The Tu B’Shvat Issue
**Plant Seeds. Take Action. Plant People.**

Let us reflect on the aforementioned and ask ourselves how we are able to help the Jewish future here in Greater El Paso.

This Jewish community is filled with so many good opportunities to celebrate learning – Br’ais Zion, Chabad, Temple Beth El and Temple Mount Sinai, and support our Jewish Academy, our Jewish Center for Early Learning, Hadassah, our Holocaust Museum, and the like.

Help us with our Campaign 2019 so that the Federation may continue to engage our community, work with our partner agencies, enhance Jewish life here and overseas, and plan to have a vibrant Jewish community for our children and future generations. Help El Paso today and in the future by considering starting a fund in our Jewish Community Foundation. It’s simpler than you think, and the benefits are tremendous. (I’m happy to discuss further.)

There is a Chinese proverb that states, “If your vision is for a year, plant wheat. If your vision is for ten years, plant trees. If your vision is for a lifetime, plant people.”

In 2019 may our resolution be to plant seeds, take action and to plant people. We will be a better place for it and future generations will thank us.

Robert French
Executive Director

The Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso

PS. We are blessed to have four Jewish New Years. The first person to email me at rfrench@jfedelpaso.org and tell me correctly which they are – I will take to lunch.

---

**Save the Dates!**

**Jewish Federation Presents Sun City Shabbat**

Eat. Pray. Schmooze.

Shabbat dinners, worship, challah (sip and) bake, family challah bake, candle-dipping, Havdalah, food, family & friends

Thursday, Feb. 21 - Saturday Feb. 23, 2019

RSVP by Friday, Feb 15 @ JewishElPaso.org/SunCityShabbat

Details to Follow

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**The Jewish Voice**

A publication of the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso

Robert French
Executive Director

Sue Bendalin
Campaign Director

Janet Kent Wechter
President

915-842-9554

7110 North Mesa, El Paso, TX 79912

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**Deadline for the February issue of the Voice: January 10**

**Deadline for the March issue of the Voice: February 11**
In our part of the world, we don’t take trees for granted. Our trees don’t grow as tall or live as long here. We treasure each one in our yards, parks, and landscapes.

When I lived in Virginia, Alabama, and Maine, I was always surrounded by too many trees. Sure, the fall leaves were dazzling, but to me they also meant weekends lost to raking, raking, and more raking. However, the main problem for me was that all those trees back east shrink the sky and block the view. I was thrilled to move to a big-sky area where you can see for miles in all directions.

In El Paso trees hold a very special place in our landscape. On Monday, January 21, trees enjoy a special place on the Hebrew calendar. Tu B’Shevat – the 15th day of Shevat – celebrates the New Year of the Trees. It will be a good day to eat figs, dates and pomegranates, with their significance in the Torah, and other fruits of the tree.

Not surprisingly this minor holiday grew out of a desert somewhat like ours where trees were appreciated and nurtured. It was an agrarian society that marked the time when a tree’s fruit could be harvested after the tree’s third “birthday.”

Continuity and strength

When we moved into our home in 1997, one of the first things we did was buy three small live oak trees for the backyard. “Shade is good in a desert,” Burton Cohen said and he was right. Today those little 40-gallon rootbound trees tower over the house, protecting me from the western sun and making the backyard a shady oasis even on the hottest days.

I’m pretty sure those live oaks will outlive me. I like to think that the next generation and the next generation will enjoy their shade and protection as well. It’s a small way I can help some other El Pasoans in the future.

From my front window, I see all kinds of trees: Mexican elders, corkscrew willows, Lombardy poplars, and more varieties of palm trees than I can name. None will get as tall as my live oaks and I doubt any will outlive them. What you can’t see is the deep and complicated root system anchoring and feeding those trees. Below the ground is a miraculous natural construction made up of a million little things that make the tree’s system work.

Older than Methuselah

What’s not to love about a good strong tree that lives on and on? And adds so much beauty to our world? We know Joyce Kilmer’s little rhyme: “I think that I shall never see/A poem as beautiful as a tree.” I’ve seen many beautiful ones, but I will never forget the first time I saw the giant Sequoias in northern California in the early 1960s. Dad drove our Chevrolet station wagon through that famous redwood tree with the car tunnel carved out of the trunk.

California is also home to the two oldest trees in the world, both bristle-cone pines in the White Mountains area. The second oldest one is named after Methuselah, the ancient patriarch in Genesis and grandfather of Noah said to have lived almost a thousand years. Methuselah has been growing for nearly 50 centuries.

As an estimated 4,800 years of age, it is older than the Egyptian pyramids, but not older than Judaism. When Methuselah was just a little seedling, the Jewish faith was already a thousand years old. The continuity of Judaism has been threatened, but like this strong deep-rooted pine tree, the Jewish religion and way of life remain through the millennia!

Happy New Year of the Trees, happy Tu B’Shevat!

Cindy Graff Cohen
Editor
The Jewish Voice
Communications is key to building community and we hope that you find The Jewish Voice brings you the news you need to be a part of the larger Jewish community of El Paso and Las Cruces. We have a unique identity as a tiny minority in this area that we share regardless of what we do for a living, how we spend our time, or where we worship. The Jewish Voice plays a one-of-a-kind role in our communications channels here. Nowhere else will you find announcements, photographs, and stories that cut across congregations and keep you up-to-date on events of interest to the whole community. We want to be the Jewish newspaper you can’t wait to pick up and read.

A small part of The Jewish Voice operating budget comes from advertisers and the rest comes from the generosity of Jewish Federation donors. You can be a “Friend of the Voice” by becoming a voluntary subscriber for $18 – the at-cost printing and postage price for a ten-month subscription – or you can contribute more to support others’ subscriptions.

When you support The Jewish Voice, you show your appreciation for this paper and its place as a communications tool in our community. Rest assured, whether or not you contribute, you will continue to receive the paper for free. We want to keep the whole community connected and informed.

To become a “Friend of the Jewish Voice,” mail your check to the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso, 7110 N. Mesa Street, El Paso, Texas 79912. You can also donate online through PayPal at www.jewishelpaso.org/Ways-To-Give (specify “Friends of The Voice” in “special instructions to seller”). Donate by phone at 915-842-9554 or email at frontdesk@jfedelpaso.org. Thank you for your support.

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Advertising in The Jewish Voice, the Borderland’s only newspaper writing for the Jewish community, makes sense for businesses needing to reach an interested and engaged consumer base. With a circulation of 1200 copies for ten months a year, advertising in The Voice is an affordable and reliable way to get your business’s name in front of a targeted audience that you can’t reach other ways.

Energized with a new design and editorial features, The Jewish Voice is both familiar and fresh, and more relevant to the Jewish community than ever before.

For more than 50 years, The Jewish Voice subscribers have been loyal readers known for reading the paper cover to cover and keeping back issues for reference and coverage of people they know.

With back issues and current issues now posted online at jewishelpaso.org, advertisers’ outreach outlasts the printed papers and continues to stay visible to viewers 24/7.

Advertising is simple and cost-effective, with annual discounts for running in all ten issues and design assistance for businesses without camera-ready advertisement capabilities.

Contact us at 915-842-9554 or email frontdesk@jfedelpaso.org to learn more about how The Jewish Voice can promote your business with a well-placed color or black-and-white ad.

Rates per issue before frequency discounts
One Page: B&W $700; Color $1,120
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IT ALL STARTS WITH YOU
You make everything we do possible
More than 150 members of the El Paso-Las Cruces Jewish community and friends gathered on December 9 to light the menorah, hear inspiring holiday messages, listen to Hanukkah music and enjoy doughnuts and hot chocolate. Presented by the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso, the annual event in San Jacinto Plaza brought together a happy crowd representing all faiths and all ages. Many thanks to Peter Svarzbein for his role in establishing this Hanukkah tradition three years ago and to David Kern, chair of the Federation’s Community Relations Council, and Neal Rosendorf for making this event happen. Thanks also to Brian Kanof and Edward Dubowitz for their photographs.

City Council Rep and Jewish Federation board member Peter Svarzbein lit the menorah this year.

Rabbi Larry Karol of Temple Beth-El led the group in singing favorite holiday songs.

People of all ages wore winter coats to stay warm.

Newly elected U.S. Representative Veronica Escobar joined in the Hanukkah festivities.

Said Buhaya, our Federation’s busy office assistant helped set up the stage and Hanukkah menorah.

Rabbi Scott Rosenberg of Congregation B’nai Zion spoke to the crowd.

Rabbi Ben Zeldman of Temple Mount Sinai shared Hanukkah prayers with the group.

The large menorah was lit for the eighth night of Hanukkah.

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El Pasoans return from AIPAC mission

As we sat at Ben Gurion Airport waiting to board our flight back to El Paso, we reflected on the six days we spent in Israel on an AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) Senate Club mission with a diverse group of 150 people from all over the United States. It is so difficult, if not impossible, to explain what a wonderful, transformative experience it was.

We received briefings from the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, the Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Intelligence’s Director General, Israeli’s principal deputy legal adviser at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the immediate past Chief Intelligence Officer at the IDF Central Command, leaders of several of the political parties in the Knesset, military leaders, social and high tech entrepreneurs, Palestinian leaders, well respected journalists, accomplished authors, and from people with different Jewish and Muslim perspectives.

We heard from families living at Moshav Netiv Ha’asara on the northern border of the Gaza Strip what it is like for them and their children to live with the constant threat of danger from Hamas’ rocket fire. The Jerusalem Post headline on the day we visited was “IDF Catches Palestinian Who Breached Gaza Border, sets Greenhouse on Fire.” We were shown what was left of that very greenhouse (photo attached) as well as the arsonist’s footprints as he unsuccessfully tried to flee. It was reported that he explained to the IDF that he acted in desperation, as spending time in an Israeli jail was an improvement over the conditions in Gaza.

We then had lunch in Sderot. We experienced firsthand how incredibly volatile the region is when the headlines the next day were about a Palestinian worker with a work permit unfortunately being killed by a rocket there.

We had our picture taken in front of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem and visited Shalva, Israel’s leading organization for people with special needs. It was difficult to choose from the many excellent options to tour the country and learn more about its past glory and future dreams. We took a bike ride from the old port of Tel Aviv to Jaffa, heard from young Israeli Arab entrepreneurs, greeted Shabbat at the Kotel, observed the communities that have developed in both east and west Jerusalem from the vantage point of Samuel’s Tomb, toured the hidden gems in Jerusalem’s Old City, visited a planned community of Rassabi in Ramallah and toured the Tower of David Innovation Lab (hosted by former El Pasoan Rose Bernstein, Director of External Affairs at the Tower of David Museum).

Together with the other AIPAC supporters, we experienced the miracle of Israel, its people and all its beauty and diversity from its technological and environmental advances, to soldiers protecting a moshav on the border of Gaza, a tisch Friday night in Mea She’arim, and programs that allow young adults with special needs to serve in the Israeli Army.

March Conference in DC

Please consider joining us at AIPAC’s Policy Conference in Washington, D.C., from March 24 to 26, 2019, to experience firsthand the excitement and challenges that Israel faces and how political decisions in the U.S. directly impact the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Conference registration is now open and is fully refundable for cancellations made in writing and emailed to policyconference@aipac.org if received by January 18, 2019.

This will be our first opportunity to sit down with incoming Congresswoman Veronica Escobar to express our appreciation for her support of this unique partnership. These are exciting times, your participation can make a difference.

B’Shalom,
Shari and Stuart Schwartz

Reprinted from the Jewish News Service, December 17, 2018

Israel to send time capsule in historic mission to the moon

Israel will send a time capsule along with an Israeli spacecraft on the Jewish state’s first mission to the moon in 2019. The capsule will consist of the Bible, pictures of Israeli symbols like the flag, Israeli songs, drawings by children and a booklet by a Jewish man about surviving Israeli songs, drawings by children and a Hebrew word for “Genesis”), will launch with an Israeli spacecraft on the Jewish state’s first mission to the moon in 2019.

SpaceIL, a non-profit founded in 2011 by Yariv Bash, Ari Ben Eliezer and Yonatan Winetsky, and an Israeli spacecraft on the Jewish state’s first mission to the moon in 2019.

The capsule will remain from Cape Canaveral, FL, in February. SpaceIL was chosen by NASA to launch the time capsule on aerospace company on the Jewish state’s first mission to the moon in 2019.

The time capsule is expected to remain from Cape Canaveral, FL, in February. SpaceIL was chosen by NASA to launch the time capsule on a rocket with the spacecraft before, during and after landing on the moon, “according to SpaceIL in a statement.

“This is another step on our way to the moon,” said SpaceIL CEO Ido Antebi. “Inserting the disks into the spacecraft, which is a real ‘time capsule,’ indicates the spacecraft’s readiness to blast off from the launch site in a few weeks.”

“SpaceIL’s crew and IAI have completed testing of the spacecraft and its systems, and are preparing for the beginning of the amazing and complex journey that exemplifies innovation, creativity and courage,” continued Antebi. “The spacecraft’s historic journey, which also includes a scientific mission, makes a significant contribution to advancing the space industry and the subject of space in Israel.”

“We are proud to be the first non-governmental entity in the world to go to the moon,” said IAI Space Division general manager Opher Doron.

“Landing on the moon was for many years a little-discussed topic among the public, but recently we see growing interest as world superpowers seek to return to the moon in a variety of commercial missions.”

Reprinted from the Jewish News Service, December 17, 2018
FEDERATION

PLANT FOR THE FUTURE

A day of service projects, learning and fun for preschoolers and their families!
Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. & Tu B’Shvat (a Jewish holiday for the Trees)

JAN 21 9 to noon

January 2019

INTERGALACTIC HAVDALAH

1/12/19

Havdalah and stargazing for PJ Library families at Franklin Mountain State Park from 6:30-8:30pm with Sun City Astronomers

RSVP by 1/9
jewishelpaso.org/pjlibrary

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, gpilt-ridden, fear the man 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 trial, dividing the two communities. The film depicts the tensions in Lebanon that profoundly impact Israel and the Middle East.

Be a Sponsor!
Executive Producer: $500
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Tickets
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Checks: JF& of Greater El Paso
7110 N. Mesa, El Paso TX 79912
Call: (915) 842-9554 with CC info.

LUNCHE SERVED PRIOR TO FILM AT 12:00 PM.
The teachers became the students as three educators from The J attended the National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference (NAEYC), the largest early childhood education conference in the world.

Kindergarten teacher and pedagogista Ceci Valencia was accompanied by two other teachers, Edith Galindo and Cynthia Lopez, at the November conference in Washington, D.C, where they were joined by 9,000 other early-learning professionals. The teachers had the opportunity to network with other educators and advocates as they were exposed to hundreds of sessions on topics that impact early childhood programs. The teachers attended the NAEYC Conference with the goal of ensuring our preschool is on the cutting edge in early childhood education.

“There were sessions on what’s new in education, best practices and the research behind it, policy-making, leadership, and the difference a good educator and education can make in the life of a child,” said Ms. Ceci. “We split up and went to different sessions so we could make the most of our time there.”

The three teachers were impressed by an 83-year-old Colorado JCC educator who taught a session on music and education. “She was so passionate about education, and that really came through and resonated with us all,” explained Ms. Ceci. The educators were unashamed about being brought to tears as they were so taken by the conference. They were informed and inspired, and excited to bring their lessons home to El Paso.

Teachers learned how to address their charges in the most respectful (and impactful) ways and watched a video that modeled this method for them. In a room that was so packed teachers were sitting on the floor, leaning against walls, and sharing chairs, the session emphasized the power of teachers’ words and the importance of the way in which those words are used.

The El Paso educators returned with innovative methods to enhance circle time, incorporating vital concepts as children are given opportunities to discuss their families and share stories about their home lives. And they learned that the brain is the only organ not fully developed at birth in a session that taught about the power childhood experiences can have on brain development.

“It really was a transformative experience,” said Ms. Ceci. “While we wish everyone was able to attend, we’re working on power point presentations so that we can share the wealth of information with the entire J at our next professional development. We want to ensure that the entire school can benefit from this amazing program.”

Wendy Siegel
Board Member
J Center for Early Learning

Ceci Valencia, Cynthia Lopez and Edith Galindo meet Don Monopoli, one of the stars of The Learning Station, an educational musical TV show beloved by J Center kindergartners
The Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden was wondering what had happened.

Everything was quiet. There had been people there. Two of them. They were gone. She asked the Tree of Knowledge if he knew why there had been a change. He told her to speak to the Eternal One.

“Eternal One!”

There was silence. Then there was a voice.

“Yes, my Eitz Chayim, did you call?”

“Yes, my Creator, Yes!”

The Eternal One reassured her, “No, Tree of Life. You did nothing wrong. They did, though. I had told them not to eat of your fruit or the fruit of your companion, the Tree of Knowledge. They did eat his fruit, and it opened their eyes in a way that made it impossible for them to stay here.”

Eitz Chayim replied, “My Creator, I am sad. I was actually getting to like them to stay here.”

The Eternal One thought for a moment. “Eitz Chayim, would you like to be closer to them?”

“Yes, my Creator, Yes!”

The Omnypresent One looked intently at the Tree of Life, causing a soft wind to move her leaves on her branches. “I have a proposal for you. I will send you out into the world. There will be many other trees out there. You will make friends with them. You will guide them. You will be My eyes and ears to make sure that the people - and there will be many of them - will treat my plants and creatures with great care. They will tend to you, help you grow, and make more trees grow like you. You will be called an almond tree - SHAKEI, or, in your case, SH’KEYDIAH - and they will make many of you in all of the places where you can grow.”

“And I will give you a special gift. Some of the people will follow a man named Moses, who will lead them to freedom after hundreds of years of enduring cruel slavery. I will instruct Moses, their leader, to have them make a seven-branched symbol of light that will look like you. It will feature shapes of almond blossoms on top. And you, my Eitz Chayim, will be able to watch them (SH’KAD) day and night not only through all your tree children, but in any place where their light symbol - the Menorah - will stand in the special houses where they will worship Me and pray about taking care of the world - including you - and each other.”

“Really, Eternal One! That is so kind of you. I will do what you ask!”

The Tree of Life was excited about her new existence among the people.

“And...one more thing. When it gets cold in the places where you grow, you will be the first tree to show your blossoms. That will so amaze the descendants of Moses and his people that they will celebrate a New Year of Trees. It will be called Tu Bishvat. It will be a day to remind them to care for the world, including you and your fellow trees, because this is the only world they will have.”

The Eitz Chayim was ready. “My Creator, I will watch them and guide them. I promise! Lead me to my new home!”

Rabbi Larry Karol
Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces

A win-win idea for donations

For the last three years, Ira Batt, a well-known real estate specialist for more than 40 years, has given back to his community in an innovative way. He has created a win-win situation for every seller: they receive his time-tested expertise in selling their property or business, he receives a commission on the sale, and then he donates ten percent of that commission to the nonprofit cause of their choice in their name, giving the seller the opportunity to use his gift as a tax deduction.

Ira is quick to credit his wife of 55 years, Irene, for the charitable contribution idea. “We were talking one day about how lucky we were to be healthy, comfortable, and free of debt,” he recalls. “We were in our 80s and thinking about how to give back to the community that has given us so much.”

Irene, now retired, worked side by side with Ira for decades and knew the real estate business well. Her concept has caught the attention of clients – real estate agents do the same thing. He continues to enjoy his real estate practice and spending time with Irene off the job. As Ira Batt often says, life is ‘fantastic!’

Cindy Goff/Cohen
Editor
The Jewish Voice

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Rabbi Larry Karol
Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces

Rabbi Larry Karol
Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces

COMMUNITY

The Tree of Life and Tu B’Shevat

The Eternal One was reassuring. “Yes, they will be secure. They will have to work hard to survive. I will be watching them and inspire them to grow when necessary. Don’t worry about them.”

Eitz Chayim was not convinced. “Source of all life, I AM worried. Will they always realize You won’t be far away from them while they are living in their new home? Will they be able to overcome their fears and to live and thrive? Will they make the right decisions for their future? They might need a lot of assistance. I want to help!”

The Eternal One reassured her. “You will be My eyes and ears to make friends with them. You will guide them. You will be a day to remind them to care for the world, including you and your fellow trees, because this is the only world they will have.”

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Cindy Goff/Cohen
Editor
The Jewish Voice
Wednesday, January 2, 16, 30
Bordertown’s Café Europa, the Jewish Federation’s social group for older members of our Jewish community, continues with biweekly gatherings in the new year. Everyone’s invited to meet at 11:30 a.m. every other Wednesday in the Jewish Federation’s spacious conference room for lunch and a brief program. Call the Federation for more information at 915-842-9554.

Sunday, January 6, 20, 27
The Jewish Federation’s Film Series leads with “Act of Defiance” on the first Sunday in January. Two weeks later we watch “Hatikvah: Hope Reborn” at 5:00 p.m. on March 31. The concert is made possible through the generosity of the families of Stanlee and Jerry Rubin and Dana and Adam Frank.

Saturday, January 12
The Jewish Federation’s PJ Library presents an innovative “Intergalactic Havdalah” at Franklin Mountain State Park. Join other PJ Library kids and their families from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for Havdalah and a wonderful night of stargazing with the Sun City Astronomers. To ensure refreshments for all, RSVP at jewishelpaso.org/pjlibrary by Wednesday, January 9.

Monday, January 21
It’s Tu B’Shevat, but it’s also Dr. Martin Luther King Day, so school’s out! Join the Jewish Federation’s PJ Library for a morning of service projects called “Plant the Future.” Details will be emailed to everyone who RSVPs at jewishelpaso.org/pjlibrary by Wednesday, January 16.

Tuesday, January 22
The Jewish Federation’s annual Pacesetters gathering launches the 2019 campaign for leadership donors contributing $1800 or more to the Federation’s work locally, nationally, and internationally. The event at the beautiful home of Wendy and Dr. Steve Lanski has an international focus this year with two leaders from the Jewish Agency for Israel. Arielle Di-Porto, director of immigration and absorption, and Mort Naiman, senior vice president for global philanthropy, have exciting stories to tell about their work overseas.

Thursday, January 24
The Jewish community is invited to a town hall question and answer session on security and related matters with Michael Masters, CEO of Secure Network Network. Titled “After Pittsburgh... What Do We Need to Know?” the session runs from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. RSVP at jewishelpaso.org/TownHall or 915-842-9554 by January 23.

Saturday, February 9
All are invited to Congregation B’nai Zion’s annual Casino Night, a spring that combines fun, food, music, auction items, and lots of poker and blackjack.

Time to pull on your cowboy boots and dust off your hat for this year’s “Wild West Casino Night” – and practice your two-step. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Buy your tickets now at 833-2222.

Thursday-Saturday, February 21-23
The Jewish Federation’s “Sun City Shabbat” brings together the entire Jewish community for Shabbat dinners on Friday night and Havdalah on Saturday. Watch for details, including neighborhood dinners and an ElPasoConnect Shabbat dinner for those of us in our 20s, 30s, and 40s.

Sunday, March 31
The Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso presents “Hatikvah: Hope Reborn” at 5:00 p.m. on March 31. The concert is made possible through the generosity of the families of Stanlee and Jerry Rubin and Dana and Adam Frank.

HADASSAH EL PASO
Installation of Officers
Recognition of Annual Givers
Sunday, January 13, 2019
2:00 pm
at the home of Charlotte Roth
Refreshments will be served
Please RSVP to Debbie Cohen
249-6905 or debcoh@aol.com
by Wednesday, Jan. 9

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COMMUNITY

Congregation B’nai Zion activities

On Sunday, December 9, Congregation B’nai Zion held its annual Chanukah dinner with over 260 members of the Jewish community in attendance. The evening commenced with the lighting of the menorah and continued with a delightful dinner. During the program, B’nai Zion welcomed its new members for 2018! The evening ended with a hysterical performance by Joel Chasnoff who had everyone in tears of laughter. The ambiance was one of contentment and joyfulness. A special thanks to Stanlee and Jerry Rubin for generously sponsoring our Chanukah celebration.

Congregation B’nai Zion’s Chavurah Oneg Shabbat

Congregation B’nai Zion was excited to welcome more than 65 people to its first Chavurah gathering on November 30. This getting-to-know-you event was a follow up to this summer’s event when members filled out information forms that helped the Chavurah Committee pair families and individuals with community members who have common interests.

The early oneg preceded Kabbalat services and provided an opportunity for each group to gather as a chavurah for the first time. We were also able to help people form new Chavurot or join some of the newly founded groups. Delicious appetizers contributed to an atmosphere of Shabbat and fellowship.

This Chavurah Oneg was just the first of many upcoming community Chavurah events. Between events, groups will create their own fun with planned activities and social events. If you haven’t yet joined a Chavurah, don’t miss out. Contact B’nai Zion at (915) 833-2222 or email us at programs@cbzep.org and we will help you find a Chavurah.

The Chavurah Oneg Shabbat was sponsored by the Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso.

Temple Beth-El activities

Over 80 congregants and guests gathered at Temple Beth-El Las Cruces for the annual Shabbat Chanukah dinner, service (with a Chanukiah lighting) and Oneg Shabbat.

WILD WEST CASINO NIGHT at B’nai Zion

Saturday February 9, 2019 7:15pm

Professional Dealers • Vita Band • Silent Auction • Appetizers & Open Bar • Western attire encouraged!

$50 per person • $60 per person at the door • Advance tickets available online & at the B’nai Zion office

805 Cherry Hill Lane, El Paso, Texas 79912 • www.congregationbnaizion.org • (915) 833-2222
Gelt is good.

Tzedakah is great.

Your endowment to the Jewish Community Foundation helps ensure a healthy and vibrant Jewish culture in El Paso for generations to come.

For information on how you can start your own fund with us, please contact Robert French at 915-842-9554.