There is Always something to be Thankful for
Up Close:
Lee Chayes

What value do we need most in our world today?
The most important value in my opinion that we need most is the ability to communicate with each other, openly and honestly. We need to see each other as human beings that need to coexist for a finite amount of time on this beautiful planet and listen to each other without prejudice or personal agendas.

What do you value most in your friends?
The thing I value most in my friends is compassion which leads to love and understanding. My friends mean everything to me and I treasure our relationships and respect them for who they are.

Who’s your favorite Jewish hero (living or not/fictional or real) and why?
I have several Jewish heroes so that’s a tough question. One of my favorite heroes is Golda Meir, a woman who was born in Russia, emigrated to Palestine in 1921 to live on a farm, and then emigrated to the US to become the only woman to hold the office in Israel. What a remarkable woman.

What is your Jewish passion?
My Jewish passion is the tradition of following in my parents’ footsteps in observance of holidays and family and friend gatherings. I love baking cookies for Rosh Hashana.

What are you thankful for?
I am most thankful for the good health of my family and friends.

Why do you believe it is important to give back?
I believe it is essential to “give back” to your family, friends, and community because giving is the meaning of life and being a small part of making a difference. Giving back doesn’t have to be big; you can give food to the hungry by helping organizations fighting hunger or listening to a friend in need who needs a warm shoulder and a hug.

What does Judaism have to say about giving thanks?
I can only speak for myself as a Jewish woman and not all of Judaism. In my opinion, Judaism is based on tzedakah and giving thanks for all we have been fortunate enough to receive. It is a religion that keeps on giving and asks only thanks in return.

We have learned many valuable takeaways from you and the CV-19 experience and we have received mostly positive feedback from you as part of our learning and listening, we have undergone a rebranding exercise which we hope you will find the new experience of our website, logos, online calendar, digital marketing and communications much easier to navigate.

We moved forward in response to what we heard from you, to reflect who we are and what we do more clearly and the pulse of this marvelous community. We will never forget that, ultimately, you brand us, and we will endeavor to meet your expectations in all that we do in order to engage, connect, support and celebrate you in El Paso - Las Cruces, Israel and the Jewish world.
Las Cruces Chanukah Concert and Menorah Lighting

On Sunday, November 28th at the Downtown Plaza De Las Cruces @ 4:30pm

Consecration 2021

On September 27th Temple Mount Sinai celebrated Simchat Torah (rejoicing over the Torah). During this special occasion we marked the beginning of our youngest students’ (Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st Graders) religious education. Included were those of our older students who were new this year to the Floyd S. Fierman Religious School at Temple Mount Sinai. Our students are a part of the Temple Mount Sinai’s Consecration program. It is a critical program that allows us to engage our students in a robust religious education. It allows our students to understand the values that our family and our community special anywhere in the world. They learn that there is a future for them to come and learn the Jewish values in our students such as tzedakah, social justice, performing mitzvot, and righteousness. They learn to appreciate the essence of our Jewish homeland, Israel, and to recognize what makes Jewish community special anywhere in the world. They learn that there is more to learn about Judaism. With Jewish learning as a lifelong endeavor, and Jewish community as a place they can call “home,” they will continue to engage in Jewish life. Celebrating Consecration this year at Temple is so special to our community. Mazel tov to our Consecration students and their families.


May Consecration be just the latest step along the path of Jewish learning for these students. May they feel the joy and wonder and excitement of Judaism that we all share. May we all come together to support our families’ efforts to create a strong foundation of Jewish living.

Jene Bravman, Director
Floyd S. Fierman Religious School at Temple Mount Sinai

Visit www.JewishElPaso.org/summercamp for more information

We are proud to partner with parents, families and community partners that understand the value of the Jewish summer camp experience in the life of a Jewish child.

We offer non-need based Campership & One Happy Camper awards, grant & scholarship funds to our partners to make Jewish overnight and local Jewish day camp experiences more available and/or accessible to the future leaders of Greater El Paso and the Jewish world...

915-842-9554

El Paso Chanukah Concert and Menorah Lighting

Joyful Judaics Teacher Needed

2 mornings per week (4 hours each day) to teach Jewish: holidays, values, prayers, songs and more and to lead our weekly Shabbat celebration for our preschool program!

Please call Kali at 915-534-1234 for more information
Our Community is Thankful for...

Dan and Vanessa Sonnen:
Our family is grateful for health, love, freedom, family and friends. We have so much to be grateful for but this year we especially are thankful for our families beautiful new home in El Paso’s upper valley, Dan passing the Rigorous CPA exam, and our 2 precious boys, David (3.5 years) and Alex (1 year), who bring us more joy everyday than we could ever imagine. We are SO grateful, and our hearts are full.

Marikea Brown and Jeanne Abkes
This pandemic has made us grateful each and every day for our family and friends. Also, seeing how people in the Las Cruces and Temple Beth El communities have come together to support people through difficult times has been truly inspiring.

Dr. Michael and Stacey Hyman:
We are thankful to be healthy and relatively sane despite Covid isolation. We are grateful for family and friends near and far and wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Sydney Goldberg and Guillermo Becerra:
We are grateful for the blessing of health in these times of uncertainty. We value the health of our families, friends, and community as we are more aware that we cannot take health for granted. We are grateful for this community which has always been so welcoming and supportive in every aspect of our lives. We are grateful for every single moment we spend together, safe, with a job, and more than anything else, with God.
(Sydney pictured far left, Guillermo camera shy)

Beth Tierney
I am thankful for my job. One as an EA at Sonoma Elementary and one as a religious school teacher at Temple Beth El. I am also thankful to going to my parents for Thanksgiving for the first time in many years.
(BETH is pictured far right)

Amalia Zeitlin:
I’m thankful for music, humor, Jewish culture, and wonderful family and friends that I can share these things with. I’m also thankful to live in a part of the world where we can see the stars and take sunny hikes even in the late fall and winter seasons.
(Amalia pictured second left)

Ben:
I am thankful for my family, my dogs, and my friends. I’m also thankful for all the stuff I have and that I am happy and healthy.

Eytan:
I am thankful for my family, friends, and pets, that add so much to my every day. I am also thankful to have food, clothes, and shelter.
(Eytan is pictured second left)

Jacob:
I am grateful for my three dogs Beckett, Scooby and Quinn. I also miss my dog Harley very much.
I am very grateful to have a mommy and daddy because they give me lots of love and they give me good food to eat and buy me toys.
I am grateful to have best friends like Oliver and Rylee. Our favorite game to play is Gaga Ball and Chuckies (that’s when my big brother chases us and scares us).
(Jacob is pictured far left)
Hadassah and Hospice - Thanksgiving Mitzvah Project

There is Always Something to be Thankful for

Rebecca Mendez, The Jewish Voice Editor

As we approach Thanksgiving, it’s a time to stop and think about what we are thankful for. However, for the past couple of months, I have thought about Exodus 14, 15 and 16, where the Children of Israel began to grumble and complain against Moses about their situation in the desert: “…you have taken us to die in the desert?”, “…what shall we drink?”, “…for you have brought us out into this desert, to starve this entire congregation to death.”

It’s easy for us to read Exodus and try to comprehend how the Children of Israel could so easily forget the parting of the Red Sea, the water of Mara becoming sweet, God’s provision of the cloud by day and pillar by night, and the mana from heaven. So when I was thinking about this month’s theme, I remembered these events from Exodus. That no matter what, there is always to be thankful for.

In our day-to-day lives it would be easy for us to forget about the blessings that made our day better and be overshadowed by what made our day horrible. Blessings such as the clothes we wear, food, shelter, transportation, a career, financial security, loved ones, etc.

By the time this issue prints, the Borderland’s Café Europa Shabbat Dinner, led by Rabbi Scott Rosenberg, will have taken place. While preparing for the event I stopped by Congregation B’nai Zion, and read Psalm 116:12 “What can I render unto the Lord for His gifts to me?”

I think Lee Chayes said it best in her Up Close Interview on page 2, “…giving thanks for all we have been fortunate enough to receive,” and “…giving is the meaning of life and being a small part of making a difference.”

While Thanksgiving is a day when we stop and give thanks, it’s good to think about something to be thankful for every day. As the clay begins to dry, reflect on the blessings that were present and hope, if possible, we were able to be a blessing in someone else’s life.

Rebecca Mendez, The Jewish Voice Editor
FACES & Places

Around Our Community

Borderland’s Café Europa Shabbat Dinner with Rabbi Scott Rosenberg – Congregation B’nai Zion.

Cherry Hill School Sukkot Fall Harvest

Borderland’s Café Europa: Sukkot Celebration at Chabad Lubavitch of El Paso
CELEBRATE CHANUKAH

WED. DEC. 1 @ 6 PM
SAN JACINTO PLAZA
WWW.JEWISHELPASO.ORG