what’s love got to do with it?
What a year this has been.
I have met so many of you. Talked with you, worshiped alongside you, graced you with you at vigils, celebrated with you, entertained you at my home for Shabbat and holidays (more invites are on the way) but most importantly, I have heard your food and clear.

As a result, we are changing our narrative.

- We are listening and will continue to listen.
- We are working toward strengthening Jewish life here in this great city, supporting our partner schools, places of worship, and Jewish education.
- We are looking for opportunities to collaborate, where appropriate, while respecting individuality and to coordinate what we do and when.
- We are expanding opportunities in our community and imagining with our partners what Jewish life might be like with a shared vision and sense of purpose.
- We are creating programs that bring the rich diversity of our community together, not just Jewishly, but within the greater El Paso community as well.

We are excited. We are ready. We are energized.

Eshet Preparing in Purity

Ami LeDodi Vehodi Li – “I am my Beloved’s and my Beloved is mine.” King Solomon writes in Shir HaShirim, the Song of Songs. The first letter of these four famous four Hebrew words, synonymous with love, lovers, weddings and Ketubahs, spells the Hebrew month of Elul (Aleph Lamad Vav Lamad) which we are now in, the month in which we prepare ourselves for the awesome High Holidays ahead of us.

Man’s preeminence over beasts is the power of speech. In this world where so much of the atmosphere is filled with words that are vulgar, immoral, insanitary, we, the Jewish people are God’s “air purifiers.” With our holy words of prayer and of Jewish ethics and learning, we have the ability to refresh the unclean air surrounding us. When we speak in a mode of pure words, the air becomes sweet and clean again.

The quality of our relationships

Though we come from varying points of view, we live together in one community. We are more successful when we act in a united way. Pooling our talents and integrating our efforts, where and when appropriate, can result in an outcome that is so much more than we might have achieved by acting in isolation.
what’s love got to do with it? (cont.)

Our first responsibility should be to take responsibility for our presence here in the spirit of that togetherness. We are each accountable for how we approach what we do. We may feel passion, spirit, dedication, and pride for what we do, and yet each of us must take responsibility for the quality of our relationships and the kind of environment we seek to create.

Positivity and love

As I reflect on the past year before these High Holydays, if I have offended you this year — missed you, approached something the wrong way, didn’t address something how you may have wished me to, sent out a statement that disappointed you — please know that I am sorry… I am still learning, and still listening.

I hope as we enter 5780, with all that it promises, that we act in an inclusive manner (and that means inclusive), recognizing the rich variety and offerings of Jewish life here, I hope that we embrace differences positively and encourage others to express opinions with respect and integrity.

What’s love got to do with community-building and communications? Everything. We are given two sets of gates over our speech; our teeth and our lips. The rabbis say that each human being is allotted a number of words in our lifetime. When one speaks one’s last allotted word, one dies. Let’s use our words wisely for our shared goals and the protection of the Jewish people, here and everywhere.

It is in this spirit of positivity and of love, that I want to share my excitement at the pace and energy of Jewish life that is alive and well here with a tip of the kippah to just a few highlights…

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

Shofar Across Borders
Sunday, September 8
1:30 p.m.

Join friends and neighbors on both sides of the Border to celebrate the coming new year

Meet:
Congregation B’nai Zion
parking lot at 1:30 p.m.
805 Cherry Hill Lane
We’ll depart at 1:40 p.m.
to the border location

Bring:
Water, sunscreen, hats, shofars and smiles!

RSVP:
Strongly suggested at info@jfedelpaso.org

Our Shofar Border ceremony begins at 2:00 and ends by 3:00

Event Photographers
Brian Kanof
Edward Dubowitz

JFED Finance
Committee
Eitan Lavi
Debra Pazos
Stuart Shiloff

Borderlands Café
Europa Speakers
Optra Leyser-Whalen
Alicia Westermann

Todah Rabah to our Volunteers

Coming Soon:
October Jewish Voice
The Leadership Issue
Submissions Due: September 10

• Who’s leading our Jewish organizations this year? Watch for our first directory of boards and leaders.
• Working with a Jewish organization? Send leadership rosters to thevoice@jfedelpaso.org by Sept. 10.
Pictures of your board at work due Sept. 17.
• What did Sue Bendalin and Wendy Lanski learn on the Federation Leadership Mission to South America?
• Want to get to know a member of our next generation of leaders? Don’t miss the new “Up Close” feature in October.

The Jewish Voice
A publication of the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso

The Jewish Voice of El Paso, published ten times a year, is dedicated to informing, educating, and uniting the Jewish community by providing news items of local, national, Israeli and international concern.

The Jewish Voice will consider for publication any materials submitted that support the mission of the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso, and have relevance and appeal to the El Paso Jewish community. Articles are subject to editing at the editor’s discretion and are subject to space limitations. Letters cannot be longer than 150 words and articles must be kept to a maximum of 300 words. Please email to thevoice@jfedelpaso.org

Opinions are those of individual writers and not necessarily those of the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso. The Jewish Voice is not responsible for the kashrut of any product or eating establishment advertised herein.

Executive Director: Robert French
Campaign Director: Sue Bendalin
President: Janet Kent Weather
Office: 915-842-9554
7110 North Mesa, El Paso, TX 79912

Editor: Cindy Graf Cohen
Layout and Design: Beatriz Garcia
Printing: PDX Printing

Dues Due for the October issue of the Voice: September 10
Dues Due for the November issue of the Voice: October 10

915-842-9554 | www.jewishelpaso.org
Securing Our Jewish Future

In addition to its ongoing support of our community through its annual IMPACT grants, the Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso’s Board of Trustees granted $5,000 to help offset security costs to each of our local synagogues, Jewish schools and agencies in El Paso and in Las Cruces. Community leaders have expressed sincere gratitude for this much needed assistance. To inquire how you can play a role in securing our Jewish future, contact Robert French, Executive Director, Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso, at 915-842-9554.

For information, please contact Sue Bendalin, Campaign Director, sbendalin@fedelpaso.org or 915-842-9554.

IS THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER EL PASO IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN?

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Jennifer Ehrlich
Dana Frank

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Sunday January 26
Sunday February 9
Sunday February 23

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These We Honor With Tributes

Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso
To: Leslie Beckoff In Honor of Your Special Birthday
From: Jane Snow

To: Lauren and Adam Rosenfield In Honor of Your Receiving the Scholach Leadership Award
From: Martha and CFI Eisenberg

To: Robert French In Honor of his one-year anniversary as JFED Executive Director
From: Rochelle Saks

To: Jane Rosen and Family In Memory of Your Husband and Father Bob
From: Robin and Tony Furman

To: Estelle Goldman
From: Janet and Randy Wechter

To: Marilyn and Hy Silverstein In Memory of Marilyn’s brother Steve Rybak
From: Robin and Tony Furman

To: Robert Trevizo In Honor of Joining the Covenant between God and the People of Israel
From: Janet and Randy Wechter

To: Cindy and David Metrikin In Honor of the Birth of Their Granddaughter
From: Janet and Randy Wechter

To: Debby and Mike Robbin In Honor of the Birth of Their Granddaughter Sadie Jo Fox
From: Janet and Randy Wechter

With: Thanks to the Jewish Federation for Shalom Shuttle Service
From: Rochelle Saks

Camp Kadima Memorial Scholarship In Memory of Leona Goldfarb and Minna Frank

To: The Family of Frank Altus In Honor of His Memory
From: Bobby Goldfarb

Jewish Women Leading the Way

Lion of Judah
The Lion of Judah pin is a symbol for today’s Jewish woman, a symbol of her strength and caring about the organized Jewish world. The proud wearer of this pin knows that she is doing all she can 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. The Lion of Judah is a symbol of unity – each woman who wears her pin is uniquely connected to all other Lions of Judah, locally, nationally and internationally, all of whom embody the true meaning of tzaddikah. These women have the determination, capability, and power to turn the dream of Tikkan Olam into a reality.

Pomegranate Society
More than a beautiful piece of jewelry, the Pomegranate pin is a symbol of a woman’s commitment to the Jewish people. It represents the best of what Federation does: bringing together like-minded donors to do a world of good. Each woman making an annual campaign gift of $1,800 to $4,599 is eligible to wear the Pomegranate pin.

September 19, Thursday:
Pomegranate High Tea
Private Home

October 4, Thursday:
Lion of Judah Lunch at Café Central
Hard-Hat Tour of Paso del Norte Hotel

For information about becoming a Pomegranate or Lion of Judah and joining us at either event, contact Sue Bendalin at 915-842-9554 or sbendalin@jfedelpaso.org

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The Jewish Voice
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915-842-9554 | www.jewishelpaso.org
Meet new JFNA CEO: Eric Fingerhut

Last month, The Jewish Federations of North America welcomed a new president and CEO, Eric D. Fingerhut, a native of Cleveland. Fingerhut had served as the president and CEO of Hillel International since 2013. He replaces Jerry Silverman, who led JFNA for ten years.

Long career of service
At Hillel, Fingerhut significantly increased Hillel’s annual revenue, increased advocacy for Israel, and formed key partnerships for the organizations for Jewish students at college campuses around the world. He worked with Hillel through a challenging era for Jews at

and small details. I've been writing for a living on and off since 1981 and I will tell you it’s a treat to take a breath- er and just talk about a publication.

In June, Federation board president Janet Wechter, Robert and I sat down at my dining room table to brainstorm. We invited a friend of mine, Wendy White Polk, one of our area’s most experienced print journalists and editors, to join us.

Before the meeting, the reviewed past issues and then shared her thoughts. She found that The Voice filled its niche well, capturing the vi- tality of the Jewish community and sharing news of use to its members. She suggested new ways of present- ing information, such as reminding us that a picture tells a thousand words. I’ll begin implementing Wendy’s rec- ommendations throughout the year.

Community-building
If you asked me the goal of The Jewish Voice in 2014, I would have said “raise money for the Federation’s good works.” I looked for content that might help the annual fundraising campaign.

However, after working with Rob- ert, my thoughts evolved. He helped me re-shape the paper’s purpose to better reflect Federation’s community- building focus. What can this newspa- per do to strengthen the remarkable Jewish community in El Paso and Las Cruces?

Ready for the New Year
I don’t make resolutions – rule-following, sadly, is not my strong suit. However, I will think more care- fully about interactions and intentions in the new year.

On Rosh Hashanah, we have the chance for a new start to make the world a better place, day by day. What a joy to live in this Jewish faith that values continuous improvement, both

inside our souls and in the radiating concentric circles of the Jewish community.

May we start that improvement in the very epicenter of those circles – our own heart and soul – and work outward toward the world?

The 2020 meeting in Chicago next fall will be a traditional large General Assembly conference.

Cindy Graff Cohen
Editor, The Jewish Voice

Meet new JFNA CEO: Eric Fingerhut

the three-day problem-solving meeting is described as a new JFNA experiment that will stimulate the Jewish communi- ty and help Federation leaders achieve certain goals for the Federation move- ment.

BETTER TOGETHER

From the Editor: Happy New Year!

I’ve been working with The Jewish Voice since 2014, when I loved put- ting the pieces together with Blanca Carrasco, a member of Congregation B’nai Zion. Her graphic design skills and warm personality kept it fun.

I took 2016 off and came back in 2017 in time for the opening of our wonderful new headquarters at 7110 North Mesa and our Federation’s 80th anniversary celebration.

I don’t have a long perspective, but I can tell you that your Federation looks, feels, and acts like a different group compared to five years ago. The Jewish Voice reflects that shift.

Thinking for a moment
I’m not a Federation employee, but as the freelance Voice editor, I spend a lot of time thinking about the organ- ization. These thoughts have been gaining clarity for a year, since Robert French, our executive director, came on board in July 2018.

He and I meet regularly to ana- lyze the role of the paper, which, you should know, is just one of the ways news and event announcements go out to our community. The paper comple- ments the Federation’s website, weekly email blast, and Facebook page, along with congregational and organization newsletters and other communication channels.

My meetings with Robert are philo- sophical, strategic, educational, and sometimes funny. We talk big picture

many colleges, with the BDS move- ment hurting Jewish students and faculty over the last decade. Hillel has a presence at some 350 campus- es, including nine in Israel.

The Federation has been part of the new president’s life since child- hood. His mother worked at the JCC pre-school.

A graduate of Stanford Univer- sity’s law school, Fingerhut served as an Ohio state senator for three terms and a U.S. Representative in Con- gress from the Cleveland area for one term. In Congress, he was a strong advocate for Israel and co-sponsored four key bills supporting Israel.

“FedLab: Take a quantum leap” Federation leaders from around the country took the “FedLab” to Hillel in person in Washington, D.C., in No- vember. He will be presiding at a rather unconventional JFNA annual meeting – a much smaller and more intensive gathering.

Instead of a large General Assem- bly open to any Federation members from around the country, this meeting is by invitation only. Called FedLab,

where does community building take place? Everywhere, I recovered – including at my congregation’s retreat

Editor, The Jewish Voice

Recognizing the importance of the summer camp experience, the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso distributes camperships through the popular One Happy Camper grant. This support goes to Jewish children attending Jewish summer camps.

Here are the 2019 recipients and their proud parents. Watch for their summer camp reports in the Jewish Voice “Summer Camp Issue” next spring.

Camp Young Judea
Alexis Siegel and Jacob Siegel, children of Tara and Mark Siegel
Camp Daisy and Harry Stein
Matthew Stevens, son of Letty and Nathan Stevens
Camp Interlaken JCC
Leila Untereker, daughter of Melissa and Jed Untereker
URJ 6Points Sports Academy
Samuel Farley, son of Joann and Matthew Farley
Zachary Fraker, son of Liz and Trey Fraker

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PJ Library Family Spotlight: Heidi and Skyler

This year, we will be introducing you to some of the families taking part in the Jewish Federation’s PJ Library program, a national initiative providing free books of interest to Jewish children. This month, we meet Heidi, whose son Skyler, age 5, enjoys PJ Library books and activities.

Where did you grow up?
Heidi: I grew up in New York.

How did you come to El Paso?
H: A job opportunity presented itself.

How long has Skyler been receiving PJ Library books?
H: Almost one year.

How did you hear about PJ Library?
From Alison Westermann (PJ Library professional) at an event at our local temple.

What is your family’s favorite PJ Library book and why?
“’The Lion and the Bird’ by Marianne Dubuc. Skyler is beginning to comprehend the actual story... in this book, a lion and a bird become friends and then the bird leaves the lion (temporarily). Skyler realized that the lion and the bird were friends and that it was sad when they had to leave each other.”

How does Skyler react when he receives a book in the mail?
H: He enjoys getting any mail addressed directly to him. He opens it and wants to read it with me right away.

What is your family’s bedtime routine?
During the school year, every other night, we read for a half hour and on the other nights practice with sight words.

What would you say to a family that hasn’t subscribed to PJ Library yet?
H: We have received some wonderful books. All Jewish families should subscribe and be a part of PJ Library. It’s a wonderful opportunity to bring Jewish life into your home in a very simple way. No prior experience necessary!

To subscribe to PJLibrary visit pjlibrary.org or call Alison Westermann at 269-251-0871 or email pjlibrary@jfedelpaso.org

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Next generation leads the way

Dr. Lauren Eisenberg and Adam Rosenfield received the 2019 Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso’s Bernard and Florence Schoichet Leadership Award at the Federation’s Annual Meeting in May for their ongoing involvement in our Jewish community and in groups such as the Maimonides Society for Jewish medical professionals and their synagogue, Congregation B’nai Zion. Now with three children – Davna, 9; Oliver, 6; and Andrew, 4 – they focus much of their energy into the Jewish community and Jewish education. They each grew up active in their Jewish communities, Lauren in El Paso and Adam in Fort Worth. They attribute much of their dedication to their parents – Cliff and Martha Eisenberg and Mark and Carol Rosenfield, who have been active in their synagogues, Jewish organizations, and Federations and have been generous to Jewish causes. The two met at the University of Texas, where their first date was at the UT Hillel. Lauren majored in kinesiology and joined Sigma Delta Tau, a Jewish sorority. Adam studied accounting and joined Sigma Alpha Mu, a Jewish Fraternity. He spent a semester at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Lauren went on to study at Touro University in California, a Jewish medical school. She graduated from the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Worth, followed by a five-year residency in urology with the Detroit Medical Center. She is now the city’s only female urologist.

After Adam earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees through UT’s five-year Professional Program in Accounting at the McCombs Graduate School of Business, he completed an internship with Arthur Anderson in Dallas. He currently leads a boutique software consulting practice headquartered in San Francisco.

Previous recipients of this award, including Lauren’s father, are some of the most accomplished leaders and mentors in our community and Adam and Lauren say they are humbled to be named among these outstanding individuals.

Cindy Graff Cohen
Editor, The Jewish Voice

Florence and Bernard Schoichet Leadership Award
To nominate someone for next year’s award and learn how you can become more active in our Federation, email info@jfedelpaso.org or call Robert French, Federation executive director, at 915-842-9554.

Bernard and Florence Schoichet Leadership Award Winners, 1983 - 2018
The J Center for Early Learning opens with new director: Meg Birk

After a local and national recruitment process that brought in over 160 resumes, The J Center for Early Learning Director Search Committee unanimously named Meg Birk as the school’s new director in June. A kindergarten teacher with over 40 years of experience as an educator, Birk served as the school’s interim director last spring.

“We interviewed a number of people who were highly qualified,” said Temple Mount Sinai’s Rabbi Ben Zeidman, who served on the selection committee. “Meg Birk was far and away the person who had the best sense of the mission and goals of the school. She is prepared to educate the future of Jewish El Paso, as well as share the beauty of Judaism and Jewish values with our families and students.”

When The J Center’s board of directors set out to search for the new director, they wanted viewpoints from a variety of stakeholders. The final search committee included two of The J’s teachers, three parents of students at The J, two of The J’s board members, and three members of the Jewish community.

After interviewing the best candidates in person, the group was most impressed by Birk’s experience and vision. “Every thing in her career has prepared her for this role,” emphasized one board member. That career includes classroom teaching, curriculum development, crafting literacy and dual language programs, and piloting the El Paso Independent School District’s writing-to-read program. An EPISD Gifted and Talented Task Force member, Birk belongs to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and is a board member of both the local and state chapters of NAEYC. In just two years, the pre-school sharing space with Temple Mount Sinai has become a key institution in our community.

Searching for a new director

The J Center for Early Learning board of directors extends deep appreciation and gratitude to the Director Search Committee.

Director Search Committee

Teachers: Desiree Ainsa, Ceci Valencia, M. Ed.

Parents: Dinesh Bahl, M.D., Stefanie Block, MBA, April Thomas, PhD.

Board Members: Neal Rosendorf, Ph.D., Stuart Shiloff

Community Members: Susan Glaser, Deb Pazos, Rabbi Ben Zeidman

A special thank you goes to Susan Glaser, an educational psychologist who served on the committee both in El Paso and from her home in Cleveland. Director of Early Childhood Services at the Cleveland JCC for 16 years, Glaser is a consultant for the national Jewish Community Center Association. Her daughter Rebecca moved to El Paso and Glaser will live here part-time. The J Center has already benefitted tremendously from her expertise.

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Week one they were in China. Week eight took them to Egypt. In between they were in Africa, Israel, Mexico, Italy, Japan, and India. What sounds like an ad for Travelocity—or maybe a promotion for the next season of “The Amazing Race”—was actually the itinerary for Camp Shamayim’s “Amazing World Adventures” summer at The J Center for Early Learning.

Over 100 kids, ages one through 11, “traveled” the globe, with countries chosen to reflect the diversity of the Camp Shamayim’s own educators and community.

The J Center for Early Learning brought their signature Reggio approach to summer camp, combining engaging curriculum, in-depth projects, and collaboration with hands-on learning and fun. Campers didn’t simply play; they engaged with culture from around the globe through art, music, literature, and even food.

“Each week began with children learning interesting facts about each country,” reports Meg Birk, The J’s director. “Teachers accomplished this by reading informational texts or sharing YouTube videos with the children, followed by planning for a project related to the country being studied.”

For instance, throughout the week in China, campers built their own Chinese kites, participated in cooking experiences, listened to Chinese folk tales, and played both indoor and outdoor games indigenous to China.

The goal wasn’t just entertainment, but education as well. “We are very grateful for this wonderful experience,” said camp mom Joanna Ruszczyk. “My 5-year-old daughter had the best time, loved all activities and learned a lot!”

In addition, students from the UTEP art department joined campers each week. These budding artists worked with each class, introducing an artist from the country of the week and preparing an art project to reflect the work of that particular artist.

Each morning campers joined in the pledge and the classic Camp Shamayim song of “On the Line.” Fridays began with Shabbat, with the older campers visiting the El Paso Tennis and Swim Club, while the younger campers enjoyed water slides and splashing on campus.

Camp Shamayim has grown over the past two years, with parents often signing their children up for one week—and then quickly extending their enrollment for the full summer. The camp owes a debt of gratitude to the Jewish community of El Paso, as well as The Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso and the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso for grants and support for the program.

Jordyn Rosensky

 Camp Kadima 2019 season certainly proved that “time does fly when you’re having fun.” After our 32nd season of this Jewish Federation-supported summer camp for children and adults with special needs, we reflected on our treasured friendships, both new and old. An amazing experience was had by all.

Camp Kadima campers enjoyed a wide variety of activities throughout the three-week session, including field trips to Gigi’s Playhouse, the zoo, the pool, a splash park, a movie theater, a bowling alley, and the therapeutic horsemanship stables. They made fun things in arts and crafts and met special guests including Rosalind Rogers and football player Aaron Jones and his family. They listened to a mariachi group, golfed at Ascarate Park, ate pizza at Chuck E. Cheese, and ended the season with a party and awards ceremony at La Bella Palacio.

Camp Kadima appreciates the continued support from the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso. Thank you to all our special campers, parents, staff and our amazing leader, Tom Murphy.

Camp Kadima would not be possible without the generosity of our community, including Camp Kadima staff and parents. We thank you from the bottom of our heart. Toda raba—and we can’t wait for Camp Kadima 2020!

Robin Gold
Director, Camp Kadima
What Do We Say About God?
Study, Dessert, Havdalah and Selichot Service
Saturday, September 21, 2019
7:30 pm
Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces
3980 Sonoma Springs Avenue

Study:
To help prepare us for the High Holy Days, Rabbi Larry Karol will lead a discussion on selected excerpts from Rabbi Alfred Kolatch’s 1999 book, “What Jews Say About God.” Rabbi Kolatch’s collection of reflections on God takes us from Biblical times to the present, with comments from rabbis, novelists, poets, politicians, scientists, humorists, and more, including such diverse thinkers as Baal Shem Tov and Allen Ginsberg. Songs about God by contemporary Jewish songwriters will add to the conversations.

Dessert:
Please bring a dessert to share.

Havdalah:
We move to the sanctuary to close our week.

Selichot:
The evening ends with Forgiveness Prayers as our “overture” to the High Holidays.

RSVP: Rabbi Karol at rabbi@tbelc.org

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Rabbi Scott Rosenburg and Rabbi Ben Zeidman

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COMI (Cornmeal polenta)
PKHALI (puréeed vegetables)
GOZINAKI (Walnut honey candy)

*According to Georgian legend, God took a supper break while creating the world. He became so involved with his meal that he inadvertently tripped over the high peaks of the Caucasian, spilling his food onto the land below. The land blessed by Heaven’s table scraps was Georgia.*

The Georgian Feast: The Vibrant Culture & Savory Food of the Republic of Georgia.
By Bara Goldstein

$10 ADULT, $5 CHILDREN
R.S.V.P. BY SEPTEMBER 10TH www.congregationbnaizion.org
(915) 895-2722
Seating is limited
Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso has generously helped fund this event

"WHEN PIES FLY"
Cathy Barrow - freelance food writer, cooking teacher, and preservation expert

-BOOK TALK
-COOKING DEMO
-TASTING

There is no cost for this event but please RSVP by Wednesday, Sept. 11th

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 7:00 PM
Sponsored by a generous grant by Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso

R$2.00 Adults/$5.00 Children R.S.V.P. by Monday, Sept. 16th
805 Cherry Hill Lane
833-2272
Is enough ever enough?

Each Rosh Hashanah we reflect on what it means to seek holiness. We evaluate how we’ve done the past year, and inevitably recognize that we can do more, be better. For some this unending task feels frustratingly impossible. For others, the effort brings great meaning and joy.

“There is no limit to the fulfillment of these mitzvot (commandments): leaving the corners of your fields for the needy; giving to God the first fruits of these mitzvot (commandments): leaving the corners of your fields for the needy; giving to God the first fruits of the year that is unlike any that’s ever been before.”

Rabbi Bery Schmukler
Altey Chabad, Jewish Center of Las Cruces
(With a thank you to my colleague Rabbi Yosef Zadik)

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High Holidays Services 5780
Erev Rosh Hashanah: Monday, Sept. 30
Erev Yom Kippur: Tuesday, Oct. 8
Rosh Hashanah, New Year: Tuesday, October 1
Yom Kippur, Day of Atonement: Wednesday, Oct. 9

You are welcome to worship at the congregation of your choice; no tickets or reservations needed. Please visit each synagogue’s website for High Holiday services and child care schedules.

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Rosh Hashana we listen to the shofar. The shofar's cry empowers us to stay focused on the meaning of life and avoid getting caught up in material life. Nothing fancy: just a simple sound from the head of a simple beast.

I can't recall getting inspired to emulate the nuclear physicist who won the Nobel Prize, but I can remember dozens of times when the simple actions of others have motivated me to emulate them and become better.

Rosh Hashana marks the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. It's our collective birthday. In addition to being a time for introspection and resolutions, it is also a time to appreciate the tremendous capacities and gifts we possess as Jews. Rosh Hashana is not observed on the day the world was created, but on the day that humanity was created. This impresses upon us that the destiny of all life on earth depends on humanity.

Even one person can make a monumental difference, as expressed in the fact that all humanity descend from one man and one woman. The first action undertaken by Adam upon his creation was to look around at all the amazing fauna, the diversity of animals and life, the heavens and the earth, and to declare his awe of G-d's creation, and to inspire the rest of creation to follow suit.

This is what we do on Rosh Hashana: We look around (and within) and we declare that though we may get a little sidetracked here and there, G-d is the real reality in our lives, and we resolve to make this recognition a practical part of our daily lives.

As we approach 5780, let us take upon ourselves a one-month resolution and with this usher in the new year. One mitzvah, one month at a time.

Shana Tova untoke, May we all have a good and sweet New Year.
Rabbi Yisrael Greenberg
Chabad Lubavitch of Las Cruces
Congregation B’nai Zion
www.chabadlubavitchoflascruces.org
El Paso, TX 79912
915-433-2222
Rabbi Scott Rosenberg
info@congregationbnaizion.org
Rabbi Yisrael Greenberg and Rabbi Levi Greenberg
chabad@chasdelag.com

A man who flew his own plane, or so the story goes, got tired of the long car trip from the airport to his cottage which was situated on a lovely lake. So he equipped his plane with pontoons so he could land on the lake, right in front of his house.

On his first trip with his newly equipped plane, he headed for the airport as he had always done. As he was going in for the landing, his terrified wife yelled, “What are you doing? You can’t land on the runway … you don’t have any wheels!”

Fortunately, he was able to abort the landing and swing his plane around and head for the lake. After he landed safely, he heaved a big sigh of relief, turned to his wife, and said, “That’s about the dumbest thing I’ve ever done!” Then he opened the door, stepped out of his plane—and fell directly into the lake!

Oh! How easily we forget. We forget about what we have done, we forget our actions! We forget whom we have hurt! And sadly, we also forget how we have the opportunity to make things right!

The month of Elul awakens us to this opportunity to change with the daily sounding of the shofar and the recitation of Psalm 27. “Show me your ways, dear G-d,” our Rabbi Lawrence Karol.

Rabbi Scott Rosenberg
Chabad Lubavitch of Las Cruces
Congregation B’nai Zion

The first couple: Worries – and hopes

September 2019 | 13
915-842-9554 | www.jewishelpaso.org
Local graduate rides for cancer research

If you were to look for the El Pasoan who combined the most physical activity with philanthropy this year, Seth Krasne would take the cake. Seth rode close to 5,000 miles in the longest charitable bike ride, the Texas 4000, now in its 15th year—and his team raised close to $1 million for cancer research and patient care.

Seth, son of Robin and Dick Krasne and grandson of Elaine and Bob Krasne, and Marlene and the late Allen Levine, was one of 83 University of Texas students chosen for the 18-month service and training program that culminated in the 70-day bike ride from Austin to Anchorage.

The team broke into three zones, Sierras, Rockies, and Ozarks, and Seth was in the third group. They followed what is known as the “cancer belt” of the country, zig-zagging a trail through East Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas Tennessee, Missouri, and on north and through Canada. Everywhere they went, especially in large cities like Houston, New Orleans, Memphis, St. Louis, and Chicago, the group presented educational talks about cancer prevention. They met many people whose lives or families were changed by cancer and they shared their own stories of loved ones who faced cancer.

The team will have input on how their more than $900,000 will be spent, as the money will be disbursed to researchers and facilities such as M.D. Anderson. “It goes to show what a small group of people can do,” says Robin Krasne. She goes on to say that her son has always had an interest in making a positive difference in the world.

Seth, who studied political science at UT and graduated in May, returned to El Paso to live last month. The trip was a demanding one, but in Seth’s eyes, it was well worth the challenge.

Cindy Graff Cohen
Editor, The Jewish Voice

Since 1999, Birthright Israel has sought to ensure the future of the Jewish people by strengthening Jewish identity, Jewish communities, and connection with Israel via a trip to Israel for Jewish young adults. Participants come from 67 countries including all 50 U.S states, all Canadian provinces, and nearly 1,000 North American colleges and universities.

Today, Birthright Israel is the largest educational tourism organization in the world. More than 650,000 young people have experienced these unique free trips. The organization’s goal is that the trips motivate young people to continue to explore their Jewish identity and support for Israel and maintain long-lasting connections with the Israelis they meet on their trip. Alumni are encouraged to take active roles in Jewish organizations and to participate in follow-up activities worldwide.

The gift of a Birthright Israel trip is made possible thanks to the generous support of many sources, including the State of Israel, the Jewish Federation of North America, the program’s founders and other philanthropists, the Jewish Agency for Israel, and some 30,000 individual donors from around the world.

Eligibility

The Birthright Israel gift is open to all eligible Jewish young adults, ages 18 to 26, who have not participated on an educational trip to Israel since they turned 18 nor lived in Israel past the age of 12. (New: A very limited number of trips will be accepting ages 27 to 32.)

Eligible individuals are those who identify as Jewish and are recognized as such by their local community or by one of the recognized denominations of Judaism. Applicants must also have at least one Jewish birth parent or have completed Jewish conversion through a recognized Jewish denomination.

Registration for selected 2020 trips opens September 4; visit birthrightisrael.com for information.

Texas 4000 Applications for the 2021 team close September 30, 2019. The first year of the program builds stamina and conditioning with long bike rides, but it also includes extensive skills development in such areas as communications and leadership. For information, visit Texas4000.org

Molly Goldman in Israel with Birthright, January 2019

Corey Fruithandler (far right) and new Birthright friends at the Western Wall in August 2019

Chaplain’s Catering

Gerry Chaplain

3950 Doniphan, Suite P
El Paso, Texas 79922
(915) 585-0595
goodfood@whc.net
Families, couples and singles enjoyed fellowship and fun at Temple Mount Sinai’s retreat in Tucson.

Shari Schwartz comforted a stranger standing beside her at the city-wide vigil for the shooting victims.


Hadassah El Paso held a painting event at Whole Foods in July.

ElPasoConnect, the Jewish Federation’s group for those of us in our 20s, 30s, and 40s, celebrated the end of summer at Hotel Indigo’s rooftop. Isaac Bencomo sang along with the bar’s guitarist.

The Jewish community was represented onstage at the vigil on the day after the Wal-Mart massacre.

ElPasoConnect, new chair of ElPasoConnect, shares news with the group at their August event at Hotel Indigo.

UTEP Associate Professor Ophra Leyser-Whalen, who specializes in medical sociology, spoke at a Borderlands Cafe Europa knishion.

Temple Beth-El Las Cruces held a Spiritual Response and Memorial Service for the victims and survivors of the shootings. Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima attended.

During Temple Mount Sinai’s May retreat, Rabbi Ben Zeidman held Saturday morning services outdoors at Tanque Verde Ranch.

Adam Levine, new chair of ElPasoConnect, shares news with the group at their August event at Hotel Indigo.
This year, as we celebrate our Jewish heritage, please take time to think about future generations. 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 915-842-9884.