Where is Our Jewish Community?
Anywhere and Everywhere
How I got involved with the Jewish Federation – and saw “The Big Picture”

It was the fall of 2016. After reading a few articles in the El Paso Jewish Voice about our community, it spurred me on to get involved. There was a notice of a Jewish Federation community meeting being held at the old Holocaust Museum on Wallenberg Drive. All were invited. So at the last minute I got in my car and attended.

Upon my arrival at the meeting there were many familiar faces from different congregations in our Jewish community and all of us were there because we cared about our shared community. That evening there was much discussion about all of the many programs offered by the El Paso Jewish Federation. We talked about which were relevant and which were not, which ones where run better than others, which were more popular and which needed more funds. People had different opinions, but the bottom line was we were interested in these programs for the same reason: to make Jewish life in El Paso better and more meaningful for ourselves and for future Jewish El Paso generations.

At that point, for the first time in a while, I had the time to learn more about what was going on in my community. My husband and I had each lost a parent in 2016. Our daughter had finished grad school and was working in Denver. We were empty-nesters. We now had the time to focus on where we lived, and hoped to give back to the community that was good to us as a young family.

The very next month after that meeting, I worked on a few upcoming events, following the lead of our local staff and experienced volunteers. I learned how Jewish Federation works and what it does for Jews here at home, Israel and globally. Subsequently, I joined the board and then worked on the Federation’s campaign to raise funds for programs and projects. That’s when I saw “The Big Picture”—that’s when I realized how important our Greater El Paso Campaign dollars are to our Jewish community locally and around the world.

This past July a group from El Paso traveled to Berlin and Budapest to participate in the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) Financial Resource Development Leadership Mission which brought together Federation professionals and volunteers like me to learn more about how Federation dollars are spent. Every day was nonstop and very well organized. In Berlin we were taken to Jewish historical sites and given a history of the rise of the Third Reich. One afternoon correspondents from Berlin’s Jewish Telegraphic Agency gave an update on rising anti-Semitism in Germany and elsewhere in both Western and Eastern Europe. Because it is a problem for so many Jews living in Europe, we heard from a panel of five young professionals who shared their personal stories and told us how our overseas JFNA programs affected their lives. Their moving stories of hardship and perseverance touched all of us.

We met with members of Germany’s University Student Unions and participated in a “Kippah Walk,” a symbolic walk through the streets of Berlin. We all wore a blue Jewish Federation kippah as a show of solidarity with students of all faiths and ethnicities who were protesting against anti-Semitism.

As we made our way, there were police escorts along the streets and body guards walking among us. It was a moving and sobering moment: the realization of the importance for all of us to stand up for each other, and not to let history repeat itself. Later that day we were visited by other Jewish students who told their stories, and how JFNA programs were helping them at home and school.

We heard many other stories during this trip about wonderful people who make a difference every day in this world. The Jewish Federations of North America help to make that difference—because in this politically unstable world with nationalistic and xenophobic overtones, some day it could be our children or grandchildren who need our help. That is one part of why I got involved in the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso and why I support the Federation.
As I write this, the High Holidays have just come to a close. I look forward to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur each fall and it is a bit bittersweet to hear that last shofar blast. I love the time-out-of-time feeling when the sanctuary is fuller, the music is richer, and, frankly, the stakes feel higher. Don’t get me wrong: every Shabbat is an important Shabbat; every worship experience is an important one. Yet the immersion of these special days inspires me spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually like no other time.

Sitting in my place of worship, Temple Mount Sinai, my thoughts inevitably turn to the phenomenon of Jewish community, both within and outside any synagogue. On Erev Yom Kippur, Rabbi Ben Zeidman eloquently spoke about the shared sacred community that nurtures Judaism and the Jewish community here on the Border is her motto and it makes sense. Our Jewish community is everywhere – and as editor of this newspaper and a volunteer for the Federation’s fundraising campaign, I’m all in. “Better together” is her motto and it makes sense. Our Jewish community here on the Border is truly better together whether we are helping people in the path of hurricanes or celebrating Israel’s 70th anniversary.

The emphasis on Jewish community turned out to be an unexpected bonus upon conversion. From my personal experiences in the religion of my parents and siblings, I can tell you that, for me, I see that this communal focus is much stronger in Judaism. I have a sense of what links all Jews, across denominations and around the world, and that affects how I feel as a member of a congregation, as part of a Jewish family, and as an individual Jew.

To me, community means looking around the sanctuary on Rosh Hashanah from the last rows and being around the sanctuary on Rosh Hashanah from the last rows and being able to recognize people I know simply from the backs of their heads. I see their families and their friends and I feel a rush of affection for them all. Our Jewish community also means having good people I could call upon during this difficult time after Burton’s sudden death right before the High Holidays this year. In August that board room was also the scene for the Federation Board Retreat, when Federation president Janet Wechter received a birthday surprise: a tribal drum to drum up support for local projects!

In the next photo we have Anat Reiter talking with Maria and Dr. Terren Klein at the Federation’s Maimonides Society event for Jewish doctors and other medical professionals. In the lower right corner, you can see members of Congregation B’nai Zion building community and camaraderie through Chavurah groups.

The Jewish community is also in our homes, especially during holidays when friends — such as the six women smiling at an Erev Yom Kippur dinner — gather to share food and fellowship. Our Jewish community was also at the zoo with a Temple Mount Sinai Religious School class and on a field trip to Cloudcroft with the Federation’s PJ Library. Our Jewish community gets around!

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Editor, The Jewish Voice
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The Jewish worship service facilitates an internal conversation as much as it encourages us to encounter God. The liturgy itself is split into several sections, or units, which assist in the efforts of self-reflection and holy encounter.

One such section, Birchat HaShachar (the morning blessings) includes prayers originally to be said in the synagogue. From the moment one thousand years ago) moved to the home, but later (more than one encounter.

Each blessing is special, but one which sticks out to me each morning is the prayer for the study of Torah. That’s because in the midst of a worship service, when we conclude the blessing we immediately do the thing we just blessed: we study and reflect on words of Jewish tradition. The liturgy itself is split into several sections, or units, which assist in the efforts of self-reflection and holy encounter. From the moment one opens one’s eyes and sits up in bed, through the process of getting dressed and preparing for the day, each act is accompanied with praise. We literally thank God every step of the way. That engenders within us a sense of self-awareness and gratitude for even the smallest pieces of our lives. From our functioning bodies, to the inhalation of each breath, the morning blessings cause us to be aware of how much could go wrong. We quickly appreciate how, despite the complexity of the world, we have so much to be thankful for.

Across the denominational spectrum, one of the study texts is the same. It comes from the Babylonian Talmud (Shabbat 127a), and here it is as translated in a prominent Orthodox prayer book. These are the things whose fruits we eat in this world but whose full reward awaits us in the World to Come: honoring parents; acts of kindness; arriving early at the house of study morning and evening; hospitality to strangers; visiting the sick; attending to the dead; devotion in prayer; bringing peace between people – but the study of Torah is equal to them all.

A powerful equivalency is drawn between communal behavior and the importance of studying Torah. Given that we’ve just offered a prayer for Torah study, that says a whole lot about how significant these other items of observance are. It is as if our ancestors are reminding us as soon as we wake up every morning that the study of Torah should inspire us to have meaningful interpersonal relationships. Study and prayer should remind us to be out in the world, celebrating and mourning with neighbors and family.

There are highs and lows in life. From birth to death, those moments are meant to be observed communally. We gather to support the mourner and to enable the bride to celebrate. We strive to be present for the sick and provide for those who are lacking. Life is meant to be lived with others.

That this speaks to Reform, Reconstructionist, Conservative and Orthodox Jews is no surprise. Despite our differences, community is something that draws us together. At Temple Mount Sinai our relationships with one another and our ability to be present with (and for) each other unites us as we strive to encounter the Divine. So, at the end of the month we are excited to welcome Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips thanks to the support of the the Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso. As the founder and executive director of Ways of Peace, she helps communities and individuals to think about what she calls “Mindful responses to human needs throughout the life cycle.”

The opportunity to study with her is hopefully one which entices you. Please know that you are welcome to join us as we all work together to build a strong, vibrant, Jewish El Paso. Rabbi Ben Zeidman Temple Mount Sinai

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Singer Chava Mirel headlines Yom HaShir at Botanical Gardens

Celebrate Jewish music in the beautiful outdoors on Sunday, October 7! Thanks to a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso, Congregation B’nai Zion invites the entire community to Yom HaShir, a day of song featuring Jewish music and dance and award-winning Jewish music composer, singer, and instrumentalist Chava Mirel.

Yom HaShir begins at noon with local performers and an opportunity to explore the Keystone Heritage Park and the El Paso Desert Botanical Garden at 4200 Doniphan Drive. Hungry? Kosher hotdog (and veggie dog) lunch packages will be available for purchase.

Chava will close the program at 2:00 p.m. with her rich, luxurious vocals and deep pocket rhythms. After listening to submissions from 16 musicians who wanted to visit our community, listening party participants selected Chava to be the guest artist. With themes of gratitude, self-acceptance, balance and responsibility for each other, Chava’s songs bring comfort and uplift the spirit.

Her songs are featured on the URJ Dunst Social Justice Music Project album, in the Behrman House “Hebrew in Harmony” curriculum, and the “Gift of Music” collection curated by Jewish Rock Radio. She has recorded two full-length albums, “Journey” and “Make the Two Sides Meet,” as well as in a duo project, “Josh and Chava,” with musical partner Josh Niehaus. They have been writing together and performed all over El Paso. They look forward to writing (and hopefully recording!) more over the next few months.

This will be Chava’s first visit to El Paso from Seattle, Washington, and she is eager to make the most of her trip. You can also enjoy her music at the following events:

- **Friday, October 5, 6:00 p.m., Shabbat services at Temple Beth-El Las Cruces**, followed by a dairy/vegetarian potluck dinner.
- **Saturday, October 6, 11 a.m., Tot Shabbat service at Congregation B’nai Zion**

Other Yom HaShir performers include:

- **Larry Lesser**, an award-winning songwriter/educator, has had his original Jewish songs recorded on CDs by several artists (Ellen M. Wilson, Sababa, Larry Bach), been featured on an NPR station interview, and performed at festivals/concerts, including his song “Break” performed at the Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall by UTEP’s stellar middle eastern music ensemble Layali Al-Sham. His songs have been featured at fundraiser concerts, congregational services, B’nei Amsin conferences, and musical presentations for Yom Limmud, EJPA, and Tikvun Leil Shavuot.

- **Alison Westermann and Emil Chaparro** have been writing together since 2011, when they wrote their first song “Holes in the Future” about Alison’s grief over losing her dear younger sister Lauren Marlowe. They have since gone on to write many songs together and performed all over El Paso. They look forward to writing (and hopefully recording!) more over the next few months.

• **TZ Israel Dancers** have been starting off their Sunday mornings with learning Israeli dance for over a year, thanks to instructor Dora Roe. They are looking forward to sharing their moves!

Your admission and lunch packages can be purchased at the door or in advance at www.congregationbnaizion.org or 915-833-2222. I hope to see you there!

Kristin Kimmelman

**PJ Library: Apples and honey**

PJ Library, a program of the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso, kicked off its program year apple-picking in Cloudcroft, New Mexico in August. Families drove (and drove, and drove!) up to the Cadwallader Mountain Farm and Orchard, where we saw many more varieties of apples than what can usually be found in our grocery stores. After picking apples, we drove into the town of Cloudcroft where we played on the playground, tasted some new foods, and heard an incredible presentation from Kent Huisingh, a beekeeper. Some of us even got to try on beekeeping gear and touch the frames that he uses in his hives. As the sun set, we drove home with full bellies, sticky fingers and the memories of an afternoon well-spent.

If you are raising Jewish children ages six months to eight years, you can sign up for PJ Library books, too. Just visit www.pjlibrary.org and fill out the form to register your children today. If your children are older, don’t forget the next chapter in the PJ story – PJ Our Way! Once you turn right and a half, you can sign up at www.pjourway.org and every month you’ll get a reminder email to log in and choose which book you’ll read next. Extra copies of all the Parent Choice books can be found at the Jewish Federation office. If you would like to trade or borrow any of them, please get in touch and you can check them out. Any other questions, suggestions or concerns? Email Alison Westermann at pjlibrary@jfedelpaso.org.

Alison Westermann

PJ Library Program Professional

Heidy Granger with her son Skyler and Chivonne Cook with her kids Lewis and Leah

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The Federation’s 2018 Maimonides Society gathering on September 15 drew some two dozen physicians and other medical professionals to hear a remarkable presentation by Dr. Irwin Goldstein, a renowned urologist specializing in clinical diagnosis and management of sexual health concerns, and his wife and fellow researcher, Sue Goldstein. The event, held in the home of Dr. Lauren Eisenberg and Adam Rosenfield, provided an opportunity for Jewish medical professionals to get together, learn about the latest research, and earn continuing medical education credit. Dr. Jeffrey and Dee Dee Spier were the other event co-hosts.
B’nai Zion launches Chavurah program

On August 19, Congregation B’nai Zion hosted its first “Chavurah Meet and Greet” with more than 90 attendees. All enjoyed a delightful smorgasbord, drinks, games and music. Everyone had so much fun from the beginning till the end. You can join the fun and sign up to be a part of a Chavurah!

• Reconnect and have lunch with friends
• Build new connections
• Singles, Couples, Families, Empty Nesters: Everyone is invited!

If you did not receive a Chavurah questionnaire to join the program, please contact the Congregation B’nai Zion office at 915-833-2222. If you have not submitted your questionnaire yet, please send to the office via email at programs@cbzep.org or by mail.

A very special thanks to the Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso and to all our volunteers who made this event possible.

You can join the fun and sign up to be a part of a Chavurah!

Temple Beth-El programs

Casey Rosenberg, Pea- re Bruder and Etasha Rosenberg joined Tem- ple Beth-El Las Cruces Sisterhood members for a Sisterhood luncheon in August. Attendees brought donations of non-perishable food items that will be taken to Casa de Peregrinos, the local food pantry.

Temple Beth-El congregants of all ages gathered by the pond at Young Park in Las Cruces for Tashlich on Rosh Hashanah afternoon on September 10.

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COMMUNITY

Temple Mount Sinai presents Susan Stamberg November 8

NPR Special Correspondent Susan Stamberg will appear in El Paso for a one-night only speaking engagement on Thursday, November 8, at Temple Mount Sinai. The first woman to anchor a national nightly news program, Stamberg has won every award in broadcasting and has been inducted into the Broadcasting Hall of Fame and the Radio Hall of Fame. She spent 14 years as co-host of NPR’s award-winning newsmagazine “All Things Considered” and then hosted Weekend Edition/Sunday for three years.

One of the most popular broadcasters in public radio, Stamberg is well-known for her conversational style, intelligence and knack for finding an interesting story. Her thousands of interviews include conversations with Laura Bush, Rosa Parks, Luciano Pavarotti, Stephen Sondheim and Billy Joel. She is the Author of two books, “TALK: NPR’s Susan Stamberg Considers All Things” and “Every Night at Five.”

Stamberg will speak on the “Jews of Shanghai,” a little-known Holocaust story about 25,000 Central European Jews who fled the Nazis during World War II but only got as far as Shanghai, China, when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. Trapped there for nearly 10 years, they lived under terrible conditions in the slums of Shanghai, where they slowly built up a “Little Europe” with cafes, radio programs, symphony orchestras and newspapers. To tell this story of terrible deprivation as well as hope, Stamberg interviewed dozens of these Shanghai Jews.

Susan Stamberg’s appearance is the first in a series of community events to be sponsored by Temple Mount Sinai. Additional sponsors include The Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso, KTEP-FM, UTEP Department of Communication and Impact Programs of Excellence.

A Joyful Sukkot at The J

Sukkot, the season of our joy, is upon us. And it is truly joyful to watch the children at the J Center for Early Learning participating in decorating the Sukkah as the days turn slightly cooler, hinting that fall may actually be near. We enjoy sharing meals and special moments outside throughout the holiday as we learn to appreciate many things we take for granted – like a solid roof or walls.

This holiday really engages all the children’s senses as they smell the Etrog, hear the sounds of the lulav and enjoy the sight of the beautifully decorated Sukkah. They learn things we expect – that an Etrog is not just a bumpy lemon, for example, and things that surprise us – like the importance of self-restraint! For some children, once they learn they’re not supposed to remove the piton at the end of the Etrog, it takes all their self-discipline not to touch it.

Everyone gets to practice shaking the lulav in all directions while learning that God is everywhere and deserves our thanks. In our Sukkah, we get to appreciate the chirping birds, the crawling bugs, the trees in the breeze, our friends and our many blessings. It is a joyful time indeed.

Stacy Berry
Judaics Instructor
The J Center for Early Learning

B’nai Zion teenagers play golf

Congregation B’nai Zion USY and Kadima members had fun at a Top Golf outing. For information on becoming a member please call or text Consuelo Madero @ (915) 861-6265

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COMMUNITY

Aaron Wechter Memorial Scholarship recipients

Four UTEP students were selected to receive scholarship funds in the fourth annual Aaron Wechter Memorial Scholarship. Aaron Wechter was a former president of the Jewish Federation of El Paso and a long-time philanthropist and leader in the El Paso Jewish and business community. His widow, Sylvia Wechter, and her family established the scholarship program in his name in 2014 to assist worthy UTEP students interested in bettering the Jewish community of El Paso. Building upon Aaron Wechter’s legacy of communal involvement and dedication, Sylvia continues to be a generous supporter of the El Paso community through her gifts to the Jewish Federation and the Jewish Community Foundations of El Paso and San Diego.

Benjamin Arras
- Pursuing Master’s degree in Civil Engineering
- Active contributor to local service projects
- President, Chi Epsilon National Civil Engineering Honor Society; President, Transportation Leadership Council; Captain, UTEP Steel Bridge Team

Andres Correa
- Senior majoring in Biology with a biochemical concentration and a minor in Spanish
- Plans to pursue a Master’s degree in addiction counseling
- President, Harmony Minors Organization; Treasurer, Medical Professions Organization

Erin Coulehan
- Pursuing Masters of Arts in English and American Literature
- Active member of UTEP’s Inter-American Jewish Studies Program
- Spent two weeks visiting Holocaust sites with Dr. Ezra Cappell and other students and wrote article for Glamour magazine about her interview with a survivor

Kevin Strombel
- Liberal Arts Honors Program student
- Plans to write honors thesis on Holocaust representation and docent at the El Paso Holocaust Museum
- Exchange student at University of Trier, Germany, for one year and visited concentration camps in Germany and Poland

El Paso Jewish Academy Music Program

The El Paso Jewish Academy (EPJA) has had a wonderful start to our Music Program this year. Our students have had the privilege to learn from Marissa Ribault, one of our beloved parents. She studied Music Education at the University of North Texas. She is a member of the Texas Music Educators Association and taught orchestra at Yarneh High School in Dallas. She played the flute and oboe and taught orchestra at Yavneh High School of North Texas. She is a member of the American Jewish Studies Program this year. Our students have had a wonderful start to our Music Program. Mrs. Ribault is instructing all students in music activities that include singing, playing instruments, move to music, listen and analyze music, learn musical notation, as well as create and perform. EPJA students will be studying a variety of music types to include Jewish, Americana, Israeli folk and sacred/liturgical. She will be incorporating an array of different cultures. We look forward to many performances by our students that will be enjoyed by our EPJA family and the community as a whole. In celebration of our Music Program, on Thursday, September 6, Frank and Ruth Zona (EPJA Middle School General Studies teacher) made special arrangements to have Eric Boseman come to the school to perform on some locally made “cajon” drums. Both Frank Zona and Eric Boseman are local jazz musicians and instructors, having experience with many famous artists. After a wonderful performance and some interviews of the musicians, we learned that the Zona’s donated one of the “cajon” drums to the school and Mr. Boesman donated the shakers. All of these were handmade in a local facility named “Monk Drums.”

We are looking forward to building on our inventory of musical instruments. If you have old band or orchestra instruments that you would want to go to a good home, please consider donating them to the El Paso Jewish Academy Music Program. Please coordinate your donation through our office at 915-833-0808 or office@elpasojewishacademy.com.

El Paso Jewish Academy

El Paso Jewish Academy Music Program

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ERIN COULEHAN
- Plans to pursue a Master’s degree in addiction counseling

TEXAS NEURODIAGNOSTIC, HEADACHE & SLEEP DISORDERS CENTER, P.A.
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915-842-9554 | www.jewishelpaso.org
October 7, Sunday
Temple Beth-El will present an original play at 2:00 p.m. at the New Mexico State University’s Center for the Arts Theatre at the corner of Osuna Street and University Avenue. Temple Beth-El received funding from the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso to conduct 23 oral history interviews. These interviews provide the main basis for a play to be written by Wil Kilroy, the head of NMSU’s Department of Theatre Arts. All characters in the play will have pseudonyms, and in some cases information from multiple interviews will be melded.

The play will include vignettes about Temple Beth-El’s members’ experiences that will help a general audience to understand more about the Temple, its history and its members. The play will be about one hour in length and will be followed by a Q&A panel discussion. Since the production is funded by the Temple Beth-El received funding from the Mexico State University’s Center for Education, Community Outreach, and Study Center’s Fourth Annual Holocaust Museum’s mission to teach about the Holocaust and combat prejudice and intolerance through education, community outreach, and cultural activities.

October 14, Sunday
Hadasah El Paso will host its Annual Membership Luncheon at 12 noon at Coronado Country Club (1044 Broadmoor). The event will include a fabulous musical program by Carlos Benedict, 915-532-5959, or dbenedict@templemountsinai.com

October 20, Saturday
The El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center’s Fourth Annual “Fight & Bites” tasting event will be a gourmet “Smoked & Scotch” evening from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. on October 20. The fundraiser social will feature premier Scotch tastings and delicious food catered by two of El Paso’s favorite food trucks: Coronado Prime Meats and Megalicious. Entertainment will include live music and dancing with a local favorite band, The Billy Townes Jazz Band; a silent auction; and a wine and cigar pull.

There will be a $10,000 putting contest, longest drive and closest-to-the-pin contests for both men and women. Raffle tickets will be sold throughout the tournament as well as raffles and 50/50 tickets. Businesses and individuals are invited to donate a contribution to our raffle table or sponsor one of the 18 holes. Donors’ names will be displayed at a tee box and in the Temple Beth-El newsletter. Call 573-928-0918 for information.

October 21, Sunday
Temple Beth-El invites golfers to register for a complimentary round at Picacho Hills. Come enjoy a bowl of delicious matzo ball soup! The shotgun start tee-off will be at 12 noon. The format will be a four-person best ball team scramble, which means each player gets to take a shot from their team’s previous best shot. Your entry fee is $100 per person and includes cart, range balls, dinner (vegetarian option available), and in addition as a free gift with you purchase, you’ll be entered into a 50/50 raffle ticket and a chance to win one of our many raffle prizes designed by Temple Beth-El.

Shabbaton

• Saturday, October 27, 12:15 p.m.: Kiddush Lunch and Learning Session
• Sunday, October 28, 7:30 p.m.: Shabbat Dinner and Learning Session
• Sunday, October 28, 9:00 p.m.: Shabbat Services

The Sixth Annual Matzo Ball Open at Temple Mount Sinai will start at 11 a.m. at the clubhouse. Come enjoy a bowl of delicious matzo ball soup! The shotgun start tee-off will be at 12 noon. The format will be a four-person best ball team scramble, which means each player gets to take a shot from their team’s previous best shot. Your entry fee is $100 per person and includes cart, range balls, dinner (vegetarian option available), and in addition as a free gift with you purchase, you’ll be entered into a 50/50 raffle ticket and a chance to win one of our many raffle prizes designed by Temple Beth-El.

Please bring cookies (homemade or store bought), canned goods and/or turkeys to Lisa Mitchell’s home after 12:30 pm. For further information, contact Lisa at lmdm4165@aol.com

January 22, Tuesday
Next year’s Pacemakers party for those who don’t have more in the 2019 campaign year will be held at the home of Dr. Steve and Wendy Lanski. We are taught that the world stands on a tripod of study, worship, and caring actions. When our communities run on the two legs of study and worship, the third leg of caring is often shortened. Yet this third leg is the only one that can support us reliably “on one foot.” How can we show up and accompany each other through the full range of life transitions—while keeping our own balance?

Join Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips at Temple Mount Sinai on October 26-28, as we discover a renewed equilibrium that integrates kindness and justice for these challenging times.

Temple Mount Sinai invites you to join us for all or some of the Shabbaton’s events where Rabbi Regina will weave together classical texts, music and discussion to address what it means to be a caring community.

• Friday, October 26, 7:30 p.m.: Shabbat Dinner and Learning Session
• Saturday, October 27, 12:15 p.m.: Kiddush Lunch and Learning Session
• Sunday, October 28, 9 a.m. to 12 noon: Multiple workshops

Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips, MSW, MPH, is the executive director of Ways of Peace Community Resources in Brooklyn, New York. As the founding chair of a 70-volunteer sacred fellowship, she has written a variety of published resources that have guided Jewish community development across the country and around the world. Her work has been featured in The New York Times, The New York Jewish Week, The Jewish Daily Forward.

This Shabbaton is made possible through the generous support of the Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso. For more information, please contact Deb Benedict, 915-332-9599, or dbenedict@templemountsinai.com

Other participants include: Howard Friedman, Harvey Buchalter on behalf of the Goldman family, and Noel Pugach, project director. Light refreshments will be served at the event which begins at 7:00 p.m. at the temple at 3980 Sonoma Springs Avenue in Las Cruces.

November 18, Sunday
For Hadasah El Paso’s “Baking for Hospice” Project, please bring cookies (homemade or store bought), canned goods and/or turkeys to Lisa Mitchell’s home after 12:30 pm. For further information, contact Lisa at lmdm4165@aol.com

Robert Regina Sandler-Phillips
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Accompanying Each Other: From Caring Community to Sacred Fellowship

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FEDERATION

Israeli 70th Anniversary General Assembly

More people from El Paso and Las Cruces than ever before will attend next month’s General Assembly of the Jewish Federation of North America (JFNA) – and it’s no ordinary mission. While most annual gatherings of Federation leaders and supporters take place in the United States or Canada, in honor of two important anniversaries – Israel’s upcoming 70th anniversary and the Federation’s upcoming 80th anniversary – the 2018 JFNA General Assembly will convene in Tel Aviv from October 22 to 24, with a pre-convention mission trip and Israel tour that begins on October 17. Our region will be well-represented!

This weeklong mission to Israel combines history and sightseeing with valuable training workshops and some of the top speakers in JFNA and local experts’ presentations. The group will visit landmarks such as the Roman ruins of Caesarea, the old city of Jerusalem, and Masada and sites off the beaten track, including an Arab-Israeli cultural center in Haifa. Through walking tours, bike tours, and jeep rides, participants will gain insights into Israel’s history and culture as well as many of the Federation-funded activities throughout the country.

For the full itinerary, including the names of the luxury hotels booked each day, visit jewishfederations.org or call our Federation office at 842-9554. The trip represents a unique opportunity to see Israel with behind-the-scenes access and memorable speakers and activities. Interested in joining the group? Contact Robert French at our Federation office at 842-9554 or email rfrench@jfedelpaso.org for registration details.

ANNOUNCING 2019 JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Act of Defiance
Sunday, January 6
(English)
The historical drama Act of Defiance, tells the story of Nelson Mandela, his Jewish attorney, and others as they face a possible death sentence for conspiracy against the apartheid South African government.

Three Identical Strangers
Sunday, January 20
(English)
Three Jewish strangers are reunited by astonishing coincidence after being born identical triplets, separated at birth and adopted by three different families. The fairy-tale reunion takes a dark turn when the unimaginable is revealed.

1945
Sunday, January 27
(Hungarian, English subtitles)
In 1945, an Orthodox man and his son return to a post-Holocaust village in Hungary while the villagers prepare for a wedding. The townspeople, guilt-ridden, fear the men may be heirs of the village’s deported Jews, and expect them to demand their property back.

The Insult
Sunday, February 10
(Arabic, English subtitles)
The Oscar-nominated The Insult starts with a minor incident between a Palestinian refugee and a Lebanese Christian that explodes into a dramatic trail, dividing the two communities. The film depicts the tensions in Lebanon that profoundly impact Israel and the Middle East. LUNCH SERVED FIRST TO FILM AT 12:30.

Be a Sponsor!
Executive Producer: $500
Producer: $250
Director: $100
All sponsors receive two tickets for each film.

Screenwriter:
$10/ticket or $36 for the series of 4 films
Seniors, Students and Military Personnel: $7/ticket or $25 for the series of 4 films

No Reserved Seating
Films begin promptly at 2:00 PM.
Alamo Drafthouse Cinema

Tickets
Online: JewishElPaso.org/films
Checks: JFED of Greater El Paso
7110 N. Mesa, El Paso TX 79912
Call: (915) 842-9554 with CC info.

International Lion
of Judah Conference

JANUARY 13-18 | FLORIDA

Registration is now open.

We are the Lions of Judah, the world’s most influential female philanthropists. In January 2018, we will come together from around the globe. Harnessing our collective ability to strengthen the Jewish community, now and for the future.

Join us at the International Lion of Judah Conference — the premier gathering of dynamic, philanthropic women. Together, we will examine the challenging face of our world: hear from leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs. Be inspired! Taste new Liona, Cris box. And simplify your own another to do even more.

The conference will take place at The Diplomat Beach Resort in Hollywood, Florida. Conference registration is $999.

915-842-9554 | www.jewishelpaso.org
For Bud Ramenofsky, his desire to support Jewish life extended beyond El Paso. Fortunately, we had options that extended beyond his expectations.

Charles "Bud" Ramenofsky grew up in rural Illinois. There wasn’t a large Jewish community there then, and there still isn’t one now. He was an active member of our community since the early 70’s. With his endowment to the Jewish Community Foundation, he was able to help both communities, year after year.

To see a video of his story and several others who have chosen to invest in a Jewish future in El Paso, visit www.jcfep.org and please spread the word.

For information on how you can start your own fund with us, please contact Robert Shiloff at 584-3942.