



# THE JEWISH JOURNAL

OF SAN ANTONIO

SH'VAT - ADAR 5777

Published by The Jewish Federation of San Antonio

FEBRUARY 2017



## Former Chief Rabbi of Israel to visit San Antonio and speak at Rodfei Sholom

Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau will be visiting San Antonio February 10 – 12. He will be the scholar in residence and guest speaker at Congregation Rodfei Sholom.

Rabbi Lau is the Chairman of Yad Vashem and Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv. He previously served as the Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel. His father, Rabbi Moshe Chaim Lau, was the last Chief Rabbi of the Polish town of Piotrkow. At age 9, Rabbi Lau was the youngest person liberated from the Buchenwald concentration camp, and he came on the first boatload of Holocaust survivors to Israel. His



Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau will be visiting San Antonio February 10 – 12.

tale of triumph and faith as a young boy during the Holocaust provides us with a model of personal greatness in the face of

unimaginable hardship. In 2005, Lau was awarded the Israel Prize for his lifetime achievements and special contribution to society and the State of Israel. On April 14, 2011, he was awarded the Legion of Honor (France's highest accolade) by French President Nicolas Sarkozy, in recognition of his efforts to promote interfaith dialogue.

Rabbi Lau's bestselling autobiography, *Out of the Depths*, tells the story of his miraculous journey from an orphaned

See **RABBI VISIT**, page 34

### KICKING THINGS UP A NOTCH IN 2017

See *What's Happening* in YOUR San Antonio Jewish Community,

**PAGES 14 - 21**

### PARTNERS TOGETHER: COMING SOON

Plans underway to build new Partnership Center for Connections and Communities in Western Galilee.

**PAGE 9**

### REMEMBER



### NOW SHOWING: JCC JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

The JCC's 2017 Jewish Film Festival will be held February 18-22 at Santikos Palladium IMAX.

**PAGE 29**

## A message from Federation Board Chair Jonathan Gurwitz

No issue stirs more passion in the Jewish community than Israel. This is as it should be. The miraculous re-establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 is central to modern Jewish identity, and the obscene threats, attacks and immoral judgments the lone Jewish state faces require our constant vigilance.

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio dedicates a significant amount of its programming to Israel, bringing in speakers and experts on a variety of Israel-related issues. Federation also

commits nearly 25 percent of its allocations to Israel and overseas programs.

Within Israel itself, in the American Jewish community and, yes, in our own local community, there are a variety of opinions about how best to achieve Israel's security. Whether we agree with certain opinions or not, it is important to understand and, indeed, question those viewpoints. That was my rationale in organizing a panel discussion of Israel that includes the president of J

Street, Jeremy Ben-Ami, along with the CEO of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, Michael Makovsky, and moderated by the director of the Washington office of the Jewish Federations of North America, William Daroff.

Last fall, members of the local Jewish community who were already bringing Ben-Ami to San Antonio contacted Federation about sponsoring a J Street event. Federation instead proposed the panel discussion described above, which will take

place Feb. 9 at the Campus.

Many of J Street's actions and positions have been controversial in the organized Jewish community. Most recently, J Street was alone among major Jewish and pro-Israel organizations in its support for President Barack Obama's decision last month not to exercise a U.S. veto against U.N. Security Council Resolution 2334. The event on Feb. 9 will give members of the San Antonio Jewish

See **ISRAEL**, page 34

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



THE JEWISH JOURNAL  
OF SAN ANTONIO

**PUBLISHED BY**

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio  
12500 N. W. Military Highway, #200  
San Antonio, TX 78231

(210)302-6960

www.jfsatx.org

**SUPPORTED BY**

Grants from the Helen Arrange Fund, the Eilenberg Family Memorial Endowment Fund, the Charles Atkin Memorial Trust Fund, the Freeman Education Fund and the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign.

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**CANDLE LIGHTING**

**Friday, Feb 3**

Shabbat, Feb 4

Light Candles at: 5:56 p.m.

Shabbat Ends: 6:51 p.m.

**Friday, Feb 10**

Shabbat, Feb 11

Light Candles at: 6:02 p.m.

Shabbat Ends: 6:57 p.m.

**Friday, Feb 17**

Shabbat, Feb 18

Light Candles at: 6:07 p.m.

Shabbat Ends: 7:02 p.m.

**Friday, Feb 24**

Shabbat, Feb 25

Light Candles at: 6:12 p.m.

Shabbat Ends: 7:06 P.M.

**Friday, Mar 3**

Shabbat, Mar 4

Light Candles at: 6:17 p.m.

Shabbat Ends: 7:11 p.m.



Jewish Federation  
OF SAN ANTONIO

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

**EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS:**

The submission deadline for the MARCH 2017 issue of the Jewish Journal is FEBRUARY 10 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 MARCH 2017 ISSUE:**

- Ad space reservations due no later than FEBRUARY 12 by noon

- Press ready ads due by FEBRUARY 16.

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.

**PJ Library invites you to...**

**A PASTA  
SPRING BREAK  
PLAYDATE**

**Tuesday, March 14 from 5-7pm**

**At Walker Ranch Park**

**12603 West Ave (next to the playground)**

**If you are town during Spring break, don't miss the fun! We will have a special pasta bar catered by Irene Ramirez, and we want all PJ Library families to come out and play!**

**f** RSVP on PJ Library San Antonio's Facebook or call (210) 302-6960

**WEATHER PERMITTING**

**SPECIAL EDIBLE DESSERT ACTIVITY**



Jewish Federation OF SAN ANTONIO

HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION



**PJ Library**  
JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES AND SONGS  
www.pjlibrary.org

# YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

## Jewish Federation prepares for first mission trip to Israel in more than decade

This month I will have the honor and pleasure of traveling to Israel with forty other members of our San Antonio Jewish community on a Jewish Federation Mission.

Our lay chairs Pat Kalmans, Dr. Mike Ozer and Drs. Susan and Allen Noorily have done a fantastic job of recruiting and building a stellar group to represent our community.

We will spend eight full days, exploring Tel Aviv, connecting with our Partnership region, enjoying Shabbat in Jerusalem and learning how our local com-



Letter from  
our CEO

RONIT  
SHERWIN

mitment to Jewish community impacts our commitment to the global Jewish people.

It has been over a decade since our Federation has had a mission to Israel. We support Israel in many ways. We allocate dollars from our annual campaign to Israel and overseas, supporting the work of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the Joint Distribution Commit-

tee (JDC).

We are an active community in our Partnership 2GETHER region of the Western Galilee, hosting educators from the region here just last year and in this coming year bringing San Antonio educators to the Partnership.

We also advocate for Israel, as we are doing right now in supporting the anti-BDS legislation being introduced into the Texas Legislature.

While I am proud of all the ways in which our Federation supports Israel, there is nothing like being in Israel.

One of my favorite poems is by Yehuda Amichai titled *Tourists*.

In the poem, Amichai highlights the uber focus that tourists seem to have on the sights, while often negating the real life taking place in front of them.

The last two lines of the poem read, *"I said to myself: redemption will come only if their guide tells them, 'You see that arch from the Roman period? It's not important: but next to it, left and down a bit, there sits a man who's bought fruit and vegetables for his family.'"*

Our upcoming Federation

mission is focused on engaging with the people of Israel, as well as with the tradition, culture and history of the land.

Please look out for articles and photos from our mission in upcoming issues of the Journal.

And make sure to register early for our next missions in the years to come!

L'shalom,  
Ronit

Ronit Sherwin  
Chief Executive Officer  
Jewish Federation  
of San Antonio



Jewish Federation  
OF SAN ANTONIO



The Jewish Federation of San Antonio will "gift" \$1000 to first time Jewish overnight campers through One Happy Camper grants.

Help your children build community while being Jewish and having fun!

SIGN UP TODAY AT

[www.onehappycamper.org](http://www.onehappycamper.org)

Contact Lauren Abraham for more information at [abrahaml@jfsatx.org](mailto:abrahaml@jfsatx.org) or (210) 302-6834

**THEY SEE TEAMWORK,  
WE SEE COMMITMENT.**

# YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK

## PJ Library Hanukkah get together

Thanks to the generosity of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, 29 families from San Antonio have now been awarded a PJ Library grant to hold their own *Get Together* with a small group of Jewish families. The goal of these grants is to deepen relationships and help PJ families get to know each other better.

Dr. Marcy Rosen (PJ committee member and mom of son Daniel, age 2) hosted a PJ Library *Get Together* at her home during Hanukkah. She planned a donuts and do it yourself waffle station for five Jewish families in attendance. She shared that her event was such a success for both older and younger kids because she separated the food in one area of her home and activities at another table. Fun projects for



Joanna Dreyfuss and daughter Claire

children of all ages included a candle mat that families laminated to place under their menorahs during candle lighting.

The younger kids decorated with dot painting, while older

children could make more intricate designs. Rosen says she looks forward to continuing her involvement with PJ Library, and to bringing her friends from the *Get Together* to attend programs as well.

## Beldon Library News

A new program for adults will begin on Tuesday, March 7 at 10 a.m. at the Beldon Library.

The book discussion group, *Coffee, Books, & More*, is a cooperative effort with the Adult Enrichment & Education Program of the JCC. This group will meet every other month. Bring your list of books to the March meeting.

Discover the great books here at the Beldon Library. Beldon Library hours are: Mondays, 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, 10 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., and Wednesdays, 2 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

The Pre-K children from the Block & Dreeben School will start checking out books this month.

The Mitzvah Project that the Beldon Library has with the Vilna/Vilnius Jewish Public Library in Lithuania is ongoing. They are in the process of building up their children's section and are accepting donations of new or gently used children's books with Jewish content.

Contact Beldon librarian Lynn Waghalter via email at [waghalterl@jfsatx.org](mailto:waghalterl@jfsatx.org) for more information on this humanitarian project.



## Seeking Volunteers to Teach in the Museum

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

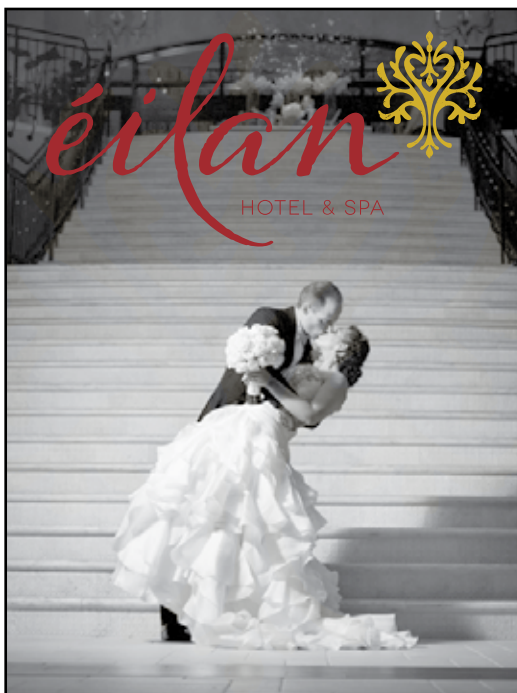
**Do you enjoy learning and working with the public?**

**Are you seeking a rewarding volunteer experience?**

Consider becoming a docent at the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio. A history background is not required... just an interest in learning and a high level of enthusiasm. A new partnership with Yad Vashem has allowed us to create an ongoing docent training program which will kickoff on February 1<sup>st</sup> through an online digital portal. Training will continue with our Museum staff and experienced docents.

If you are interested, please contact Juana Rubalcava, Director of Education at 210-302-6812 or [docents@hmmsa.com](mailto:docents@hmmsa.com)





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## FEDERATION DOLLARS



from l-r, Ellen Ollervidez, Director of HMMSA; Hanna Pankowsky, Holocaust Survivor; Ramiro S. Salazar, Director of the San Antonio Public Library; and Howie Nestel, Co-Founder of *The Holocaust: Learn and Remember*.

## HMMSA hosts opening event for *The Holocaust: Learn and Remember*

On Wednesday, Jan. 11, the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio (HMMSA) hosted the opening event of the 5th annual *The Holocaust: Learn and Remember*. The San Antonio Public Library Foundation and HMMSA collaborate in commemoration of the Shoah. This year's theme, *Refuge in the Americas*, explores the journey of Jews seeking safety in the U.S. and Latin America.

## Docents are the Messengers of the Holocaust at HMMSA

**Ellen Ollervidez**  
HMMSA Director

The Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio is proud to offer online learning for those interested in becoming a museum docent. A docent is a volunteer who acts as a guide for visitors to the Museum. Qualities of a good docent include compassion, dedication, and reliability. Training is ongoing and can be accessed beginning February 1. It is available 24/7 and includes historical background provided by Yad Vashem and a curriculum that teaches our Museum.

By calling or emailing us, we can set up learners with access to the learning portal. Once the modules, created by Yad Vashem, have been completed, learners will begin their training of our Museum.

Our curriculum will include the historical timeline, the images, and the background information that directly correlates to our permanent exhibit. Trainees will also have opportunities to witness and work with current docents as they guide visitors through the Museum.

All members of our docent program will receive information regarding continuing education such as HMMSA programming, documentaries, books, lectures, or touring exhibits that will broaden understanding of Holocaust history.

Join us as we shape the next generation of messengers to carry forward the messages, lessons, and experiences of the Holocaust. Please contact, Juana Rubalcava, Director of Education at (210) 302-6812 or [docents@hmmsa.com](mailto:docents@hmmsa.com).



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# YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK



Organizers of the Interreligious Council of San Antonio and Guest Lecturer, Rabbi Jack Bemporad and co-founders, Dr. Peggy Starkey and Maxine Cohen (first row, right).

## Rabbi Bemporad presents on interreligious understanding

On Monday, Jan.9, Guest Speaker Rabbi Jack Bemporad greeted over 90 guests of the Interreligious Council of San Antonio (ICOSA) with his experiences bringing people of all religious faiths together to promote open dialogue, mutual respect, and theological understandings of the common foundations shared by the world's religions.

Bemporad spoke of the tremendous power religions have and that our challenge is to harness that capacity to influence and respect the whole world. He believes through foundational agreement, we can find common elements in religions, and from there we can establish a common good.

Rabbi Bemporad was recently conferred an honorary doctorate by the Pontifical Angelicum University in Rome. Bemporad was honored to be the guest speaker for the first Archie L. Nations Memorial Lecture.

He is the director of the nonprofit Center for Interreligious Understanding (CIU), which he founded in 1992. He also serves as Director of the John Paul II Center and Professor of Interreligious Studies, both at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), and as Senior Rabbinic Scholar at the Chavurah Beth Shalom synagogue, Alpine, New Jersey.



Rabbi Jack Bemporad and ICOSA founder, Dr. Peggy Starkey, greet one another at the first Archie L. Nations Memorial Lecture.



Rabbi Chaim Block and Father Tim Eden celebrate Rabbi Jack Bemporad at St. Mary's University.

St. Mary's University and the Jewish Federation hosted a reception at the University to celebrate the conferral of an honorary doctorate upon Rabbi Jack Bemporad by the Pontifical Angelicum University in Rome.

Remarks were made by Rabbi Samuel Stahl, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth El, and Father Tim Eden of St. Mary's University, noting the historic distinction earned by Bemporad.

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## SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

### Elisa Reinsmith



*Elisa Reinsmith grew up in Dallas, and attended the University of Texas at Austin for undergraduate and law school.*

*After graduating law school, she moved to New York City to practice labor and employment law. While living in New York, she met her husband Lance, who is from The Woodlands, Texas.*

*In 2007, they moved to St. Louis, Missouri for her husband's training. She continued her legal career*

*in St. Louis at Polsinelli Shughart.*

*In 2010, Elisa moved to San Antonio with her family. At that time, she began working at Dykema Gossett (formerly Cox Smith Matthews).*

*The Reinsmith family is proud to be a part of the San Antonio Jewish Community and are parents of two children.*

**What brought you to**

**San Antonio?**

We moved to San Antonio in 2011 for my husband's job.

**What is your strongest Jewish memory?**

My strongest Jewish memory is from a Passover Seder.

A few years ago, we attended a Seder at a friend's house with his parents and grandparents.

We were asked to

participate in their family's tradition of each person sharing a Jewish event or news that has impacted them.

When it was our friend's grandfather's turn, he began to discuss the Holocaust.

We did not know that our friend's grandfather and grandmother were Holocaust survivors.

They shared stories about their families, their survival, their freedom, and the impact it had on their lives.

We later found out that this was one of the few times they discussed the Holocaust.

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

I enjoy the Jewish Federation's Shower Our Community With Love

event because, regardless of synagogue affiliation and participation levels, everyone comes together to directly impact our community.

**Please share your favorite Jewish holiday. Why?**

My favorite Jewish holiday is Passover. Our family has some special and fun family traditions for the Seder, and I love to see our children's excitement for those traditions.

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

I hope that we all work together and support one another to continue to strengthen our community.

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## PURIM BALL

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CONGREGATION AGUDAS ACHIM

Saturday March 4, 2017

Cocktails & Silent Auction 7:30

Dinner to follow

Gurinsky Family Social Hall

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# YOUR FEDERATION DOLLARS AT WORK



## JEWISH WOMEN'S RENAISSANCE PROJECT BRINGS WOMEN TOGETHER

What started out as a journey to Israel with the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project (JWRP) continues as San Antonio JWRP women meet monthly for learning get togethers.



# PJ Library families ring in the new year at Hardberger Park

By **Lauren Abraham**,  
PJ Library Coordinator

More than 20 PJ Library families gathered on January 1 to celebrate 2017 at Hardberger Park. With Spring-like weather, it was challenging to imagine the Winter season, but our PJ families prevailed and made edible snowmen out of marshmallows, pretzels, icing, and other delicious ingredients. In addition, the families made magic wands for the new year, met a large walking turtle, and enjoyed time on the swings, slides, and monkey bars. PJ families were called together to hear PJ Library books about snow and *The Mitzvah Magician* and were treated to a special theatrical presentation from guest reader Eva Laporte of Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.

The afternoon allowed for families to come together as Winter Break ended, school starts again, and get ready for an exciting new year.



Emily Weinstein and Kylie Hawley-Molloy enjoyed the afternoon playing at the PJ Library New Years Playdate



Eva Laporte, Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services Program Director, served as guest reader and shared the PJ book *The Mitzvah Magician* in a theatrical way with PJ Library families.

HADASSAH



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call 877.212.3321 or  
email [yahrzeit@hadassah.org](mailto:yahrzeit@hadassah.org).

UNITED COMMUNITIES  
OF SAN ANTONIO

Announces The



BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD

*Awards Dinner*

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2017

THE WITTE MUSEUM MAYS FAMILY CENTER  
3801 BROADWAY • SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS  
6:00 P.M. RECEPTION FOLLOWED BY  
SEATED DINNER AT 7:00 P.M.

As We Recognize This Year's Honorees For Their  
Commitment To The Ideals And Practices Of UCSA



H-E-B



JUDY LACKRITZ  
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UCSA Office at 210/229-1991 or email [mmuraida@ucfsa.org](mailto:mmuraida@ucfsa.org).





## PARTNERSHIP CORNER

### Contract signed for the construction of *The Partnership Center*

On December 28, The Jewish Agency for Israel and the Matte Asher Regional Council signed a contract to jointly build *The Partnership Center* for Connections and Communities in Matte Asher. The center will serve



A rendering of the 6,500 sq. ft. Partnership Center for Connections and Communities in Matte Asher.

as a community destination for three Partnerships in the Western Galilee, a space to work, build connections and inspire Jewish identity.

The 6,500 sq. ft. center will give the Partnerships the opportunity to develop

and expand influence in the region and in the communities. It will be located along the coast of the Mediterranean, north of Nahariya, adjacent to the Achziv Beach.

Partnership2gether

organizations and Matte Asher will share a large hall/multi-purpose community space and a conference room. A suite of offices will provide efficient work space for the Partnerships' staffs. Matte Asher will

have community activity rooms for the enjoyment of the residents of the Western Galilee.

A fundraising effort to raise \$1.5 million is currently underway.

## Scholarship & Program Grant Applications

Applications must be received no later than  
**Monday, April 3, 2017**

Applications are available at:

**www.jfsatx.org**

or by contacting Caitlin Strayer at  
210.302.6960 | [strayerc@jfsatx.org](mailto:strayerc@jfsatx.org)



Jewish Federation  
OF SAN ANTONIO



The Foundation for Jewish  
Philanthropies of San Antonio

### Grants

**Non-Profit organizations** are invited to submit program applications for funding new projects with grants between \$500 and \$7,500. If your organization received a grant last year, you may apply for a second year. Categories may include:

- Education
- Conservation/Preservation
- Religious
- Youth Arts & Culture
- Medical/Science
- Social/Human Service

### Scholarships

#### Jewish Sleep-Away Camp

Scholarships are available to students entering grades 2-12. Eligibility for scholarship is based primarily on financial need.

#### Jewish High Schools

Scholarships are available to students attending a Jewish High School outside of San Antonio. Eligibility for scholarship is based primarily on financial need.

#### Undergraduate Studies

Scholarships are available to individuals seeking to further their undergraduate education. Eligibility for scholarship is based primarily on financial need.

#### Graduate Studies

Scholarships are available to individuals seeking a postgraduate degree in Jewish education, Rabbinical, or Cantorial studies. Eligibility for scholarship is based primarily on financial need.

#### Elmer and Sally Cooper Scholarship

Scholarships are available to Jewish students whose university studies are in pre-med in the United States. Eligibility for scholarship is based primarily on financial need.

#### Beady Berler Scholarship for Study in Israel

One scholarship is awarded annually to a student who is enrolled in a college or university within the state of Texas. This is a merit-based scholarship for an academic course of study in Israel as part of a degree program.

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## Monthly art series at Temple Beth-El continues

As part of its monthly art series, Hiddur Mitzvah, Temple Beth-El will host *The Art of Shabbat* for families on Sunday, Feb. 26 at 12:15 p.m. in the Barshop Auditorium. During the lunch and learn event, participants will learn how to make challah with Temple Beth-El Sisterhood, and how to make a challah cover with Chantel Nasits.

The cost is \$15 per person or \$30 per family, payable in advance at <https://beth-elsa.org/ShabbatArt>.

The program is open to the community.

## Let's Rodeo at Rodfei's Sunday Funday

Get into the rodeo mood at Ranch Rodfei Shalom on Sunday, Feb. 19 from 10 a.m. until noon. There will be a petting zoo, pony cart, and a hay ride, along with "flapjack" breakfast. The cost is \$10 per child (3 & up), \$5 per adult, or \$45 for the family. Put on your western gear and join the fun! An RSVP if attending would be appreciated by Wednesday, February 15 to (210) 493-3557 or [rodfeisa@gmail.com](mailto:rodfeisa@gmail.com).

## Hebrew Free Loan of San Antonio announces new officers and board

The Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Antonio (HFLA-SA) has announced its 2017 Officers, as well as the addition of 5 Directors.

Tim Grossman will serve as President. HFLA-SA Past President Michael Robbins will serve as Vice President of Loans, while the recently created Vice President of Outreach and Development position will be filled by Fran Cohen. Greg Meyer and Meg Grossman will continue the roles of Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

In an effort to diversify the Board, expand the



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SAMUELS



SIEGEL

agency's collective capacity and better serve Jewish members in San Antonio and the surrounding areas, HFLA-SA has added new Directors Jim Barshop, Fran Cohen, Suzanne Olian, Jeff Siegel and Mark Samuels.

The Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Antonio is a 501(c)3, formed in 1924, providing

financial assistance to Jewish people who are residents of San Antonio and surrounding areas, through interest-free loans.

Based on the lessons of *Mishpatim*, the agency exists to extend a financial hand-up during life events – the good, the challenging, and everything in-between.

In 2016, HFLA-SA awarded a record-breaking amount of loans, putting over \$200,000 directly into the hands of fellow members in our community.

For information about HFLA-SA, contact Mike Richardson, Marketing Communications Manager of HFLA-SA at (210) 723-4461.

## Hadassah extends invitation to young women

The San Antonio Chapter of Hadassah is reviving its younger women's group – named "Aviva" – intended for women in their 20s-50s. The group will be meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 15 for lunch at noon

at California Pizza Kitchen at the Alamo Quarry Market.

Those who attend will hear a about the latest Hadassah news and then catch up with each other. RSVP to Suzanne Patrick at [suzannepatrick@](mailto:suzannepatrick@gmail.com)

[gmail.com](mailto:gmail.com) or to Leslie Hickey at [lcarsman@hotmail.com](mailto:lcarsman@hotmail.com). For more information, please contact Leslie Hickey at (719) 233-9353 or lunch or Suzanne Patrick at (301) 461-2098.

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# Rabbi Nathan discusses Women and Jewish Law

Rabbi Mara Nathan, Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth-El, *presents Women and Jewish Law: the Tension Between Tradition and Modernity*, on three Wednesdays, February 8, 15, and 22 from 7 p.m. -9 p.m., at the SoL (Source of Life) Center at University Presbyterian Church, 300 Bushnell. Rabbi Nathan will review *halacha* (Jewish law) and



NATHAN

and congregational leaders both in history and recently as women have been ordained in many faiths.

how legal principles intersect with common practice, folk belief and popular culture as well as the role of women as spiritual

Tuition is \$35.

Rabbi Nathan is the first woman to serve as Senior Rabbi of a major congregation in the State of Texas. Her focus is on building sacred community and innovative worship experiences. She serves on the board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

The SoL (Source of Life) Center

at University Presbyterian Church is an interfaith educational center for adults who seek to explore the full dimensions of life and faith in the spirit of respectful curiosity. For more information or to register for "Women and Jewish Law," please call (210) 732-9927 or register no later than Feb. 3 at [www.upcsa.org/registration](http://www.upcsa.org/registration).



MARSHA GREENBERG



JOYCE LEIGHTON

## Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood to host 98th Anniversary Tea

On February 19 at 1 p.m., Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood will honor Marsha Greenberg and Joyce Leighton at the 98th Annual Sisterhood Tea. The event will take place in the Gurinsky Family Social Hall at Agudas Achim. The community is welcome to attend.

## Rodfei Sholom group helps with stress and anxiety

Even today, the stigma of mental health issues is keeping many individuals from seeking help.

They are frightened, ashamed, and embarrassed and trying to deal with their limitations on their own. In order to provide information, education, and support, a group has been started that is open to the community.

The group meets at Rodfei Sholom the first Wednesday of the month, 10:30 a.m. to

12:30 noon.

Manijeh Nathan, group facilitator, has 30 years of experience as a behavioral therapist, specializing in panic attacks and phobias. She has learned that "many individuals with anxiety, depression and other issues see themselves as weak and blame themselves for their condition. Studies have shown that anxiety, depression and other illnesses have a genetic component, and like physical diseases,

they can respond to medication therapy."

Having a support group that allows the person to share his or her feelings in a non-judgmental, secure setting, can be incredibly helpful.

It is important for a person to discover that others have similar issues and that they are not alone.

All are welcome! For more information, contact the synagogue office at 210.493.3557 or [rodfeisa@gmail.com](mailto:rodfeisa@gmail.com).

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## IN THE COMMUNITY

# San Antonio B'nai B'rith new format

Alamo Brandeis B'nai B'rith has changed to a format of activities that will include members and speakers discussing topics concerning the various current activities of B'nai B'rith and the lodge. The first of the new format was the January activity, which featured Ronit Sherwin and Steve Butler, who discussed investments.

The next activity will be a group discussion on Sunday February 12 at 10:30 a.m. in room 227 at the Jewish Campus. The third activity will be on Sunday, March 18 at 10:30 a.m. in room 227; the speaker will be announced in the March issue of the Jewish Journal.

The community is invited to attend. There is no charge for these events.

# Sephardic Jewry focus of multi-cultural event at Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El is partnering with Casa España and Raindrop Turkish House to bring renowned scholar Dr. Ori Z. Soltes to San Antonio for a special program at Temple Beth-El on February 1 at 6:30 p.m.



DR. ORI SOLTES

Dr. Soltes is Professorial Lecturer in Theology and Fine Arts at Georgetown University and former Director of the B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C., where he curated over 80 exhibitions on a variety of subjects. He is the author of articles, exhibition catalogues, essays and books on a range of topics.

In addition to Dr. Soltes' lecture on *The Life Experience of Sephardic Jewry 1492-Present*, the evening will include reflections on the differences between

growing up Catholic and Jewish in Spain, by Joaquin G. Mira and Sidney Chocron, past and present presidents of the Casa de España in San Antonio, and there will be an opportunity to view the traveling exhibit from the Quincentennial Foundation Museum of Turkish Jews. Spanish and Turkish vegetarian delicacies will be served.

The goal of the event is to strengthen connections within the inter-faith and multi-cultural community here in San Antonio as well as learn more about Sephardic Jewish traditions and history. The event is open to the community.

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## JEWISH WAR VETERANS CORNER

A new year has arrived and with it brings a new administration for JWV Post 753. On January 14, the following were installed: Herschel Sheiness, Post Commander; Garland Scott, Senior Vice Commander; David Marne, Junior Vice Commander; and Sean Sandlin, Judge

Advocate.

The next post meeting will be held on March 26 at 9 a.m. in Room 277 at the JCC. A light breakfast to be served.

All veterans and active duty personnel are invited to join Post 753 (one does not have to serve during war-time to be a member).

Members are also eligible to join JWV if they were honorably discharged from any branch of the U.S. armed forces.

JWV is there for the veterans and their families. For further information, contact Herschel Sheiness at (210) 468-5598, or attend a post meeting on the fourth

### Remembering deceased Jewish military veterans

Jewish War Veterans of America Post 753 asks you to remember these Jewish military veterans whose *yahrzeit* (anniversary of the individual's death) occurs in the month of FEBRUARY and who are buried in a local cemetery. If you know of a name that is missing please contact Herschel at (210) 468-5598.

*(We regret that the names listed for January in last month's Journal transferred incorrectly resulting in the names appearing incorrectly.)*

ANDERS, GEORGE  
 AYCOCK, BRETT  
 BARKIN, BURTON  
 BERLER, JAMES  
 BELINSKY, ELI  
 BERNSTEIN, JACK  
 BROOKE, PETER  
 CARSON, DAVID  
 CERVANTES, CARLOS  
 CHASAN, KALMAN  
 D'ACOSTA, URIEL  
 DIETZ, MILTON  
 DRYER-CLUTTS, DEBORAH  
 ELISCU, IRVING  
 ERLICH, MORRIS  
 FINDGOLD, EMANUEL  
 FINKLE, LEONARD  
 FRANKLIN, IRA  
 FROST, JONAS  
 GENDELMAN, HIAM

GOLDEN, AARON  
 GOLDMAN, BERTHOLD  
 GREENBERG, MICHAIL  
 HALFF, ALEXANDER  
 HARDING, BRIAN  
 KALIFF, MENDEL  
 KALLISON, MORRIS  
 KANIA, JOHN  
 KATZ, NORMAN  
 LADENSON, KENNETH  
 LAVEN, GEORGE  
 LAZICH, MICHAEL  
 LESCH, ALBERT  
 LEVY, MILTON  
 LOWM, DAVID  
 MANDEL, ALAN  
 MARKOVITZ, MEYER  
 MEDERIOS, GILBERT  
 MEYER, CARL  
 MOORE, KENNETH

MORRIS, HARRY  
 PINKKSTON, SYDNEY  
 PULLEN, LEE (LEON)  
 RIBNICK, DAVID  
 ROSENBLUM, BRYAN  
 RUBIN, MARTIN  
 SABLAW, HYMAN  
 SAGOR, HOWARD  
 SCHIFFER, SYDNEY  
 SCHLESINGER, LOUIS  
 SCHLOCHAUR, LEO  
 SHAENFIELD, ALBERT  
 SIMON, ALEXANDER  
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## Agudas Achim clubs for adults of all ages

### Simcha Social Club

Rabbi Ariel Platt will lead the Simcha Social Club in a Tu' B'Shevat Seder on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 11:30 a.m. Enjoy the tastes of 5 species of food while learning the customs and rituals surrounding the Festival of Trees. Take home your own Tu B'Shevat Haggadah. Complimentary lunch thanks to the generous grant from Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services, for 65+. For those under the age of 65, the cost is \$5. RSVP is required by calling (210) 479-0307 or [RSVP@agudas-achim.org](mailto:RSVP@agudas-achim.org).

### Moonlight Supper Club

A social group for ages 60+, is meeting on February 16 at 7 p.m. for a no host Italian dinner at Scuzzi's Italian Grill, located at 4035 North Loop 1604. RSVP to the synagogue for a seat in the semi-private dining room.

### Club Agudas Achim

Club Agudas Achim, for adults ages 45 to 60ish, will head to the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo to see Huey Lewis and the News. Purchase tickets through the rodeo website. For more information,



Saul Kaye

## Temple Beth-El guest Artist-in-Residence announced

Musician Saul Kaye will serve as the Guest Artist-in-Residence for Shabbat Shirah at Temple Beth-El from February 9-12.

Kaye has pioneered a new genre of music which he calls Jewish Blues. He has brought together Jewish history, characters, and liturgy with the blues. His musical style is unique to Jewish music in that he uses techniques from blues music in his vocals as well as in his guitar playing utilizing techniques like the acoustic slide, alternative tunings, and finger picking.

Kaye will work with Temple Beth-El's volunteer choir, *Kol Simchah*, on

Thursday evening and offer a Lunch and Learn for *shlichei tzibbur* on Friday. He will also join the congregation on Friday at 6:30 p.m. in the Wulfe Sanctuary for the Shabbat evening service and 10:30 a.m. Saturday for the Shabbat morning service. On Saturday evening at 7 p.m., Kaye will present a concert open to the entire community, beginning with *Havdalah*. On Sunday, he will work with Religious School students.

If you would like to listen to his music before he arrives you can visit his website ([www.saulkaye.com](http://www.saulkaye.com)) or on iTunes.



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING



## CHANUKAH CELEBRATION AT THE PEARL

Close to 150 people gathered for an evening of community and culture with YJSA - Young & Jewish San Antonio at a Menorah lighting celebration at the Historic Pearl on Thursday, Dec. 29. Participants enjoyed Kosher food from Green Vegetarian Cuisine, a 9. ft. menorah lighting led by Councilman Ron Nirenberg, and live Music by Tera Ferna. YJSA members enjoyed an afterparty with live music by Copper Greenberg. (Photo credit: Limelight San Antonio)



## JCC FAMILIES GATHER FOR DINNER AND DRAMA

Families from the Barshop JCC Block and Dreeben School for Young Children came together at the school's Dinner and Drama event, featuring Jessie Manley, as part of the 6th Annual Read-a-Thon.



## HEINTZ PRESCHOOL WINTER CAMP

Heintz Preschool enjoyed winter break and Hanukkah together with its annual Winter Camp. This year the Winter Camp children were lucky that Hanukkah fell during Winter Camp, so they had the opportunity to participate in Hanukkah activities including Hanukkah yoga with Morah Lauren. Enrollment is now open for Heintz Preschool's Literacy Summer Camp. For more information, contact Heintz Preschool Director Taryn Bretado at [T.Bretado@agudas-achim.org](mailto:T.Bretado@agudas-achim.org) or (210) 479-0307.

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING



## **NCSY HEADS OUT TO THE (BASKETBALL) GAME**

NCSY teens with Rabbi Ashi Gluck take in a Spurs game on January 4.



## **HANUKKAH CHINESE DINNER AT RODFEI**

Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg lights the Menorah candles at Congregation Rodfei Sholom's 3rd Annual Chinese Dinner on December 25.



## **GROWING ROOTS AT GAN GANI**

Children at Gan Gani examine the roots of broccoli that they planted and grew in the Gan Gani Preschool Garden.

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING



## USY FAR WEST REGION AT AGUDAS ACHIM

Congregation Agudas Achim hosted the USY (United Synagogue Youth) Far West Region (Southern California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Hawaii) for a pre-convention weekend, December 22-25, before hundreds of teenagers traveled together for their International Convention in Dallas. During the convention, Sabrina Epstein, a high school senior from San Antonio and member of Congregation Agudas Achim, spoke about her non-profit organization, Artful Start, which runs art programs for the San Antonio special needs community.



## MADISON ESTATES CELEBRATES HANUKKAH

Residents of Madison Estates enjoyed an afternoon in celebration of Hanukkah on December 28. The celebration was hosted by Golden Manor Jewish Services, with the assistance of many volunteers that included kids from Agudas Achim's Heintz Preschool and Hazzan Jeremy Lipton. Family and friends from the community joined in songs, snacking and even some trivia that Hazzan Lipton threw in, teaching the group things that they never knew about Hanukkah.

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Please contact your CRC representative or Ellen Ollervidez at [ollervidez@jfsatx.org](mailto:ollervidez@jfsatx.org) for more information.





# WHAT'S HAPPENING



**FOOTBALL NIGHT**  
 Agudas Achim Men's Club and Jew Boy's Night Out enjoyed a Monday Night Football Watch Party at Agudas Achim. It was a great turn-out with the guys grilling hamburgers and hot dogs for dinner, drinking beer and watching the game. Be on the lookout for more events with the two groups.



## JUMPING INTO HANUKKAH WITH CHABAD

Close to 200 people kicked off Hanukkah at *Bounce Family Chanukah Celebration & Chinese Dinner* on Sunday, Dec. 25 at the Chabad Center. There were moon bounces, obstacle challenges and a sing-a-long grand menorah lighting. The event was sponsored by Salvador Garcia.



## FIRST ANNUAL DONUTS AND DREIDELS AT AGUDAS ACHIM

Hundreds of people enjoyed Agudas Achim's new Hanukkah celebration, Donuts and Dreidels, at Shipley Do-nuts sponsored by Linda and Marvin Aboloff. There were games and crafts, sufganiyot (donuts), singing and lighting of menorahs.



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**SEPTEMBER:** SUPER SUNDAY

**NOVEMBER:** Campaign Educational Forum with Kobi Marom, IDF Colonel



**OCTOBER:** Young Adult Division's "Appletini"



**NOVEMBER:** Women's Philanthropy Pearl Society Event



**DECEMBER:** Women's Philanthropy "Shower Our Community With Love" Event

**DECEMBER:** Campaign Closing with Israeli Musician David Broza



# WHAT'S HAPPENING



## GAN GANI PRESCHOOLERS LEARN ABOUT FIRE SAFETY

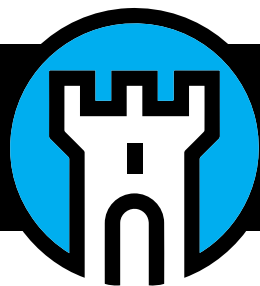
As part of a unit on fire safety, children from Gan Gani Preschool had a chance to meet local firefighters. The goal was to help the children feel comfortable with firefighters in their gear and teach them important tips for what to do in case of a fire.



## TEMPLE BETH-EL MITZVAH MONTH

Above (l to r) Amy Strickland, Debra Greenblatt, Renee Walker, Harold Rodinsky, William Burns, Harold Greenblatt, and Slava Rabinovich were among the many volunteers who cooked for Temple Beth-El's first annual Christmas Dinner for those in need in the neighborhood around Temple Beth-El. This was one event of many in which hundreds of volunteers participated in Temple Beth-El's *Mitzvah Month*.

Below: Luann and Dr. Larry Cohen (far right) were among the many volunteers at Temple Beth-El on Christmas Day who made and served food to those in the neighborhood who needed it.



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING



## CAMP RODFEI WINTER 2016

Camp Rodfei offered campers two weeks of winter fun during the winter holidays. Activities includes art, music, projects and field trips.



## HUNDREDS TURN OUT FOR CHANUKAH ON THE RIVER

Close to 800 people took part in a large display of Jewish unity and pride downtown on Wednesday, Dec. 28 at the Arneson River Theater for the 19th annual *Chanukah on the River* 2016. Participants enjoyed an interactive entertainment Chanukah cruise experience, Soul Farm concert and a large Menorah lighting. The event was presented by Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning in cooperation with our community synagogues & Jewish organizations, and was sponsored by: International Bank of Commerce, H-E-B, Holzman Family Foundation, SWBC, and The Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

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# IN THE COMMUNITY: PURIM



## Purim celebrations at Agudas Achim

Congregation Agudas Achim's Purim Celebrations start on March 4 at 7:30 p.m. with the congregation's annual *Purim Ball*. It's an evening of Roaring 20's Fun. Call Agudas Achim for ticket and table sponsor information.

On Sunday, March 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. its Purim Palooza with food, carnival games, and hamantashen. Meet Miss Gigi for face painting and play on inflatables. The cost is \$5 per person, under age 2 is free.

The fun continues with *Megillah Magic* on Saturday, March 11 at 6 p.m. with a free dinner and entertainment featuring magician, Tim St. John. Tim will entertain with magic, juggling and comedy. Reading of the Megillah and a costume contest follows at 7:15 p.m. To RSVP to any of the events, call Agudas Achim at (210)-479-0307 or [rsvp@agudas-achim.org](mailto:rsvp@agudas-achim.org).

## Purim gift baskets available

Rodfei Sholom middle schoolers will be selling Mishloach Manot for Purim made by Yachad Gifts. Mishloach Manot is a mitzvah unique to Purim. Tradition holds that every adult should give a package containing a minimum of two ready-to-eat foods, each requiring a different brocha, to at least one other person.

Yachad Gifts is a program of The Jewish Union



Foundation (JUF) which provides job training and employment to individuals with disabilities in every aspect of the business,

from designing and purchasing, to packaging, shipping, delivering, data entry, sales and customer service.

Purim packages are \$18 each, and will be available for pick-up at Rodfei Sholom on Sunday, March 5 from 10 a.m. – 12 noon. To order, contact the synagogue at (210) 493-3557 or [rodfeisa@gmail.com](mailto:rodfeisa@gmail.com). The deadline for orders is Monday, Feb. 13.

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# Heintz Preschool to host annual Yad B'Yad intergenerational Rodeo Day

Heintz Preschool of Congregation Agudas Achim will host its annual Yad B'Yad intergenerational Rodeo Day on Friday, Feb. 24 beginning at 9:15 a.m.

The community is welcome. The program will begin with a special rodeo themed Shabbat service followed by different rodeo activities including a real cowboy and pony rides.

This program is supported through a special grant from Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services which supports bringing youth and older generations together once a

month for special programs at Heintz Preschool.

"Rodeo Day at Heintz Preschool with our intergenerational Yad B'Yad program is one of my favorites every year," Heintz Preschool Director Taryn Bretado said. "This year we have lots in store and some surprises too, so you don't want to miss it!"

For more information about this program or Heintz Preschool, please contact Taryn Bretado at [T.Bretado@agudas-achim.org](mailto:T.Bretado@agudas-achim.org) or (210) 479-0307.



Jackson Salasky with grandson Henry enjoyed pony rides and look forward to riding again.

## NCJW focuses on cyber bullying at 7th Annual *Can't Beat Love* film contest

National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW is partnering with Family Violence Prevention Services (FVPS), Inc. to challenge high school students to shine a light on cyber bullying through a city-wide film contest called Can't Beat Love. Filmmakers will explore some of the causes of cyber bullying as well as the effects it has on its victims.

News caster Erin Nichols, a reporter with News 4 San Antonio, will emcee this year's award ceremony. Additionally, WOAI will be the media sponsor for the event.

NCJW and FVPS will award trophies and present cash prizes to student winners at the Film Awards Night on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Santikos Palladium theatre in The Rim, 17703 IH-10.

The Film Awards Night offers people a great opportunity to cheer on the filmmakers and see the winning film submissions. Admission to the event is free.

NCJW is also pleased to offer winning films as tools for teachers, counselors, youth groups, and classes. Past topics include: teen dating violence, bullying, and substance abuse and addiction. Currently, FVPS, Bexar County Probation Services, school and church groups are utilizing these films.

For more information about the Can't Beat Love contest or the films, contact Marcia Waldgeir at [mawaldgeir@satx.rr.com](mailto:mawaldgeir@satx.rr.com) or check out the website [www.cantbeatlovesa.org](http://www.cantbeatlovesa.org).

## Family art class with the JCC at Painting with a Twist

Every family has an artist—or several. Join JCC families at Painting with a Twist (PWAT) at the Alon Town Center location on Sunday, Feb. 26 from 2-4 p.m. for an afternoon of fun and creativity. Each family will create a work of art that they can proudly display in their home.

This event includes all painting supplies. Attendees

are welcome to bring their own snacks. Participants will be led by a professional artist to create their own version of a pop-art hamsa.

While everyone will be working on the same project, attendees will have the freedom to choose their own color combination and designs, ensuring each work of art will be

unique to the artist. This all-ages class is geared for family time; no drop-offs please.

Parents and friends can attend as observers at no cost, but make sure to indicate how many people will be attending upon registration. Cost is \$35 per painting. To register, call (210) 530-4257 or sign up online at [jccsanantonio.org/family](http://jccsanantonio.org/family).



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## ITC: YOUTH

# Jewish Special Services Committee seeks input

The newly-formed Jewish Special Services Committee of San Antonio recently met, under the leadership of Martha Serfaty, a special educator and behavioral specialist, and Amy Lerman, a speech pathologist, to discuss the need for inclusion and support across the community for individuals with special needs, their families, and educators. In attendance were passionate and dedicated representatives of the San Antonio Jewish agencies, schools, synagogues and temples. Participants included rabbis, school directors, teachers, special service providers, physicians, and parents.

The aim of the JSSC is to ensure that Jewish educational institutions, that teach Jewish culture, religion, history, and academics, and provide the community's children a place to cultivate relationships,

made programs available to all children and their families, no matter the challenges faced. This inclusion and support will have a lasting effect on the individual children, their families, as well as the community at large. As JSSC provides parents the wherewithal to keep their children in their preferred schools and activities, families maintain a sense of belonging, which in turn strengthens our Jewish community. The immediate, as well as long-term benefits of the program will be evident as children experience academic and social success and a sense of belonging in the years to come.

If interested in lending your voice to this organization, please contact Amy Lerman at [schrai16@aol.com](mailto:schrai16@aol.com) or Martha Serfaty at [mes@serferweb.net](mailto:mes@serferweb.net).

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## IN THE COMMUNITY: SENIORS

# Hadassah brings senior services organizations together

On Sunday, Jan. 8, the San Antonio Chapter of Hadassah brought five Jewish organizations together to provide the latest information regarding different services and resources available to community seniors.

More than 40 members of the Jewish community gathered at Adante Independent Living for a question-and-answer session with: MH Levine of Jewish Family Service; Mike Kelne with Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services; Laura and Mike Richardson



with the Hebrew Free Loan Association; Saul Levenshush (standing in photo),

President & CEO of the JCC; and Margaret Gofman-Klein with Ohr Lanu.

## E.D.G.E. offerings for seniors

E.D.G.E., a program for seniors in the San Antonio Jewish Community, will host the following February programs:

On February 15 at 7 p.m., Suzanne Huber, Executive Director of Morningside Ministries, will discuss *Navigating Senior Living*.

On February 21 at 7 p.m., Anna Gorchow, owner of Harbour Hospice, will talk share information about Hospice Care.

Both of these programs will take place at Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services, 13409 NW Military Hwy #210, San

Antonio, Texas 78231.

Seniors are also invited to enjoy a lunch and a tour of the San Antonio Shoe Factory on February 28 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Eva Laporte, GMJSS Program Director, at (210) 616-4811.

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# Texas Hillel looks forward to a new semester

Texas Hillel's Spring semester calendar is brimming with activities that reflect the many facets of the organization's values: Israel awareness, social justice, Jewish life and learning, and student development and engagement.

One of the most eagerly awaited events of the year is the annual Israel Block Party.

In March, hundreds of students, faculty, and community members will gather on the East Mall of the University of Texas at Austin campus to celebrate and learn about Israel, participate in discussions, and make new friends.

Social justice programs will include the solemn 10,000 Roses event, which is hosted by The White Rose Society, a genocide prevention and Holocaust remembrance organization. During this one day event, volunteers distribute 10,000

roses across campus to represent the number of Jews murdered in one day during the Holocaust.

This moving reminder of the Holocaust opens dialogues on campus and brings our community closer together.

Another popular program is the Campus Engagement Internship. Campus Engagement Interns are trained to identify and build relationships with students who might not otherwise get involved in Jewish life.

Interns do this by understanding students' interests and connecting them to opportunities that they may find meaningful and engaging.

This semester, freshmen students will be welcomed to the program and will continue engagement over the summer and in the fall.

Much of life at Hillel revolves around Jewish life and learning. Weekly Shabbat services and

dinners will continue to be a place where students come together at the end of their busy week for community and connection.

During the week, students have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of Judaism in a welcoming space during the Jewish Learning Fellowship, one-on-one study with a Rabbi, a Hebrew crash course, and a Beit Midrash program. New this semester is the Executive Mentorship Program where students interested in business will gain perspective and insight culled from Jewish wisdom, hear from a wide-range of executives representing different industries and roles, and build lasting relationships with executive-level mentors who are guided by Jewish values.

This unique internship includes a trip to New York.

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See how many words you can find!

K W K U J Y D Y D I P L Y W K V X X Z  
Q W B C M H H U C S Q F W E P U S Y Z  
H K F O R T I K K R L X O F Q Y W I U  
Y M B D A H G M C E T G I C R X X P P  
L H J I D S X X D Q E U C A C F G S L  
Y Z N G H U E I E R P R D B A P U A Q  
P B N P Y D L U P E A K H L N K B N A  
P Q T X K D J I G Z F R A T D N T V N  
W T M L E I S D N M E Y R B L H U W U  
P C D L Y K W A D F F S O G E P T U H  
V I M N S H X Q I I H Y T M S D G S M  
I A M C I K C L Q K A A P W Q G G L L  
N T S T X C T U H D E X L Z T V Z V T  
K T E X R U N I R R V E Y L W R B Q K  
W W Y J O U J U O F E X N D A S V K T  
C F N I T Q T A L A C Y U X Q H D G P  
W Y B M F A P K I M P P V O C I C O D  
O V D B S C F X Y O S K U H O U H O V  
X J H X P C A S H A B B A T H A K Q L

### Words to Find:

CANDLES

WHITE

SATURDAY

KIDDUSH

THREE

TORAH

SHABBAT

CHALLAH

# KIDDIE CORNER

## PINAT YELADIM פינת ילדים

Enjoy coloring this page!



### 1. Family Shabbat Questions

- How do you spend Shabbat as a family?
- What do you do to make your weekends special and holy?
- What is your favorite Shabbat food?

# YOUR JEWISH COMMUNITY

## JEWISH FEDERATION OF SAN ANTONIO

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

**Ronit Sherwin**, Chief Executive Officer  
*Sherwin@jfsatx.org / (210) 302-6961*

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*abrahaml@jfsatx.org*

**Leslie Komet Ausburn**,  
Marketing/Editor *The Jewish Journal*  
*jewishl@jfsatx.org*

**Jane Briggs Gamez**, Chief Financial Officer

**Linda Brown**, Campaign Administrator  
*brownl@jfsatx.org*

**Matthew Faulkner**, Programs Coordinator,  
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**Susan Avitan Kariv**, Chief Development Officer  
*karivs@jfsatx.org*

**Sandy Leigh**, Advertising Director  
*The Jewish Journal, advertising@jfsatx.org*

**Samantha Mazuz**, Young Adult Division  
Director & Marketing Manager  
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**Ellen Ollervidez**,  
Community Relations Director and  
Director Holocaust Memorial Museum  
*OllervidezE@jfsatx.org*

**Danielle Roberts**, Accounting Associate  
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*hernandezk@jfsatx.org*

**Juana Rubalcava**, Education Director  
Holocaust Memorial Museum  
*rubalcavaj@jfsatx.org*

**Julie Schack**,  
Director of Women's Philanthropy  
*Schackj@jfsatx.org*

**Tracy Morris**,  
Women's Philanthropy Associate  
*Morrist@jfsatx.org*

**Caitlin 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](mailto:jcc@jcc-sa.org)  
President: Danna Halff Website: [www.jccsanantonio.org](http://www.jccsanantonio.org)  
JCC programs include a nationally-accredited nursery school, after school care and programs, summer camps, programs for adults, plus cultural, educational and recreational programs open to the community.

### Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus

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

### Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services

13409 N.W. Military Hwy. Suite 210, San Antonio, TX 78231  
Phone: (210) 616-4811 Website: [www.goldenmanor.net](http://www.goldenmanor.net)  
Executive Director: Daniel L. Laser President: Alice R. Troy  
Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services (GMJSS) works to enhance the lives of Jewish seniors in the San Antonio area.

### Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America

Website: [www.hadassah.org](http://www.hadassah.org), [www.facebook.com/hadassah](https://www.facebook.com/hadassah)  
Phone: (212) 355-7900 (National) or (210) 394-7405 (Local)  
Contact: Roberta Abelman, [rabelman@satx.rr.com](mailto:rabelman@satx.rr.com)  
Hadassah partners with the land and people of Israel, enhances worldwide health through medical care and research, and empowers members, supporters, and youth in Israel and America through opportunities for growth, education, advocacy and Jewish continuity.

### 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: Marion Bernstein  
Jewish Family Service (JFS) offers a wide range of professional counseling, social services, advocacy for victims of crime, and services for seniors including senior living and care options.

### National Council Of Jewish Women (NCJW)

Website: [www.ncjwsa.org](http://www.ncjwsa.org) Membership: Cathy Pottorf - [catpot52@gmail.com](mailto:catpot52@gmail.com)  
NCJW is a grassroots organization that advocates for women, children and family issues both locally and nationally.

### Hillel San Antonio

Website: [www.hillelsa.org](http://www.hillelsa.org) Phone: (210) 201-Jews (5397)  
Contact: Natalie Steiner Email: [natalie@hillelsa.org](mailto:natalie@hillelsa.org)  
San Antonio Hillel serves college students throughout the San Antonio area.

### After School Judaics (JAS @ The J)

12500 NW Military Hwy. 78231 / Phone: (210) 302-6969

### Gan Gani Preschool

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

### Heintz Preschool

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

### JCC Block & Dreeben School for Young Children

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### Shmuel Bass Torah Academy

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## SAN ANTONIO CONGREGATIONS

### Congregation Agudas Achim (Conservative)

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

### Congregation Rodfei Sholom (Orthodox)

3003 Sholom Dr., 78230  
Phone: (210) 493-3557 Fax: (210) 492-0629  
E-Mail address: [rodfeisa@gmail.com](mailto:rodfeisa@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.rodfeisholom.org](http://www.rodfeisholom.org)

Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg  
Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg

### Temple Beth-El (Reform)

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Website: [www.beth-elsa.org](http://www.beth-elsa.org)  
Rabbi Mara Nathan, Senior Rabbi  
Rabbi Marina Yergin  
Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl, Emeritus  
Cantor Julie Berlin

### Jewish Community of the Hill Country

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For information: (830) 331-8941

### Temple Chai (Reform)

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San Antonio, TX 78213  
Phone: (210) 340-2090  
website: [www.templechaisa.org](http://www.templechaisa.org)  
Rabbi David Komerofsky

### Chabad Lubavitch of South Texas

14535 Blanco Rd., 78216  
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website: [www.chabadsa.com](http://www.chabadsa.com)  
Rabbi Chaim Block  
Rabbi Yossi Marrus  
Rabbi Levi Teldon

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

Office & Mailings:  
16320 Huebner Road at St. Andrew  
San Antonio, Texas, 78248  
website: [www.congregationisraelsatx.org](http://www.congregationisraelsatx.org)  
All Faiths Chapel:  
5000 Fawn Meadow Drive at Floyd Curl  
San Antonio, Texas 78240  
Phone: (210) 387-2436  
Hazzan David Silverstein, JD,

# ARTS & CULTURE



## Barshop JCC's 2017 Jewish Film Festival this month

The JCC's 2017 Jewish Film Festival will be held February 18-22 at Santikos Palladium IMAX, a new venue for the event.

The opening night film, *Remember*, features Christopher Plummer as Zev, a 90-year-old man who discovers the Nazi guard who murdered his family some 70 years ago is living in America under an assumed identity.

Despite challenges, Zev sets out to find the man and deliver long-delayed

justice. The screening is Saturday, Feb. 18 at 8 p.m., and is preceded by the short romantic comedy *Jewish Blind Date*.

The line-up also includes two films appropriate for ages ten and up.

*On the Map*, a documentary that recounts the story of how one Tel Aviv basketball team no one thought could win topped the four-time defending European Champions and put Israel firmly on the map, will screen Sunday, Feb. 19

at 2 p.m. *Fanny's Journey*, the true story of Fanny Ben Ami, 13, who crossed France with ten other Jewish children to escape deportation, will screen Monday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$8 (adults) or \$4 (under 18), and include reserved seating. Festival Packs, which include one admission to each screening, are \$80.

For more information, visit [www.jccsanantonio.org/filmfestival](http://www.jccsanantonio.org/filmfestival) or call (210) 302-6820.



Over 200 people attended the JCC Jewish Film Festival Prequel event to kick off the 16th Annual Jewish Film Festival occurring Feb. 18-22 at Santikos Palladium IMAX.



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## North Shore Fish at The Vex

Tickets are on sale for the Sheldon Vexler Theatre's production, *North Shore Fish*, written by Israel Horovitz. The show runs Feb. 2 through 26.

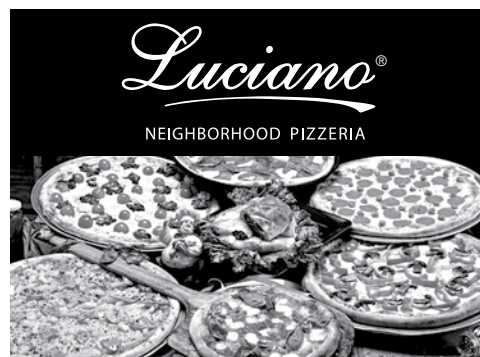
Crisis looms overhead as a group of blue-collar women working in a fish-

packing plant watch their very livelihoods slip away before their eyes. While the play might sound dramatic, it has also been described as "raucously funny". In a preface to a 1989 edition of the script, playwright Horovitz asks the question "What

happens to people's dignity when their work is no longer useful or available?"

Directed by The Vex's production manager, Dylan Brainard, the cast includes Evie Armstrong, Debbie Basham-Burns, John Boyd, Sarah Hamilton, Tami Kai, Vicky Liendo, Sciovahn Lydston, Gretchen Randall, and Robert Zuniga.

Tickets, ranging in price from \$22 to \$16, depending on ticket type, may be purchased by calling The Vex Box Office at (210) 302-6835. For more information about the play and future Vex shows, visit [www.vexler.org](http://www.vexler.org).



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## Birthright rolls out new experiences for young Jews

(JTA) — Birthright trips — the 10-day Israel tours offered free to young Jews — are so much part of mainstream culture that they have been copied by other religions, parodied on television shows like “Broad City” and “Transparent,” and debated by academics and activists.

But if your idea of Birthright is outdoor hikes, camel rides, visits to the Western Wall and flirty bus trips up and down the spine of Israel, think again.

The third-party vendors that work with the Taglit-Birthright Israel foundation offer an array of unexpected options — including trips for yogis, journalists, medical students and more.

The latest niche offering, announced in January, is a trip for vegans run by Mayanot Israel and Jewish Veg, a nonprofit that promotes plant-based diets.

Participants will visit Israeli farms, eat at vegan restaurants and meet with some of the country’s leading vegan diet proponents.

“So many young Jews who are vegan or vegetarian have become distanced from Judaism because their needs have

not been met by our communal institutions,” Jeffrey Cohan, the executive director of Jewish Veg, told the Forward. “This is a phenomenal way of re-engaging them.”

Here are a few other niche trips that put an unusual spin on the Birthright experience:

Birthright For journalists (Mayanot Israel); for yoga junkies (Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life); for fraternity brothers and sorority sisters (Tlalim-Israel Outdoors); for Latin America aficionados (Tlalim-Israel Outdoors and IsraelExperts); for medical students (Tlalim-Israel Outdoors); for Kabbalah dabblers (Israel Free Spirit); and for food Instagrammers (Shorashim: Israel with Israelis).

To learn more about Birthright, visit [www.BirthrightIsrael.org](http://www.BirthrightIsrael.org).

## Rubio, Manchin introduce bill to counter BDS movement targeting Israel

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) are leading a bipartisan group of 19 senators in introducing the Combating BDS Act (S. 170), a bill to fight back against the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement’s economic warfare against the Jewish state of Israel. The bill, which updates last year’s legislation proposed by Manchin and former Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL), increases protections for state and local governments in the United States that decide to divest from, prohibit investment in, and restrict contracting with companies knowingly engaged in commerce-related or investment-related BDS activity targeting Israel.

“This legislation supports efforts by state governments and local communities to use the power of the purse to counter the BDS movement’s economic warfare targeting Israel,” said Rubio. “This bipartisan bill is all the more timely after the United Nations Security Council’s passage of Resolution 2334, a deplorable one-sided measure that harms Israel and effectively encourages the BDS movement’s

campaigns to commercially and financially target and discriminate against the Jewish state.”

“This legislation is an important step forward in reassuring Israel that we are protecting our shared national security interests, while also protecting our joint economic interests,” said Manchin. “This

bipartisan legislation gives state and local governments a legal way to combat the shameful boycott, divestment and sanctions movement against Israel. Israel has been our strongest ally in the Middle East and we need to send them a strong signal that we will do everything in our power to fight the BDS movement.”



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# Netanyahu congratulates ‘my friend President Trump’

(JTA) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu congratulated Donald Trump ahead of his inauguration, calling him his “friend.”

“Congrats to my friend President Trump,” Netanyahu wrote Friday, Jan. 20 on Twitter, several hours before the president-elect was scheduled to officially assume the title following his inauguration in Washington, D.C. “Look forward to working closely with you to make the alliance between Israel and the United States of America stronger than ever.”

Netanyahu and President Barack Obama have had a tense relationship amid Netanyahu’s vocal opposition to a U.S.-led deal between six world powers and Iran that offers Tehran sanctions relief in exchange for scaling



Donald Trump and family at the end of the inauguration concert at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. (Aaron P. Bernstein/Getty Images)

back some of its nuclear capabilities. Obama has also criticized Israel’s activity in settlements and in the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem more openly than some previous presidents.

On December 25, after the United States abstained during a U.N. Security Council vote that ended

with a condemnation of Israel’s settlements activity, Netanyahu said in a speech that he had told Secretary of State John Kerry that “friends don’t take friends to the Security Council.”

Yuval Steinitz, a senior Israeli Cabinet minister, said that Israel was “praying” that Trump will be responsible,

courageous and serious.

Steinitz, Israel’s energy and infrastructures minister, who is considered to be a close ally of Netanyahu, said in an interview on Army Radio that “we are all praying that, alongside his sense of humor and colorful personality, Trump will understand the weight of responsibility lying on his shoulders and will turn out to be a courageous and serious president.”

Steinitz added: “I very much hope and believe that he will move the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.”

Congress recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital in 1995 and mandated the move to Jerusalem, but successive U.S. presidents have exercised a waiver in the law that allows them to delay the move for

national security reasons.

U.S. security and diplomatic officials say that moving the embassy would stir anti-American violence in the Middle East and elsewhere.

The leadership of the Palestinian Authority has claimed Jerusalem, and particularly eastern Jerusalem, as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

During the presidential campaign, Trump said he supported moving the embassy to Jerusalem, and has reiterated the promise in recent days.

Steinitz said doing so would encourage other countries to follow suit.

“It’s absurd that the embassies are in Tel Aviv and the United States should be the first to move it to Jerusalem,” Steinitz said.

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Supporters of National Council of Jewish Women and other Jewish organizations come together on the National Mall for the Women's March on Washington, January 21, 2017. (Ron Sachs)

## Thousands of Jewish protesters join Women's March

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Thousands of Jews joined hundreds of thousands of protesters in the Women's March on Washington protesting newly installed President Donald Trump's policies and rhetoric.

The march on January 21, focusing on anticipated rollbacks in abortion rights and broader issues like discrimination against minorities and preserving former President Barack Obama's health care reforms, were included among its hundreds of official partners a number of Jewish groups.

Organizers estimated that it drew at least twice the 250,000 they had anticipated. Clogging the city's streets and subway system for hours, it appeared to dwarf the crowds who had attended Trump's inauguration the day before.

Similar marches took place across the country and around the world, including San Antonio, drawing what media said were millions of women — as well as many

men — to protest Trump and support a progressive agenda.

The National Council of Jewish Women, one of the march's formal partners, drew at least a thousand marchers from across the country to Washington, and the Reform movement, while not formally affiliated with the march, also drew more than a thousand participants. There were participants as well from Bend the Arc, Jews United for Justice and T'ruah, among other groups.

NCJW organized Jewish contingents in marches across the United States, including in Boston, New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.

NCJW CEO Nancy Kaufman said the group helped shape the march's overall tone and message. "We were part of the messaging; we were at the table," she said.

Kaufman said NCJW believed it was important for Jews to be represented at the march by their organizations and not simply as individual participants. "We had a vision of wanting the

community to march together as Jews," she said.

Rabbi Jill Jacobs, who directs T'ruah, a rabbinic human rights group, said the march was an opportunity for Jews to express identification with other communities made vulnerable by the rise in bigoted rhetoric during the election.

Trump, meantime, attended the multifaith service at the National Cathedral that traditionally takes place a day after the inauguration. It included two Jewish clergymen, Rabbi Fred Raskind of Temple Bet Yam in St. Augustine, Florida, and Cantor Mikhail Manevich, of Washington Hebrew Congregation, a neighbor of the cathedral, who sang the Ve'Ahavta prayer.

Trump departed from tradition by asking that clergy deliver only prayers and not sermons.

Rabbi Marvin Hier of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles was among the clergymen who delivered a benediction at Trump's inauguration on the steps of

## Israel receives first Arrow 3 rocket interceptors

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Israeli Air Force received the first advanced interceptors of the Arrow 3 missile defense system, which is being jointly developed by the United States and Israel.

The rockets, worth about \$2.2 million each, were delivered January 18, according to reports in the Israeli media.

The Arrow 3 missiles were designed to enable interception of ballistic missiles beyond the earth's atmosphere. Interception at that altitude enables missiles carrying nuclear warheads to be blocked farther from

Israel and increases the overall odds of interception.

The American aviation firm Boeing and the U.S. Department of Defense are working together on the project, which is being run by Israel Aircraft Industries, a state-owned company. The missiles are being developed with U.S. funding.

The long-range interceptor missiles passed **their first challenge in December 2015, after an unsuccessful test the prior year.**

Israel also receives funding from the United States for the Iron Dome anti-missile program and the David's Sling anti-missile program.

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## Mexican Jews launch 24-hour hotline to tackle life-threatening situations

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) — Mexican Jews have launched a 24-hour emergency hotline for callers seeking support in cases of attempted suicide, domestic violence and other emergencies.

The 1118 line launched in January, the Enlace Judío news website reported.

“1118 means ‘One for one, one for life,’” Salomon Cherem, president of the Magen David community, told Enlace Judío, referring to the idea that the number 18 means “life,” according to the Kaballah.

Under the auspices of the Magen David and the Kehila Ashkenazi community centers, 1118 integrates other existing initiatives in the Jewish community to fight drug addiction, domestic

violence, child abuse, eating disorders, depression and more. A free ambulance and first aid service, Hatzalah, also has been integrated into the hotline.

“There were lots of channels, and the one who is living a problem didn’t know which to look for. That’s how the hotline was born,” Cherem said.

The hotline, which operates seven days a week, has answered dozens of calls. Many of those who called began anonymously, but then decided to reveal their identities, which shows the confidence of users, according to Enlace Judío.

Mexico is home to some 50,000 Jews, making it Latin America’s third largest Jewish population after Argentina and Brazil.

## Fordham denies students permission to form pro-Palestinian group

NEW YORK (JTA) — Fordham University will not allow students to form a Students for Justice in Palestine chapter because it does not allow groups that solely promote the interests of one country.

According to a statement on January 17 from Fordham, a Jesuit school in New York City, an SJP chapter would act more like a political lobby than a traditional campus club.

“Fordham has no

registered student clubs the sole focus of which is the political agenda of one nation against another nation,” the statement read. “The narrowness of Students for Justice in Palestine’s political focus makes it more akin to a lobbying group than a student club. Regardless of the club’s status, students, faculty, and staff are of course free to voice their opinions on Palestine, or any other issue.”

There is also no pro-Israel student group

at Fordham. There is a Jewish students’ club, but its description does not mention Israel.

Palestine Legal, a pro-Palestinian legal advocacy group, sent a letter **protesting the decision to Fordham’s president, the Rev. Joseph McShane, saying the denial of an SJP chapter could constitute a violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color or national origin.**



# A CONVERSATION ABOUT: ISRAEL

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2017 AT 7PM  
In the Holzman Auditorium at the Jewish Campus



**JEREMY BEN-AMI**  
Founder and President of JStreet



**DR. MICHAEL MAKOVSKY**  
President and CEO of JINSA



THE CONVERSATION WILL BE MODERATED BY WILLIAM DAROFF, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLIC POLICY AND DIRECTOR OF THE WASHINGTON OFFICE OF THE JEWISH FEDERATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT RONIT SHERWIN AT (210) 302-6961

# FROM THE COVER

## ISRAEL

continued from page 1

community the opportunity to hear for themselves an explanation of these positions, as well as the opportunity to directly question Ben-Ami.

Why should anyone care? J Street has growing support on college campuses and among millennials. Whether you support the organization or not, it is important to understand what the organization is about. This is an opportunity for members of the community to hear first-hand from its president and ask questions.

Isn't Federation endorsing J Street's agenda by sponsoring this event? No. Ben-Ami is one of three people representing a variety of views who will be discussing Israel. Federation routinely

sponsors or participates in events that serve a communal purpose without endorsing the agendas of participating organizations, including the Night to Honor Israel and the Martin Luther King, Jr. March.

Doesn't including J Street on this panel lend it legitimacy? No. J Street is well established, with 50 chapters across the country and active on 60 campuses. Again, whether you support J Street or not, this is an opportunity for members of the community to hear first-hand what J Street stands for and ask questions of its president.

Jewish tradition offers us some guidance on the subject of dialogue, even with – especially with – those with whom we disagree. The Talmud is a study in competing viewpoints, filled with opinions

that were rejected yet still recorded. The famous, historical dispute between the schools of Hillel and Shammai offer an illustrative example. The Talmud explains God's favoritism toward the School of Hillel because its handling of controversy is "kindly and modest," its members willing to study Shammai's opinions as well as their own, and being so humble as to state the rulings of Shammai before their own.

In that tradition, I invite the community to come join the discussion on Feb. 9, hear for yourselves and ask questions. Such dialogues, often passionate, are commonplace in the social, political and media milieu of Israel. Surely the pro-Israel community of San Antonio can benefit and learn from a similar conversation.

## RABBI VISIT

continued from page 1

refugee to become one of the leaders of the Jewish people. Rabbi Lau's motivation for writing his memoir was twofold. Firstly, he sees it as part of the mitzvah of remembering what Amalek did to us.

"There are two aspects to this mitzvah," he explained. "'Don't forget,' and 'remember.' 'Don't forget' is in the heart; 'remember' is an action. Lighting *yahrzeit* candles, saying *kaddish* and learning *mishna* for the departed is an act of remembrance. This book is also an act of remembrance in order that it shouldn't be forgotten from the heart. This is a *ner neshama*, a *yahrzeit* candle that I lit for them."

His second motivation is to teach people what he believes is the true lesson of the Holocaust.

"Many people abandoned Judaism because of the Holocaust. I did just the opposite," he said. "We have no alternative but to attach ourselves to Torah and mitzvot. Why? Because we want to defeat the Nazis. The Nazis didn't only attack the Jews physically, but also spiritually. What's the proof? The very first thing they did before the war even started was *Kristallnacht*. They destroyed over 1000 shuls in a single night. Ten months before the war began, they were already fighting against synagogues and *sifrei kodesh*, our holy books. This shows what their real intention was. They attacked our soul before our body. If we abandon the Torah, we are helping them win the battle. We must be victorious by clinging to the Torah. Our eternity, our continuity depends on it."

For more information on Rabbi Lau's visit, contact the Rodfei Sholom office at (210) 493- 3558.

**YAD**  
2017 Upcoming Events

**YAD goes to the Jewish Film Festival Feb. 18**  
At 8pm for Opening Night to see: "Jewish Blind Date" & "Remember"  
Tickets can be purchased online for \$8 at [jccsanantonio.org/filmfestivaltickets](http://jccsanantonio.org/filmfestivaltickets)

**Dinner for 8 March 2 @ The Rim**  
RSVP by taking the online survey  
**Young Adult Purim Bash on March 11**  
First drink sponsored by Masa Israel, costume contest, & more.  
Stay tuned for more info on Facebook

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For more information, or to get involved, contact Samantha Mazuz at [mazuzss@jfsatx.org](mailto:mazuzss@jfsatx.org) or (210) 302-9070.

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CHAIR, YAD BOARD

## Bar Mitzvah: Seth Hayden Saltzman

Seth Hayden Saltzman will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, Feb. 25, at Temple Beth-El. Seth is the son of Leah and Sam Saltzman, and the big brother of Scott and Kylie. He is the grandson of Ira and Judy Diskin of San Antonio, Texas and the late Harold and Susan Saltzman of Beaumont, Texas. Seth is a 7th grade student at Rawlinson Middle School. In his free time, Seth enjoys shooting hoops with his friends and playing video games. He also enjoys spending time with his brother and sister and cousins.

Seth has chosen the Texas Chihuahua Rescue Network as his Mitzvah project. Seth lost his chihuahua last May and wanted to help other dogs find homes. Since volunteering, he has also adopted a new dog, Betty. Seth spends his Saturdays volunteering with the rescue helping them with their adoptions. He is also asking that others adopt, donate money or supplies for the rescue. The volunteer fosters are always needing help. For more information, [www.texaschihuahuarescue.com](http://www.texaschihuahuarescue.com)



## Mayer-Benjamin wedding

Madeline Elyce Mayer and Jay Garrison Benjamin were married on November 20, 2016 at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City, Missouri by Rabbi Arthur Nemitoff of The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah.

The 5 p.m. ceremony was followed by cocktails, dinner and dancing at the museum.

Stephanie Oesch of Kansas City, Missouri served as the maid of honor.

Bridesmaids included: Rose Azorsky, Bloomington,

Indiana; Naomi Benjamin, San Antonio, Texas; Lisa Stolper, Overland Park, Kansas and Ariel Wittenberg, Washington, DC.

Sammy Trakhtenbroit of Dallas, Texas, was the best man.

Groomsmen were: Peter Gregory, St. Joseph, Missouri; Josh Ozer, Dallas, Texas; Will Raderman, Washington, D.C. and Brett Samet, Phoenix, Arizona.

The Benjamins spent their honeymoon in Maui and Kauai, Hawaii. Currently,

they reside in Overland Park, Kansas.

Parents of the couple are Vicky and Howard Mayer of Leawood, Kansas and Judy and David Benjamin of San Antonio, Texas.

Grandparents are: Golda Mayer of Leawood, Kansas; Sylvia Masur, Monroe Louisiana; Diane and Jerry Benjamin, Dallas, Texas; and the late Naomi Benjamin, Ernest Mayer and Jerry Bernat.

## Kieso Baby

Sunny and Robert Goldberg recently celebrated the birth of their first grandson, Charles Gregory Kieso, born on November 30, 2016 in Chicago, Illinois.

Proud parents are Alyson Goldberg and Gregory Kieso. Charlie weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and was 20 inches long at birth.


He is named after his beloved great-grandfather, Charles Goldberg, of blessed memory.



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