Teaching and Advising. She is currently editing the collection *The New Jewish-American Literary Studies: Twenty-First Century Critical Revisions* with Cambridge UP. Aarons’ husband, Willis Salomon, is also on the faculty at Trinity University, and she has two sons, one a recent graduate of Sarah Lawrence College and the other who is beginning his third year in the Ph.D. program in Philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh.

What brought you to San Antonio? I came to San Antonio directly after receiving my Ph.D. to join the faculty of Trinity University’s English Department. I was hired by Ron Calgaard, Trinity’s president at that time, who was committed to building a Jewish Studies curriculum, and whose foresight transformed the institution.

What is your strongest Jewish memory? My strongest and most comforting memories are of being a young child and my father reading to me the short stories of the Yiddish writer Sholom Aleichem and singing Jewish melodies as he danced with me in our apartment building in NY City’s Upper East Side. Throughout my entire life, I have associated being Jewish with a literary culture. I grew up in a reading household. Someone was always reading in my family, and my home was (and still is) filled with the warmth of books.

My more proximate
YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

PJ Library Mom’s Night Out teaches healthy eating habits with a Jewish slant

More than twenty PJ Library moms gathered to celebrate and learn new ways to incorporate healthy, yet fun snacks into the daily lives of their children. Nutritionist Tirza Nestel’s tasty teachings included making easy apple fruit donuts (which connect with Rosh Hashanah and Hanukkah in their own way). She also instructed the moms and allowed everyone to try making fruit pizzas. This event is part of the PJ Library Summer Mom’s Night Out yearly special and also included other various Jewish components.

For more information on PJ Library, Follow PJ Library San Antonio on Facebook.

Those Deemed Dangerous or Inferior:

The Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals and Lessons for Today
Lecture by Jason Johnson
October 17, 2017
6:30pm
Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the Jewish Community
12500 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, TX 78231
Holzman Auditoriums

Join Jason Johnson as he discusses the National Socialists' views on homosexuals in Germany during the Third Reich and the regime's policies and actions directed against them. He will conclude by asking: what are the lessons of the Nazi repression of homosexuals for the Texas LGBTQ community today?

RSVP to EVENTS@HMMSA.ORG
SPOTLIGHT
continued from page 7

Jewish memory that I think back on with such fondness and pride is when each of my sons had his Bar Mitzvah. Temple Beth El provided such an enriching Jewish education, one that complemented the more personal Jewish education that my boys received at home, and I am forever grateful to the rabbis, the staff, and the congregation at Beth El for making their B’nai Mitzvah such a meaningful event in their lives.

What volunteer activities do you find the most rewarding and why?
I guess you won’t be surprised when I say that my favorite volunteer activity when my boys were young was going into the schools to read to the children. Currently, the activities I find most rewarding involve the Jewish community, especially my involvement with the Holocaust Education Commission. It is a very great honor and genuine pleasure to work with such dedicated people who are committed to keeping alive the memory of the Holocaust and imparting that history to young people. I see my work in the community as an extension of my university teaching and my research in Holocaust studies. My professional volunteer work corresponds to my community involvement. And I love being asked to speak in a number of different venues in the community about the books and authors I love. I am a judge for the Edward Lewis Wallant Award, a prestigious award given annually to an emerging American Jewish writer of fiction. I read approximately 50 books/year, novels and short story collections, and I find it so valuable to recognize and help give voice to new Jewish writers. Interestingly, in the past decade the wide ranging numbers of books by an emerging young generation of writers take us back to the Holocaust in defiance, I believe, of the erasure of memory. My current interests and research involve third-generation Holocaust writers, the grandchildren of survivors, who are now publishing novels, short stories, and graphic narratives about their grandparents’ experience during the Shoah.

Please share your favorite Jewish holiday. Why?
My favorite Jewish holiday has always been Passover because it is a time that I associate with family gatherings and the closeness of generations of family members. Also Passover is a holiday that celebrates community, identity, survival, memory, and bearing witness to the past; as such, it has continuing relevance for Jewish identity, culture, and collective memory.

Name a hope or aspiration you have for the San Antonio Jewish community?
My hope would be that the Jewish community would continue to come together at times of crisis and continue to fight discrimination, anti-Semitism, and persecution. One of the central defining features of the Jewish community in San Antonio, I have always found, is the warmth, inclusivity, and open dialogue that brings us all together.

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6 – 9 PM | NORRIS CONFERENCE CENTER
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Guests will depart with challah dough ready to bake in their own ovens, a complimentary apron, ingredients and utensils for making challah dough.

Event will include a social intermission with complimentary desserts and beverages to enjoy while dough rises.

Registration costs
$25 Ticket for one
$360 Table for 8 with table signage
$540 Table for 8 with table signage & a Rosh Hashanah Gift Basket

Register online at WWW.MEGACHALLAH.COM
For more information, opportunities for sponsorship or volunteer positions, please call (210) 764-0300 or visit the website.

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LA SHANA HABA’AH AT POPPY’S
New Young Adult Division & Women’s Philanthropy Director

The Jewish Federation is pleased to welcome Eva Laporte to the Federation team. Eva will be serving as the Young Adult Division & Women’s Philanthropy Director bringing 15 years in non-profit development, communication, and engagement.

Born in Orange County, CA, Eva has lived and worked in many places and recently moved back to San Antonio, adopting it as her “hometown.” Eva served as Resource Development Manager and then Director of Education & Communication at Stages Repertory Theatre in Houston. She served as the Education & Access Manager at the Chicago Children's Theatre.

She also served as Director of Community Engagement at The Playhouse of San Antonio before working with San Antonio Jewish Senior Services (formerly Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services) as Program Director.

Community members may recognize her from her work in the theatre, including 5 years with the Barshop JCC directing CARS, STARZ, Summer Camp theatre, and at the Sheldon Vexler Theatre. There she worked in the box office and directed Mary Zimmerman’s Metamorphosis (2007) and The Diary of Anne Frank (2016), and acted in The Crucible, Taming of the Shrew, Female Transport, The Clearing, A Company of Wayward Saints, and Chinamen/ The Two of Us. A favorite directing project includes The Lysistrata Project at the Moscow Art Theatre, a performance that included American, Israeli, and Russian actors for the peace project on 03.03.03.

To prepare her for her new position with the Federation, Eva recently attended the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) I-Lead Conference in Scottsdale. “I am excited to share the knowledge I have learned, and look forward to implementing some of the best practices and innovative program ideas that were presented at the conference.”

Distribution Committee (JDC). In accomplishing this achievement, we expanded both the number of individuals making commitments and the number of volunteers working on campaign.

We are also proud to have been able to offer One Happy Camper grants of $1,000 each to 25 first-time Jewish overnight campers through a joint commitment of the Jewish Federation and the Foundation for Jewish Camping. We have expanded our local PJ Library program, in partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, and now reach more than 434 Jewish Children. We have also expanded the hours and programming of our Holocaust Memorial Museum, having delivered the lessons of history and a message of tolerance to more than 12,000 students and over 1,700 other visitors over the past year.

This year in particular, the JDC has been working tirelessly around the globe to provide aid to the Jewish communities of Venezuela, a country on the brink of economic and political collapse, and war-torn Ukraine. And JAFI continues to support the people of Israel with educational, vocational, social and other programs.

Every day, our campaign dollars are at work, building community here in San Antonio, and assisting Jews around the world and in Eretz Yisrael. As great as these achievements are, the needs, both here and abroad, are still greater. Our local agencies are in need of additional support to provide critical services from childhood through old age. Partner agencies such as the JDC are expecting a significant decline in funds from the Claims Conference for victims of Nazi persecution, due to the dwindling population of Holocaust survivors.

Every dollar counts, and every person counts. That is why we are asking that you show your commitment to the Jewish community by giving generously to the Jewish Federation’s annual campaign.

L Shana Tova to my family and friends and especially to my Mother, Alda Epstein—Sandy Leigh

Luis A. Hernandez, C.P.A.

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Happy New Year!
community members to come out to the Campus and participate in this important Mitzvah Day! "We will be reaching out to community members and asking them to help us raise important dollars that will sustain our Jewish community here in San Antonio and help Jews in need in Israel and around the world," says Michelle Vizurraga.

There will be plenty of food, fun, friends, prizes, and mitzvahs as volunteers make calls between 10-4 p.m. PJ Library will have a special program at 2p.m. No experience is needed to make calls. Training will be offered throughout the day.

Israel, Jewish communities overseas, safety net services, Jewish camping, Jewish education, PJ Library, and the Holocaust Museum are just a few of the causes that will benefit from the Jewish Federation's campaign dollars raised.

To sign up for a shift at Super Sunday, please contact the Jewish Federation office, (210) 302-6960, or register online at www.jfsatx.org. Childcare will be available. Reservations are requested.

If you can't make the call, then “take the call” and make a difference.

We are Jewish San Antonio…We are STRONGER TOGETHER.

Super Sunday 2017
September 17

Help Us Remember


The Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio is seeking individuals related to the Holocaust that we have not yet met.

Your experiences and artifacts, such as photographs, and letters that are related to this period, are important to the preservation of Holocaust history.

Please contact us if you have an interest in sharing and participating in this project to preserve and connect San Antonio residents to this pivotal chapter of history.
Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio receives grant for Survivor room reconfiguration

The Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio (HMMSA) was awarded a Sam Roosth Foundation grant in the amount of $6,000 this summer.

With these funds, the Survivor Room in the Museum will be reconfigured. In this new design, a desk will be constructed and placed so the Programs Coordinator can easily monitor the exhibit space and greet incoming visitors.

Plans also include repurposing the cabinetry and countertops as display to showcase some of the 400 artifacts on a rotating basis. In addition, custom cabinetry will be built to house audio and visual equipment that is used during Museum tours.

“The Survivor room houses the office of the Programs Coordinator. Visitors who don’t know if they are allowed to enter are often confused”, says Ellen Ollervidez, Director of the Holocaust Memorial Museum. “This grant gives us the opportunity to better utilize the room and offer a welcoming space for visitors to learn about our local survivors.”

The Survivor room currently houses the office of the Programs Coordinator and a wall covered in photos and historic pieces about local survivors. It will be remodeled to make better use of the space.

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 new 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
YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK: HMMSA

HMMSA participates in educational summer workshops for San Antonio teachers

On July 11, the HMMSA was involved in the Institute of Texan Culture’s Tricentennial Teacher Workshop. The Museum offered one of four field trip opportunities for participants, and as a result, hosted 70 teachers.

Later that day, Anna Rado and Juana Rubalcava addressed 200 teachers as keynote speakers. Anna shared her experience of survival through the Holocaust and her journey to San Antonio, while Juana spoke to the history of San Antonio as a Haven for Holocaust Survivors.

On July 27 and 28, the HMMSA held a workshop in cooperation with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM). Forty-five teachers participated in this workshop at the Institute of Texan Cultures, which was led by Kira Aarestad, a Regional Teacher Fellow from USHMM. This summer workshop for educators in San Antonio will be available annually.

HMMSA hosts Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

On Thursday, August 3, the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

The luncheon recognized the educators and survivors whose commitment and contributions to the Museum make it possible to teach Holocaust history, to educate people of all ages, and provide programs and events.

The HMMSA also gave a heartfelt farewell to outgoing Docent Chair, Becky Hoag, and welcomed incoming Docent Chair, Sandy Wartell.

A birthday celebration was held for all of our Survivors, marking another year of their remarkable and inspirational lives.

Come to our House for the High Holidays!

Erev Rosh Hashanah: Sept. 20 - 7 p.m.
Rosh Hashanah: Sept. 21 - 10 a.m.
Kol Nidre: Sept. 29 - 7 p.m.
Yom Kippur: Sept. 30 - 10 a.m. (Yitzkor - noon)

No Tickets Required.
All are Welcome!

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION
Call (210) 492-2173

7150 Interstate 10 Frontage Rd., San Antonio, TX 78213.
WHAT’S COOKING?
Members of Congregation Agudas Achim’s Simcha Social Club & Heintz Preschool enjoyed a cooking demonstration and learning about nutrition with nutritionist Tirza Nestel. Simcha Social Club is a joint program of Congregation Agudas Achim and San Antonio Jewish Senior Services.

SUMMER FUN AT CAMP GAN ISRAEL
More than 130 children experienced Camp Gan Israel, offered by the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning this summer. Daily swim and electives, coupled with weekly trips and activities were just part of the fun and Jewish spirit campers enjoyed. For more information and more photos visit www.GanIsraelSA.com.
SAJSS TRANSPORTATION FOR THE
HIGH HOLIDAYS & SUKKOT

Rides are available for Jewish seniors to attend the congregation of your choice. Don’t miss out on services & activities during the High Holidays and Sukkot – San Antonio Jewish Senior Services can get you there!

NEED A RIDE?
Call us. We’ll Get You There.
(210) 616-4811

SAN ANTONIO Jewish Senior Services

WHAT’S HAPPENING

INTERFAITH ADVOCACY DAY
Rabbi Mara Nathan of Temple Beth-El offered the opening prayer on August 1 for Interfaith Advocacy Day at the Texas Legislature. She is pictured with House Speaker Joe Straus III and Representative Diego Bernal.

CAA OPEN HOUSE KICKS OFF NEW YEAR
Heintz Preschool & Inda Posner Religious School families geared up for the school year with an interactive open house on August 20. HPS began their school year on August 21 and IPRS will begin on September 10.
**THE JEWISH JOURNAL**

**SEPTEMBER 2017**

A publication of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio

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**SENIORS SHINE DELI-CIOUS DAY WITH SUNSHINE CLUB**

More than 50 seniors enjoyed the Sunshine Club luncheon, an afternoon of food and friends, on Tuesday, July 18 at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning. The New York deli-themed luncheon included a presentation by Drew Glick about the history and culture of New York Delis. The Sunshine Club is a joint program of the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning & San Antonio Jewish Senior Services.

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**TEMPLE BETH-EL BIZARRE BUS TOUR**

On August 6, Temple Beth-El took a group of 53 around San Antonio to see some of the more bizarre sights the city has to offer, like the Toilet Seat Museum and the Haunted Railroad Tracks. San Antonio Jewish Senior Services subsidized this event.

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**WATER FUN AT HEINTZ PRESCHOOL**

As the temperatures rose throughout the summer, Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim made sure everyone stayed cool as the children enjoyed a fun waterslide.

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**CAMP REUNION**

This summer, the JCC welcomed more than 400 children from June through August over the course of twelve weeks of camp. J-Camp will have a reunion at the JCC Sunday, Nov. 5. For more information, call the Youth & Camping office at (210) 302-6859.

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**WHAT’S HAPPENING**

Sunshine Club volunteers (L-R) Sandy Levenshus, Wendy Glick and Courtney Silver dished out matzo balls at the Chabad Center on July 18.

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**SENORS SHINE DELI-CIOUS DAY WITH SUNSHINE CLUB**

More than 50 seniors enjoyed the Sunshine Club luncheon, an afternoon of food and friends, on Tuesday, July 18 at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning. The New York deli-themed luncheon included a presentation by Drew Glick about the history and culture of New York Delis. The Sunshine Club is a joint program of the Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning & San Antonio Jewish Senior Services.
RECOMMEND LEADERS PROTEST IN AUSTIN
Rabbi Mara Nathan of Temple Beth-El was among the 250 religious leaders – Christian, Muslim and Jewish – gathered in front of the Texas capitol to protest bathroom bills that discriminate against transgender people.

END OF CAMP BANQUET
Camp Rodfei campers enjoyed a Magic Show and Banquet with their parents to celebrate the end of camp.

MACCABI GAMES®
The JCC took seventeen teenagers to Miami, FL to participate in the 2017 JCC Maccabi Games®, August 6 through 11. Athletes competed in soccer, boys and girls basketball, tennis, baseball, and swimming.

COMEDY NIGHT OUT WITH CAA
Congregation Agudas Achim’s Club Agudas members enjoyed a night filled with fun and laughter at Comedy-Sportz San Antonio.
IN THE COMMUNITY

Hadassah celebrates the passage of Texas stem cell law

The San Antonio Chapter of Hadassah will celebrate Texas’ recent adoption of a law allowing the therapeutic use of stem cells and will meet someone who has personally benefited. The group will hear from Stefanie Meier Cowley, a Multiple Sclerosis (MS) sufferer who advocated for the legislation, at the chapter meeting on Sunday, Sept. 17, at 5 p.m. in the party room of Luciano’s (15614 Huebner Rd.).

“Thanks to Cowley and the support of the Texas Legislature, including Senator Jose Menendez, who will also speak, patients will no longer have to access stem cell treatments in their own communities,” the organization said. Due to the passage of Charlie’s Law, effective Sept. 1, Texans will be able to harvest their own adult stem cells for therapeutic use for serious diseases and conditions. The bill is named for former state representative Charlie Howard, who recently passed away from cancer, unable to access this treatment.

Before this law, Texans and other U.S. residents had to travel out of the country to obtain this therapy for terminal and chronic diseases, such as cancer, MS, ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease), Crohn’s and other serious conditions. World-renowned Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem pioneered both research in stem cells and their use in medical treatment, and was a frequent destination for those seeking this lifesaving therapy.

For reservations email Debbie Linck by September 12 at marketinglinck@yahoo.com. For more information, call Marion Bernstein at (210) 493-1801.

Mayor Ron Nirenberg to speak at NCJW opening meeting

The San Antonio section of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is pleased to host Mayor Ron Nirenberg for comments and conversation at its opening meeting on Monday, September 18 at the IBC Bank Branch Events Center at 8650 Fredericksburg Rd.

Guests and spouses are welcome to attend the event, which begins at 7 p.m. with a meet-and-greet featuring light refreshments. Mayor Nirenberg will speak and take questions from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The mayor will discuss his plans for San Antonio during his term, including the 2018 Tricentennial celebration. He will also share his thoughts on women, families and children, which relates directly to NCJW’s mission.

Since space is limited, please RSVP by Wednesday, September 13 to mindisw@gmail.com. For any questions, please contact Mindi Silver-Weiss at 210-497-2333.

The San Antonio Section of the National Council of Jewish Women has been improving the lives of women, children and families for more than a century through its commitment of taking progressive ideals and putting them into action.

WELCOME BACK CAMPERS!

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio is proud to partner with the Foundation for Jewish Camping to offer 26 One Happy Camper “Gift Grants” to first time attendees at Jewish sleep away camps around the country!

To learn more about this grant contact AbrahamL@jfsatx.org or 210.302.6960
She Loves a Long Walk in the Park.

He Prefers To Go For A Bike Ride.

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Quality Senior Living for those who’ve reached age Sixty-two.

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Did you know the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department operates and maintains more than 240 City-owned parks?

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Discover your perfect park near you while enjoying a complimentary snack and beverage.

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Tuesday, Sept. 26 @ 3:00 p.m.
OUR LIVES MAY VARY.

But when individuals or communities are in need, our differences disappear. Federation is here for all people— to provide aid, hope, relief, community and more.

Your Jewish Federation of San Antonio works tirelessly to support seniors and others vulnerable in our San Antonio community, as well as those in Israel and 70 countries around the world.

However, We cannot do it without you. Help us continue to impact the lives of friends and strangers alike… in a way that no one else can.

GIVE TODAY to the 2017 Federation Annual Campaign.

Your donation enables us to provide services through our partners:

- Safety Net Programming— Jewish Family Services
- Senior Lunches— Barshop Jewish Community Center
- Response to Global Emergencies & Critical Services to 132,463 elderly Jews in the Former Soviet Union— Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)

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
Israel Bonds San Antonio to honor Howie Nestel for advocacy and activism

Israel Bonds San Antonio will honor Howie Nestel for his community activism on Sunday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. at Congregation Agudas Achim. The guest speaker will be Dr. Bernd Wollschaeger.

Nestel is a tireless advocate for many causes. Over the last 30 years, he has donated time, talent, money and effort to over 50 charities.

Nestel founded San Antonio, We’ve Got You Covered, which annually collects thousands of pounds of clothing, food, toiletries and infant formula to benefit various San Antonio charities.

He is also the co-founder of The Anne Frank Inspire Award, which recognizes San Antonio area leaders whose work and contributions to the community are inspired by justice and compassion, and Holocaust: Learn & Remember, a free city-wide educational program featuring speakers, videos, and art exhibits.

He is on 6 nonprofit boards including the board of Camp Discovery, a camp for children dealing with the challenges of cancer. Additionally, he developed a creative arts program, Art for Life, bringing local artists and hospitalized children together to create art.

Speaker Dr. Bernd Wollschaeger is author of the biographical A German Life. When he was a teenager, Dr. Wollschaeger learned his father was a Nazi officer in WWII. That revelation led him on a journey of self-discovery where he made Aliyah, converted to Judaism, and served in the IDF before coming to America.

For more information on this event, contact Steve Landis at steve.landis@israelbonds.com or at (713) 360-3530.

Temple Chai task force looks to future

Temple Chai president Jimmy Toubin has assembled a task force to explore ways to manage the growth and future of the congregation. Founded by six families in 2005, Temple Chai is now in its “Bar/Mitzvah year” and has doubled in membership in the last three years.

After engaging a local rabbi and educator/soloist, moving into its own space and increasing its educational offerings, the congregation is faced with choices about how best to meet the needs of its members.

“As we grow, we’re limited by the space we currently rent,” said Rabbi David Komorofsky. “It was a bold move to strike out on our own after using temporary quarters for so long. We have been delighted with what we have, but it’s proving to be too small for what we do.”

The task force is examining options for future space and attendant challenges that come with it.

“We’re looking at all options in a serious way so that our next move will allow us to establish a more permanent base for engaging more people looking for a small Reform congregation on the northwest side of town,” Rabbi Komorofsky said.

For more information Temple Chai, visit www.templechaisa.org or call (210) 340-2090.
Temple Chai Sisterhood elects new officers

Temple Chai’s Sisterhood elected new officers at its annual meeting on August 6. Co-presidents Peggy Leff and Barbara Stern concluded their terms, marked by dramatic growth in congregational membership and Sisterhood activity, which included holiday celebrations, social action programs, and social and cultural events.

Jackie Blinderman was elected as the new Sisterhood president, and Freda Levinson as the new treasurer. They and the leadership and membership are planning for another year of engagement with the congregation and community in line with the principles of Reform Judaism.

For more information about membership with Temple Chai, visit www.templechaisa.org or call (210) 340-2090.

B’NAI B’RITH CORNER

The activities for the Alamo Brandeis B’nai B’rith Lodge for September will be held on Sunday, September 10 at JCC-Room 227 starting at 10:30 am. Activities will include Hillel, BBYO, and Lodge Finances.

What does membership in B’nai B’rith entail?
Participation in Lodge activities, opportunities to attend various B’nai B’rith International activities (e.g. visits to Cuba, Israel and South America to attend conferences). But best of all your membership will entitle you to perform many mitzvahs.

For information on how you can become part of the action contact Irwin Barath at (210) 341-4502.

Rodfei’s L’Chayim Club hosts Rosh Hashanah lunch

Rodfei Sholom will be hosting their annual Rosh Hashanah luncheon on Friday, Sept. 22 (second day of Rosh Hashanah), immediately following services. It will be a complete, traditional home-cooked meal including gefilte fish, round raisin challahs, apples and honey, and much more! Enjoy the special taste of the holidays while in the company of friends and family. If attending, please RSVP by Tuesday, Sept. 19.

All seniors are welcome to attend the Rosh Hashanah luncheon at a reduced price thanks to a generous grant from San Antonio Jewish Senior Services and co-sponsorship of Rodfei Sholom. Everyone else is, of course, also invited to attend!

In addition, mark your calendars for Friday, Oct. 6 for our annual Shabbat dinner in the Sukkah. Enjoy the wonderful meal, while singing Shabbat songs in the special atmosphere of the Sukkah. RSVP by Tuesday, Oct. 3 would be appreciated.

For more information or to reserve for either meal, please contact the synagogue office at (210) 493-3557 or rodfei@ gmail.com.

Chicago Bagel & Deli

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE STAFF AT CHICAGO BAGEL!

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Temple Beth-El hosts a *Summer of Shalom*

Too often the stretch of summer days between school getting out and school resuming is seen as a lost time for engagement in our synagogues. While this is true of any age demographic, it is especially true when it comes to children and young families. Vacations, sleep away camps, and specialty experiences create such a fierce competition for everyone’s time that synagogue events tend to be what fall by the wayside.

To try and answer this question of maintaining engagement, this summer Temple Beth-El unveiled their *Summer of Shalom* programming for families, children, and adults.

More than 250 children and adults participated in at least one *Summer of Shalom* event this summer. Whether it was the bi-weekly Friday Freeze Ice Cream meet-ups at various sweet locations around San Antonio, a trip to the Magik Theatre, a Missions baseball game, or an afternoon at Morgan’s Wonderland, the Temple Beth-El community was active all summer long.

This fall, the fun continues. On the 2nd Friday of every month, Temple Beth-El will host a special Family Shabbat service and dinner. September 8 will be a special back to school barbecue cookout. Families, children, and adults of all ages are welcome.

For further information, contact Joel Swedlove at (210) 733-9135, ext. 151, or joel@beth-elsa.org.

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**Rodfei Sholom series explores Jewish prayer: How and Why**

Prayer is one of the most complex of human acts to understand and perform. Yet, the Neshamah, our soul, deeply yearns for a time to pray. The soul yearns for a connection to G-d. Prayer is the bridge to G-d and the medium by which we reach the highest levels of thinking, consciousness, and self-reflection for the future. It is also a medium for connecting to our People, the land of Israel, and our 3,000-year history. How should a Jew pray? How can we make prayer meaningful?

A series of talks on Wednesdays, Aug. 30 and Sept. 13 from 7 to 8 p.m. at Rodfei Sholom Congregation will address *Traversing the Bridge to G-d: Climbing Jacob’s Ladder: The Jewish-Way to Prayer and My Father, My King: Prayer on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.*

The sessions, taught by UTSA professor Dr. Rosalind Horowitz, will be based on the writings of the master of Chassidish thought and trained psychiatrist, Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski.

The talks are free and open to the community.

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**JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER**

**UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS:**

Thursday September 7, post members will attend quarterly meeting of volunteers to Audie Murphy VA Hospital at 1 pm.

**Post #753 Monthly Meeting**

It’s that time of the month- Jewish War Veterans Post #753 monthly meeting Sunday September 24, at JCC 9:00 am, light breakfast to be served, speaker, followed by business meeting.

**Post membership drive underway**

Become a member of an outstanding post, great goals, chances to assist veterans and their families.

**Criteria to become a member**

served at least 30 days in a branch of the U.S. armed forces with an honorable discharge. Those currently on active duty have a free membership. In addition there is the opportunity to meet and make new friends.

For further information contact David Marne at 210-281-1604.
SAJSS: New name, same mission and dedication

People gathered in the late 1950’s to plan for a residential retirement center for San Antonio’s Jewish seniors and adopted the name “Golden Manor,” “Golden” for older, “Manor” for a place to live.

When it was sold in 2008, “Golden Manor Jewish Home for the Aged” had become a nursing home for both Jewish and non-Jewish residents.

The name “Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services” was adopted as the organization transitioned from a nursing home to an agency that benefits hundreds of Jewish seniors wherever they live in the San Antonio area. This is accomplished through its own programs and through partnership grants to other organizations to support their programs that benefit Jewish seniors. The words “Golden Manor” were retained to remind people of the care that was rendered by the organization for four decades.

“Today, with everything this agency is doing to benefit Jewish seniors, and not having had a nursing home for nine years, our board of directors decided the time has come to change the name of this agency to accurately reflect what we do and who we are,” said Alice Troy, former president of Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services’ Board of Directors.

“Our new name is San Antonio Jewish Senior Services”, she said. “We like to pronounce the initials – SAJSS – like ‘sages’.

“While the words ‘Golden Manor’ served us well for many years, leaving them behind brings us out of the past, into the present, and positions us well to add new programs and services in the future.”

“This change is being accompanied by a new agency logo and look,” Troy said. “The beautiful gold color that has worked so well for us is being replaced by vibrant shades of green that connote life, health, and dynamic engagement. That’s who we are today, and that’s who we will continue to be going forward.”

Block and Dreeben School for Young Children names new director

Lisa Vest Guerrero began her new role as Director of the JCC’s Early Childhood Education program at the Block and Dreeben School for Young Children on September 1.

Lisa has been a member of the JCC staff for the past twenty-six years. She worked in the Early Childhood department for sixteen years, ten as the Assistant Director. In 2007, Lisa was promoted to Director of the Youth and Summer Camp, and has grown those programs throughout the last ten years.

Lisa has a Master’s degree in Early Childhood Education, and for the past two years has participated as a Fellow in the nationally recognized JCJA “Sheva Fellows” Cohort, established as a training mechanism to prepare the next generation of JCC Early Childhood Directors.

Alissa Levey Baugh will continue to impact the program in a new complementary position, as Director of Curriculum and Creative Experiences, providing her years of expertise to the program’s day-to-day operations.

For more information about the Block and Dreeben School for Young Children, visit www.jccsanantonio.org/ecd, or call (210) 302-6846.

JCC offers after school Judaic program

The Jewish Community Center Judaics After-School program (JAS) for Jewish children attending the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Academy is accepting registration forms for this fall. This supplemental Jewish studies program provides students education in the areas of Jewish life and ritual, Torah, and values.

JAS runs Monday, Wednesday, and Friday after school dismissal until 3:50 p.m. JAS students learn with experienced educators and participate in family programs throughout the year.

Students enrolled in JAS will also have the opportunity to enroll in a wide variety of enrichment programs held in the afternoons at the JCC. Special rates for Kids Club, the JCC after school program, are also available for those enrolled in JAS.

For more information about JAS, please contact Rachel Rustin at rustinr@jcc-sa.org or (210) 302-6969. More information about Kids Club is available online at www.jccsanantonio.org/kidsclub.

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Join Wandering Jews on a January Caribbean cruise

The Wandering Jews, San Antonio Jewish Senior Services’ (SAJSS) new travel program, has planned a 10-night eastern Caribbean cruise from December 10, 2017 to January 9, 2018. The 1,083 foot, 19 deck Princess cruise ship departs from Fort Lauderdale and sails to 6 ports of call that include: the Bahamas, St. Thomas, Dominica, Grenada, Caribbean Netherlands, and Curacao.

Each of The Wandering Jews trips includes an element of Jewish cultural, religious and/or historic content. This cruise offers the opportunity to see one of the oldest Jewish cemeteries in the Western Hemisphere, Beth Haim, on the island of Curacao.

Five cabins have been reserved for SAJSS, and more are available. Due to the calendar and the popularity of this cruise, get the best choice of staterooms by booking your trip now.

Two other travel opportunities for Jewish seniors during 2018 are a Jewish Discovery River Cruise from Budapest to Prague along the Danube River in August, and a long weekend in October or November to Charleston, SC to visit the vibrant Jewish community that has existed since before the Revolutionary War.

For more information about this cruise or any other trip, contact Mike Kline with SAJSS at (210) 616-4811, mikek@sajss, or Tina Dinesman or Barb Sellers at SMRT, (210) 670-5305, tdinesman@cruseplanners.com or bsellers@cruseplanners.com.

It’s all the Buzz at Agudas Achim

Congregation Agudas Achim has announced a new High Holiday Youth Experience for both days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The program is being led by Director of Congregational Learning Sammi Mazuz, and Heintz Preschool director Taryn Bretado, and will feature a petting zoo and bee keeper.

“I am eager to kick off this New Year at Congregation Agudas Achim with new programming, new learning, experiences, and more opportunities for engagement,” said Director Samantha Mazuz.

Children from infants to 5th grade will participate in a variety of rotations, including art, an edible project, drama, sports, Zumba, yoga, music, and prayer. The children's programming will begin and 9 a.m. and continue through the end of services.

Students in 6th through 12th grade are invited to participate in challenging conversations with peers, designing your own prayer experience, and connection with friends. The middle and high school programming will begin and 10 a.m. and continue through the end of services.

Babysitting will be available before and after the programming on all three days. A mac & cheese lunch will be provided for all ages during the program. For more information, contact Jessica Peden, at (210) 479-0429.

At Issue: A Song for Leo Frank

The timely revival in Chicago of the musical Parade is an apt occasion to reflect on the fate of Leo Frank, sometimes called the Jewish Karl Marx.

The manager of a pencil factory in Atlanta, he was accused of strangling a 13-year-old employee, Mary Phagan. A zealous prosecutor used dubious evidence, false testimony, and an atmosphere heated to hysteria to convict Frank of murder. Though Frank was sentenced to die, Georgia Governor John Slaton reviewed the flimsy case and commuted the sentence to life in prison. Slaton was forced to flee the state, and Frank was dragged out of his jail cell by a vigilante mob and hanged.

The crowd of men, women, and children - including prominent members of the community not ashamed to be photographed at the event - tore off pieces of the victim’s shirt as souvenirs.

When Parade opened on Broadway in 1998, Alfred Uhry, who also wrote Driving Miss Daisy, won a Tony for the musical’s book and Jason Robert Brown won a Tony for the score. Uhry’s great-uncle owned the National Pencil Company factory that Frank ran. The musical is particularly attentive to the evolving attitude of Lucille Frank, a native of Atlanta whose grandparents established the city’s first synagogue, toward her husband. It is a moving dramatization of what is now recognized as a gross miscarriage of justice.

Though born in Cuero, Texas, Frank grew up in Brooklyn. The Georgia that he moved to in 1908 was still resentful of Northern usurpers who burned Atlanta and dismembered the Confederacy. At a time when millions of immigrants from Eastern Europe seemed to nativists to threaten American culture, Frank, president of the local chapter of B’nai B’rith, fed historical stereotypes of Jews as pushy and lascivious, especially dangerous to innocent young Christians such as Mary Phagan.

From 1882-1968, 3,446 African Americans and one Jew were lynched in the United States. So it would not do to conclude that anti-Semitism has been nearly as deadly as racism. However, the Frank trial inspired the revival of the Ku Klux Klan, a hate group that targets Jews, blacks, and Catholics. The revival of Parade coincides with an alarming increasing in incidents of bigotry – toward Jews, Muslims, African Americans, and others.

In addition to recruiting for the KKK, the Frank case inspired Sigmund Livingston, a Jewish lawyer in Chicago, to create the Anti-Defamation League. According to the ADL’s Charter: “The immediate object of the League is to stop, by appeals to reason and conscience and, if necessary, by appeals to law, the defamation of the Jewish people. Its ultimate purpose is to secure justice and fair treatment to all citizens alike and to put an end forever to unjust and unfair discrimination against and ridicule of any sect or body of citizens.” Forever is not yet.

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

**High Holy Days at Temple Beth-El**

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur guest cards are available for guests of Temple Beth-El members. Each pass is valid for all services on the respective High Holy Day. Guest passes are issued to adults under 26 years of age, military personnel, out of town guests of members, members of other congregations, and individuals exploring Judaism. Those eligible for membership are encouraged to complete an application online, at https://www.beth-elsa.org/MembershipApplication.

Unaffiliated guests who do not qualify for a guest pass are still invited to attend all Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. To obtain a guest pass, register online at http://tinyurl.com/TBEGuest or call the Temple office by Wednesday, Sept. 6, at (210) 733-9135, ext. 126. Registration is required and donations are welcome for each guest pass.

Guest cards requested after Wednesday, Sept. 6, will be available at the San Pedro Avenue (west) entrance to the Temple. Requests made prior to that will be mailed to the guest. Children under the age of 18 may attend services with any adult cartholder.

**Drop in to Hands on Sukkot at the JCC**

Families and children of all ages are invited to get ready for the Festival of Booths at the Barshop Jewish Community Center's Hands on Sukkot event Tuesday, Oct. 10 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

This free family event will include crafts, activities, and snacks that will celebrate Sukkot. Attendees will get a chance to practice shaking the lulav and etrog, and enjoy building an edible sukkah.

PJ Library will also be in attendance with activities and storytelling.

While the event is free, RSVPs are encouraged by contacting Rachel Rustin at (210) 302-6969. In September, the JCC will be closed or close early in observance of holidays, including: Monday, Sept. 4 (Labor Day – Sports & Fitness open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; all other services closed), Wednesday, Sept. 20 (Erev Rosh Hashana; JCC closes at 6 p.m.), Thursday and Friday, Sept. 21 and 22 (Rosh Hashanah - closed), and Saturday, Sept. 30 (Yom Kippur – closed). Closures in October include Wednesday, Oct. 4 (Erev Sukkot; JCC closes at 6:00 p.m.), Thursday, Oct. 5 (Sukkot – closed), Wednesday, Oct. 11 (Erev Shemini Atzeret; JCC closes at 6:00 p.m.), and Thursday, Oct. 12 (Shemini Atzeret – closed). Visit www.jccsanantonio.org for a complete atypical 2017-18 schedule.

**Temple Chai to observe Selichot at Rabbi’s home**

Temple Chai will observe the Selichot holiday, the traditional opening of the High Holy Day period, with a service and dessert reception on Saturday, Sept. 16 at 8 p.m. at the home of Rabbi David Komorosky and Ronit Sherwin. High Holy Day melodies led by Lisa Goldstein will accompany the changing of the Torah mantles and solemn prayers in preparation for Rosh Hashanah.

RSVPs are requested at www.templechaisa.org/hhd or (210) 340-2090.

**Congregation Agudas Achim to host Rosh Hashanah storyline**

Congregation Agudas Achim and Barnes & Noble La Cantera will host a Rosh Hashanah story time led by Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham on Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 4:30 p.m. Attendees will learn more about Rosh Hashanah, have some apple snacks, play games, color special Rosh Hashanah sesame sheets and more. The event is free and open to the entire community. Following story time, there will be a no host dinner together at Grimaldi’s at 5:30 p.m. For more information, contact the office at (210) 479-0307 or info@agudas-achim.org.

For more information, contact the office at (210) 479-0307 or info@agudas-achim.org.

**Make your own shofar at Chabad Shofar Factory**

The Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning will host a hands-on cKids Shofar Factory Workshop on Sunday, Sept. 10, 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Chabad Center, 14535 Blanco Rd. 78216.

Participants will be able to see firsthand the signs of a kosher animal, touch various kosher and unkosher animal horns, discover the Shofar’s significance, learn how to blow a Shofar like a pro, saw, sand down, drill, shellac, and take home their very own Shofar. The cost is $10 per shofar. All ages are welcome (participation level varies based on age). RSVP by calling (210) 764-0300 or visiting www.ChabadSA.com/ShofarFactory.

**Who will say Kaddish? Hadassah will. Every year. Forever.**

For more information, visit www.hadassah.org/yahrzeit, call 877.212.3321 or email yahrzeit@hadassah.org.

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Fax: (210) 979-9933
doughpizzeras.com

**North Park Lexus of San Antonio**

NorthParkLexus.com
210-308-8900

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**The Jewish Journal - January 2015**

**Closures in October**

- Wednesday, Oct. 4 (Sukkot – closed), Thursday, Oct. 5 (Sukkot – closed), Wednesday, Oct. 11 (Erev Shemini Atzeret; JCC closes at 6:00 p.m.), and Thursday, Oct. 12 (Shemini Atzeret – closed).

**Rosh Hashanah storytime**

- Temple Chai to observe Selichot at Rabbi’s home

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For more information, visit www.hadassah.org/yahrzeit, call 877.212.3321 or email yahrzeit@hadassah.org.
Whether the emergency is a terrorist attack or a heart attack, the paramedics of Magen David Adom, Israel’s emergency medical response and blood-banking agency, save lives in Israel every day. As we enter the new year hoping for peace, we must continue to prepare for routine and terror-related emergencies.

If you’re looking to make a difference for Israel and secure the nation’s health and safety for the coming year, there’s no better way than through a gift to MDA. Please give today. 

Shanah Tovah.

This Rosh HaShanah, make a healthy New Year a reality for millions of Israelis.

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

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210-615-8308
Fax: 210-615-8313

Practice limited to Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Please visit our website at drgossen.com

Whether the emergency is a terrorist attack or a heart attack, the paramedics of Magen David Adom, Israel’s emergency medical response and blood-banking agency, save lives in Israel every day. As we enter the new year hoping for peace, we must continue to prepare for routine and terror-related emergencies.

Shanah Tovah.

AFMDA Midwest Region
3175 Commercial Avenue, Suite 101
Northbrook, IL 60062
Toll-Free 888.674.4871 - midwest@afmda.org
www.afmda.org

Sukkot at Congregation Agudas Achim

Congregation Agudas Achim will host a number of events for Sukkot. They include:

Shawarma in the Sukkah services beginning at 6 p.m. on October 4. Services will be followed by dinner, fun and games.

Potluck in the Sukkah Sukkot services will be followed by a potluck dinner in the Sukkah on October 6 at 7:15 p.m. Participants are asked to bring a dairy or parve dish.

Teen Sleepover in the Sukkah for teens in 6th through 12th grades will take place beginning at 7 p.m. on October 7. The overnight will include Havdallah, games, snacks, movie watching and more. For details, contact Eric Steitz at usyadvisor@agudas-achim.org.

The 15th Annual Pizza in the hut will take place on October 8, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit Heintz Preschool. Grandparents, family, and friends, are all welcome to this community wide event. There will be a DJ, games, and more fun for all ages. Heintz preschool teachers will be serving pizza, generous tips are encouraged, as teachers will be using the funds for wish list items for their classrooms.

Moonlight Supper Club will host Supper in the Sukkah at 6:30 p.m. on October 11. Dinner will include grilled chicken, grilled vegetables, Mediterranean salads, rice, dessert, and sangria.

Club Agudas Achim, the congregation’s 45 and up club, will host a dinner, kosher wine tasting and karaoke in the Sukkah on October 18.

Young Couples Club Agudas will host its 3rd Annual Sushi in the Sukkah on October 20 at 7 p.m. Sushi from Yellowfish Restaurant, edamame, salad, beer and wine will be served. For more information or to RSVP, contact the office at (210) 479-0307 or RSVP@agudas-achim.org.

This Rosh HaShanah, make a healthy New Year a reality for millions of Israelis.
The Virtue of Sin

We are now in the month of Elul, the month during which we prepare for our High Holy days. Elul is the month in which Moses ascended on high to plead with G-d to forgive the Jewish people for the sin of the Golden Calf. G-d ultimately ascended to Moses’ prayers. He granted the Jewish people forgiveness and presented them with a second set of Tablets on Yom Kippur. Ever since, the month of Elul has been designated as a month of introspection and repentance and Yom Kippur as a Day of Atonement and forgiveness. Our ability to repent and wipe the slate clean is uniquely Divine. As humans we are limited by the constraints of time and space. It is impossible for any of us to actually go back in time to relive the moment that has just passed, or erase the effect of a hurtful thing that was said, even if you apologize.

In a courtroom, a judge cannot know if a repenting defendant is really sincere. He cannot see into his heart or know the accused’s actual thoughts. G-d, however does know your heart, and therefore, when you have genuine feelings of regret, grants us complete forgiveness. G-d, who created time and space, is also its Master. This is expressed practically in the concept of Teshuva – repentance. As the ultimate master of time, G-d enables us to reach back in time and repair the spiritual DNA of that regrettable moment, bringing it forward, through sincere penitence, as a cleansed and pure moment in your life, thereby wiping the slate clean.

But can there be virtue in past sins? The Talmud (Berachot 34b) tells us that a Baal Teshuva-Penitent can reach a higher level of righteousness than one who has never sinned. Because admitting and taking responsibility for a mistake, and then making amends, is a profoundly cleansing and uplifting experience. This experience is humbling, makes us more understanding of another’s failing and brings you closer to G-d. Hence the virtue. By recognizing that even a sin has a redemptive dimension, we can seize the moment and transform into an opportunity for growth.

This idea is expressed beautifully in the story of the Golden Calf. Before the episode of the Golden Calf it was not clear if the relationship with G-d that our ancestors’ forged at Sinai could survive a betrayal. The Golden Calf was the first opportunity for G-d to demonstrate to the world that His relationship with our people is eternal and immutable. G-d will never turn His back on us, for the path of repentance is always open. We might even suggest, that G-d provoked us into the sin of the Golden Calf, to demonstrate for us the power of repentance.

This High Holiday lesson could be applied to our personal lives. Every crisis, disappointment and setback to life, our marriage or relationships all have the potential to become turning points in our lives. We can emerge from them stronger and more secure, not in spite of them, but because of them. L’Shana Tova! Rabbi Chaim Block

EVERYONE COUNTS! EVERYONE PLAYS!
Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Campus of the Jewish Community

Sunday, September 17th, from 2-4pm
Toddlers & Babies!
Come play in the Beldon Library!
Big Kids!
Come play on the ‘Big Kid Playground’!
Parents!
Come make phone calls for Super Sunday!

A great time to reunite with friends for the New Year!

L’Shana Tova
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THE JEWISH JOURNAL
Playing the Blame Game

A mother heard the family dog yowl in pain. She knew where to look – she looked for her son. “Stop pulling the dog’s tail!” she chided.

“I’m not pulling his tail,” the boy retorted. “I’m just standing on it. He’s doing the pulling.”

He, of course, is no different than any of us. Often, our first impulse is to blame someone or something else for our problems. It’s the dog’s fault. Or the school’s fault. Or my parents’ fault.

A 40-year-old woman was jogging in a state park when she was attacked and killed by a mountain lion. Her distraught husband realized it was happening. Her distraught family warned signs.

An interesting thing happened. Her distraught husband realized it was wrong to blame the state or someone else for his wife’s death, even though he stood to possibly receive a windfall. Against the family’s wishes, he dropped the lawsuit.

“Barbara and I have always taken responsibility for our own actions,” he explained. “Barbara chose to run in the wild, and, on a very long shot, she did not come back. This is not the fault of the state, and people should take responsibility for themselves.”

This husband teaches us that the “Blame Game” is a no-winner in the long run. He reminds us that we should spend time fixing what’s broken rather than affixing the blame for it onto another.

“This isn’t about lawsuits – it’s more about whether we are essentially victims of life or whether we are righteous and responsible. An important step in gaining mastery over our lives is to resist the urge to make something or someone else responsible. As novelist J. K. Rowling (of Harry Potter fame) said to graduating Harvard students, “There is an expiry date on blaming your parents for steering you in the wrong direction; the moment you are old enough to take the wheel, responsibility lies with you.” Certainly background and circumstances have influenced who we are, but who is responsible for the persons we become?

As we begin this High Holiday period together as a Jewish community, we have been surrounded in our world by different groups and individuals trying to blame each other for all of the negativity in our world. Our rabbis teach us that this is a period where we are asked to be introspective and work on how each of us can become “better” in the coming year.

An important decision we can make is to resist playing the Blame Game. By doing so, we can make our world a happier and healthier place to live. Together we can truly build our own lives in a meaningful manner.

Shanah Tovah U’Metukah! To A Happy, Healthy, and Sweet New Year

Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham

The Greatest Challenge of the High Holy Days

The greatest challenge of the High Holy Day season is not so much to focus on teshuvah – recognizing our misdeeds and working towards returning to our better selves. No. The greatest challenge is selicha or forgiving ourselves and those around us for being less than perfect human beings.

If this were an easy task, our tradition would not engage us in an almost two month process including the month of Elul, Rosh Hashanah, the 10 Days of Repentance and Yom Kippur towards that aim. Each year the goal is placed before us and far too often we do not succeed.

Our humanity gives us the capacity to forgive, but our frailties make it so difficult to do so. The Sages of the Talmud also saw in their own time how people chose suffering over happiness and resentment over forgiveness. And so, they projected their own struggles onto God in Tractate Berachot 7a, where God offers a ‘personal prayer’: “May it be My will that My mercy suppress my anger, and that it may prevail over My attributes of justice and judgment; and that I may deal with My children with compassion, and that I may prevail over My attributes of justice and judgment; and that I may deal with My children according to the attribute of compassion, and that I may not act toward them according to the strict line

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High Holy Day Reflections

It is difficult to find points of agreement across the spectrum of Jewish practice and ideology. Kashruth, rituals, Shabbat observance, the role of women, the status of non-Jews, even the State of Israel - all are points of division between Jews.

We may yearn with nostalgia for the good old days when we all agreed about some things, but would do well to remember that, first, those days never existed and, second, they are not likely to appear soon.

There are too many rifts and too many stakes claimed. It requires more than platitudes and a go-along-to-get-along shallowness that often passes for communal strength.

Compromise is historically one-sided and leaves the majority held captive by the presumed piety of the minority.

As a Reform rabbi whose rabbinate has included a range of experiences and contexts that are far beyond the parochial, I admit dissatisfaction with what we have in San Antonio.

As a Hillel professional I am able to work productively with Jews of all backgrounds, counting Orthodox rabbis among my most cherished colleagues. As a congregational rabbi, I am defined by a movement and rooted in an ideology that demands I speak out on matters of conscience even when they offend other Jews. (Why should this rabbi be different than all other rabbis?).

My dissatisfaction rests in the reality that the schisms between Jews in this city run deep, are exacerbated unnecessarily, are used to raise and withhold dollars, and have led to a reality that rewards the status quo.

“Nothing will change,” I’m told again and again, “so why bother?”

“You haven’t been here long enough to know what you’re talking about.”

“Others before you didn’t have a problem, so why do you?”

My problem is this: I am a faithful Jew. I believe in the Jewish people, and refuse to settle for the lowest common denominator as the point of agreement amongst Jews. I’m not interested in compromise that lowers us to our basest instincts. I’m interested in finding the highest common ground on which Jewish people in San Antonio can agree.

I’m generally easy-going. Some misguided members of Temple Chai even say I’m funny. But don’t confuse my sense of humor or uncovered head with a lack of seriousness. I live here, I work here, I’m raising a family here. And my Jewish community should be a lot better than we’ve collectively allowed it to be.

Call me a heretic and dismiss me because my congregation is small, but please don’t ignore the message just because you have an issue with the messenger.

I hope we can do better in the New Year. When enough others are willing to recognize that what we have now isn’t nearly good enough, that we all share responsibility for it and an ability to change it, then we’ll make a difference together.

Shanah Tova,
Rabbi Mara S. Nathan
Temple Beth-El
Temple Beth-El’s Jazz Shabbat on September 15

As the city of San Antonio celebrates 34 years of jazz with Jazz’SAlive, Temple Beth-El will offer a Jazz Shabbat service on Friday, Sept. 15 at 6:30 p.m. The Shabbat service will feature familiar and new melodies in a jazz style led by Cantor Julie Berlin and professional singers with accompaniment by the renowned San Antonio group, the Jazz Protagonists. The service is made possible by the Jean and Jesse Wulfe Religious Enhancement Fund.

JCC Jewish Film Festival sequel

On Sunday, Sept. 10 at 5 p.m., the Barshop Jewish Community Center will host a screening of the feature documentary, A Classy Broad: Marcia’s Adventures in Hollywood.

The film chronicles the life and career of Marcia Nasatir, a native of San Antonio and Hollywood’s first female Studio VP of Production at United Artists. While at UA, Marcia worked on American classics, such as The Black Stallion, One Flew over the

Welcome Baby Abraham

Rabbi Jeffrey, Lauren, Benny, and Henry Abraham announced the birth of their new son and brother, Joseph "Joey" Emmitt Abraham (Yosef Emet in Hebrew). He was born on July 29 to proud grandparents Jackson and Beverly Salasky of Dallas, Texas, and Bill and Marlene Abraham of Tucson, Arizona.

Joey is named after Lauren’s cousin, Jonathan Frid of Dallas, who passed away at a young age, and Rabbi Abraham’s grandmothers, Elsa and Edith, and Lauren’s great-grandmother, Esther.

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