Veterans Day
Honoring all who served
Up Close: Davna Rosenfield

Davna Rosenfield is twelve years old, and in 7th grade at Don Haskins Pk-8 school. She just celebrated her Bat Mitzvah drawing on many years of Jewish education here in El Paso. She has two brothers, two dogs, loves making art, and singing. Additionally, and as an avid reader, she competes academically in UIL (University Interscholastic League) and was recently inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. She also enjoys volleyball and swimming in her free time. She currently volunteers with the young children at the Chabad Hebrew school. Her parents are Lauren Eisenberg and Adam Rosenfield.

What value do we need most in our world today?
The value we need most in our world today is kindness. You never know how a small kind gesture can change somebody’s life.

Who Is your favorite Jewish hero?
My favorite Jewish hero is Anne Frank. Her story is so unbelievable, and it makes me cringe knowing that happened only ~75 years ago. I simply could not imagine living in that world, and I admire her courage and bravery. The book should be a beacon for change in the world.

What is the best thing about being part of our Jewish community? The best thing about being part of this Jewish community is getting to come together and support one another. I love coming to services on Shabbat or high holidays and seeing everyone together and getting to socialize with people I don’t see every day. The sense of community is the best part.

What makes you so proud of your Judaism? The thing that makes me so proud of my Judaism is being able to look back on what happened to us, and how much we had to fight to gain religious freedom. I am so very proud to be Jewish because of the sacrifices my ancestors and others made allowing me to be able to practice freely. I am also proud that our religion is centered around tzedakah and helping those in need.

What do you enjoy most about going to Jewish overnight summer camp and why would you recommend it to others? Jewish summer camp is the highlight of my year. I attend Greene Family Camp in Bruceville, Texas. I always elect to the longest session (~3 weeks), because I love it so much and get to see friends that I’ve not seen all year. The camp experience itself is just magical. The activities are so fun and entertaining, and the friendships last a lifetime. On Shabbat, we come together for an awesome meal, but the singing and dancing is by far my favorite part.

The services are also interactive through story and song. I would strongly recommend Jewish overnight camp to anybody who wants a really fun, exciting, and memorable experience. There are so many other Jewish people from across the state (and the country) and it’s just so great to get to know them. I’m happy to speak to anybody who is thinking about going! You won’t regret it!
On Thanksgiving we are grateful for the harvest, loved ones, communal values, life, and even for this far from perfect country. But like in a Jewish house of mourning when Shabbat begins, occasionally our mourning pauses. There is some goodness here. Let us give thanks.

Below is an invocation delivered in January 1852 before the New York State Legislature by Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, a founder of Reform Judaism who served in Albany. It was published in The Asmonean (January 30, 1852):

[God], thou governest the universe with wisdom and power; thou directest the destinies of nations with grace and justice; and the sacred laws according to which thou rulest are eternal and immutable, are imprinted on nature’s forehead, are written in letters of fire on [a person]’s innermost scroll, are an eternal evidence of thy unbounded benignity, of thy unlimited grace and imperceptible wisdom. Feeble and imperfect as our intellect is, still thou has bestowed upon us as much of the celestial light as to know that liberty and justice are the fundamental principles of thy universal and sovereign government, and that it is [a person]’s superior duty to imitate thy works and attributes. Gracious God of [humankind], mayest thou be pleased when the [people] of our choice faithfully discharge their sacred duties towards their country and their fellow [human being]; bless them with thy divine assistance, and enlighten them with thy profound wisdom; let their hearts be pure and their understanding capacious, in order that they be not misled by partiality and selfish interests; that they may never forget the confidence rested in them by their fellow citizens, and the sacred obligations they have to answer to before thee.

Let truth be the basis, glory and prosperity of our country, the superstructure of their legislation; so, thy will, O God of love and truth, be done now and evermore. Amen. (Available courtesy of the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, Ohio. Edited for gender)
Denied entry into Poland, they were stranded at the border. Among them were the parents of Herschel Grynszpan. Upon learning of their plight, Herschel, out of desperation, shot German diplomat, Ernst vom Rath, at the German embassy in Paris.

The Nazi leadership capitalized on this single action by unleashing mob violence. Plans were already in place for a mass action against Jewish communities under Nazi control, the death of vom Rath a pretext for what was already in motion. On November 9, word was given for orchestrated riots by SA and Hitler Youth, but for them to appear to be “spontaneous” expressions of outrage. Nazis stormed into Jewish homes, dragging families into the streets, destroying countless homes and properties. Synagogues were burned, and Jewish cemeteries were desecrated. Over 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and sent to concentration camps, and over 100 Jewish people were killed. This night of terror was called Kristallnacht, Night of Broken Glass, because of the shattered glass that covered the streets from vandalized Jewish-owned property.

Kristallnacht signaled a turning point. Up until now, the anti-Jewish laws, discriminations, and humiliations had made life miserable for Jewish communities under Nazi control. But now mass systematic violence was sanctioned by the Nazi government, and no Jewish life was safe. Kristallnacht also marked a turning point for the nations that condemned the actions of Nazi Germany in word only. No action was taken to curb this persecution. Immigration quotas remained unchanged. Sanctions against Germany were not carried out. Kristallnacht signaled to Hitler and his regime that there would be no consequences for their rabid antisemitism or escalation of violence against the Jewish people, from discrimination to pogrom to genocide.

Eighty-four years later, we memorialize those lives destroyed on Kristallnacht, the attack on Jewish life and community, the years of mass murder that followed. And as we look back on this devastating time in history, we also challenge ourselves to respond to current injustices and to recognize our own role in this history: to bear witness, learn from the events of the past, and honor the lives of the victims and survivors by standing up for others.
Learning to Change the World

by Leila Untereker

Part of becoming a Jewish adult is giving tzedakah to my community. When I learned about the Jaffee Family NextGen Teen Philanthropy Fund at The Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso, I was excited because it is an opportunity to save up and donate my own money to charitable causes that I care about without having to rely on my parents. I am grateful to Temple Mount Sinai and the Jaffee Family for matching my initial contribution.

To learn more about the Jaffee Family NextGen Teen Philanthropy Fund at The Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso contact Robert French, Executive Director, or Stuart Shiloff, President, at 915-842-9554. https://jcfep.org/teen-philanthropy/.

Securing Silver in Beach Volleyball

By Louis Robbins
Meet Silver Medal Beach Volleyball Winners from the Maccabi Games that were held in Israel in July, Matthew Edwards, and his partner Josh.
Matt is the grandson of Dr. Louis and Marie Robbins of El Paso. His parents are Rachel Robbins Edwards, daughter of Louis and Marie and John Edwards from Los Angeles, California. Matt is 18 years old and a Freshman at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, California. He has an older brother Jake, a Junior at SMU.
Matt and Josh played on the United States Beach Volleyball Team at the Maccabi Games 2022 in Israel. Team Israel won the Gold Medal.

Matt said his biggest thrill/accomplishment was to practice with the Israeli National Team.

Good luck Matt in your future beach volleyball games and keep us posted on how you do.

Congratulations to proud grandparents Louis and Marie.
Editorial Note

The Jewish Voice solicits submissions from our community of original opinions, and historical, cultural and religious articles. Each submission will be reviewed for content that may be considered inconsistent with the tenants of our mission. The Jewish Voice reserves the right to forbear from publishing content it deems potentially offensive. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not reflect the opinions or views of Jewish El Paso.

CRISIS IN UKRAINE

With the Russian invasion intensifying and multiple locations under fire, support for the Jewish community is needed urgently. Jewish Federations have allocated some $40 million of the over $64 million we have raised to 35 NGOs operating on the ground in Ukraine and neighboring countries to support refugees and Jewish communities in their time of need. We are continuing to allocate funds based on the changing needs in the field.

Immediate and short-term needs that are being addressed include:

• Helping people make Aliyah to Israel
• Securing the local community and its institutions
• Maintaining critical welfare services
• Assisting internally displaced people in multiple locations.
• Providing medical equipment to the Ukraine Health system
• Securing temporary housing for people in transit
• Providing food, medicine, and cash for those sheltering in Ukraine
• Maintaining hotlines for Jews in the regions and their families in Israel

To donate and learn more visit:
https://www.jewishfederations.org/crisis-in-ukraine2022#give

Friendsgiving Dinner

@ Anson 11

Ready for a Dinner to remember? Everything from drinks to delicious entrees will be making an appearance. Register Today.

Wednesday, November 16 | 6:30 – 9pm @ Anson 11

$16 per person | $36 a couple

Proceeds go to Ukraine & El Pasoans Fighting Hunger

Contact Rebecca Mendez, Program & Engagement Coordinator, for details at 915-842-9554 or at rmendez@jewishelpaso.org

Noel Hollowell Smith, Interim Chair

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Leadership of The Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso launched Generations Day and the celebration of 20 years with all of its community partners
Faces & Places

Borderland's Cafe Europa - Sukkot Celebration

Lions of Judah - Coffee & Conversation

PJ Library In the Land of Apples & Honey

The Cherry Hill School - Amigos Garden Field Trip

The Cherry Hill School - Firefighter Career Day
Chanukah at The Plaza

Celebrating Light, Love, Unity

Music | Donuts | Entertainment

@ San Jacinto Plaza | 6 - 7pm