

The Jewish VOICE

Informing and Connecting Jews in El Paso-Las Cruces

Shevat - Adar 5780
February 2020



Making El Paso Stronger: Israel Trauma Coalition Visit



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OF GREATER EL PASO

Helping us heal: Israel comes to El Paso

In a year of nonstop mass killings, El Paso suffered 2019's deadliest mass shooting on August 3. Almost instantly, first responders were at the Cielo Vista Wal-Mart helping people escape the store and setting up triage for the dying and injured. Minutes later, members of Emergence Health Network's crisis intervention team were on the site, too.

Mental health resources

"In mass shootings, mental health can be an afterthought," says Emergence Health Network CEO Kristi Daugherty. "But here with our local leadership and coordination, addressing people's reactions to the tragedy was and continues to be a priority."

To help our community continue to heal, two representatives of the renowned



Taly Levanon, Israel Trauma Coalition

Israel Trauma Coalition (ITC) will work with Emergence Health Network counselors and others for a week this month during a landmark mission completely funded by the Jewish Federations of North America. (JFNA).

Here in our Federation we are very proud of our Israeli "family" for sharing their expertise with us. We're also grateful for how responsive and supportive the JFNA has been. This is an example of how our community's Federation donations are used.

"Such an event can shatter basic assumptions of relative safety and make us question our personal and professional ability to cope and move on as a community," says Taly Levanon, ITC director. "What we usually find, months after such an event, after the acute phase is over, is that there is a struggle between resuming normalcy while carrying and coping with the impact the event had and has on individuals, teams and the community at large."

Experts in trauma recovery

"We are grateful to be able to work with these professionals from Israel who respond constantly to crises all over the world," adds Daugherty. "Their expertise is so critical in helping us in recovery, the re-trauma that continues after a crisis. There's a new normal now – and sadly everyone needs to be able to handle whatever could be the next trauma."

Since 2002, the Coalition has sent experienced mental health counselors and trainers to crisis sites of all kinds, including Massachusetts after the Boston

"The El Paso participants will take what they learned in the workshops and share it outward to our community, getting the message out as far and wide

Like many of you, we dream of a world filled with cooperation, stability and serenity. Until that dream becomes a reality, however, we are committed to helping individuals and communities cope successfully with traumatic experiences, both natural and man-made.

Israel Trauma Coalition

Marathon bombings, Japan after 15,000 people died in an earthquake and tsunami killed 15,000, and France after a deadly attack on a Jewish school.

Different kinds of support

Instead of working with individuals, the ITC staff holds workshops for local healthcare workers, counselors, teachers, and clergy. The experts believe that these professionals know their own people and community culture, and can best counsel and support individuals.

The ITC visitors from Israel are Venessa Bieleorai, MSA clinical psychologist and expert in child and adolescent trauma, and Tal Pasternak Magnezi, MSW expert in trauma and immediate intervention. During their week at Emergence, they will work with 25 behavioral and mental health professionals for two days, 25 members of the faith-based community for one day, and 25 first responders for one day.



Kristi Daugherty, Emergence Health Network

help is available, no matter who you are.

"For instance, our first responders saw so much death up close at the Wal-Mart – scenes that cannot be unseen," she adds. "They can be hesitant to talk with professionals; they are programmed to be tough. Yet it's okay to seek help, it's okay to feel."

*Cindy Graff Cohen
Editor, The Jewish Voice*



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25,000 meals. 1 hour. Will you help?

Come find out how it's done at El Paso's first-ever Rise Against Hunger event! Join us at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, February 16, at Don Haskins Recreation Center to be part of a global effort to feed people in crisis around the world. You'll also be helping our own community through our Jewish Federation's event partnership with El Pasoans Fighting Hunger food bank.

The nutritious ingredients come in by truck from Rise Against Hunger's headquarters and representatives from the organization will train us in easy assembly line tasks. As we measure and package food ingredients, we can see the size and weight of what it takes to provide much-needed vitamins and nutrients in one meal.

While working, volunteers will also learn about hunger deficiencies in the world, other ways to help, and, of course, enjoy a chance to socialize with friends as we make progress toward our goal and watch our community

work together to provide for others.

glass bottles accepted). Sugar-free, low sodium and no-salt items are needed for people with dietary and health concerns. Volunteers can register at the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso website (jewishelpaso.org), through the weekly Federation emails, or call 842-9554. The event's minimum donation of \$5.00 per person pays for 15 meals. An \$18.00 donation covers 53 meals, with other incremental donations available.

Who can take part?

Individuals and families will find this multi-generational service project a unique way to spend part of an afternoon. Children pre-school and older are welcome – they can participate in "shorter" assembly line tasks. With a variety of jobs, we are also able to accommodate people with special needs.

We encourage you to arrive 10-15 minutes early to help create the production line; we'll get started promptly at 2:00. Wear comfortable shoes as some people will stand at the measuring stations.

We look forward to having lots of members of the Jewish community there – and we invite you to reach out to friends, co-workers, and neighbors to attend as well. Preparing 25,000 meals takes a lot of volunteers!

We are hoping to spark interest in helping fight local hunger on an ongoing basis after this program.

Naomi Estrada
El Paso Rise Against Hunger Committee



How does Rise Against Hunger work?

In 2018, 430,000 volunteers with Rise Against Hunger packaged 76.9 million meals that went to 794,700 beneficiaries in 31 countries. Our El Paso/Las Cruces event will prepare shelf-stable meals for students and families in need in Central America.

What can you bring?

In addition to preparing these 25,000 meals, to support El Pasoans Fighting Hunger food bank, participants are invited to bring canned meat, pasta sauce, fruit, vegetables, and beans, and boxed and bagged items like pasta, cereals, oatmeal, and rice and fruit juices (100% juice) in cans or plastic bottles (no

Rise Against Hunger Sunday, February 16 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Franklin Magnet Center Cafeteria (Formerly 9th Grade Center)
825 E. Redd Road
Co-Chairs: Lee Chayes and Noel Hollowell-Small
Register at jewishelpaso.org
Supported by the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso

Todah Rabah to Our Volunteers

Pacesetters Kick-off Event
Arlene and Jon Sonnen, Chairs

EIPasoConnect Hanukkah Party
Adam and Amanda Levine, Hosts

Community Hanukkah Celebration
Cesar Carrasco, Debra Kanof, Monika Kimball, Wendy and Libi Lanski, Ophra Leyser-Whalen, Peter Svarzbein
Brian Kanof, Photographer
Carlos Gamez

JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL 2020

THE UNORTHODOX (Hebrew, English Subtitles)
SUNDAY FEB. 9, 2020 2:00 PM
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA

NEW FACE OF ISRAELI CUISINE: AN INTERACTIVE FILM DISCUSSION
SUNDAY FEB. 23, 2020 - 12:30 PM
LIGHT LUNCH FOLLOWED BY PRESENTATION

PRIVATE HOME
THURSDAY FEB. 20, 2020 6:00 PM

MICHAEL SOLOMONOV DINNER
ZAHAV - A WORLD OF ISRAELI COOKING
SOLD OUT

Visit jewishelpaso.org/jff or call 915-842-5594 for more information on sponsorships or tickets

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.

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Mazel Tov!

Congratulations to Federation board member and UTEP sociology professor Ophra Leyser-Whalen, Ph.D., for winning the 2020 Sociologists for Women in Society Feminist Activism Award.

Ophra will be recognized for her outstanding work in the community and her writing in clinical and social science journals on issues of reproductive health and justice at the SWS annual meeting in San Diego in February.



Borderland's Café Europa
(Seniors 65+)

Fruits of Love

Celebrate Tu Bishvat with us!

Wednesday, February 12, 2020
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Avila's Mexican Food
6232 N. Mesa St.
El Paso, TX 79912

RSVP required to Shelly by Monday, February 10
(WALK-INS NOT PERMITTED)

915-842-9554

Need a ride? Call to request a Shalom Shuttle.



Borderland's Café Europa and Shalom Shuttle are funded
by the Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso.



Jewish Heritage Dinner: MOROCCO

Congregation B'nai Zion
Friday, February 21
Following 6:15 p.m. services

The Greater El Paso Jewish Community
Is Invited to CBZ's
Second International Shabbat Dinner
Celebrating Jewish Culture and Cuisine
around the World

\$10 adults / \$5 children
RSVP by Wednesday, Feb 12 - Seating
is limited
915-833-2222 or
info@congregationbnaizion.org

*"Kissed by the waters of the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Ocean,
with rich farmland, dense forests, towering mountains and portions
of the arid Sahara Desert, the Kingdom of Morocco is a melting pot
of culture and cuisine."*

- Lauren Davis, Chair, Jewish Heritage Dinners Committee

This program is funded by a generous grant from the
Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso

Temple Beth-El transition receives much-needed boost



Monika Kimball

When Temple Beth-El (TBE) affiliated with the Jewish Federation of El Paso in 2015, little did we know that in just four years, we would be expressing our deepest gratitude to the Federation for helping in our time of need. This year, the Federation awarded TBE \$20,000 to help our congregation transition to the future.

Prior to 2015, Temple Beth-El, in Las Cruces, was affiliated with the Jewish Federation of New Mexico, located in Albuquerque. The three-hour drive made our temple's participation with the New Mexico federation challenging if not impossible.

I was serving as temple president at the time, and along with our rabbi, Larry Karol, requested to change our affiliation to the El Paso Federation. Both federations agreed. TBE became a member of the Jewish Federation of El Paso, and the federation became the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso (JFGEP).

In 2016, Dr. Bill Stein was appointed to serve as Temple Beth-El's first representative to the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso's board, and he has served faithfully as parliamentarian, and on the executive, finance, and grants

committees. I joined the JFGEP Board in 2018.

Over the past five years, Federation



grants have enabled TBE to host programs featuring Jewish entertainers who have performed for the congregation and also engaged the greater Las Cruces community.

to serve on the Transition Teams. Dues are increasing. Active outreach will be made to members who left and to unaffiliated Jews in the community.

On behalf of the entire Temple Beth-El community, I want to express our utmost gratitude to the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso, with special thanks to our Federation's Board president, Janet Wechter; executive director, Robert French; and Grant Committee chair, Dr. Ophra Leyser-Whalen. Your kindness and generosity will enable TBE to grow and thrive.

Monika R. Kimball
Board Member

Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso
Team Leader, Religious Practices Transition Team, Temple Beth-El

Several years of declining membership and subsequent loss of revenue compelled the TBE board to make significant changes

It is a crucial time in the temple's history. Several years of declining membership and subsequent loss of revenue compelled the TBE board to make significant changes last spring. Rabbi Karol's workload was reduced to half time beginning January 1, 2020, and he will retire on June 30, 2020.

The Federation's support will allow TBE to reformulate its present and reimagine its future. Temple operations are now being managed by nine lay-led transition teams and this will continue throughout the next fiscal year. Spiritual leadership will be provided by a student rabbi, visiting clergy, and the Religious Practices Transition Team which will recruit and train lay leaders to perform services.

The search for a permanent rabbi will begin July 1, 2020. During this search year, the congregation will explore, through a series of focus groups, what it wants to be and what is needed for future success. Congregants have come forward

Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces History Highlights

- 1953: Start of Religious School
- 1953-1962: Services held at various locations, including NMSU's Branigan Library
- 1962: Dedication of first temple, located on Parker Road
- 1977: First rabbi hired, Rabbi Joseph Klein
- 1982: TBE joins the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ)
- 2007: Dedication of current temple, located on Sonoma Springs Avenue
- 2015: TBE joins the Jewish Federation of El Paso

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Sparking curiosity and fostering expectations J-Center staff visits The Boulder Journey School

To continually improve their students' learning experiences at The J Center for Early Learning, JCEL educators never stop learning themselves.

Meg Birk, JCEL director; Ceci Valencia, pedagoga and kindergarten teacher; and Desiree Ainsa, pre-K teacher, recently met with teachers and toured the world-renowned Boulder Journey School in Boulder, Colorado.

The three were moved and inspired by the Boulder Journey program. Before

rest of the team during two days of professional development.

Among their take-aways from the

Learning is also for educators

trip, they looked at the materials teachers provided the children to spark their curiosity and foster their explorations. For instance, the Boulder Journey School atelier (studio) is arranged by color. It contains found objects and "loose parts" that inspire the children to think of the world and materials in a creative and open-ended way. Based on what they saw, the team is in the process of transforming our own atelier.

Their "construction center," complete with real tools and protective eye and headgear, inspired JCEL educators

to create something similar in one of the classrooms. Through these building ac-

tivities, the children will learn about safety, mathematics, collaboration and how to construct what they're visualizing.

This remarkable professional development experience was made possible with funding from a grant from The Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso.



this semester began, Meg, Ceci, and Desiree shared what they learned with the

**Calling all students age
13-15 for Camp Shamayim's CIT program**
Interested in being part of The J Center's Camp Shamayim counselor-in-training program?
Email Paloma at office.manager@thejelpaso.org for information.
Camp will run from June 1 through July 24 in weekly sessions.
Come be part of the fun!

Cherry Hill School: Open this fall



Preparations for the fall opening of The Cherry Hill School are right on track. The school has two successful introductory sessions for prospective families and a Wild Science Day for the children. The school will continue with the Reggio-inspired curriculum that has been so successful at The J Center for Early Learning and will also take cues from one of the best school systems in the world, the Finland Educational Model.

In addition to all of the usual academic subjects, classes in Judaics, Hebrew, World Cultures and Spanish will

be offered as well. In order to foster a real sense of community the school will maintain high teacher-student ratios. Enrollment for 1st and 2nd grades is now open. Please contact the school for information at 915-900-1800 and by visiting thecherryhillschool.org.

The Cherry Hill School
805 Cherry Hill
info@thecherryhillschool.org
915-900-1800
thecherryhillschool.org

The Cherry Hill School is committed to providing an outstanding education using best practices from around the world. Through Jewish teachings our students learn about tolerance, community, and respect while building a lifelong love of learning



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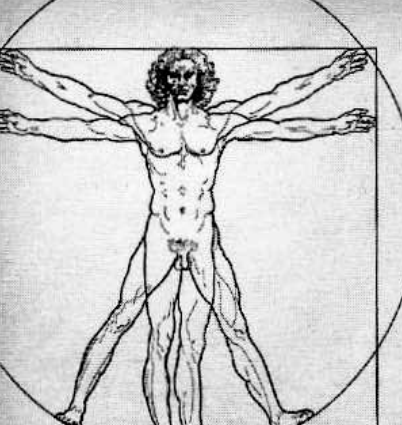


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Kids joined in the fun



Watching the lighting of the big Hanukkah menorah



Dogs and people listened to Hanukkah music



City Council Rep Peter Svarzbein and Mayor Dee Margo



Mayor Dee Margo, Federation Board president Janet Wechter, Federation executive director Robert French

FACES AND PLACES



Scott Stevens discusses Jewish War Veterans at Borderland's Café Europa



Temple Beth-El serves breakfast at Camp Hope on Christmas Day



Temple Beth-El holds Chanukiah lighting and latke dinner



Jewish Film Festival co-chairs Dana Frank and Jennifer Erlich with "Shtisel" co-creator/screenwriter Yehonatan Indursky



Another popular Jewish Film Festival event



Listening to Indursky's behind-the-scenes insights



PJ Library enjoyed Play Date in the Park in January



Kids and parents got creative



Three kids read a book together

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AGAINST HUNGER

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**25,000
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- New Location -

Franklin Magnet Center Cafeteria
 (formerly 9th Grade Center)
 825 E. Redd Rd.
 El Paso, TX 79912

(Cafeteria is located on the left side of the school building closer to the football stadium)



02/16/20 @ 2PM

www.jewishelpaso.org/riseagainsthunger