HAPPY Purim

“Hatikvah” March 31: Page 3 • Sun City Shabbat: Page 4-5 • Anne Frank’s step-sister in Las Cruces: Page 13
Be Happy…

I read with great interest recently that Pew Charitable Trust researchers found that those active in religious congregations tend to be happier and are more likely to vote in elections and join community groups or volunteer organizations than those who are unaffiliated or inactive in religious groups. (Those considered “active” religiously were those who attended services at least once a month.)

When I arrived here, I found the outreach from our houses of worship so welcoming. I find the quality and selection of programs so inviting and varied. Our clergy are sincere and personable. Services are meaningful and uplifting. We are truly blessed in Las Cruces and El Paso to have them.

Two checked bags

I feel I finally became a fully-fledged El Pasoan “Member of the Tribe.” On my return from a short getaway over the New Year to LA, I did something I promised myself I would never do… Yes, I brought back two packed freezer bags with ice packs and filled them with kosher lamb chops and other kosher delectable goodies unavailable here.

When the battered and broken box appeared on the conveyor belt (I had forgotten to ask them to mark it “FRAGILE”), I smiled. (I also recently schlepped back a few boxes of a pareve pastry from London.) While I do use the Kosher Co-op and the kosher closets of our two Chabad Houses as well, it’s so interesting to think what I had taken for granted for so many years having only lived in major cities.

Celebrate Purim … Now More Than Ever

Reading and listening to the news is enough to make one despair in so many ways. At the time of writing, after falling for two successive years, the number of anti-Semitic acts in France surged by 74 percent in 2018. On February 19, 80 graves in a Jewish cemetery in eastern France were spray-painted with swastikas.

In the USA, in 2017, anti-Semitic incidents surged nearly 60 percent, according to the 2017 Anti-Defamation League Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents. And the tragedy of Pittsburgh is just five months behind us. And that’s just the tip of the iceberg on what’s happening in Europe, Israel, and the rest of the world.

Modern-day “Hamans” continue to rear their ugly heads in too many places with evil machinations and intent. But as it states in the Book of Esther that we read on Purim, we overcame our enemies and defeated them “Layehudim hayetah orah vesimkhah vesason vicar.” The Jews had light, and happiness and joy and love.

May we use this and every opportunity to celebrate Jewish life, our holidays, fill our places of worship and our schools, attend Jewish programs, and to let those who seek to undermine, deflate, and even destroy us know that we stand more determined than ever as proud Jews.

In the spirit of the Purim holiday, we have hidden five hamantaschen throughout this issue of The Jewish Voice. Find them all and email me at rfrrench@jfedelpaso.org the location and page number of each of them. The first three people to do so will each receive a gift card.

Robert French
Executive Director
Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso
Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso

HATIKVAH - HOPE REBORN

with Astrith Baltsan

Generously underwritten by Stanlee & Jeff Rubin and Danci & Adam Frank

UTEP Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall
Free parking at Sun Bowl Parking Garage

Sunday, March 31, 2019 | 5:00 - 6:30 PM
The Unbelievable Story of a Jewish Prayer
Relive the Hope that fueled a nation in a mesmerizing show presenting the story of Israel’s national anthem. A unique multi-media concert based on revolutionary research. Baltchan’s concert has been performed over 350 times, in 5 continents, 4 languages and 17 countries.

“Unique and Wonderful” (Zubin Mehta, Music Director of Israel’s Philharmonic Orchestra)

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For more information and reservations visit:
JewishElPaso.org/Hatikvah or call (915) 842-9554
Advanced reservations required. $5 per person. There will be no solicitation at this event.
For seniors 65+

Some thoughts….
**FEFEDERATION**

**Hatikvah: Hope Reborn**

El Paso's Jewish community and all who have a deep love of Israel, great music, and a fascinating story have a treat in store when one of Israel's most popular entertainers brings to life on stage Israel's national anthem, “Hatikvah” (“Hope” in English). On Sunday, March 31, starting at 5:00 p.m., you can learn the other side of the Israeli anthem when award-winning Tel Aviv pianist Astrid Baltsan presents “Hatikvah: Hope Reborn - An English translation

As long as in the heart, within, A Jewish soul still yearns, And onward, toward the ends of the east, an eye still gazes toward Zion.

Our hope is not yet lost, The hope two thousand years old, To be a free nation in our land, The land of Zion and Jerusalem.

The Jewish Voice

**Chag Purim Sameach!**

Happy Purim! This is not your typical Jewish holiday, right? It's a time of jokes that make you laugh: “What was Queen Esther's royal gown made of? Polyester.” It’s a time for fun and joy that brings out the kids in all of us with all the funny Purim plays, theme parties, and costumes. Let go of your good manners and sanctity etiquette and shout along with the rest of us when Haman's name (loud noise!) is mentioned. Have a drink – or two. It's Purim! Check with your place of worship on the timing of Purim services between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., you can learn the other side of the Israeli anthem when award-winning Tel Aviv pianist Astrid Baltsan presents “Hatikvah: Hope Reborn - An English translation

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El Paso and Las Cruces celebrated the Jewish Federation’s first “Sun City Shabbat” on the last weekend in February. Participants from a variety of congregations and backgrounds thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie of this community-wide experience. The Thursday Challah Making parties at the Galatzan Community Center started at 5:30 for families with children of all ages and people who preferred an earlier evening schedule. While watching Kristin Kimmelman’s bread making demonstrations, everyone learned how to make their challah dough from scratch and shape it into braided loaves.

The first group enjoyed soft drinks, kosher hotdogs, potato chips, and cookies while the couples and singles who came in at 7:30 sipped wine and snacked on appetizers. The next day, everyone baked their loaves at home in time for Shabbat dinner.

On Friday, dozens of members of the Jewish community hosted and attended group Shabbat dinners. The dinners were coordinated by the busy Sun City Shabbat committee, chaired by Caren Szanton. Friday evening gave people the opportunity to make new friends and enrich old friendships with the warmth and meaning that only a Shabbat dinner can provide.

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Last month, the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso brought in an expert on security and safety, Secure Connect Network CEO Michael Masters, for two informative town hall meetings and strategy meetings with rabbis and administrators of our congregations. His community-wide presentations, “After Pittsburgh: What We Need to Know,” were well-attended at both Congregation B’nai Zion in El Paso and Temple Beth El in Las Cruces.

Within minutes of hearing the news about the Tree of Life synagogue last October, Masters was out the door. After serving in the Israeli Army for many years and through his long career in security, he was still not prepared for the sight of bodies ripped apart. “Victims were still sitting in pews,” he emphasized. “I was prepared for the sight of bodies ripped apart, but not for the sight of bodies ripped apart, and how you don’t instantaneous know where the exit door is and which door lead outside.”

The horror was an unspeakable tragedy, made even more traumatic to him as he had hired a 25-year veteran of the FBI in 2016 to work with Pittsburgh’s synagogue on security and emergency preparedness. The man had met with members of ‘the Tree of Life’ regularly.

Gun violence is reaching all-time highs in the United States, he emphasized, with mass shootings occurring an average of every 18 days in 2018. While living in one of the world’s most dangerous non-wartime countries, what can people do when facing killers intent on maximum deaths with automatic weapons?

These questions have become more frequent for Masters after Masters’ career in security, he was still not prepared for the sight of bodies ripped apart. “Victims were still sitting in pews,” he emphasized. “I was prepared for the sight of bodies ripped apart, but not for the sight of bodies ripped apart, and how you don’t instantaneous know where the exit door is and which door lead outside.”

The whole purpose of our houses of worship is that “you want 99 percent of the people to come in,” he said, “but add safety measures.” He did not encourage concealed weapons or arming congregations, “We do not encourage concealed weapons on non-professionals. “I know of too many cases where untrained gun carriers ended up shooting people other than the killer,” he said. “Shooters who practice at a target range once a week do not have the skills to isolate and shoot a moving target, he emphasized.”

Masters says. Instead Masters called for secure pathways, barbed wire fences around Jewish facilities or arming congregations, Masters says. Instead Masters called for secure pathways, barbed wire fences around Jewish facilities or arming congregations, “A shooter will choose the path of least resistance and a moving target is harder to hit.”

Always be aware of your surroundings. When you are in your sanctuary or meeting room, always instantly know where the exit door is and which doors lead outside. Partner with local police. “Strengthen your relationships with law enforcement,” he recommended. “Invite them to do a walk-through of your building.”

Masters ended his talk with his primary message: Do whatever you can to stay alive if faced with the unimaginable and reframe your despair for a more pro-active approach. “Shift from sadness, anger, and depression,” he said, “to a position of power and strength.”

Cindy Graff Cohen
Editor, The Jewish Voice

Legacy Gift
Thank you to Mrs. Sylvia Wechter for making a legacy gift to the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso.

To make a legacy gift to the Jewish Federation or the Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso or to include these nonprofit organizations in your estate planning, contact Robert French or Sue Bendal in at 956-842-9534.

Are You A Member Of The Pride?

The Lion of Judah pin is a symbol for today’s Jewish woman, a symbol of her strength and her caring about the organized Jewish world. The proud wearer of this pin knows that she is doing all she can currently for her people and her community.

Each woman making an individual commitment of $5,000 or more to the Federation Annual Campaign in a given year is eligible to wear a Lion of Judah pin with a diamond inset in the eye.

First introduced in 1972 in the Miami Women’s campaign, the Lion of Judah pin has firmly established itself with over 17,000 women around the globe now proudly calling themselves Lions of Judah. As a symbol of strength and majesty in the Jewish world, the Lion of Judah is a dramatic reminder that each woman can make a significant contribution at home, in Israel and anywhere in the world where Jews are in distress.

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Lion of Judah is also a symbol of unity – each woman who wears her pin is uniquely connected to all other Lions of Judah, all of whom embody the true meaning of tzedakah. These women have the determination, capability, and power to take the dream of Tikvah Olan and turn it into a reality.

For more information and to make your commitment to become a Lion of Judah, please contact Sue Bendal at 956-842-9534.
Congregation B’nai Zion held its fifth Annual Casino Night on February 9 with this year’s theme being Wild West. With over 100 attendees dressed in blues and boots, Casino Night was a big hit. Guests danced all night to live western music by the Villa band and were thrilled to be playing all the casino games. While laughing and learning how to double down, amateur – and more experienced – card players kept all the gaming tables packed all night!

Thank you to all of our volunteers and supporters who contributed to the event, making it a night to remember. A huge shout-out to the event co-chairs Leslie Beckoff, Debra Pazos, Denise Tolentino, and their team of volunteers including Patty Hutman, Robin Kobren, Barry Kobren, and Robert Beckoff. Thank you also to the sponsors and auction item donors.

Photos by Edward Dubowitz and others
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Thank You to Our Donors
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To make a difference in your Jewish Community and be included in this list, please contact sbendalin@jfedelpaso.org
COMMUNITY

From Stargazers to Superheroes

Temple Beth El - Las Cruces

Intergalactic Havdalah
On a blustery, cold night in early January, over a dozen families huddled together in the Franklin Mountains State Park to sing the blessings of Havdalah and to keep warm. After the last notes of “Shavua Tov, may you have a good week” faded away, we turned our attention upward to the sky for glimpses of the moon, Mars, the constellation Orion and more.

Temple Beth El Religious School students and faculty and guests at the Tu Bishvat Seder on January 27 joined in planting a tree on the Temple grounds.

Temple Beth El’s new fundraiser, “A Night at the Auction,” brought together 80 congregants on January 26 for an evening of food, socializing, and bidding on “goods and services” items donated by members of the congregation. The event was a great success!

Temple Beth El’s Social Action/Adult Education committee presented a two-part series on immigration. On February 6, Nan Rubin presented an engaging program about Emma Lazarus’ life and the significance of her poem, “The New Colossus.” On February 13, NMSU professor Dr. Neal Rosendorf traced the history of immigration to the United States, and presenters on a panel discussed their roles in the current immigration system. The panel included Mark Saltman, an assistant United States attorney; Judge Robert Brack, United States Federal District Court Senior Judge for the Southern District of New Mexico; and Barbara Mandel, an assistant federal public defender. Over 60 people attended each of the programs.

Intergalactic Havdalah

The clouds drifted in and out, but we were patient and rewarded with some excellent views of these heavenly objects, thanks to Blayne Primozich, a volunteer from Sun City Astronomers. The hot chocolate wasn’t quite enough to keep our kiddos warm, though, and we wrapped up a little earlier than planned. Next time, we’ll go at a warmer time of year, and see the differences in the night sky.

“Plant for the Future” Event with PJ Library and the Borderland Rainbow Center

The work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is celebrated on the third Monday of January every year, and schoolchildren often have the day off since it is a federal holiday. What better way to celebrate Dr King’s legacy (and the holiday of Tu B’Shvat) than by inviting our PJ Library families to gather up donations and bring them to stock the shelves of the food pantry at the Borderland Rainbow Center (BRC). Nearly 30 people attended this morning of service, and more gathered at the BRC after the “Shop’n’Stock” portion of the event to read stories of love and tolerance presented by Barbie, a drag queen from the BRC community. The books chosen for this event were “Purim Superhero” and “Heather Has Two Mommies”, and all in attendance were rapt with attention (which is rare with young children, as we know!). After reading, participants had a chance to design and wear their own superhero capes and to get their face painted to reflect their new superpowers! This event was a tremendous success and the two organizations look forward to working together again in the future.

PJ Library is a program of the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso. For more information on this national program that promotes learning and provides free Jewish books for children and grandchildren of Jewish parents, visit www.pjlibrary.org (the national site). To learn how to sign up and keep up to date on our events, visit www.jewishelpaso.org/pjlibrary (our local site) and www.facebook.com/pjlibraryelpaso. As your PJ Library Program Professional, I can be reached by phone (915-842-9554) or email pjlibrary@jfedelpaso.org.

Alison Westermann
PJ Library Program Professional

Temple Beth El Religious School students and faculty and guests at the Tu Bishvat Seder on January 27 joined in planting a tree on the Temple grounds.

Jeanne Lipson and twins Marshall and Ross pose for a photo during the "Intergalactic Havdalah" program.

Two girls hold up their donations after completing their scavenger hunt at Food King as part of "Plant for the Future" program.
Holocaust Museum: 2019 brings fresh start

Last fall was not an easy time for our Holocaust Museum and Study Center, one of only 13 free-standing Holocaust museums in the United States and the only bi-lingual English and Spanish Holocaust museum in the world. Last August, the hard-working long-time executive director, Lori Shepherd, moved out of town unexpectedly; last September, a city sewer pipe broke and flooded the museum; and last October, 11 worshippers were killed at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, capping a time of increasing anti-Semitism and incidents against Jews.

Yet the Holocaust Museum now has another outstanding director, Jamie Flores, who served as the museum’s education director for many years, and is solidly on track for a busy and productive year, as we learned in January at the museum’s annual meeting. “The year 2019 brings more education, more partnerships, more community conversations,” says Mika Cohen Jones, in her second year as chair of the Holocaust Museum board. On all fronts – outreach, programming, and exhibits – 2019 promises to meet founder Henry Kellen’s goals to educate the community and to never forget.

Kellen, a member of Congregation B’hai Zion, launched the museum in 1984 in a corner of the Jewish Community Center. Today, 35 years later, the museum brings in thousands of visitors, including 4,000 local students and partners with many organizations to promote tolerance and teach history.

At the annual meeting, Jamie and Mika updated attendees about programs – including the new Youth Advisory Council developed to address prejudice and discrimination and the Educator Conference which brings teachers in for in-service training in teaching about the Holocaust. They gave us a preview of upcoming events, which include the Henry Kellen Memorial Golf Tournament on Sunday, April 14; the 11th annual summer camp for kids in July and the 14th Annual Tour de Tolerance bike ride in August.

The program ended with two award presentations. The first-ever Youth Award went to Mayra Alejandra Martinez, a UTEP English major who had been active in the Jewish Studies program. She credited Professor Sandra Deutsch and Professor Mimi Gladstein with inspiring her interest in fighting bigotry and learning more about the Holocaust.

The Henry Kellen Founders Award went to Al Varela, a dedicated supporter of the museum and former board member who has been especially supportive in event planning for the museum’s fundraisers. He recalled board meetings with Henry Kellen which would end with Henry telling a memorable story from his own Holocaust experience.

Cindy Graff Cohen
Editor, The Jewish Voice

IT ALL STARTS WITH YOU  You make everything we do possible
Mr. and Mrs. T often integrate their science and math lessons for our students. They want the students to understand the real-life applications of both. Their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities combine a scientific issue with a mathematical component. Both teachers believe the more connections the students can make through their practice of the processes, the more the students will realize how both subjects relate to the real world. Their goal is to create these connections for each student every day.

One example of the many fantastic STEM lessons that are taught on our campus was their presentation of the Bernoulli Principle. This lesson incorporated the math skills needed to create and stick to a budget for a toy that students would create using the scientific teachings of the Bernoulli principle.

The kids were given a list of materials with the costs listed next to them. They had to choose carefully, sticking within their given budget and making sure they “bought” the materials they would need to both create and improve their toys. Once they picked their materials, they got to work physically, hand-crafting their toys. They had to pay close attention to the pressure and speed of the moving liquid or gas in relation to how their toy would function. Upon completing this project, they gave a final proposal to their audience using a Shark Tank-like approach.

Oftentimes, you will find our students experiencing their math and science lessons outside. You may find them breaking rocks open to identify their classifications or taking measurements of vehicles and parking spots for planning in math. Our students also have the unique opportunity to dissect many animals and organs. By the time this year is over; a chicken, a sheep’s brain, eye, kidney, and heart will have been dissected. All of these practices bring a deeper understanding and appreciation for the world around us.

No wonder EPJA students love science and math!
Anne Frank’s stepsister coming to Las Cruces

When Eva Geiringer Schloss takes the stage in the Mark Medoff Theater in Las Cruces March 17, she will be continuing her life mission: to tell as many people as possible about the Holocaust and her childhood friend Anne Frank. Only a month apart in age, the two girls lived in the same Amsterdam apartment block from the ages of 11 to 13.

After escaping their native Germany, in the Nazis annexed Austria in 1938; after fleeing their home in Vienna when from the ages of 11 to 13. Only a month apart in age, the two girls lived in the same Amsterdam apartment block. Only Eva and her mother, Elfriede, and Otto Frank survived. After the war, the three headed to Amsterdam. The former neighbors and Auschwitz survivors, Otto and Elfriede, married in 1953, making Anne’s father Eva’s stepfather. The two worked together to establish the Anne Frank Foundation in 1957 and the Anne Frank House museum in 1960.

Important opportunity

“We will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear this amazing speaker and her incredible story here in Las Cruces,” says Rabbi Bery Schmukler of bringing her here.”

Bringing the well-known author here was not easy. Mrs. Schloss, who lives in London, has a limited travel schedule and is usually booked three years out. At her age, she prefers to travel on nonstop flights, so Rabbi Schmukler worked with rabbis in two other cities to fulfill that need. She flies nonstop from London to Phoenix for her first speaking engagement; then nonstop to El Paso for three days in Las Cruces; and finally nonstop to San Antonio.

“She has never been to much larger Jewish communities,” adds Rabbi Schmukler. “Yet she will be here. We have people coming in from Albuquerque, Santa Fe, all over the region.” Many of those who are making a weekend of it have purchased VIP tickets for the event, which includes two preferred seats, one of her books, and the chance to speak with her at the 2:00 p.m. private reception preceding her 3:30 presentation.

Tenth anniversary

To bring in Eva Schloss and book a 500-seat venue has been a significant project for the Chabad of Las Cruces, a small congregation which typically draws 50 people for Friday night services, 20-25 for Saturday lunch, and 200 over the two nights of Passover. However, the program is also a special event marking the Chabad’s tenth-anniversary. In March 2009, Rabbi Bery and Chenchie Schmukler moved from New York City to Las Cruces with their six-month-old baby. Now he’s ten and has two brothers and three sisters.

The Schmuklers chose Las Cruces to establish a Chabad community because they had enjoyed the Southwest so much when visiting Rabbi Bery’s brother and his family in Albuquerque. Rabbi Chaim and Devorah Schmukler direct the Chabad of New Mexico, which was established in 1992.

Rabbi Bery and Chenchie find Las Cruces — and the other towns from Deming to Portales that the rabbi visits periodically to lead services or conduct lifecycle events — very friendly and open. The region represents a major change from the rabbi’s hometown of Los Angeles and Chenchie’s New York City. Rabbi Bery’s rabbinical training took him to Manchester, England; Vincennes, France; and back to LA and New York, but he is very happy to be here and proud of the Alevy Chabad Jewish Center (chabadlc.org at 2907 East Idaho Street, which they purchased in 2013 and continue to remodel.

From the sun-filled sanctuary/multi-purpose room to the book-filled library, the building is warm and welcoming, befitting the Rabbi’s own goal of welcoming people whether they are on their Jewish journey. “People come for the Jewish community – being part of a place where people know you,” he adds. “It’s like it’s both a Jewish community center and a house of worship.”

Cindy Gaff Cohen
Editor, The Jewish Voice

A Historic Event with Eva Schloss
Sunday, March 17
$25 adult/$15 student
$180 VIP Co-Sponsor
Jewishlc.com/annefrank
575-524-1330

At press time, only a few tickets remain for the one-day-only presentation.

Rabbi Bery Schmukler with his wife Chenchie and their children

Eva Schloss, right, with her mother, Elfriede Geiringer Frank, who married former neighbor Otto Frank, Anne Frank’s father, after they both lost their spouses in Nazi concentration camps. Eva is holding one of her books, “Eva’s Story: A Survivor’s Tale by the Stepsister of Anne Frank.” Her other books include “The Promise: The Moving Story of a Married Former Neighbor Otto Frank, Anne Frank’s Father, After They Headed to Amsterdam,” and “After Auschwitz.”

Eva’s family settled in the Netherlands after fleeing their home in Vienna when the Nazis annexed Austria in 1938; until both their families went into hiding from the Nazis.

The Geingers and their two daughters were captured in May 1944 and sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau. The Franks were captured three months later. Anne’s mother, Edith Frank, died in Auschwitz. Anne and her sister Margot died in Bergen-Belsen. Only Eva and her mother, Elfriede, and Otto Frank survived.

When Eva Geiringer Schloss takes the stage in the Mark Medoff Theater in Las Cruces March 17, she will be continuing her life mission: to tell as many people as possible about the Holocaust and her childhood friend Anne Frank. Only a month apart in age, the two girls lived in the same Amsterdam apartment block from the ages of 11 to 13.
Metaphysical and divine: Elana Arian and her music

In 1859, Karl Franz Brendel, editor of the “New Magazine for Music” (which morphed into today’s oldest German music publishers, Schott Music), coined the term “the New German School” as a designation for those composers he felt transcended in ways that Beethoven would have wished his music to live for generations to come. There is no doubt that Elana Arian, who spent a weekend at Temple Mount Sinai in February, embodies the musical language of modern American Jewry from Debbie Friedman.

In an interview with Jonathan Mark, Debbie Friedman, who herself would decline to discuss matters surrounding her private life, focused on Jews, music, God, and spirituality throughout her life. “People are more uptight talking about God,” Debbie remarked, “more inhibited about God language and God concepts than they are about sex.”

Elana was close to Debbie Friedman during her upbringing; at the dinner after Friday night services, Shir Chadash member Ellen Goodman noted that Elana “reminds me of Debbie Friedman.”

Elana’s weekend began on Thursday with a soulful yet fruitful rehearsal with the members of Temple’s musical ensembles, Shir Chadash and the newly renamed Kosher Cowboys (formally known as Kol Sinai). Though one cannot possibly voice a judgment on behalf of Shir Chadash and the Kosher Cowboys band, every member whom I spoke with uttered their satisfaction and contentment with Elana. Her dynamism was palpable in the chapel during Friday night services, and that was only the beginning.

Saturday’s Soul Shabbat experience not only taught me to pray with my brothers and sisters, but most importantly, to listen. There were occasional times during the service when one did not feel the need to sing all the time. Elana’s launch-and-learn session after services focused on Jewish composers and their ways of interpreting or reinterpreting a familiar text. In her case, Elana wanted to explore the three settings of “Oseh Shalom” by Debbie Friedman, Yoel Sykes, and herself. The answers from those present at the discussion described the intricate nuances of harmony, major-minor key relationships, rounds, text-painting, and aesthetic appeal. The discourse was undoubtedly worthy of a musicological seminar.

Elana’s Havdalah concert, which highlighted her previous works, also featured an unpublished, newly composed piece that debuted at Temple Mount Sinai, “Ken Y’hi Ratzon.” Elana’s presentation, which earned a standing ovation from the congregation and visitors attested to Elana’s superpowerful powers of conveying God language and the concepts of God through her music.

Carlos Gámez
Music Director
Temple Mount Sinai

BZUSY at IC-Orlando

In December I had the unique opportunity of going to The United Synagogue Youth International Convention in Orlando, and it was a life-changing experience. At the convention, we did service projects such as donating snacks to a local police station on Christmas and making dog toys for the local animal rescue center. Of course, we had our fair share of fun, including going to Universal, Disneyworld, Disney Park, and ICON.

At the convention, we got the opportunity to learn more about Judaism and discussed problems affecting the Jewish people, such as an increased rise in anti-Semitism, and the BDS movement. All in all, this convention was an incredible experience, and I cannot wait for the next, which will be held in Southern California.

For more information about BZUSY-contact Consuelo Madero at cmadero13@gmail.com

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 3, Sunday
The J Center for Early Learning presents “Puppet-Palooza!” for preschoolers and their families from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on March 3. The event includes puppet-making, storytime and snacks.

March 6 and 20, Wednesday
Borderland Café Europa, a program of the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso, welcomes those of us over 70 for lunch and camaraderie every other Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. at the Jewish Federation offices at 7110 N. Mesa Street. Most get-togethers feature guest speakers or entertainment.

March 6: Larry Lesser, songwriter and UTEP math professor
March 20: Speaker TBD

April 3: Celebrate April birthdays
April 17: Rabbi Levi Greenberg and Shmura Matzah

March 7, Thursday
Temple Mount Sinai presents “Amid a Shifting Tide of Tolerance: A Transgender Jew Searches for Faith and Community” with author and award-winning activist Abby Stein at 6:30 p.m. on March 7.

March 10, Sunday
Temple Mount Sinai invites you to the J Center for Learning and the Simon S. Fireman Religious School Purim Carnival from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. March 10 at Temple Mount Sinai, 4400 N. Stanton Street.

March 15, Friday
Congregation B’nai Zion invites the community to the Hadassah Shabbat Zachor on March 15. If you are interested in participating in the service, please contact either Debra Cohen or Marsha Schwartz.

March 17, Sunday
Chabad Las Cruces invites you to hear Eva Schloss, childhood friend and stepsister of Anne Frank at 3:30 p.m. (2:00 VIP reception) on March 17 at the Mark Medoff Theatre in the New Mexico State University Center for the Arts at 1000 East University Avenue in Las Cruces. To purchase tickets ($25, $15 students, $180 VIP), visit jewishlc.com/annefrank or call 575-524-1330.

April 14, Sunday
The El Paso Holocaust Museum’s Henry Kellen Memorial Golf Open will be held again at the Butterfield Trail Golf Club and registration is open. Early bird registrations for $100 per player closes March 14 with the price per player at $125 until registration closes on April 4. To sign up, visit butterfieldtrailgolf.com/EPHM. For details, call the museum at 351-6048.

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May 5, Sunday: Yom Haatzmaut Independence Day
May 20, Monday: Federation Annual Meeting

Save the Date: Federation Events!
April 28, Sunday: Yom HaShoah Holocaust Memorial Day
May 5, Sunday: Yom Haatzmaut Israel Independence Day
May 20, Monday: Federation Annual Meeting

Need a ride to Federation events? Call the Jewish Federation for Shalom Shuttle! 915-842-9554

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BSA Troop 613 Has Surplus Popcorn!!!!!

Troop 613 overbought on BSA popcorn this year.
We are Selling this surplus at 50% off! Cash, Check or Card!

Kettle Corn Microwave popcorn was $20 now just $10!
Jalapeno Cheddar corn was $15 now $7.50!
White Cheddar corn was $20 now $10!
Sea Salted Caramel was $30 now just $15!
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Call 915-249-6505 Alan Cohen, Scoutmaster Troop 613
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Questions? rfrench@jfedelpaso.org RideForTheLiving.org

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IT ALL STARTS WITH YOU You make everything we do possible
UPCOMING EVENTS

The Floyd S. Fierman Religious School
&
J Center for Early Learning

PURIM CARNIVAL
Sunday
March 10th
9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
COME CELEBRATE!

Join us for food, fun, carnival games, jumping balloons, face painting, crafts, prizes and more!
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9:30 AM - The Reading of the Megillah at Chapel.
Come in costume, compete and enjoy!
Silent Auction by JCEL.

Alevy Chabad Jewish Center de Las Cruces presents

A HISTORIC EVENT WITH EVA SCHLOSS

STEPSISTER OF ANNE FRANK

Enter the world of Anne Frank as told by her stepsister and childhood friend.
At the age of eight, Eva became friends with Anne, playing hopscotch and drinking lemonade together.
Her true-to-life story is difficult to imagine, yet it reminds us that life is precious and fragile,
that the power of good is inescapable, and that love makes a difference.

SUNDAY,
MARCH 17TH
(2:00 VIP RECEPTION)
3:30 PM EVENT 3PM DOORS OPEN
NMU Center for the Arts
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For more information and reservations, visit JEWISHC.COM/ANNEFRANK
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