Cheshvan - Kislev 5781 November 2020

The Jewish VOICE

Jewish Summer Camp Issue

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Up Close: Marshall/Ross Lipson

Marshall and Ross Lipson could be hired tomorrow as sales reps for Jewish summer camps. The twins, who just turned twelve October 18, are big fans of the Jewish camp experience and have been loyal Camp Young Judaea-Texas campers since they were eight.

"We always knew that we would be sending our children to a Jewish summer camp, but we did not know which one," says their mother, Jeanne Lipson. "We chose Camp Young Judaea after we went as a family to a United Synagogue Southwest event." The boys were in kindergarten, but "they were sold on CYJ that weekend."

"We like the fact that CYJ is in Texas and is more accessible than other Jewish camps we considered," she adds. Located in the Texas Hill Country, CYJ starts the camp experience with campers taking buses from Dallas, Fort Worth, and other major cities. Marshall and Ross fly with their gear to Houston where their great aunt, Mima Lipson Jackson, meets them and puts them on the CYJ bus the next day.

Camp-going parents

Jeanne and Dr. Shane Lipson both went to summer camps, but their experiences were quite different. Raised on Manhattan's Upper West Side, Jeanne grew up surrounded by Jewish families and went to a non-religious camp with other Jewish kids. Shane grew up in El Paso, the son of Myer and Beth Lipson and brother to Shelby Lipson Rubin. He attended the El Paso JCC-sponsored Camp Shamayim annually and a Jewish Camp outside Phoenix for one year.

Although they each attended the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and graduated in different years, the couple did not meet until a lucky J-Date matchup in New York City. They got married in 2005.

They were living the life of Upper East Side young professionals on a busy, corporate track. Jeanne was working in marketing at Lehman Brothers. and then later Barclays after the bank acquired the firm. Shane worked in the strategies and operations division of a leading global insurance brokerage.

The twins were born in 2008 and by the time they were ready for preschool, Shane and Jeanne realized that although NYC offered significant job opportunities, the quality of life was not sustainable for the kind of family life they wanted. They moved to Shane's hometown in 2011 and have enjoyed El Paso ever since.

When the boys were seven, they attended a weeklong camp, Congregation Albert's Camp Oranim in Albuquerque. "When Ross got back, he said 'I'm ready for the big camp," Jeanne recalls.

"Shane and I think that going to CYJ has added to our children's independence and sense of responsibility," Jeanne emphasizes. "Even though they share a cabin, they make their own friends and choose different activities, and make the camp experience uniquely their own."

"El Paso has a very small Jewish community," she adds. "Sending our children to CYJ gives us the opportunity to make them part of a larger Jewish community and make Jewish friends.

"Despite the camp's COVID-19 closure this year, we see our boys talking and texting with Jewish friends in Houston, Dallas, and elsewhere which really helps them be a part of a larger Jewish community," Shane says. "We feel great that they've made this part of their Jewish identity."

> Cindy Graff Cohen Editor, The Jewish Voice



What was your favorite program or sport at camp and why?

Marshall: I liked gaga ball, a game where the last one standing wins. It's super-fun and competitive. I also liked my news-reporting elective, where we interviewed people and make a video news report.

Ross: I liked biking because you get to see some parts of the camp you didn't usually get to see. Pottery class was calming – and you got to make something you can take to your parents, if it doesn't break!

Describe something funny that happened at camp while you were there.

Marshall: During the opening ceremony one year, which is kind of serious, they lit hot air balloons that were supposed to float up to the sky. Instead, most of them got stuck in the trees and it was funny to see how the counselors were trying to catch them.

Ross: On Saturday mornings, we had special cinnamon coffee cake, which was kind of a camp tradition. It was funny to see how everyone tried to sneak out of their cabins to be first in line for breakfast.

What did you learn about being Jewish at camp?

Marshall: I sort of knew the rituals, but now I know more about what the sequences are. Every Saturday we had Havdallah and went to the outdoor theater to sing songs and smell the spices. Then we had dancing, which was fun. CYJ has inspired me to listen to Israeli music because we listen to it every Saturday.

Ross: I learned a lot more good things about being Jewish than you usually would because you are with so many other Jewish campers and counselors. I learned that praying doesn't have to be boring if you think about it the right way. CYJ has inspired me to want to become a camp counselor.

If you were talking to some kids your age, what would you say to encourage them to try Jewish summer camp?

Marshall: It was super fun. You get to learn to speak some Hebrew and you learn from the Torah and have prayer time, but you don't get bored.

Ross: It's fun and there are lots of activities. You'll meet a lot of new people and you get to really know them.





Parents: Dr. Shane and Jeanne Lipson
Grandparents: Myer and Beth Lipson; Marvin Levin
Born: New York City, 2008
Attend: Lincoln Middle School
Belong: Congregation B'nai Zion



I saw a comic the other day showing a scene from "Back to the Future." Professor Doc Brown is showing Marty his DeLorean (car) time machine and says, "Whatever you do, never set the dial to 2020."

At first glance, it isn't easy to see the positive when assessing our current situation and contemplating our lives under Covid-19. Even under normal circumstances, the country's divisiveness would be burdensome to many of us, but with the pandemic as a major additional component,

Silver linings: Progress during a pandemic

negativity could become a ubiquitous pandemic by itself.

It is my sincere desire on a personal as well as Federation level, that we do not fall into this rabbit hole. I have given some thought to a few of the benefits we have derived from the necessary changes we have had to make in our lives.

Beginning with Zoom chats with family and friends, it is important to note that this mode of technology is enabling us to connect as we've not done before. Many of us had to learn the "how to" of this technology, but were rewarded by "seeing" those we care about on a regular basis. This interaction is far more intimate than with mere phone calls of the past.

Locally, the programs we were able to offer have kept our community entertained and informed. One such program is "Borderland's Cafe Europa," intended to bring our seniors together. While attending the program and lunch at our Mesa Street office was enjoyable, it eliminated many who were unable to drive to this destination – and especially our Las Cruces seniors, who couldn't attend due to the distance. With Zoom and phone-in capability, they can now also benefit from this get-together and programming offered through the Federation and underwritten by a generous grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso.

Moreover, all of our Federation board and community business meetings are possible despite Covid-19 restrictions, and you don't even have to wear a mask.

Globally, as a result of the pandemic, the world has grown even smaller. Through communication and data publications, we have learned about each other's failures and successes. It has shown us that the United States is not an island and that consequently we humans are all connected. I consider it a positive development.

In terms of the environment, it has been reported that our air quality is improved as a result of less carbon dioxide production produced by emissions worldwide, and that accounts for an additional positive side effect of the virus restrictions.

In all probability, there are more of these concomitant, unintended beneficial outcomes you can envision. I encourage you to think positively and be grateful to our G-d for all the goodness we experience. Modah Ani.

Sending you healthy, positive energy,

Monika Kimball President Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso

We Sang, We Ate and We Shared Stories

Oh, how exciting! The doorbell rang and on the doorstep there was a Shabbat dinner for Arvin and me from the Jewish Federation's Café Europa program. We sang, ate, and shared Shabbat stories with Rabbi Schmukler guiding us prior to leaving us before candle lighting.

It is wonderful that they thought of us during our self-quarantine and it made us feel special. They also provide virtual programs during lunchtime or dinner. These meals and programs are available to seniors over age 65 in our El Paso and Las Cruces Jewish community at no charge. Just call the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso (915-842-9554) to sign up.

Thank you, Robert French and your staff, for all you are doing for seniors during these difficult times. *Beverly Robinson*

Borderland's Café Europa is made possible thanks to a generous grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso Bondenlands' Café Europa

Friday, November 6, 5:00 p.m. Shabbat Dinner with Student Rabbi Sofia Zway

Wednesday, November 25, 11:30 a.m.

Songs of Thanksgiving with Carlos Gamez

RSVP at 915-842-9554 by Monday before event to have dinner or lunch delivered to you





Funded by a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso

The Jewish

DICF 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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Todah Rabah to Our Volunteers

Café Europa Speakers

Aaron and Allan Goldfarb, Bob Kimball, Rabbi Stephen Leon, and Katja Mayfield

High Holiday Challah/Apple & Honey Deliveries

Brian and Noel Small, Bob and Monika Kimball, and Claribel Viana

Shofar Across Borders

Chair: Peter Svarzbein Tatiana Avila, Brian Kanof, and Alison Westermann

Men's Night "In" Co-Chairs: Tony Furman and Barry Kobren Coach Bruce Pearl

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You decide...

We first learned about the Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso from our good friend, Bob Shiloff. It didn't take long for us to realize that this was something we wanted to be a part of.

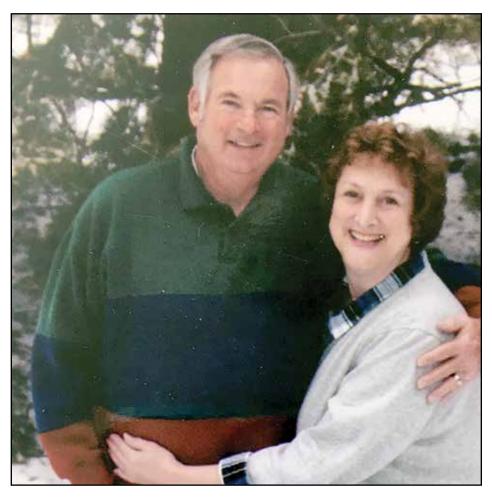
We established the William and Anne Spier Fund in January of 2004 with an initial investment of just \$1,000. We chose to establish a Donor Advised Fund which allows us to advise the Foundation on the distribution of monies generated by the fund once the principal reached \$10,000.

As we were able, we added to the fund and income from investments made by the Foundation were added annually. In December of 2005 our fund had reached the \$10,000 mark allowing us to direct the Foundation annually as to where our portion of the investment earnings should be allocated. We look forward each year to receiving notice of our Fund's earnings and having input into the distribution of its funds.

Many of the contributions we make each year from our fund are in the form of dues which help our chosen organizations make it through another year. As important as this is, its impact can be limited but the establishment of a longterm fund with the Foundation is a meaningful way to invest in our Jewish community that we love – a way to help it not only survive but thrive long after we are gone.

We encourage you to learn more about the Donor Advised Funds – and other ways to fulfill your philanthropic wishes – in this really "feel good" endeavor, while setting a charitable example for our children and generations to come. Contact Robert French, Executive Director, at 915-842-9554.

> Shalom, Billy and Anne Spier



Federations: Working together for Jews around the world

By the time you read this, the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) will have concluded its 2020 General Assembly; you'll hear more about the event – the organization's first-ever virtual annual meeting. With generous sponsorships, the event was free and open to all, which contributed to the record-breaking number of registrations.

Some sessions focused on the Federation's impact on Jews and Jewish communities around the world. As one of the 146 Federations in North America, we are connected to Jewish communities in Israel and around the world through three historic partnerships. Future issues of The Jewish Voice will share more about each of JFNA's partners.



The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI)

Established in 1929, this group was instrumental in founding and building the State of Israel. Today the Jewish Agency cultivates

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Contact Robert Piñon at 915-842-9554 or rpinon@jfedelpaso.org

The Jewish

meaningful engagement with Israel and facilitates Aliyah for Jewish people from around the world. As the Jewish world's first responder, The Jewish Agency addresses emergencies in Israel and rescues Jews from countries where they are at risk.



The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)

Since 1914, The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) is the world's leading Jewish humanitarian assistance organization. Today, JDC works in more than 70 countries and in Israel to alleviate hunger and hardship, rescue Jews in danger, create lasting

meaningful engagement with Israel term development support for and facilitates Aliyah for Jewish victims of natural and man-made people from around the world. As disasters.



World ORT

Founded in Saint Petersburg in 1880 to provide training for young Jews; the name comes from the Russian words "Obchestvo Remeslenego Truda," which translates to "Association for the Promotion of Skilled Trades." World ORT's international network of schools, colleges, training centers and programs is the world's largest Jewish education and vocational training organization.



connections to Jewish life, and provide immediate relief and long-



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Local Lions of Judah: Making a Difference

is a symbol for today's Jew- Judah, locally, nationally and ish woman, a symbol of her internationally, all of whom strength and her caring about embody the true meaning of the organized Jewish world. tzedakah. These women have

The proud wearer of this pin that knows she is doing all she can currently for her people and her community.

Each woman making an individual commitof ment

\$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

The Lion of Judah pin connected to all other Lions of the deter-

mination, capability, and powto take er dream the Tikkun of Olam and turn it into a reality.

For more information and to make your commitment to become

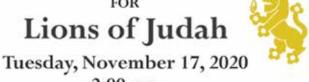
a Lion of Judah and learn about the Lion of Judah Step Up Program, please contact Robin Furman, rrfurman@ outlook.com; Wendy Lanski, wendylanski@gmail.com; or Sue Bendalin, sbendalin@jfedelpaso.org or 915-842-9554.





By Royal Appointment to H.M. Queen Elizabeth II FOR Lions of Judah

2:00 pm



You have been invited to a virtual Afternoon Tea with Royal Courtier to H.M. Queen Elizabeth II, Stewart Pariun who in 2016 was awarded the MVO to recognise his years of personal service to the Queen.

Hosted by Gary and his son Coby from Joel & Son Fabrics, who are suppliers of fabrics by Royal Appointment to H.M. Queen Elizabeth II.

This event is exclusive for Lions of Judah.



Camp Regular Tuition*	\$4,850
CYJ El Paso Grant	- \$1,000
Local El Paso Donor	- \$1,000
Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso (JFED)	
Campership Award	- \$1,000
One Happy Camper Grant**	
subsidized through JFED	- \$1,000
TOTAL for Returning Campers	\$1,850
TOTAL for New Campers	\$850

BETTER TOGETHER:

We can help make your summer camp dreams come true...

We are excited to announce that a Campership Award Fund has been established through the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso to provide funding for all eligible El Paso and Las Cruces Jewish school-age children to attend Jewish overnight summer camp.

The purpose of the Fund is to enable Jewish students to experience the known benefits of Jewish overnight summer camps in the lives of the campers. The funds will be provided as subsidies and are not need based and will be awarded equally to all applicants up to \$1,000 per camper.

Survey after survey has proved information. the importance of the overnight Jewish summer camp experience in the life of a Jewish child.

The Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso has additional nonneed funding available through its One Happy Camper program for first-time campers attending Jewish overnight camp and can direct you to other resources to help make summer camp more accessible. We also hope to organize a Camp Fair where various camps get to showcase their offerings sometime in the near future.

Your child or children deserve the summer of their lives. We can help make this happen. Visit www. jewishelpaso.org/summer-camp or call 915-842-9554 for more

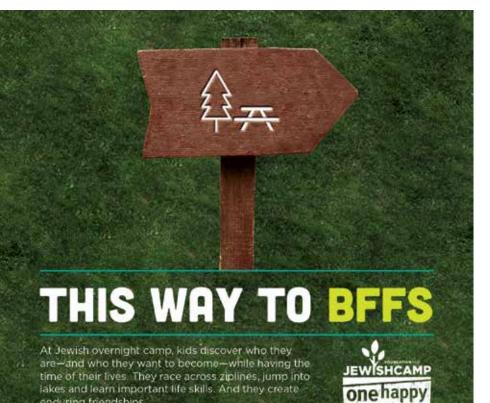
Marc Ellman, M.D. Chair, Campership Award Task Force Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso





"The impact of Jewish camp is immediate—campers return home connected to a community and friends that will last them a lifetime. And it doesn't stop there. Children with pivotal Jewish camp experiences are more likely to become adults who value their Jewish heritage, support Jewish causes, and take on leadership roles in their communities."

Foundation for Jewish Camp jewishcamp.org FJC works with over 180 Jewish nonprofit summer camps throughout the world





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The Jewish Voice

"Men's Night In" meets top basketball coach, Bruce Pearl



Coach Bruce Pearl

Our community was treated to JFED's "Men's Night In" with Bruce Pearl, the head basketball coach at Auburn University. In 2019, Coach Pearl led his Tigers to the Final Four and became only the fifth Jewish head coach to accomplish the feat. Auburn has been one of the most successful teams the last three years joining Duke, Kansas, and Kentucky.

Pearl addressed a group of approximately 70 people online in September who were engrossed by his enthusiasm and passion. He touched on several topics, but his Judaism was at the core of the entire discussion. Coach Pearl grew up in Boston in a household where Yiddish was spoken.

Coaching in 2020 was a major topic of conversation that included the effects of Covid-19 on recruiting, practicing and all other aspects of college basketball. Coach Pearl also discussed issues of racial equality and how it has given his players a voice. He included a story related to his team and their position on the national anthem.

The coach was asked about his

career and whether being Jewish has affected his progress. He said that the pool of schools he could work at was smaller than for other coaches. Coach Pearl was also asked about his memories of our own Don

Haskins and the 1966 Texas Western Champions. He addressed the impact they had on the game of basketball.

One of Coach Pearl's lifelong dreams was fulfilled in 2009 when he led the USA team and 14 Jewish men to the Maccabi Games championship in Israel. He described what a great experience it was for all of them and how difficult it was to win on Israel's turf, where the Israeli team never loses at home. Coach also discussed his trips to the concentration camp sites in Europe where he took his University of Tennessee teams.

Community involvement is important to him and he spoke about a number of his charitable undertakings. He has a family foundation that provides funds and support in the fight against cancer. Outreach



is a big part of his life and one of the main reasons he took the time to speak to us in El Paso.

We were all extremely impressed by his commitment to Judaism and to college basketball. A replay of the evening can be seen on the Federation's Facebook page or at htatps://jewishelpaso.org/mensnight-in

> Tony Furman and Barry Kobren "Men's Night In" Co-Chairs



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Munchies and Margaritas pick up at the Museum on November 12-14 For information: 915-351-0048 or visit elpasoholocaustmuseum.org Questions? Contact jamie@elpasoholocaustmuseum.org

BETTER TOGETHER =

Why I chose to become a rabbi

become a rabbi? It's the dreaded question that everyone seems to ask rabbinical students, and one which I don't always enjoy answering.

In order for me to answer the question, I have to go back to the very beginning: my secular upbringing in Ecuador, where the only Judaism to which I was exposed involved acting out the Exodus at our American friend's seder.

After we moved back to South Africa and started spending more time with my grandparents, my sister took a greater interest in Judaism and we started attending religious school at Bet Menorah,

Why did you decide to insisted that I did not want to argue respectfully; go. Eventually, she changed my mind, and we flew together to Cape Town in the summer (South African summer, that is) of 2006.

Jewish summer camp, as cliched as it sounds, changed my life. It was at camp, during a tallit-making workshop led by Andi Kuti-Alexander and Rabbi Greg Alexander, that something changed. Ι realized that Judaism could be fun, engaging, meaningful and deeply personal.

home returned from Τ Machaneh determined to have a bat mitzvah, which I did a year later at the age of sixteen. I also met my best friends that summer. We lived in Israel together during

learned Ι how to craft dynamic engaging and lessons; I learned how to care for a group of campers; learned how Ι to manage and communicate with a team; I learned how to navigate a budget of half a million rand; and I learned how to manage a crisis.

By the time I was 21, I had gained more skills than many other

people



At Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's Los Angeles campus



Anything can happen in the kitchen at summer camp!

Pretoria's Reform synagogue. I insisted that I would never have a bat mitzvah.

Then my sister went to camp one summer. Netzer, the Reform Zionist Youth Movement, held its annual summer camp for two weeks at the end of the year in Cape Town. My sister came back from those two weeks and couldn't stop talking about her

our gap year on Netzer's flagship leadership program, Shnat Netzer. To this day, they remain my closest friends and have been with me during both my darkest and brightest moments.

I spent four years as a camper (channicha), three years as a counselor (madricha) and one year as the head of camp. During those eight years I learned

my age. I also learned to believe in myself and to follow my passions, because I had grown up in a culture that valued Judaism can be. individuality, that helped me express myself fully and that brought out the best in each of us.

Why did I decide to become a rabbi? I chose to become a rabbi because my years in Netzer taught me the value of leadership. Ι chose to become a rabbi because my counselors taught me about Tikkun Olam. I chose to become a rabbi because my Shabbatot at

camp made me fall in love with prayer. I decided to become a rabbi because my years in Netzer showed me just how beautiful

America may have a much bigger summer camp culture and infrastructure than South Africa does, but the experience of Jewish summer camp remains, in many ways, universal. I am grateful every day for the gifts that those eight years at Netzer gave me, and most of all that they led me to this moment.

> Student Rabbi Sofia Zway Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces



experience. invaluable life skills. I learned She persistently told me how how to collaborate with others; much I would enjoy camp. I I learned how to debate and	Property Management, Inc. Network Real Estate	
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Birthright Israel

The largest educational tourism organization in the world, Birthright Israel offers free ten-day educational group trips to Israel for Jewish young adults between the ages of 18 to 32. Like Jewish summer camps, these trips build a strong sense of Jewish identity and launch lifelong friendships. Although Birthright Israel trips are on pause, a time will come when it is safe to travel again. To reserve your spot, visit www.birthrightisrael.com

The world's largest summit on antisemitism open to all

The Anti-Defamation League's "Never Is Now Summit," the world's largest summit on antisemitism and hate, is held annually in New York City for paying participants, but this year you can attend virtually for free by registering at events.adl. org/NeverIsNow.

The Summit kicks off Sunday, November 8, with the annual "State of Hate" address, an expert panel reviewing the election, and the presentation of ADL's 2020 Courage Against Hate Award.

"Never before has it been so easy to attend 'Never is Now," said ADL Southwest Regional Director Mark B. Toubin. "Every year our summit on antisemitism and hate provides up-to-the-minute information on the depth and breadth of hatred and what we can do to fight it, but this year, it's so simple to participate."

All you need is a registration ticket and a computer or smart phone. Tolearn more and to register, visit events.adl.org/NeverIsNow. Contact ADL's Assistant Regional Director Margi Levin at mlevin@ adl.org with questions or help with registration. This year's summit also features a dedicated track for high school students to participate with special sessions and post-event

Giving Tuesday

Giving back isn't cancelled. On #GivingTuesday, December 1,

we're sharing ways you can express generosity right from your own home.



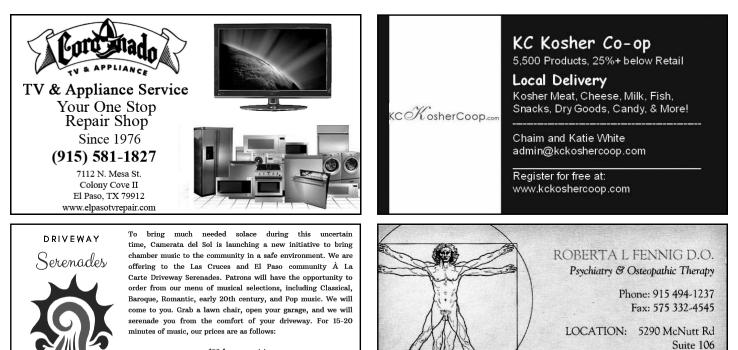
Whether it's making someone smile, helping a neighbor out, showing up for an issue or people we care about, or giving some of what we have to those who need our help, every act of generosity counts, and everyone has *something* to give.

Go to jewishelpaso.org/#Giving Tuesday to donate

For Those We Love Monday, November 9 | 7:00 p.m.

Are you a primary caregiver for a spouse, parent, child, or friend? Please join our Caregiver Support Group for our inaugural Zoom meeting to connect and share tips and support with other caregivers.

Visit jewishelpaso.org/letsconnect or call 915-842-9554 to register We are here to support you...



\$50 for one musiciar \$120 for four musiciar

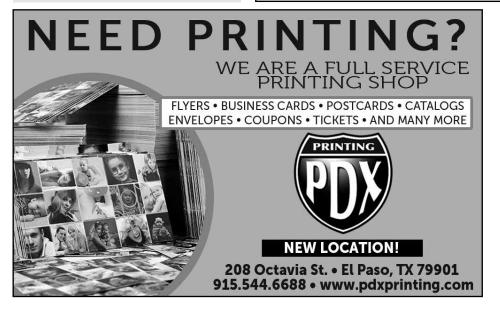
virtual gatherings. Students may register at https://events.adl.org/ neverisnow/student.



\$170 for a featured soloist accompanied by a quarter

Please book at least two weeks in advance. For booking, please call 575-642-3727 or 828-449-9917 or email: director@cameratadelsol.org







May the coming New Year bring blessings for peace, respect and harmony.

Nicole Nathan Gibson ADL Southwest Regional Board Chair Mark Toubin ADL Southwest Regional Director

@ADLSouthwestsouthwest.adl.org

BETTER TOGETHER =

Art meets Science at JCEL's Camp Shamayim 2021

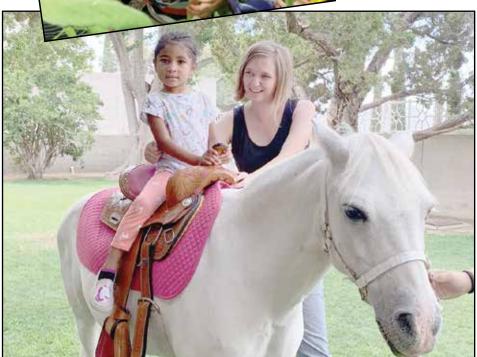
Early Learning, we are all really we weren't able to offer camp this looking forward to Camp



Here at the J Center for Shamayim 2021, especially since past summer. We can't

wait to hear the sound of water splashing on our "Floaty Fridays," the exultant conversations of children working together on weekly projects, and the joyful voices of our campers singing "On the line, on the line . . ."

> Our camp director and coordinators have everything ready to go for eight weeks filled with





activities focused on STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. Since reading is always an important part of our program, our camp should more accurately be called a STREAM camp!

Amongst all the other things they'll do, each week will highlight a type of science and an artist, too.

Camp will be held in weekly sessions from May 31 through July 24. Registration for our current families will open at the end of March so be on the lookout for information in the spring. Can't wait to see you all there!

> Meg Birk Director 7 Center for Early Learning

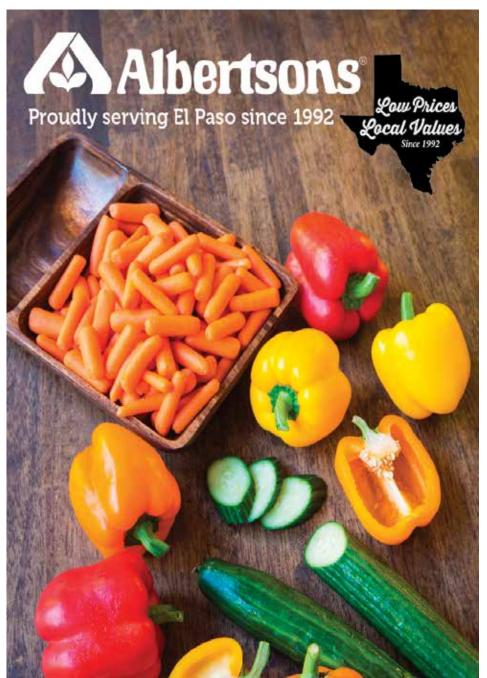
Week One Week Two Week Three Week Four Week Five Week Six Week Seven Week Eight

Camp Shamayim 2021

Food Science Weather Science Science of Building Space Science **Animal Science Environmental Science Plant Science Archeological Science**

Andy Warhol Vincent Van Gogh Piet Mondrian Alexander Calder Salvador Dali **Claude Monet** Henri Matisse **Pablo Picasso**





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