



THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

AV – ELUL 5775

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

AUGUST 2015



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PAGE 4



SPECIAL FILM SCREENING
Psychological thriller details Armenian tragedy during WWI

PAGE 3



BOEING-BOEING HITS THE STAGE
What's old is new again. Now showing at the Vex.

PAGE 30

Jewish Federation highlights the Power of Our Community at annual meeting



Guest speaker Avraham Infeld, Federation CEO Ronit Sherwin and Jimmy Toubin

Jewish Federation Board chair Richard Planto presided over the 93rd annual meeting of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio on Sunday, June 7. Planto acknowledged that the Jewish Federation and the larger Jewish community have experienced great change over the last several years. Planto also shared that this past year the Jewish Federation grew stronger and that we are now well-positioned to move forward and

continue to do great work together. "This past year, the theme of the Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign was *The Strength of a People, the Power of Our Community*, and I believe in these words. We are a strong people and we have power as a community when we work together," Planto stated.

Planto went on to articulate

See **ANNUAL MEETING**, page 20

A message of hope and inspiration



On May 29, San Antonio's Lions of Judah gathered together for an inspiring luncheon event held at Club Giraud celebrating the Power of One, and the strength of our Jewish community. The Lions of Judah are women who generously give individual gifts of at least \$5000 to the Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign.

AT RIGHT In attendance at the Luncheon: Francie Sterling, Lynn Stahl, Sandra Rosenberg and Gloria Silber.



For full story and more photos, see **LOJ**, page 6

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



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is a proud member of the Jewish Federations of North America.

EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS:

The submission deadline for the SEPTEMBER 2015 issue of the Jewish Journal is August 12, 2015 at noon.

All materials submitted after this date will be considered for the following issue.

How to submit: Email submissions to jewishj@jfsatx.org

- Articles & Announcements - Email as word documents. Articles submitted for consideration are subject to editing.

- Photos - Email high resolution images (300 dpi) in jpg attachments only.

ADVERTISING:

To place an advertisement or request ad rates, contact Sandy Leigh at (240) 498-8999 or advertising@jfsatx.org.

Ad deadlines for SEPTEMBER 2015 ISSUE:

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

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

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

JEWISH JOURNAL EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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

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

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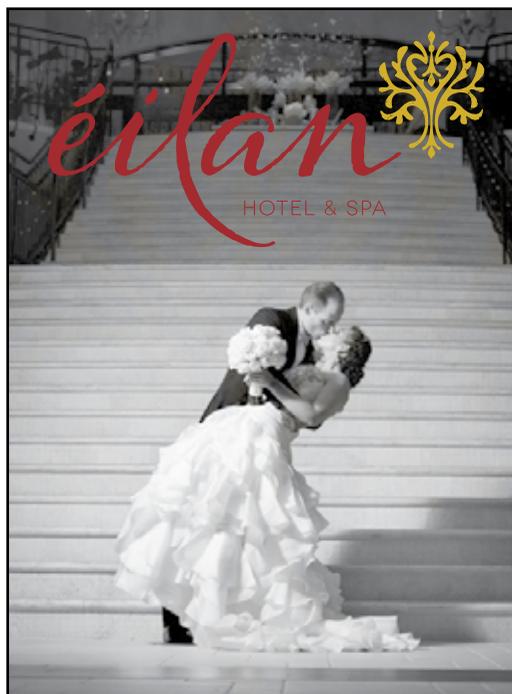


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- **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**
- **ENHANCING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL & OVERSEAS**

Applications will be available online and accepted between
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FULL DETAILS AT
WWW.JFSATX.ORG

Questions? Contact
Ronit Sherwin, JFSA CEO
(210) 302-6961
sherwinr@jfsatx.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: AUGUST 2015

August 2

▪ Agudas Achim Movie Club, Mission Impossible at Alamo Drafthouse, 3 p.m.

August 3

▪ *Breakneck through the Bible Class*, Rodfei Sholom, 8:25 p.m.

August 5

▪ Watermelon Wednesdays with Rabbi Abraham, Congregation Agudas Achim, 10:30a.m.

▪ L'Chayim Club, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, 11:30 a.m.

August 6

▪ Agudas Achim Brews & Schmooze at Big'z Burger Joint, 5 p.m.

▪ JNET Brewery Tour with Brewmaster, Alamo Beer, 6 p.m.

August 7

▪ College Musical Kabbalat Shabbat and Potluck Dinner at Agudas Achim, 6:15 p.m.

August 9

▪ Sisterhood Development Day, Temple Beth-El, 10 a.m.

▪ Rodfei Sholom, Sunday Funday at the Painted Plate, 10 a.m.

▪ Alamo-Brandeis B'nai B'rith Meeting, The Campus, 10:30 a.m.

August 10

▪ *Breakneck through the Bible Class*, Rodfei Sholom, 8:25 p.m.

August 12

▪ Watermelon Wednesdays with Rabbi Abraham, Congregation Agudas Achim, 10:30 a.m.

August 13

▪ Simcha Social Club, Barbie Scharf-Zeldes, *Lifetime Documents* at Agudas Achim, 11:30 a.m.

▪ Israel in the News with Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Agudas Achim, 1p.m.

▪ Young Couples Club of Agudas, TBD, 7 p.m.

August 16

▪ Golden Manor Fundraiser: Production of *Grease is the Word*, The Playhouse, 3 p.m.

August 17

▪ *Breakneck through the Bible Class*, Rodfei Sholom, 8:25 p.m.

August 18

▪ JFSA Board Meeting and New Member Orientation, The Campus, 5:30 p.m.

August 19

▪ NCJW Trashy Book Club, 6:30 p.m.

▪ Agudas Achim Moonlight Supper Club, 7 p.m.

▪ Special Watermelon Wednesday, Pizza Party, Agudas Achim, 4:30 p.m.

August 23

▪ Agudas Achim, Inda Posner Religious School & Heintz Preschool: Open House, 10 a.m.

▪ Temple Chai Building Dedication, 2121 Lockhill Selma, 10 a.m.

▪ Blood drive, Agudas Achim, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

August 24

▪ *Breakneck through the Bible Class*, Rodfei Sholom, 8:25 p.m.

August 26

▪ JCC Board Meeting, The

Campus, 7:30 p.m.

August 27

▪ Sisterhood Dinner, Temple Beth-El, 6 p.m.

▪ Club Agudas Achim, TBD, 7 p.m.

August 30

▪ Sisterhood Torah Fund Brunch, Agudas Achim, 9:30 a.m.

▪ Israel Bonds/IPAC Breakfast & Lecture, Rodfei Sholom, 9:30 a.m.

▪ PJ Library Birthday Party, Agudas Achim, 3 p.m.

August 31

▪ *Breakneck through the Bible Class*, Rodfei Sholom, 8:25 p.m.

Sept 1

▪ Cantorial Assembly Trip to Spain: Informational Meeting, Agudas Achim, 7 p.m.

▪ JFSA Major Donor Event, The Campus, 7 p.m.

Sept 3

▪ Agudas Achim Brews & Schmooze at Big'z Burger Joint, 5 p.m.

Sept 5

▪ Agudas Selichot Service, Gabriel Mitchell of AIPAC, followed by Tacos & Tequila, 8:30 p.m.

Sept 7

▪ Clergy Open House, Agudas Achim, 11 a.m.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Edna Jay Borenstein
Leonard Friedson
Ralph Lehr
Charlene Petlin
Merle Polunsky

Blanche Rubin
Irving Saltzman
Esther Lynn Schnitzer
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YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday, Aug. 7 Light Candles at: 8:04 PM
Shabbat, Aug. 8 Shabbat Ends: 8:59 PM

Friday, Aug. 14 Light Candles at: 7:58 PM
Shabbat, Aug. 15 Shabbat Ends: 8:52 PM

Friday, Aug. 21 Light Candles at: 7:51 PM
Shabbat, Aug. 22 Shabbat Ends: 8:44 PM

Friday, Aug. 28 Light Candles at: 7:43 PM
Shabbat, Aug. 29 Shabbat Ends: 8:36 PM

Friday, Sept. 4 Light Candles at: 7:35 PM
Shabbat, Sept. 5 Shabbat Ends: 8:28 PM

Preparing for the year ahead

We are in a fascinating time of the Jewish calendar. The month of August in the Gregorian calendar straddles both the months of Av and Elul in the Hebrew calendar. Av is a month associated with destruction and consolation, with tradition holding that both the first and second Temples in Jerusalem were destroyed during the month of Av. The month of



Letter from
our CEO

RONIT
SHERWIN

Elul, on the other hand, is associated with repentance, forgiveness and wholeness of spirit. Both the months of Av and Elul are intense emotionally to prepare us to

begin anew by the time the gates close at the end of Yom Kippur.

While we associate the upcoming High Holidays with the sweetness of honey and celebration, this is a complicated and meaningful time in our liturgical calendar. If we do the work of Av and Elul we may feel emotionally drained. It is like a good, hard cry. Painful but refreshingly cathartic. In order to start a new year, we need to take a look at our past year and ourselves and be honest with what we see. We can take pride in our accomplishments and embrace our shortcomings.

We do this not because we are the guilt-ridden people with which Hollywood likes to associate us, but because we are the people of tikun olam. We, the Jewish people, live by our belief that the world not only needs repair, but that each and every one of us has the capacity to repair our part of the world. And it begins with us.

In a tale from our tradition, Reb Zusya dies and stands before the judgment of G-d, nervous that G-d is going to ask him why he was not more like Moses or King Solomon. Zusya is surprised that G-d simply asks, "Why weren't you Zusya?"

We take this time in the Jewish calendar to look into ourselves and reflect and then to renew. May we each be strengthened in these months of Av and Elul to see in ourselves the potential to be the best we can be in the year ahead.



BECOME A DOCENT!

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Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio

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YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

LOJ

continued from page 1

Dr. Amy Benedikt, Lion Chair, opened the event with words of gratitude to her fellow Lions for making a difference in our community. She spoke of the impactful programs supported by the Federation including the PJ Library program where over 330 children receive books with Jewish themes, monthly, free of charge, allowing parents and grandparents to read and experience Judaism together. She spoke of the growing opportunities provided to the young adults in the community through social programming with The Tribe and networking opportunities through JNetSA. She spoke of new programming for young women provided by Federation's Women's Philanthropy Initiative.

The Lion of Judah program began nationally in 1972 and locally over 25 years ago when Esther Vexler had the vision to become San Antonio's first Lion of Judah. Esther was recognized and thanked for her inspiration and continued commitment. There are 58 Lions of Judah in San Antonio, including two new Lions, Sara Planto and Lois Cohodes. All of the Lions were honored and thanked for their leadership and for setting the pace for the 2015 Annual Campaign.

Elaine Cohen, past president of the Jewish Federation and involved



Barbara Spigel and Bette Vexler



Guest Jeannie Smith and Tina Weiner



Barbara Dreeben and Federation Board Chair Richard Planto

community leader spoke about the importance of endowing one's Lion gift. San Antonio's first Endowed Lion of Judah, Sandra Sugarman, of blessed memory, was remembered for her boundless energy, positive attitude and compassion.

The featured speaker, Jeannie Smith, inspired the women with the story of her mother, Irene Opdyke,

a polish rescuer, who at age 19, risked her life and at times compromised herself, to hide and save the lives of twelve Jews.

Her message was compelling and focused on faith, love and the hope that good may triumph --that every individual has the ability to create change and improve a life in our local community and around the world.



Beverly Birnbaum and Elaine Cohen



Guest Jeannie Smith and Tina Weiner
Federation's Lauren Abraham with Esther Vexler and Amy Benedikt, Lion of Judah Chair



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Young women gather for inspiration and camaraderie

Young women came together for an evening of *Inspiration and Camaraderie* at the home of event Chair, Lizette Feld, an event of the Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy. The women enjoyed wine, hor d'oeuvres and desserts and then participated in a special mitzvah project to benefit the Holocaust Memorial Museum's educational efforts.

The women helped to assemble curriculum materials into trunks that are delivered to classrooms around the city.

The Holocaust Curriculum Trunk Program provides materials designed for all grade levels to assist in teaching historical facts related to the Holocaust as well as the consequences of discrimination and apathy in modern society. The women worked on Spanish



Samantha Mazuz and Rachel Purcell

language materials.

Tania Lubetzky spoke movingly about her father-in-law, Roman Lubetzky, of

blessed memory, who was a Holocaust survivor from Riga Latvia.

Julie Starr introduced the featured speaker, Jeannie Smith. Smith, the daughter of rescuer Irene Opdyke, shared her mother's powerful story – how as a young 19 year old, with much personal sacrifice, she chose to hide and save twelve Jews during the Holocaust.

“Love opens the most closed minds,” said Smith. “It is a power stronger than any army. When you give out of love, regardless of religion, you get so much back. “



Vicki Adelstein and Tania Lubetzky



Women assembled Spanish language Holocaust educational materials during the Young Women's event



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Michelle

A pin could drop: Holocaust Survivor captivates Johnson High School

By **Becky Ebner Hoag**,
HMMSA Docent

These days, it's hard to capture a teenager's attention. Students are literally bombarded with technology and seem to be addicted to their iPods, iPads, iPhones. Classroom teachers have to contend with texting, competing with gizmos for a few minutes of attention. So just imagine 700 high school students from 15-18 years of age, packed into a school auditorium, each undoubtedly possessing a cell phone for games, texting, reading alternatives. A recipe for mayhem? It could be, but it wasn't, not at NEISD's Johnson High School on May 20 when Rose Williams, a Holocaust survivor living in San Antonio, arrived to speak.

Under the direction of English III teacher Robin Philbrick, the tone for the morning's assembly was set. Students came prepared through their English classes. The audience experienced two short HMMSA films, one about our museum and another about a child's shoe found at Auschwitz and what all that simple object could tell us about the child and what likely happened to a supposed 3-year-old during the Final Solution.

Ms. Philbrick then presented a very insightful

and articulate speech about the Holocaust Museum and its mission. She told students how fortunate they were to hear a story that they would always remember and share with their own children. She challenged students to truly listen and then become a voice for Mrs. Williams by sharing her story with others and by standing up for others who might be victimized or bullied.

When two cadets from ROTC escorted Rose across the stage, those 700 students rose to their feet in loud applause. By setting the proper tone and preparing the students attending, Ms. Philbrick and her colleagues created a memorable, emotional experience for Johnson kids even before Rose said a word. Once she began to tell her story from childhood in Radom, Poland, to liberation from Bergen Belsen and beyond, one could literally have heard a pin drop. The students were not just well behaved; they were riveted.

Afterwards, students were allowed to ask questions. While a couple of them required Rose to repeat information (which she let them know with humor), most were extremely thoughtful. Students became active participants and showed their appreciation of her story. If the first ovation

The Torch – looking for the next generation.

Two members of the group, which is sometimes called the Second Gen, children of Jewish survivors and their descendants, are forming an official San Antonio



the
TORCH
the next generations

group called The Torch. Varda Ratner and Becky Schenker, who are both children of survivors, have decided to bring people together that grew up with the Holocaust as part of their parents' direct experience. They plan to start with a social event for participants to meet each other at which time they will provide information about future programs.

If you are a child of a survivor or you know someone who is a survivor's child or grandchild, contact the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio (HMMSA) at 302-6807 or email at info@hmmsa.org. The HMMSA is a program of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. For more information about the Museum and its activities, go to www.hmmsa.org.

was moving; the second was astounding. Given several options, at least 200 or so students chose to meet Rose

personally and take a picture with her. Students were lined up across the stage, down the stairs, and up

the auditorium aisle, some having to wait as much as 45 minutes to meet her.

Some teens shook her hand and thanked her. Several shed tears. One young woman, who told Rose she herself had been through deprivation and tough times, held onto Rose and sobbed for several minutes. All of them seemed affected by her story in positive ways.

As seems appropriate, Rose was presented with a dozen roses of her own, for which she thanked the entire student body. But it's not the roses that she takes home with her from events such as this. Like Anna Rado, Susie Jalnos, and George Fodor, who also speak to groups of their Holocaust days, it's the hugs and expressions of love and appreciation the survivors take to heart. Our museum logo is "Now that you know, what will you do?" To the survivors, the students' desires to accept the challenge of becoming

See **JOHNSON HS**, page 9



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JOHNSON HS

continued from page 8

a voice for change is what makes reliving those dark days over and over worthwhile.

Johnson High School set the bar high for other schools who wish survivors to come to the campus in lieu of their coming to the museum. With time constraints, large numbers of students, and transportation costs, more schools are asking for HMMSA to go to them. While I will always believe the museum experience is one that cannot be duplicated elsewhere and that students generally behave better in the museum environment rather than their school, Johnson students and staff show us that it can be done and done with dignity and decorum.

The Economic Benefits of Peace

A recent RAND Corporation report asserts that the Israeli and Palestinian economies would gain \$173 billion over the next ten years if a peace could be found between the two entities. The Israeli economy would gain more in real dollars, but the Palestinian economy would gain more proportionately. Of the \$173 billion, Israel would gain \$123 billion and the Palestinians would gain \$50 billion, but for Palestinians it is a 36 percent increase over 10 years per capita income versus a 5 percent increase for the average Israeli.

Reactions to the study have been skeptical. Jonathan Toubin writes in



**CRC
Commentary**

JUDY
LACKRITZ

Commentary that “There are some things so obvious that perhaps it takes an intellectual to think that stating them constitutes penetrating insight.” He adds that just as the Israelis will have to be willing to release territory, the Palestinians must recognize the legitimacy of a Jewish state. He notes that the latter has not yet happened even among the supposedly more moderate Palestinians.

Sami Abdullah of the Palestinian Economic Policy Research Center was quoted in the New York Times regarding the RAND study as “an academic exercise with good intentions” but the benefits of a two-state solution are “an issue that everyone knows.”

The primary factors

considered in the study are direct and opportunity costs to the economy and for the security expenditures. Opportunity costs refer to the lost opportunities for productive activity due to the conflict. For Israelis, the direct costs include expenses on settlements and security. The largest opportunity cost of the conflict is negative impact on investment and economic activity caused by concerns over instability in Israel. Other opportunity costs include diminished opportunities for trade with the Palestinians and the greater Arab world, fewer tourists, and a decrease in access to Palestinian labor for work in Israel.

For the Palestinians, which includes those living in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, the direct costs are destruction of property, lower income from jobs in Israel, less freedom of movement for goods, banking regulations and stipends for the families of prisoners held

in Israel. The opportunity costs are mainly rooted in lost opportunities due to barriers to mobility, trade and other economic activity.

The RAND study, whose policy analysis is usually based in economics, considers five alternate scenarios. The farther they range from a peaceful solution the greater the economic and security costs to Israelis and to the Palestinians. The study does recognize that there are barriers to change such as security fears, uncertainty about the future, lack of political consensus and regional instability.

Although the RAND study, which is entitled the “Costs of the Israeli Palestinian conflict” seems obvious and perhaps quixotic, it is sobering to consider their statement that a “return to violence would have profoundly negative economic consequences for both Palestinians and Israelis.”

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Refugees on our doorstep in need of our help

By Marsha Krasser,
CRC Member

The Jewish community in San Antonio is presently faced with an opportunity to fulfil one of the basic tenets of our faith—"tikkun olam". Loosely translated as "repair the world", Jews are often at the forefront in carrying out activities that right the wrongs of economic and social injustice, donating time and money to feed the homeless, bringing the light of literacy to low income communities by one-on-one tutoring, or helping to build homes for those with limited means.

Less than 75 miles from San Antonio, in Dilley and Karnes City, a humanitarian crisis has unfolded over the past two years, one that calls for a Jewish response.

These cities are the locations for two detention centers used to house women and children refugees that have fled violence-torn El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the number of refugees fleeing Central America has doubled in the past year alone — with more than 61,000 "family units" crossing the U.S. border, as well as 51,000 unaccompanied children. And, according to the U.N., asylum applications from these small Central American countries increased by an astounding 712% between 2008 and 2013.

Why are women and children making this difficult, potentially life-threatening journey across thousands of miles to come to the U.S.? Drug cartels, gang-related and domestic violence and extortion are the catalysts causing waves of migration from these countries.

IN THE WORDS OF ANNE FRANK:

"How wonderful it is that no one need wait a single moment to start to improve the world."

Criminal organizations are so powerful and pervasive that, in many cases, they have supplanted the governments altogether.

These gangs routinely demand money on threat of death, kidnap young boys to serve as soldiers and seize young girls as sexual slaves. Fleeing is often the only option.

Yet, when refugees arrive, they are placed in Dilley and Karnes City detention centers, only to face a new set of obstacles: without English language proficiency and lacking financial resources, they are forced to spend extended time, often separated from their children, while social service and faith-based groups help to secure their release by raising money to meet exorbitantly high bond fees, often upwards of \$8,500 per family.

Once released, San Antonio is their first stop on lengthy

journeys across the U.S. to join family or friends and start life anew.

How can we, in the Jewish community, participate in "tikkun olam"? Consider one or more of the following efforts:

1. Join the Interfaith Welcome Coalition (IWC), a broad network of community organizations, faith networks and concerned individuals that is focused on women and children seeking U.S. asylum. The IWC carries out various humanitarian activities (some are described below) and also provides important advocacy at the local, state and Federal level to push for more humane strategies to address the refugee crisis.

2. Make a monetary donation to the Family Detention Bond Fund. This Fund supports women and families who are in detention and who cannot afford to pay the bond fees

necessary for release. Since September 2014, the Fund has raised \$319,000 to help free 78 children and mothers but needs more than \$70,000 immediately to assist others with pending bonds.

3. Meet Families at the Greyhound Bus Station. Spanish speaking volunteers are needed to meet with families who are dropped off to navigate to places across the country with tickets and directions in a language that they are unfamiliar with. Help is needed to meet families, find short term shelter, (see below) and provide them with basic supplies.

4. Help Out at the Mennonite House at 602 Mission Street. Volunteers are needed to spend the night, take people to the bus station,

to doctor's appointments, or if they speak Spanish, to provide companionship during the day. The house needs supplies, including staples—rice, dried black beans, and tortillas, as well as household items—trash bags, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent, and other cleaning supplies.

5. Fill A Refugee Backpack. Since December 2014, IWC volunteers have provided over 200 families with backpacks to help refugees on their journey. Each backpack contains basic supplies: toiletries, snacks, baby formula, diapers, a blanket, and other things needed for a 3-4 day bus trip. It costs \$25 to provide one family with these supplies. Help fill a Refugee Backpack by sponsoring one with a donation of \$25, or donate the supplies.

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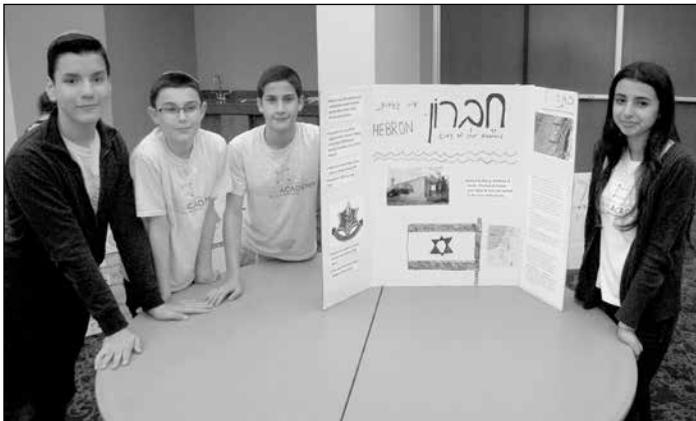
FEDERATION AT WORK

Six San Antonio Federation professionals attended the Texas Federation Professional Development Program in Austin, Texas on June 24-25. The conference featured keynote speakers such as Richard Friedman, longtime Executive Director of the Birmingham Federation, and National elevator pitch champion, Chris Westfall. The event provided a forum for San Antonio executives to meet and collaborate with Federation leaders from across Texas.



(l-r) Susan Kariv, Tiffany Bockerstette, Ronit Sherwin, Judy Lackritz, Julie Schack and Lauren Abraham.

Our San Antonio Partnership program at work



Students at Shmuel Bass Torah Academy present their report on the city of Hebron.

Two of our San Antonio Jewish schools showcased Federation's Partnership2gether with the Western Galilee region in

Israel. During Inda Posner Religious School's (IPRS) yearlong Israel Partnership2gether program,



Inda Posner Religious School students gather as they have completed their yearlong Israel partnership2gether.

students created a "Day in the life" video where each student videotaped an essential part of their extra curricular activities to share with their Israeli

student counterparts. The IPRS students explained the importance of this activity in their life. The Israeli students created and shared their own "Day in the Life"

video so the students could compare and contrast. The culmination was a 14-minute video that shared their knowledge gained, especially in map-building skills and the variety of customs around the world.

Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of San Antonio students took a full week to do an in depth study of Israel with each grade level focusing on a different city. The sixth graders are photographed above with their city poster of Hebron. Their project consisted of a multi-level baking of Israeli food (hummus and falafel), video arrangement of each student greeting partnership friends in Hebrew and "school wide" city presentations after biblical and modern day research was conducted.



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PJ Library Summer Sensations

PJ Library has had a busy summer. In June, PJ Play Day at Rodfei proved to exceed expectations as the program engaged 46 PJ Library families with children ages 6 months to 7 years old (with over 100 total participants). As the families interacted to share the time together on a hot summer morning, they cooled down with ice cream, water balloons, stories from Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg, an obstacle course, and some fun play time outside. This event was the perfect place to catch up with old friends and make new ones at the sprawling grounds and facilities of Congregation Rodfei Sholom. Fledgling readers heard PJ Library books in tribute to thanking God and to the summer with a new PJ Library book entitled *I Love Camp!*

Congregation Rodfei Sholom President Jodi Starr said, "It was wonderful to see so many of our community's children learning and playing together



Aaron Bradley and the PJ Library children enjoyed water balloon tossing and getting wet on the warm summer day at PJ Play at Rodfei.

at Rodfei Sholom. We look forward to hosting a PJ Library program again soon."

PJ Library's Summer continued with the *Happy 4th of July* collaboration between Hadassah and the PJ Library. The children walked into the Beldon Library to red, white, and blue art projects galore that included beading America themed bracelets, flag making, in addition to red, white, and blue fruit and marshmallow skewer staking. A special make

your own fireworks project that creatively utilized swimming pool noodles with shooting star sticks coming out were included. This program included

See **PJ**, page 13



With the help of Hadassah leaders Sandy Shanefield, Marion Bernstein, and Kathy O'Neill PJ Library readers Rennix Vizurraga, Samantha and Lauren Abramson, Hannah Tawil and Benny Abraham made fun "fireworks" to celebrate the 4th of July.

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Hadassah member Tevia Friedmar and PJ Library big sister and volunteer Maria Viramontes share a fourth of July story, *Red White and Boom* with PJ Library readers.

PJ

continued from page 12

a rousing rendition of American tribute songs by vocalist Vicki Adelstein,

and two 4th of July stories read by Hadassah leaders. The program established a true American connection between us all, and paved the way for a deeper red, white,

and blue celebration! Hadassah San Antonio President, Kathy O'Neill, spoke highly of the inspirational event. She said "We all had a wonderful



Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg of Congregation Rodfei Sholom read stories and led songs with the PJ Library children at PJ Play at Rodfei. His animated telling of PJ Library book, *I Love Camp*, got children excited for the summer season.

time partnering with the PJ Library for the Early Fourth of July event. The Hadassah ladies enjoyed activities with new friends and we were proud to introduce them to the extraordinary work of Hadassah in the US and Israel. Hadassah, too, hopes we can

work together again soon." PJ Library San Antonio has much more in store, and encourages any families raising Jewish children ages 6 months to 7 years to "Like" the PJ Library San Antonio Facebook page for updates on PJ Library

JFSA and JCC present Helen Suzman: Fighter for Human Rights exhibit

Helen Suzman was one of South Africa's most vociferous and energetic opponents of apartheid. Her nearly four decade long political career about her tireless efforts in challenging the system is the focus of an exhibit that will appear at the Campus in September.

From her friendship with Nelson Mandela to her years in Parliament, Suzman's fascinating life as a true

heroine will be displayed through a 29 paneled, free standing exhibit. Admission is free and open to the community. Exhibit hours will follow Campus operating hours, drop-ins welcome, no reservations necessary.

Contact Maya Siler for more information at (210) 302-6820 or silerm@jcc-sa.org. The exhibit is presented by the Jewish Federation of San Antonio and the JCC.

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IN THE COMMUNITY

Temple Chai to dedicate new home

Temple Chai, a growing progressive congregation in San Antonio, will dedicate its new home at 2121 Lockhill-Selma (in a building at the northeast corner of NW Military Hwy.) on Sunday, Aug. 23, at 10 a.m. Founded in 2005 by six families, the reform congregation has grown to more than 50 families.

“We look forward to celebrating the High Holy Days here,” said President Ron Heller. “And we thank the Jewish Community Campus for allowing us to rent space in past years. As we enter our next decade, we anticipate many opportunities for study, worship and service to our community in our new home.”

Rabbi David Komerofsky, Temple Chai’s spiritual leader, welcomes the entire Jewish community to attend the celebration.

“I am a pluralist committed to innovation within the framework of Jewish tradition, who believes in lowering the barriers to involvement in Jewish life and embracing the complex diversity of contemporary life,” he explained. To this end, Rabbi Komerofsky will officiate at life-cycle events, and will offer

Torah study, an introduction to Judaism class, Hebrew study for children and adults, in addition to weekly Shabbat services and seasonal festival observances.

Rabbi Komerofsky was ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1999 and earned his Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters at the Los Angeles campus in 1997. He was Dean of Students and Director of the Rabbinical School at HUC-JIR in Cincinnati, and later Executive Director of Texas Hillel at UT, Austin, from 2006-2013. He is also a consultant for Hillel International, the central organization for enriching Jewish campus life on more than 550 campuses in North America and around the world. Rabbi Komerofsky, an Akron, Ohio native, is married to Cleveland native Ronit Sherwin, the CEO of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. Their blended family includes two sets of boy-girl twins, ages fifteen and five.

For more information or to RSVP to attend, visit www.templechaisa.org or call the Temple Chai office, (210) 340-2090.

@TBE30s40s+ Social Club kicks off with falafel

Temple Beth-El is reintroducing its young couples’ programming for couples in their 30s and 40s, after a recent gathering revealed a common need.

“We all agreed that we needed to formalize a way for people our age to get to know each other better for our own sake and the sake of our children, many of whom attend religious

school together but don’t necessarily get the chance to see each other outside of Temple or summer camp,” said Jessica Berg.

TBE30s40s Social Club will meet monthly, mostly at people’s homes with some bigger events throughout the year. While the focus is primarily social, the intent is clearly to build Jewish community.

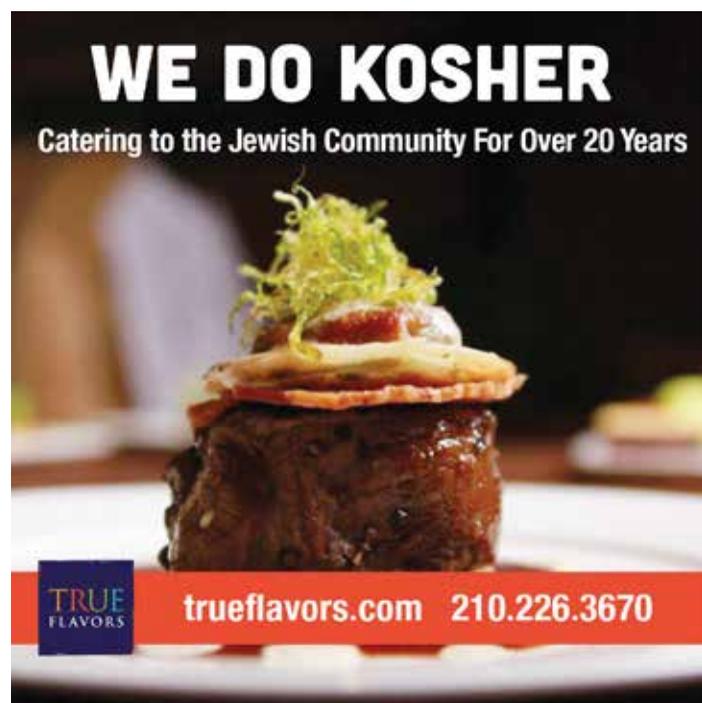
The group is on Twitter (@TBE30s40s) and Instagram (TBE30s40s) as a fun way to keep people up-to-date and share pictures from gatherings and events. Anyone can follow.

The first event is planned for Thursday, Aug. 20 at Moishe’s Golden Falafel, 3910 McCullough. For more information, call (210) 733-9135.

Managing grief during High Holy Days

Grieving for a loved one happens all during the year. For some, grief may seem more over whelming during the High Holy days. Temple Beth-El, along with Porter Loring Family Care Services, will offer a workshop to help prepare families and individuals who are facing this High Holy Day season without their loved one.

All members of the Jewish community are invited to attend the workshop being held at Temple Beth-El on Wednesday, Sept. 2, at 7 p.m. The workshop will be conducted by Rabbi Mara Nathan and Celeste Miller, Bereavement Coordinator of Porter Loring Family Care Services. For more information, contact Iris Berman-Smith at 733-9135, ext. 106, or iris@beth-elsa.org.



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Anti-Semitism: The global resurgence of scapegoating

Rabbi Steve Gutow will discuss the recent rise of anti-Semitism around the world at a World Affairs Council of San Antonio event on Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 6 p.m. at Temple Beth-El, 211 Belknap Place. The event is hosted by the World Affairs Council of San Antonio. The cost is \$15 for students; \$25 for non-members. There is no charge for members. For ticketing information, visit www.wacofsa.org or call (210) 308-9494.

Gutow is president of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a participant in the State Department's Religion and Foreign Policy Working Group. He is focused on working to improve others' understanding of

connections between religious dynamics and foreign policy.

With the rise of anti-Semitism, as well as violence in Africa and the Middle East against Christians, Muslims and Yazidis, Gutow and his colleagues are working to help governments speak out against religious violence. They hope to better equip diplomats to engage religious leaders as voices of reconciliation and to foster consistency in establishing interfaith engagement as a key to diplomatic outreach.

Gutow has been named by *Newsweek* as one of the "50 Most Influential American Rabbis" and by *The Forward* as one of the "50 Most Influential American Jews."

Agudas Achim to host College Connection Shabbat and potluck dinner

On Friday, Aug. 7, Congregation Agudas Achim will host a special musical Friday Night with Friends Kabbalat Shabbat and Potluck Dinner recognizing students going off to college or graduate school in the coming year. The special

Shabbat service and dinner is in conjunction with the synagogue's College Connection program, which provides four holiday boxes during the course of the school year, reinforcing the students' connection with Agudas Achim and the

holidays.

Services begin at 6:15 pm in the Alterman Salkind Louis Sanctuary followed by the dairy/parve potluck dinner in the Gurinsky Family Social Hall. No reservations are necessary.

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IN THE COMMUNITY

Agudas Achim welcomes new Director of Congregational Learning

Congregation Agudas Achim has welcomed a new Director of Congregational Learning, Rabbi Ariel Greenberg. Rabbi Greenberg's role will encompass the management of the Inda Posner Religious School, guidance to the Heintz Preschool and oversight of Agudas Achim adult education programming.

Rabbi Greenberg joins Agudas Achim after her recent ordination at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Dickinson College and



has spent several years working in areas of lifelong learning. Rabbi Greenberg is very excited to educate and provide our Agudas Achim congregants with the tools they need to love Judaism. Her theme for this year for the synagogue is "Jewish Identity."

Israel Bonds and Congregation Rodfei Sholom IPA co-sponsor Iran program

Dr. Alan Kuperman, Associate Professor of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin will be the featured speaker at a breakfast on Sunday, Aug. 30 at 9:30 am at Congregation Rodfei Sholom. The event is co-sponsored by State of Israel Bonds and the Israel Public Affairs Committee of Rodfei Sholom. The program is open to the entire community.

Kuperman teaches courses in global policy studies and is coordinator of the Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Project (NPPP) at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. The NPPP engages in research, debate, and public education to ensure that civilian applications of nuclear



technology do not foster the spread of nuclear weapons to states or terrorist groups. Kuperman's research focuses on ethnic conflict, nuclear nonproliferation, and U.S. military intervention. In 2013 he edited *Nuclear Terrorism and Global Security: The*

Challenge of Phasing Out Highly Enriched Uranium.

In a New York Times Op-Ed in June 2015, *The Iran Deal's Fatal Flaw*, Kuperman, using basic math and science, calculated that the breakout time under the proposed deal would be approximately three months and not a year as the Obama administration claims. "Thus the deal would be unlikely to improve the world's ability to react to a sudden effort by Iran to build a bomb."

The cost of the breakfast is \$5; reservations are requested at (210) 493-3558 or via email at rodfeisa@gmail.com. Guests are welcome to come to the lecture only at no charge.

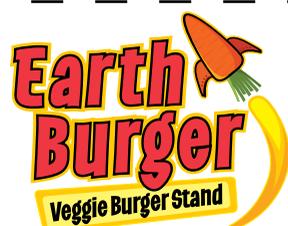
Jewish War Veterans Post #753 Corner

The August meeting of San Antonio Jewish War Veterans Post #753 will include a birthday celebration of the U.S. Coast Guard, which was founded on August 4, 1790.

The meeting – open to Jewish veterans and active duty personnel – will be held on Sunday, Aug. 23 at the JCC, Room 277. Breakfast will be served at 9:30 a.m.

Club Agudas Achim

Club Agudas Achim, a new program of Congregation Agudas Achim, offers monthly social events for individuals and couples in their 40s and 50s. For more information, call (210) 479-0307.



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AIPAC Speaker to discuss Turkey's relationship with Israel

AIPAC speaker Gabriel Mitchell will discuss *Turkey: Israel's Friend or Foe* during a Congregation Agudas Achim Selichot program in the sanctuary on Saturday, Sept. 5 at 8:30 p.m.

The evening will begin with Havdalah followed by Mitchell's presentation. The program will continue with the Torah scroll mantle change and procession, Selichot services and conclude with the synagogue's popular "Tacos and Tequila".

Mitchell is a PhD candidate in Government & International Affairs at Virginia Tech University and the Israel-Turkey Project Coordinator at Mitvim – the



Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies.

Born in Providence, Rhode Island, Gabriel moved to Israel in 2005 in order to serve in the Israel Defense Forces. Following his time in the military, he worked for a number of

years in Jewish education, before transitioning into a career in public policy. For the last two years he has engaged in Track II efforts to resolve the ongoing diplomatic dispute between Israel and Turkey.

Gabriel writes regularly about events in the Middle East and has been published in a number of newspapers and journals, including *The New Republic*, *The American Interest*, *The National Interest*, *The Jerusalem Post*, *Hürriyet Daily News*, *The Times of Israel*, and *Turkish Policy Quarterly*.

For more information on the Selichot program, call (210) 479-0307.



Literacy lunch Nathan Ratner, Coordinator, Jerry Leverant, volunteer and Bruce Gill, volunteer

Volunteers thanked for their school year service

On May 20, 2015, a lunch was held at the home of Ms. Leslie Sokol to thank the San Antonio Jewish Coalition for Literacy (SAJCL) volunteers for their 2014 - 2015 tutoring/mentoring service activities at local San Antonio schools. The SAJCL is a community outreach activity that is sponsored and funded by the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. Eighteen volunteers attended the lunch.

The SAJCL is always looking for additional volunteers to help more San Antonio school students who need individualized assistance for the upcoming 2015 -2016 school year. If you are interested in joining the SAJCL as a volunteer, please contact Nathan Ratner, the Coalition's Coordinator. His telephone number is 210-302-6972, and his e-mail address is ratnern@jfsatx.org.

JCC fall programs begin late August

The Barshop JCC has released its Fall Program Guide, which contains a variety of recreational, educational and enrichment programs and services offered at the JCC.

While continuing to offer

a variety of community favorites, such as soccer and dance Academies, tennis, theatre, senior lunches, and more, the JCC will also offer a handful of new classes. Most programs are available to the community

with JCC members receiving a reduced rate.

The program guide is available online at www.jccsanantonio.org/publications. For more information, call (210) 302-6820.

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Temple Beth-El highlights opportunities for young families

Temple Beth-El is now offering expanded worship and programming opportunities for families with young children. “I have spent a lot of time this past year looking at our programming and listening to congregants,” said Senior Rabbi Mara Nathan. It became increasingly clear that our younger families were looking for more ways to be connected to each other through Temple.

Without a pre-school of their own, Temple does not have a daily reason for toddlers and their parents to walk through their doors. So, through a process that combined casual conversations, group meetings and staff brainstorming, Rabbi Nathan and her team have developed several ways to welcome this population into the building and into Temple life.

“We started with Sunday morning religious school, a time when the majority of our families with children congregate,” explained Rabbi Nathan. The Sunday pre-k



program has expanded from a monthly gathering to a weekly class with teachers dedicated to 3 year olds and 4 year olds. “We’ve designed the day to bring those families into t’fillah at the beginning of the morning and a chance for open play for the kids and casual conversation for the adults at the

end while they wait for older kids, or just get a chance to know their fellow congregants better each week. We have been looking for ways to help our membership---who really live all over San Antonio---to be together on a regular basis.” Monthly adult education offerings on Sunday mornings are planned as well and

babysitting is offered weekly for the littlest ones.

In addition to weekly religious school, there will be two Shabbat services each month particularly geared to younger families. A Kabbalat Shabbat at 5:30p.m. the first Friday of each month, followed by an optional community dinner, and a Family Shabbat at 9 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month.

“Of course everyone is welcome and included in all of our Shabbat and Holiday services,” assures Rabbi Nathan, “but, these family friendly services allow children the opportunity to feel comfortable in the Temple’s worship spaces and become familiar with the prayers and melodies of our services, all while having fun and making deeper friendships in the process.” Rabbi Nathan, Rabbi Marina Yergin, Cantor Julie Berlin and song leader Stefano Iacono will all take part in leading the various services throughout the month.

Free parenting program offered at Barshop JCC

Precious Minds New Connections, coordinated by the JCC Block and Dreeben School for Young Children at the Barshop Jewish Community Center, will begin its fourteenth year of providing free parenting classes for parents and caregivers of children birth to four years on Thursday, Sept. 10. Classes are held in ten-week sessions from 9:15-11:15a.m. or 6:30-8:30p.m.

“Parenting is a learned skill. There are many things parents can learn that help make their parenting experience more rewarding and satisfying,” states Cindy Berman, program coordinator and educator for PMNC. “We want to help parents learn

to take the time to respond instead of react to their child’s behaviors,” states Berman.

All classes are free, thanks to a generous grant funded by Kronkosky Charitable Foundation. Each session includes a light snack in the morning and dinner in the evening, qualified childcare, helpful handouts, and a gift, such as a book or something to enhance parent-child time together.

Other start dates are Tuesday, Dec. 1, Wednesday, Jan. 6 (evenings only), and Monday, Mar. 21.

To register or for more information, call (210) 302-6846.

Block & Dreeben School for Young Children launches new learning initiative

The Block and Dreeben School for Young Children has announced their participation in *Sheva*, an early childhood learning framework shaped by the latest brain and child development research. In Hebrew, *Sheva* means ‘seven’; titling the program *Sheva* is a nod to the significance this number has in Jewish tradition.

An initiative of the Jewish Community Center Association (JCCA), *Sheva* is comprised of seven core principles that work together to encourage participation of

all members of the early childhood program—the director, the teachers, the students, and the families.

According to Alissa Levey Baugh, Director of Early Childhood Services, “*Sheva* is a unique program, not only in its use of recent research to support the core principles, but it will also be continually built upon through collaborative communications between JCC directors all over the country who have committed to sharing ideas and facilitating discussions of best practices of

implementation of this exciting new program.”

The seven core principles of *Sheva* are: Children as Constructivist Learners; Early Childhood Directors as Visionaries; Early Childhood Educators as Professionals; Families as Engaged Partners; Environments as Inspiration for Inquiry; Discover CATCH as *Sh’mirat HaGuf* (taking care of our bodies); and *Israel as the Story of the Jewish People*.

For more information, contact Alissa Levey Baugh at (210) 302-6846.

Registration Open for Heintz Preschool

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim is currently enrolling for Fall 2015. A limited number of spaces are available. The fully-licensed Early Childhood program is designed for children ages eighteen months through four years. There are flexible class options for the fall including two, three and five day options as well as extended hours five days a week.

Heintz Preschool educators offer a nurturing Jewish environment with small classes, school-wide celebrations, and meaningful child-centered curricula. The school's teaching strategies are designed to engage children as they gain confidence while developing their learning skills. A typical day at Heintz Preschool includes opportunities for young children to explore their Judaism, literacy, numeracy, social skills, music and several enrichment classes.

The school's Yad B'Yad program, in partnership with Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services fosters intergenerational relationships between Heintz Preschoolers and local Jewish seniors through specially-themed monthly programming.

For more information about the Heintz Preschool Fall program, or to take a tour contact Preschool Director Celina Geideshman at (210) 479-0429 or c.geideshman@agudas-achim.org.

Barshop JCC offers after school program for kids

The Barshop JCC is accepting registration for the JCC After School program which offers children a fun, safe environment where they can do homework, participate in sports, play games, do arts and crafts, learn about Judaism and more. The After School program begins at 2:45 p.m. for students at the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy (EKHLA). The remaining students are picked up by drivers and brought to the JCC from elementary schools in the surrounding areas, including Huebner Oaks, Blattman, Oak Meadow, Hidden Forest, Saint George, and Castle Hills.

Instructors from various sports and enrichment programs pick up the children at the After School Center for lessons and practices, and then bring them back when they are finished.

Homework time is allocated



every day, and a snack is provided during the beginning of the student's arrival to the JCC. The kids in the program are split up by age; kindergarten through first graders in one room, second through third graders in one room,

fourth graders in another room, and the Youth Lounge serve as a fun space for students in fifth grade and up.

For more information, call (210) 302-6859 or visit www.jccsanantonio.org/kidsclub.

BBYO recruiting new members

The local chapters of BBYO, the largest Jewish youth organization in the world, have opened fall recruiting for new members. Jewish high school students interested in meeting other Jewish teens or gaining leadership experience are encouraged to join.

San Antonio BBYO has two chapters: Erich Weiss (boys) and Sababa (girls). BBYO teen leaders help plan and lead events and form friendships with Jewish teens in Houston and Austin. Members

participate in monthly chapter meetings, a variety of local events, and attend three Regional conventions during the year.

"At the end of the four year experience, seniors reflect that BBYO had a positive impact on their Jewish identity and helped give them the skills to be a better leader and friendships that will last a lifetime," Dylan Ashworth, BBYO city director, said.

A new parent information meeting and



Daniel Yancelson (second from the left) hiking with fellow Birthright Israel students from across the United States.

new member event will be held on Sunday, Aug. 16 at 1 p.m. at the JCC. For more information about events or membership, contact Dylan Ashworth,

San Antonio BBYO city director at (210) 302-6869 or ashworthd@jcc-sa.org. The cost to join is \$75 for a year or \$149 for all four years.

Registration open for Inda Posner Religious School

Registration is currently underway for the Inda Posner Religious School at Congregation Agudas. New Director of Congregation Learning, Rabbi Ariel Greenberg, will roll out an updated school curricula, and several new programs. Registration is open for all children from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Contact Rabbi Greenberg at (210) 479-0307 or Rabbi.Greenberg@agudas-achim.org.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

ANNUAL MEETING

continued from page 1

some of the accomplishments of the Jewish Federation from the past year, including the growth of the PJ Library program, now serving 325 children (and growing) in the San Antonio area. In addition, the Jewish Federation has convened the Community Leadership Roundtable, a forum for our top lay and professional volunteers of all the community's agencies and synagogues to come together on a regular basis for the purpose of sharing and discussion. Planto also highlighted that our 2014 campaign leadership and solicitors were able to have more one-on-one conversations with our donors than we have had in a number of years. "Our message was that we are here to listen and we are invested in building personal relationships," Planto said.

As is customary at the annual meeting, Jimmy Toubin presented the Joel A. Toubin award in recognition of outstanding service to the Community Relations Council (CRC), in loving memory of his son. This year's recipient was Pat Kalmans, immediate past chair of the CRC. Jacob Kluger was presented with the Sylvia F. and Harry Suger Award, honoring a young adult in the community who has shown outstanding leadership. Planto presented the Chair's Award to Federation board member Marc Schnall for his service in providing excellent leadership and commitment to the Jewish Federation.

The annual meeting also included recognition of the Young Leadership Development Program graduates, a report from the B'nai Tzedek teen philanthropy program by Justin Zeldes, and personal reflections on their experiences on the March of the Living by Bailey Ratner and Jared Wulfe.

The installation of the Jewish



The Vizurraga family

Federation Executive Committee for the 2015-2016 year included: Planto, presiding chair, Jonathan Gurwitz, Harry Levy, Lauren Stanley, Marc Schnall, Jason Kboundi, DDS, Alice Viroslav, MD, and Steve Butler. The following new board members were also welcomed: Leslie Selig Byrd, Kelly Klein, Jacob Kluger, Larry Nathan, Aaron Sarfati, Claudia Stokes, PhD, Michael Swanson and Michelle Vizurraga.

Renowned Jewish educator Avraham Infeld, who travelled from Israel as Federation's guest speaker, was a highlight of the meeting. A native of South Africa and a longtime resident of Jerusalem, Infeld has had a long (and continuing) career as a Jewish educator, working with Hillel International, Melitz, Birthright and many other Jewish agencies worldwide. Infeld's message of Jewish peoplehood and the significant role that Jewish Federations have in being able to convene the larger Jewish community was powerful and well received. Infeld charged the leadership of the Jewish Federation to continue to work hard on the agenda of Jewish peoplehood and for the entire community to be engaged and active in building vibrant Jewish community.



Rabbi Mara Nathan and JFSA Chief Development Officer Susan Kariv



Barbie Scharf-Zeldes, Eric Steitz, Rabbi Jeffrey and Lauren Abraham



Dave Fisher, Jacob Kluger and Mitch Michelson



Hannah Margolis and Marion Bernstein

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Brian Feld and his son



Guest speaker Avraham Infeld



Harry Levy, Jimmy Toubin and Steve Butler



CAMP GAN ISRAEL WRAPS UP 28TH YEAR

With fresh and innovative programming, Chabad's Camp Gan Israel concluded its 28th "Happy. Fun. Jewish." summer experience, under the leadership of its new director Rochel Teldon. Over the span of 8 weeks, close to 100 children participated in daily swimming, weekly field trips to local attractions, and a variety of "electivities" with professional instructors, including basketball and soccer, drum circle, cupcake decorating, woodworking, jewelry making, Lego® mechanics, canvas painting, theater, mad science and more. For more information and photo albums, visit www.GanIsraelSA.com.



ARMED FORCES SHABBAT AT TEMPLE BETH-EL

On July 3, Temple Beth-El held a well-attended Armed Forces Shabbat, at which scores of current and former military men and women were blessed by Rabbi Mara Nathan in front of the open Ark.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



WATERMELON WEDNESDAY SUMMER STORY TIME

Agudas Achim and Heintz Preschool children had summer fun with Rabbi and Lauren Abraham at Watermelon Wednesdays. The next Watermelon Wednesday, an end of summer storytime pizza party, will be held at Agudas Achim on August 19 at 4:30 p.m.



J-Camp specialists, who design curriculum in art, drama, sports, nature and Israeli culture, included two Shlichim (emissaries from Israel).

Campers decorated challah covers and each camp group made their own Shabbat box.



SUMMER FUN COMES TO A CLOSE

The JCC's summer camp program, J-Camp, provided a broad range of camp experiences for children, including sports camps, activity camps, theatre camp and more. This year's theme was *The Best in Texas*.

Community Shabbat dinner at Rodfei Sholom

Rodfei Sholom will host a community leadership Shabbat dinner on September 18. This Shabbat dinner is open to members of the San Antonio community.

Advance registration is requested by Wednesday, Sept. 16, by email rodfeisa@gmail.com or phone (210) 493-3557.

SUPER SUNDAY | October 11, 2015

Chairs: Liz & Greg Davis, Danielle & Aaron Sarfati

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The PJ Library

Jewish Adult Education

Our Local Jewish Community

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Growing Future Leaders

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Investing in our Children

Jews in the Diaspora



Jewish Federation
OF SAN ANTONIO

www.jfsatx.org

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER. ANSWER THE CALL.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

COMBATting ANTI-SEMITISM ON CAMPUS



In June, the Israel Public Action Committee hosted a screening of the film *Crossing the Line* and a discussion of anti-Semitism on Campus. The discussion was led by Moriah Sonsino, Shiri Kbouti and Kate Blumenthal.

COOL WAY TO SPEND THE SUMMER TOGETHER

Sylvia Geller, Chava Faiga Scheinberg, Julie Lasky, and Jeremy Schwartz had a great time “chilling out” with others during the Rodfei on Ice outing on June 14.



HEINTZ SUMMER CAMP OFFERS FUN AND FRIENDSHIP

Heintz Preschool Summer Camps at Congregation Agudas Achim included a week each of Jr. Chefs, Amazing Animals, Hebrew Happiness and Creative Arts, the children also enjoyed daily water play, learning, and fun!

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OF SAN ANTONIO

Richard Planto, Board Chair
Jonathan Gurwitz, 2015 Annual Campaign Chair
Ronit Sherwin, CEO

(210) 302-6960
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WHAT'S HAPPENING



GOLDEN MANOR JEWISH SENIOR SERVICES ANNUAL MEETING

2015-2016 GMJSS Board of Directors were installed at the Annual Meeting held on July 14. Incoming President, Alice Troy, spoke about how GMJSS plans to continue reinforcing the ways of connecting with seniors, including the launching of a series of new initiatives designed to engage the growing needs of active seniors. A few of the many areas being explored are: preparing for a second or volunteer career, updating technology skills, developing a Traveler's Club, and providing education on aging in place.

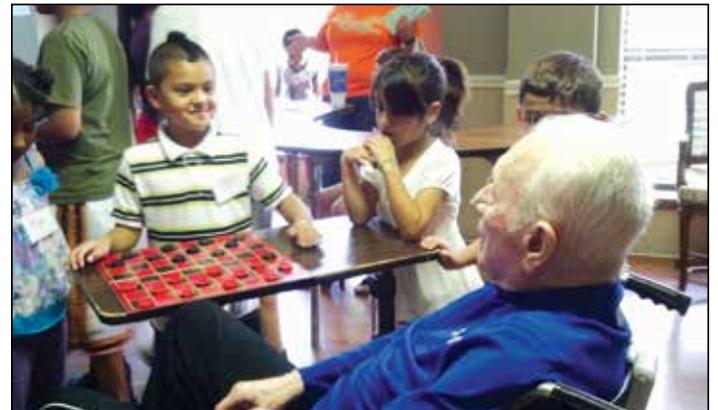
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Children from the Temple Beth-El summer camp deliver handmade cards and paper flowers for the residents at San Pedro Manor, across W. Ashby from the Temple.

BETH-EL FOOD & FUN SUMMER DAY CAMP INCLUDES TIKKUN OLAM

For the 6th year, Temple Beth-El has been providing free meals and free summer day camp to nearly 200 at-risk and food insecure children living in the Temple vicinity. Partnering with the San Antonio Food Bank and the Texas Department of Agriculture, Temple Beth-El provided the food, and through grants from the Jean and Kenneth Ladensohn Trust Fund, the Greehey Family Foundation, and private donors, the Temple will continue to provide fun and safe activities between breakfast and lunch through August 12. A private donor is also funding school uniforms for campers.

Noting that 78% of the children in the Temple vicinity qualify for the free breakfast and lunch program during the school year, Temple Beth-El is making a difference in the lives of many families (based on data received from the Food Research Action Center, www.frac.org).

While preparing for this year's camp, Temple staff and camp counselors asked themselves how the camp could get better. They came up with the idea to teach and show the children about the power of giving to others (tikkun olam). While the children have experience in receiving help from others, they have also learned how their own giving can make the world a better place.

IN THE COMMUNITY: COLLEGE NEWS

Guide to college Jewish life

Hillel International has released a new guide to Jewish life on college campuses. The semi-annual publication is designed to help prospective college students and their families include Jewish life as a factor in the college search process. The magazine includes information on innovative Jewish programs on campus, Israel engagement, and social justice initiatives at an

array of colleges. It also provides unique advice to Jewish students and their families on what to look for in their college search.

The magazine also presents the top 60 public and private “schools that Jews choose” based on those school’s self-reported data of Jewish attendance and Jewish services offered. The full guide is available online at: <http://www.hillel.org/magazine>.

San Antonio students participate in Birthright Israel through Chabad on Campus

Birthright Israel is a program that provides Jewish students and young adults the opportunity to travel to Israel for a memorable 10-day experience for free. Chabad on Campus of San Antonio is a partner of Birthright Israel and sponsored three of their group members, Daniel Yancelson, Yonatan Krigel and Ethan Munoz of San Antonio.

The students say the experience had a profound impact on them and their Jewish identity.

“Israel is beyond words, really,” says Yonatan Krigel, “To witness and experience the beauty and culture first hand – and not through anyone

else’s eyes was absolutely amazing.”

Registration for winter 2015-2016 Birthright Israel trips opens September 8.

The Birthright program is open to young adults ages 18-29.

Interested participants should contact Campus Rabbi, Ari Weingarten at Ariweingarten@gmail.com or at (210) 391-3621.

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IN THE COMMUNITY: SENIORS

Life at Yeshiva is focus of August L'Chayim Club at Rodfei Sholom

Rodfei Sholom’s L’Chayim Club get together will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 5, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The program, *The World of the Yeshiva*, will highlight five

young men who are visiting as part of a national summer SEED program. Each will give insights into what it is like to learn in a Yeshiva in America in the 21st century. After the

presentation, lunch will be served. There is no charge for seniors; cost for all others is \$5 per person. RSVP by Friday, July 31 to rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

GMJSS awards grants for 2015-2016

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services has announced grants for the 2015-2016 awarded to community organizations focused on enriching the lives of Jewish seniors in San Antonio.

Grant recipients include the Barshop Jewish Community Center of San Antonio, Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning, Congregation Agudas Achim, Congregation Rodfei Sholom, Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim, Jewish Family Service of San Antonio,

Texas, Inc., Morningside Ministries’ mmLearn.org program, Northeast Senior Assistance, The Playhouse San Antonio, and Temple Beth-El.

Through transportation and partnerships with grantees, GMJSS helps to bring Jewish Seniors programming, education and community connections that help to fight isolation.

A few examples of the types of programs that GMJSS grants support are Sunshine Club, a luncheon that brings education along with socialization to Jewish Seniors, hosted at Chabad Center

for Jewish Life and Learning; and Yad B’Yad, (“Hand in Hand,”) a program that brings grandparents and “grandpals” together with students at Heintz Preschool at Agudas Achim for engaging projects and learning experiences.

This year, GMJSS will also continue transportation efforts and direct programs that offer kosher meals to seniors, host Jewish Living programs in senior centers such as Adante Senior Living and Madison Estates and religious services and respite programs at Golden Estates Rehabilitation Center.



Jody Reddy and Barbara Argo

Social time with the Seniors Supper Club

The Moonlight Supper Club, a monthly Agudas Achim club for those 60+, gathered for food, fun and friendship, gathered recently for dinner at Scuzzi’s Italian Cuisine.

The next Moonlight Supper Club will be on August 19th. Call Agudas Achim at (210) 479-0307 for information.

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Cantor Meir Dorfman

Rodfei Sholom to host visiting cantor for High Holidays

Congregation Rodfei Sholom will host Cantor Meir Dorfman during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Chasan Dorfman is one of the outstanding cantorial voices in Israel today. He has also performed and been lauded in Capetown, London, and other cities throughout the world.

He has founded numerous cantorial choirs and has

assembled a variety of unique recordings titled “Davening” (Prayers). The collection contains three albums – for Shacharit (morning services), Ma’ariv (evening services), and the High Holidays.

Chasan Dorfman’s visit to San Antonio is partially funded by a grant from the Starr Family Endowment Fund.

Free film screening of *1915: The Movie* Psychological thriller draws attention to realities of genocide

On August 16, the San Antonio Coalition Against Genocide (SACAG) will present a movie about the Armenian Genocide. *1915 The Movie*, will be shown at the University Presbyterian Church, 300 Bushnell, 78212 at 2 p.m.

Beginning April 1915, as World War I raged in Europe, millions of Armenians were taken from their homes and marched through the deserts of Anatolia. As a result of the displacement and forced marches, one and a half million Armenians died. The word genocide

had not yet been coined, but many were aware of what had happened. Hitler said in 1939, “Who, after all, speaks today about the annihilation of the Armenians?”

The movie focuses on today, one hundred years later and the impact of denying the past. It is a psychological thriller with elements of surrealism co-written and co-directed by filmmakers of Armenian origin, Alec Nouhibian and Garin Hovannisian. Set in 1915, the movie opens with a mysterious director (Simon) staging a play at

the Los Angeles Theatre to honor the victims of the Armenian tragedy — a horrifying crime forgotten and denied for an entire century. But as protesters surround his theatre, and a series of strange accidents spread panic among his actors, it appears that Simon’s mission is profoundly dangerous — and the ghosts of the past are everywhere.

There is no charge for the showing of this full length feature film, but donations to SACAG are appreciated. For more information, <http://sacag.blogspot.com/>

BELDON LIBRARY NEWS

Beldon librarian, Lynn Waghalter, attended the 50th Annual (AJL) Association of Jewish Libraries Conference held in Silver Spring, MD, June 21-25, 2015. The Conference was attended by AJL members from the United States, Israel, South Africa, Austria, Canada and Argentina.

Lynn reports, “There were so many interesting and informative sessions to choose from! The following were some of the wonderful sessions I attended: *Perspectives On the Holocaust: The Case of the S.S. St. Louis, 1939*; *Writing An Excellent Book Review: Tips & Tools for Librarians*; *What Motivates Jewish Children’s Literature Authors?*; *A Tale of Two Biblio-Cities: Libraries in Vienna and Vilnius*; *Reading Jewish Social History Through Cookbooks*; and *Sydney Taylor Book Awards Committee.*”



A trip to the Library of Congress and the Holocaust Museum in near-by Washington, D.C. were included in the Conference.

The Beldon Library, a program of Federation, has encouraged summer reading with a Summer Reading Program for children in grades K – 7th. The children read 20 books over a period of 10 weeks and receive a Certificate of Accomplishment and a Baskin Robbins gift card.

Getting ready for High Holidays with Rodfei’s Sunday Funday

In anticipation of Rosh Hashanah, join creating your own kiddush cup, apple plate, or honey bowl at The Painted Plate, 11703

Huebner Rd., on Sunday, Aug. 9, from 10 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$10 per participant and includes a light brunch and one item

of your choice to paint. All ages are To RSVP, contact the Rodfei Sholom at rodfeisa@gmail.com or (210) 493-3557.

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New film, *Rosenwald*, tells story of Jewish philanthropist who transformed black lives

PHILADELPHIA (JTA) — Alex Bethea, the son of cotton and tobacco farm workers, was in sixth grade in 1965 when his family moved from Dillon, South Carolina, to the tiny town of Fairmont, North Carolina, where he attended a school called Rosenwald.

But it wasn't until this summer, 50 years later, that Bethea learned that his school was named for Julius Rosenwald, the Jewish philanthropist who is the subject of a new documentary by Aviva Kempner. The film tells the little-known story of Rosenwald's contribution to African-American culture and education.

The revelation came at a July 14 session at the national convention of the NAACP, which drew several thousand delegates to Philadelphia. Bethea was one of some 70 people who attended a screening of the film, *Rosenwald*.

"Julius Rosenwald had a great impact on my life, and I didn't even know it," said Bethea, now a vice principal at an elementary school in New Jersey. "This helps me put the pieces of the puzzle of my life together."

The philanthropist Rosenwald invested in African-American causes in the early 1900s changed the course of education for thousands of children in the rural South and helped foster the careers of prominent artists, including writer Langston Hughes, opera singer Marian



Julius Rosenwald with students from a Rosenwald School (Courtesy of Fisk University, John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library)

Anderson and painter Jacob Lawrence.

Rosenwald, who made his fortune at the helm of Sears, Roebuck and Co., also provided seed money to build YMCAs for blacks in cities around the country. In addition, he developed a huge apartment complex in Chicago to help improve the living conditions for the masses who had migrated from the Jim Crow South.

"It's a wonderful story of cooperation between this philanthropist who did not have to care about black people, but who did, and who expended his considerable wealth in

ensuring that they got their fair shake in America," Julian Bond, the renowned civil rights leader, says in the documentary.

Kempner told JTA that her new film on Rosenwald "celebrates the affinity between African-Americans and Jews" that started long before the civil rights movement and speaks to the powerful Jewish tradition of tikkun olam, or repairing the world.

She calls this film the last of a trilogy documenting the lives of "under-known Jewish heroes." The first two were about baseball legend Hank Greenberg and radio and TV personality Gertrude Berg.

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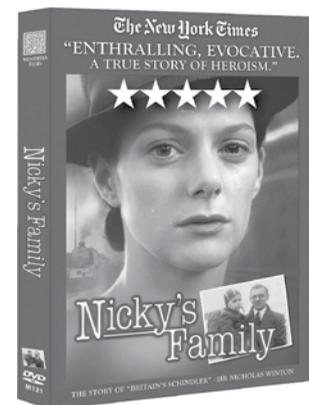
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Nicky's Family film screening at Rodfei Sholom

Rodfei Sholom will host an onsite viewing of the film *Nicky's Family* on Sunday, Aug. 23, at 7 p.m. The movie tells the nearly forgotten story of Nicholas Winton, an Englishman who organized the rescue of 669 Czech and Slovak children – most of them Jewish – just before the outbreak of World War II. The entire community is invited to attend and encouraged to RSVP by Wednesday, Aug. 19 by calling (210) 493-3557.



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YOUR JEWISH COMMUNITY

JEWISH FEDERATION OF SAN ANTONIO

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

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

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Julie Schack,
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Schackj@jfsatx.org

Caitlyn Strayer, Office Manager

Lynn Waghalter, Librarian Beldon Library
waghalterl@jfsatx.org

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Barshop Jewish Community Center

12500 NW Military Highway, Suite 275, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6820 Fax: (210) 408-2341

Executive Director: Saul F. Levenshus Email: jcc@jcc-sa.org

President: David Palans **Website:** www.jccsanantonio.org
Programs include a nationally-accredited nursery school, an after-school center for school age children, summer camp programs, programming for senior adults, plus cultural, educational and recreational programs.

Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus

of the San Antonio Jewish Community
12500 NW Military Hwy, Suite 100, San Antonio Texas 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6801 Fax: (210) 408-2322

Director of Operations: Mike Griffin

President: Alice Viroslav **Website:** www.thecampustx.org
The Campus features a variety of spaces available to rent for small or large events.

Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services

12500 N.W. Military Hwy, Suite 260, San Antonio, TX 78231
Phone: (210) 302-6946 **Website:** <http://www.goldenmanor.net>

Executive Director: Daniel L. Laser **President:** Shari P. Pulman
Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) works to meet the needs of Jewish seniors in the San Antonio area by providing transportation and direct services, and through grants to other organizations for programs that benefit San Antonio area Jewish seniors.

Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Antonio

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

Jewish Family Service

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

Executive Director: M. H. Levine **President:** Ilene Kramer
Jewish Family Service (JFS) offers a wide range of professional counseling, social services, advocacy for victims of crime, and services for seniors including senior living and care options.

National Council Of Jewish Women (NCJW)

Website: www.ncjwsa.org

For Membership Information: Cathy Pottorf - catpot52@gmail.com
NCJW is a grassroots organization that advocates for women, children and family issues both locally and nationally.

San Antonio Hillel

Website: www.sahillel.org

Phone: (210) 201-Jews

San Antonio Hillel serves college students throughout the San Antonio area.

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Gan Gani Preschool

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Heintz Preschool

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JCC Block & Dreeben School for Young Children

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

Shmuel Bass Torah Academy

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

SAN ANTONIO CONGREGATIONS

Congregation Agudas Achim (Conservative)

16550 Huebner Road, 78248
Phone: (210) 479-0307 Fax: (210) 479-0295
website: www.agudas-achim.org
Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham, Senior Rabbi
Hazzan Jeremy Lipton
Rabbi Ariel Greenberg, Director of
Congregational Learning

Congregation Beth Am (Reconstructionist)

7150 IH 10 West, 78213
Phone: (210) 492-2173 Fax: (210) 342-8935
website: www.bethamsatx.org
Lay Leader Marion Bernstein

Congregation Rodfei Sholom (Orthodox)

3003 Sholom Dr., 78230
Phone: (210) 493-3557 Fax: (210) 492-0629
E-Mail address: rodfeisa@gmail.com
Website: www.rodfeisholom.org
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Temple Beth-El (Reform)

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Website: www.beth-elsa.org
Rabbi Mara Nathan, Senior Rabbi
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Temple Chai (Reform)

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website: www.templechaisa.org
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Chabad Lubavitch of South Texas

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website: www.congregationisraelsatx.org
All Faiths Chapel:
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Hazzan David Silverstein, JD,
Founding Ritual Leader

Please send corrections and additions to the Journal editor at jewishj@jfsatx.org.

ARTS & CULTURE

Boeing-Boeing Lands at The Vex

Show runs August 20 – September 13

Boeing-Boeing, a farce by French playwright Marc Camoletti, opens at The Vex on Thursday, Aug. 20. It's the 1960s, and swinging bachelor Bernard couldn't be happier: a flat in Paris and three gorgeous flight attendants, all of whom are engaged to him without knowing about each other. But Bernard's perfect life flies into some rocky turbulence when his friend Robert comes to stay and a new and speedier Boeing jet throws off all of his careful planning. Soon, all three flight attendants are in town simultaneously, Robert can't remember which lie he told to which person, and catastrophe looms.

The play, originally written in French, but translated into English by Beverly Cross, was first staged in London in 1962, running for seven years. It was simultaneously made into a film starring

Jerry Lewis and Tony Curtis in 1965. *Boeing-Boeing's* most recent stagings were in 2007 (West End, London) and 2008 (Broadway). Mark Rylance, who was cast in both productions as Bernard's wrench-throwing friend, Robert, won a Tony Award in 2008 for Best Actor in a Play. He was nominated for an Olivier Award for the London staging. The play has been staged so many times that, in 1991, it was listed in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the most performed French play throughout the world.

Omar Leos, who has directed shows around San Antonio, will be directing the play, which runs through September 13. Tickets and 2015-16 season passes may be purchased by calling The Vex Box Office at (210) 302-6835. For more information, visit www.vexler.org.



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PERSPECTIVE

At Issue: What's in a Name?

"Sticks and stones may break my bones," according to a version of the old nursery rhyme, "But names will never hurt me." The couplet is a lesson in prudent restraint: Ignore the taunts of bullies.

However, if names did not matter, the second of the Five Books of Moses would not be called *Shemot* (i.e., Names; Exodus is the Greek



Perspective:

STEVEN G.
KELLMAN

title commonly employed by English-speakers). The Seventh Commandment would not admonish: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." Pious Jews would not insist

on spelling the word as "G-d" in order to avoid taking the Lord's name in vain. And they would not refer to the Deity as *Ha-Shem* (The Name), as a way of alluding to, but not uttering, the sacred, esoteric appellation. *Ha-Shem* Himself would not be so evasive when, asked by Moses to identify Himself, the voice from

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AT ISSUE

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the burning bush replies: “I am that I am.” In a modern legal proceeding, anyone who, asked to state his or her name in full, replies: “I am that I am” would be cited for contempt of court.

On August 17, 1938, the government of Germany decreed that, effective January 1, 1939, all Jews without an obviously “Jewish” name must adopt or incorporate either Israel or Sarah. A man named Franz became Israel-Franz,

and a woman named Else became Sarah-Else. It was a tactic of population control. Even if their humongous noses and monstrous avarice did not give Jews away as pollutants to the purity of an Aryan society, the assigned monikers would identify them easily and reduce them to interchangeable entities.

The boxer George Foreman named all five of his sons George, but that is not nearly as absurd as labeling millions of European Jews either Israel or Sarah. Like calling any Latino “José” or any American Indian “Chief,”

the witless insult erases the person’s individuality. The next step for the Nazis was to replace even Israel and Sarah with numerals, tattooed onto the anonymous subjects’ arms. It is less troubling to subtract numbers than to exterminate six million singular human beings.

The name most often given to a newborn in Israel today is Muhammad. Arabs constitute only 21 percent of Israel’s population, and the popularity of Muhammad is not evidence of the mass conversion of the country’s Jews to Islam. Instead, choosing a wider variety of names for their babies, more than 3,200 in last year’s total, Israel’s Jewish parents are simply more inventive than their Muslim counterparts, 12 percent of whom are content with honoring the founder of their religion by naming their sons after him. Among Israel’s Jews, the generic name Israel does not now figure in even the top ten of boys’ names – Yosef, Daniel, Ori, Itai, Omer, Adam, Noam, Ariel, Eitan, and David. Nor does Sarah/Sara, a tribute to the first Matriarch, make it into the top ten of girls’ names – Tamar, Noa, Shira, Adele, Talia, Yael, Lian, Miriam, Maya, and

Avigail. If the state of Israel is living proof of the failure of the Nazis’ Final Solution, the variety of Israeli names testifies to the vitality and freedom of contemporary Jews. A son of Israel need not be called Israel.

It is unlikely that any sane parents would have the chutzpah to choose the tetragrammaton – usually rendered in the Roman alphabet as YHWH - to name their child. The four letters that signify the Divine, the tetragrammaton was uttered only by the High Priest in the Temple in ancient Jerusalem, and only on Yom Kippur. Saying it was forbidden to anyone else, under penalty of death. After the destruction of the Second Temple, proper pronunciation of the unutterable Name was lost, though Kabbalistic tradition claims that in every generation a Baal Shem (Master of the Name) is able to perform miracles because of special access to the Name. In the 18th century, Rabbi Israel ben Eliezer, the founder of Hasidism, was legendary for his miracles and became known as the Baal Shem Tov – Master of the Good Name, an ambiguous epithet that suggests both that he

possessed a mystical link to the divine Name and that he himself earned a saintly reputation.

Long before the Nazis made the name mandatory for Jewish men, the first man to be known as Israel was the Biblical Jacob, the son of Isaac and grandson of Abraham. Jacob, who finagled his older brother Esau into selling him his birthright for a bowl of porridge, was not a perfect human being. He also hoodwinked blind old Isaac into bestowing a blessing meant for Esau on him instead. However, after wrestling with an angel, Jacob was renamed Israel. He became master of a good name, and, as the Book of Proverbs teaches, “A good name is more desirable than great riches.” Nevertheless, a good name cannot be assigned or inherited; it must be earned. However imperfect they are, each of the children of Israel, as well as the state of Israel, must strive to earn a good name. It is possible to squander great riches on a public relations campaign to repair a tarnished reputation, but it is better to earn and maintain a good name.

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



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U.S. & WORLD

Women of the Wall member detained at holy site with Torah

(JTA) – Israel Police officers detained a women's rights activist at the Western Wall and confiscated her Torah scroll.

Rachel Cohen Yeshurun, a Women of the Wall board member, was taken into police custody prior to a service July 17 and released shortly afterwards, The Jerusalem Post reported.

Women of the Wall runs gender egalitarian services at the holy site in defiance of the state-imposed regulations.

Yeshurun and other Women

of the Wall members came to the site for their monthly Rosh Hodesh service with a scroll she placed in her bag. Rules established by Shmuel Rabinowitz, the rabbi of the Western Wall, permit women to wear prayer shawls, but bringing a Torah to the Wall is strictly forbidden.

Mickey Rosenfeld, the foreign press spokesperson for the Israeli Police, said Yeshurun's detention was a direct consequence of breaking this rule.

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Top Senate foreign policy Democrat and Republican urge Obama to delay U.N. vote

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The top Republican and Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee urged President Obama to postpone a U.N. Security Council vote on the Iran deal, saying it usurps the role of Congress.

Under the Iran nuclear deal reached July 14 in Vienna between the major powers and Iran, the U.N. Security Council must endorse its terms.

Foreign Policy reported July 15 that Samantha Power, the U.S. envoy to the United Nations, is circulating a draft resolution on the council that would endorse the deal. Such an endorsement would be legally

binding and could inhibit any bid by Congress to reject the deal.

“The Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act, a bill which 98 Senators and 400 Representatives supported and you signed, established a 60-day period for Congress to consider the nuclear agreement,” said the letter to Obama July 16 by Sens. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) and Ben Cardin (D-Md.), respectively the chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, which will be among the first bodies to review the Iran deal.

“We are deeply concerned that your administration plans to enable the United Nations Security Council to vote on the agreement before the United States Congress can do the same,” the letter said.

“Doing so would be contrary to your statement that ‘it’s important for the American people and Congress to get a full opportunity to review this

deal...our national security policies are stronger and more effective when they are subject to the scrutiny and transparency that democracy demands,” it said. “We urge you to postpone the vote at the United Nations until after Congress considers this agreement.”

Cardin has until now backed Obama’s Iran policy procedures, although he has yet to say whether he favors a deal.

A number of Republican lawmakers, including Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) and Rep. Ed Royce (R-Calif.), the chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives, have said they see the Security Council vote as an end-run around Congress.

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) warned Obama in a letter that he would use his prerogative to block State Department funds and nominees until he receives an assurance from the president that the Security Council vote would be delayed until after congressional review of the deal.

The Jewish Federations of North America’s Statement on Iran

Jewish Federations can be found in nearly every city in North America, and our leaders are among the most committed philanthropists in their communities. In just three generations, Jewish Federations across North America forged one of the top 10 philanthropic networks on the continent, helped rescue millions of Jewish refugees from across the globe, helped to build the State of Israel, and continue to touch more Jewish lives than any system in the world.

That is why we feel it is so important to speak out on today’s agreement with Iran.

We are hopeful that diplomatic efforts will prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, and we appreciate the hard work President Obama, Secretary of State Kerry, and Under Secretary of State Sherman have put into crafting this agreement.

At the same time, we are concerned. Iran’s support for Hezbollah and Hamas, its human rights violations and its aggressive threats toward neighboring countries—including Israel—make the specter of a nuclear-armed Iran untenable.

President Barack Obama and his administration have repeatedly said that any deal with Iran must shut down Iran’s uranium enrichment pathway to a weapon, cut off all four of Iran’s potential pathways to a bomb, and track Iran’s nuclear activities with unprecedented transparency and robust inspections throughout its nuclear supply chain. We agree.

We urge Congress to give this accord its utmost scrutiny. Find links to JFNA Iran content and key news coverage of the issue on our Iran update page at www.jewishfederations.org.



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As anti-Semitic hacking rises, Jewish community tries to stay a step ahead

By Robert Gluck/JNS.org

When hackers from a group called Moroccan Islamic Union-Mail defaced the website of Congregation Beth Am Israel in Penn Valley, Pa., in July 2014, the synagogue chose to look forward rather than dwell on the result of the cyber attack.

“We rebuilt our site and have worked with our domain provider to strengthen security, with an eye toward preventing future hacks,” Rabbi David Ackerman, leader of the congregation, told *JNS.org*.

The defacement of Beth Am Israel’s website—meaning that the website’s usual content was replaced with propaganda through videos and statements—is part of a new trend in anti-Semitism. In particular, the Anti-Defamation League’s (ADL) audit of anti-Semitic incidents that took place throughout America during 2014, data that was released in March 2015, identified a spike in cyberattacks by over-

seas hackers on synagogues, schools, and other Jewish institutions.

ADL said that in 2014, anti-Semitic hackers from the Arab/Muslim world targeted a Jewish high school in Albany, N.Y.; four Jewish institutions belonging to the Union for Reform Judaism in Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Georgia; a synagogue in Plantation, Fla.; and universities in California, Oregon, Utah, Missouri, and Massachusetts. While past hacking efforts against Jewish institutions have primarily focused on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the more recent attacks have been carried out in the name of the Islamic State terror group, according to ADL.

Jonathan Vick, ADL’s assistant director for cyberhate response, recommends that Jewish leaders “safeguard their databases, websites, e-mails, and other digital information against the ‘hacker-frenzy’ environment that now exists around the world.”

“If Sony, Target, and Home Depot

can fall victim to hackers, so too can Jewish organizations,” Vick told *JNS.org*. “Simple steps can help prevent loss of data and other risks associated with doing business in the online environment.”

What specifically is motivating anti-Semitic hackers?

“One is the political environment in the Middle East,” Vick said. “You have groups that envision the U.S.-Israel friendship as being threatening. Then you have radical groups who are against anybody that is not of their belief system. And there is the outright anti-Semitism that clearly exists out there. It is really a storm of factors that have made it different than it has been in the past.”

ADL holds a cyber-security webinar sponsored by synagogues and other organizations from across the Jewish denominational spectrum to give guidance, point out areas of concern, answer questions, and discuss matters such as e-mail security and social

networking. On its website, ADL also offers a written guide on these issues titled *Protecting Your Jewish Institution: Security Strategies for Today’s Dangerous World*, which is available online.

“It is not just about protecting the institution,” Vick said. “It is also about being targeted as a community.”

Yet not all hacking attacks pan out as planned. The global hacking network known as Anonymous has had very limited success with #OpIsrael, an annual campaign to carry out a “cyber-Holocaust” and remove all traces of the Jewish state from the Internet.

Anonymous most recently threatened a “cyber-Holocaust” for April 7, 2015—eight days before Yom HaShoah, Israel’s Holocaust Remembrance Day. The group stated, “We are Anonymous. This is a message to the Zionist entity: We are coming to punish you for your crimes in the Palestinian territories.” But only a few Israeli websites were successfully hacked.

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Ehrenberg-Chesler selected for 2015 Women's Leadership awards



Laura Ehrenberg-Chesler has been named by the *San Antonio Business Journal* as one of the recipients of the 2015 Women's Leadership Awards.

Each year the journal recognizes women in leadership positions for their community involvement and their impact on the organizations they lead.

Ehrenberg-Chesler, who is co-CEO and chief investment officer of San Antonio based Crossvault Capital Management, is a long time board member and volunteer for the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

HMMSA education director receives Mexico fellowship

Juana Rubalcava, Education Director for the Holocaust Memorial Museum in San Antonio, recently took a research trip to Chiapas, Mexico. As a graduate student studying history at UTSA, she received the Mexico Center research fellowship to research in Mexico. This was an opportunity for her to get experience working in archives and doing research for her thesis. As a historian interested in studying human rights violations and genocide, Rubalcava traveled to Mexico to study the archives dealing with the refugees of the Guatemalan Genocide.

Genocide is defined by the United Nations as:

"Article II: In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, such as:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to

members of the group;

(c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;

(d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;

(e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

During the civil war in Guatemala, human rights violations occurred including disappearances and murder of people that opposed the government. During 1981 to about 1983, the government under the rule of President Rios Montt targeted indigenous communities with a Scorched Earth Policy with the purpose of ridding the country of these supposed communists. Over 600 Indigenous communities were destroyed during this campaign of the Rios Montt regime.

During these years a massive amount of

refugees fled Guatemala to settle in refugee camps in Chiapas. Rubalcava's research investigates the lives of the Guatemalan refugees in Mexico and how the relationship of the Guatemalans and Mexicans progressed during that time.

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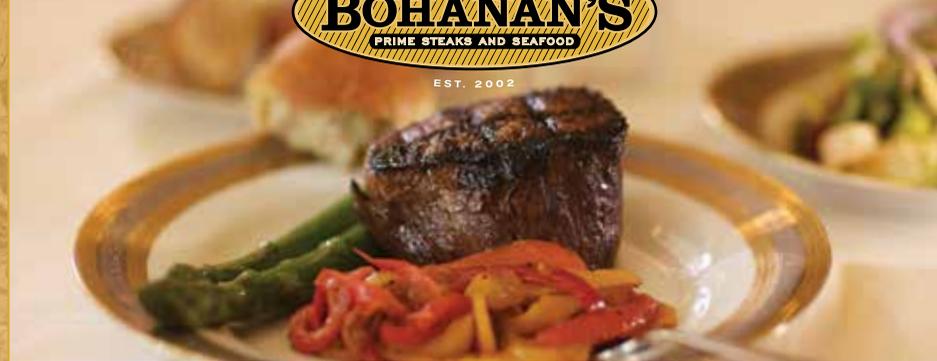
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