

# The Jewish VOICE

Informing and Connecting Jews in El Paso-Las Cruces

Kislev/Tevet 5781  
December 2020



## From Darkness – Light!

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
El Paso, Texas  
Permit No. 1256

Jewish Federation of El Paso  
7110 N. Mesa  
El Paso, Texas 79912  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER EL PASO



# Up Close: Cindy Graff Cohen

As you read this, Cindy Graff Cohen is starting a new life in Tucson, an adventure sure to include new opportunities for writing and editing. She has been editor of *The Jewish Voice* since 2014, with a brief break in 2016. This is her last issue.

Of course, boxes of her 55 or so past issues were on the moving van to Arizona. When she flips through the newspapers, vivid memories come back with each one.

“Every issue brings happy thoughts about all the different people I have gotten to know through this job,” she says. “While it’s fun to plan and write for a newspaper, it is those people who made the years meaningful.”

## Promoting through publications

Cohen moved from Alexandria, Virginia, to El Paso in 1996, after marrying local attorney Burton Cohen, a long-time member of Temple Mount Sinai. She fell in love with the city and got to know it better in quick order as the sole staff writer at a new newspaper called *El Paso Inc.* Her goal: to share the best things about the community and encourage involvement.

Her role as a local cheerleader was put to work again later when she promoted activities and shared stories about people for *The Jewish Voice*.

Cohen’s work in journalism began in 1981 after she earned a Master’s in English from the University of Alabama; she attended University of Virginia for her undergraduate English degree and a Master’s in Counseling. As a journalist, she served as the editor of *Antiques Monthly*; a ghostwriter for “Megatrends” author John Naisbitt; and the associate editor/writer/designer/photographer/delivery girl for a weekly paper on the coast of Maine.

When she met Burton, she was publications director at Close Up Foundation, which brought students to the nation’s capital. In El Paso, she became senior marketing manager of the college English list for Houghton Mifflin’s textbook division and commuted to Boston regularly. For the last seven years, she was *El Paso Inc.*’s weekly arts and culture columnist.

*The Jewish Voice* has been a special assignment that brought together her passions for promoting the Jewish community and telling a good story. Her work has taken her to countless wonderful events, such as the January 2020 Pacesetters outing at the Globo Rojo classic car museum and a lunch with the Romeo (Retired Old Men Eating Out) bunch.

“Being editor gives you an excuse to reach out to people you wouldn’t ordinarily call,” she adds. “I also had the inside track on all the great programs taking place!”

## Gratitude to friends

While it is exciting to start a new chapter in a new city, Cohen finds it very difficult to leave dear friends in El Paso. She has so many cherished memories here with Burton, his children and grandchildren, and so many good friends. She is grateful to all of them and especially her Mah Jongg group for their support after Burton died unexpectedly. In a difficult time, those friends, along with friends like Susie and Bob May, Laura Tate Goldman, and Rabbi Ben Zeidman, were there for her.

At the Federation, she is especially thankful to Leslie Beckoff for her wealth of ideas, Janet Wechter for her creative vision for *The Jewish Voice*, Sue Bendalin for her help and knowledge, and Robert French for his guidance, strategic thinking and inspiration.

She hopes that El Paso friends will stop by her new house on their way to Phoenix or Coronado or wherever you travel on I-10 west! Her personal email address is cindygraffcohen@gmail.com.



Cindy helping build the City of Jerusalem during last year’s Federation’s Lego Marathon

## What do you value most in your friends?

A good sense of humor and forgiveness for my shortcomings.

## Who’s your favorite Jewish hero (living or not/fictional or not) and why?

Before I converted to Judaism in 2007, I learned about the religion and culture through literature. Since I was a kid, I was drawn to books about Jewish people and Jewish life. I have many favorite Jewish authors, but Bernard Malamud holds a special place in my heart for his stories of courageous characters.

## What value do we need most in our world today?

Education. The world needs universal training in critical thinking skills to separate lies (including hateful lies about Jews and other minorities) and propaganda from fact.

## Describe your favorite Chanukah memory.

I loved going to Chanukah dinners prepared by Temple Mount Sinai’s Sisterhood and to friends’ homes and enjoying their homemade latkes. No matter what I do, my own latkes taste almost as bad as they look.

## You have spent six years writing and editing for The Jewish Voice. What would you say to encourage others to get involved with Jewish life in Greater El Paso?

Time and time again, I have seen how people of all ages have been

surprised and delighted when they attended communal experiences here. Whether they were helping build the world’s largest Lego menorah at a Federation event, enjoying international cuisine at a local congregation, or sharing a meditative moment during an online yoga class, people have loved taking part. If you’re not involved with our community’s rich Jewish life, you are really missing out on opportunities for meaningful connections and fun.

## What’s the best thing about being part of our Jewish community?

The joy of knowing so many wonderful people and the happy serendipity of running into them out in the “real world.” These encounters never fail to brighten my day and touch my heart on a deep level.

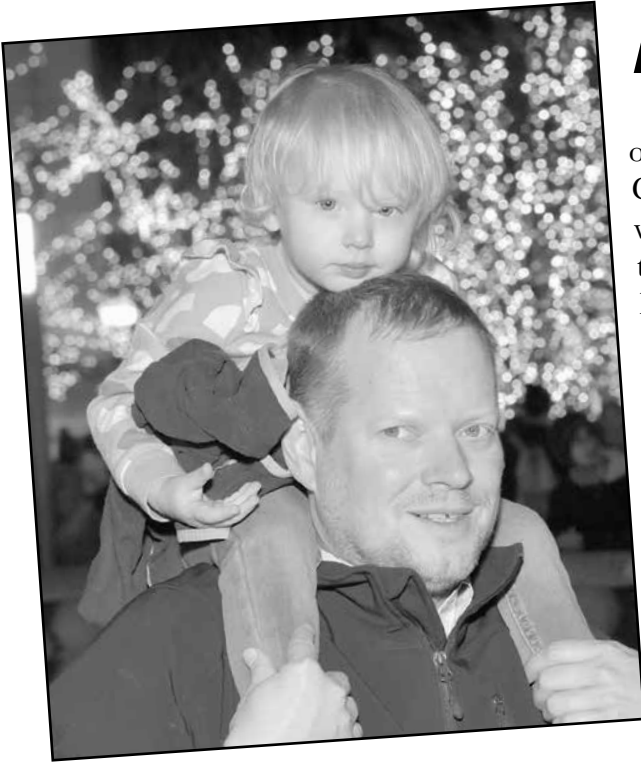
## You have been a member of our community for a long time – what changes have you seen and what do you hope for our Jewish future?

Compared to, let’s say, a decade ago, I’m seeing more creativity in programming, more cooperation and partnerships, and more unity among Jews of different faiths. People are getting it: we are “better together.” I think strong leadership at the Federation has been part of this improved environment. My wish list for the future would include growing our community, with more Jews of all ages joining congregations and supporting our organizations.



Burton Cohen and Richard Dreyfuss share funny memories about a mutual acquaintance





# All together now: Happy Chanukah!

Join your Jewish Federation and nine Jewish organizations for eight surprising days of Chanukah programs! For the first time ever, while you light each night's candles, you can tune into eight very different celebrations from December 10 through 17.

Sessions will involve participants ranging from toddlers to military retirees as each night takes a different approach to Chanukah stories and traditions. No Chanukah would be complete without the customary treats – watch your emails and visit [www.jewishelpaso.org/eightdays](http://www.jewishelpaso.org/eightdays) for details on ordering your

free snacks for pick-up or delivery.

The Communal Chanukah Candle-Lighting brings together friends, music, and even a bit of magic. When the Federation reached out to organizations at its regular Community Leadership meeting on Zoom in El Paso and Las Cruces last month, leaders responded enthusiastically and began to plan special programs for their community to enjoy.

The result: a unique series that will remind all of us that we are not alone in these unprecedented times. We are stronger together – and we also have more fun!

## These We Honor With Tributes Federation

**TO:** The Family of Lillian (Sis) Druxman in her Memory  
**FROM:** Becky and Keith Myers  
**FROM:** Geri Saunders  
**FROM:** Jon and Lory Rogers

**TO:** Robert Kimball with Thanks for your help  
**FROM:** Frances Williams

**To:** Lenore Kobren and Family in Memory of Sam Kobren  
**FROM:** Ben and Barbara Rosenberg

**TO:** Rochelle Saks in Honor of Your Birthday  
**FROM:** John and Lourdes Eger

**TO:** John Eger in Honor of Your Birthday  
**FROM:** Rochelle Saks

**TO:** Carlos and Sofia Kaplan in Memory of David Kaplan  
**FROM:** John and Lourdes Eger

**TO:** Thank you to the Federation and all of those who make Café Europa so special and enjoyable for so many  
**FROM:** Rochelle Saks

## Todah Rabah Thank you to our volunteers

**Café Europa Speakers**  
Student Rabbi Sofia Zway and Carlos Gamez

**For Those We Love  
Caregivers Support  
Group**  
Leah Chayes

**Cafe Europa  
Shabbat Dinner  
Deliveries**  
Naomi Estrada,  
Noel Hollowell-Small,  
and Audrey Lavi

**Lions of Judah "By  
Royal Appointment"**  
Coby Bull, Gary Bull,  
and Stewart Parvin  
Co-Chairs:  
Cindy Metrikin and  
Janet Wechter



Give your family the gift of  
**FREE** Jewish books.

Visit [pjlibrary.org/elpaso](http://pjlibrary.org/elpaso)



Sign up at [pjourway.com](http://pjourway.com)  
for free chapter books and graphic novels  
with Jewish themes for kids ages 9-11



## 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](mailto: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: Monika Kimball  
Office: 915-842-9554  
7110 North Mesa, El Paso, TX 79912

Editor: Cindy Graff Cohen  
Layout and Design: Beatriz Garcia  
Advertising Rep: Robert Piñon  
Printing: PDX Printing

**Borderlands Café Europa**  
Call-in and Lunch for Seniors 65+  
Wednesdays | 11:30 a.m.

**December 9**

Learn about El Pasoans Fighting Hunger with Susan Goodell, CEO

**December 23**

Meet Yossi Lapid, award-winning author of best-seller children's books

**Call-in: 915-842-9554**

RSVP by Monday before to have a light lunch delivered to you



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

**Advertise with us!**  
**Call (915) 842-9554**

## JFNA goes to Washington

During a time of great focus on the nation's capital, the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) office in Washington is working to represent the concerns of 146 Jewish Federations and more than 300 network communities to members of Congress and the administration. They advocate for key legislation that helps further Federations' work domestically and abroad and impacts the safety and security of Jewish institutions.

JFNA leaders are passionate about creating lasting change for our entire country because they believe that our Jewish communities will only be as strong as the civic societies in which they exist. As Congress has worked to aid the country in battling the social, political and economic impact of COVID-19, JFNA helped ensure that thousands of Jewish institutions and synagogues were able to access more than \$500 million in forgivable loans.

For information about JFNA's work and a complete coverage of JFNA's public policy priorities, visit [jewishfederations.org/about-jfna/washington-dc](http://jewishfederations.org/about-jfna/washington-dc).

### JFNA Policy Priorities

- Uphold the social safety net.
- Secure the future for charitable organizations.
- Empower older adults to age with dignity.
- Strengthen the critical U.S.-Israel relationship.
- Ensure the safety of Jews worldwide.
- Help communities recover from natural disasters.
- Support a full range of possibilities for people with disabilities.
- Ensure that the most vulnerable receive the services they need.
- Help educate the next generation.

## TBE founder featured at Las Cruces museum

A special exhibit at the Branigan Cultural Center in Las Cruces spotlights Frances F. Williams, one of the founders of Temple Beth-El. "Through a Different Lens: One Woman's Experience in Vietnam" describes the six months that Frances, a civilian logistician, spent there in 1967-68.

The exhibit covers a memorable Passover seder attended by the head of American Jewish War Veterans and held in a mess hall in Saigon. "Amazingly Jewish troops came in from the field, their uniforms and shoes muddy, their rifles slung over their shoulders which they had to leave at the door, their faces tired and worn," she recalls. "As they entered the mess hall I felt like I was participating in a gathering not unlike the exodus. We said our prayers, sang the Passover songs, and then said our farewells."

Frances also volunteered at an evacuation hospital and earned the name the "Cookie Lady" for distributing countless cookies to patients, thanks to the Temple Beth-El sisterhood. Sisterhood members, including Sis Druxman, Eve Holzman, Bea Klein, and Rose Wechter, baked and shipped dozens of individually wrapped cookies.

A resident of Las Cruces since 1952, Frances has been honored with the Governor's Award for Outstanding New Mexico Woman, the Governor's New Mexico Distinguished Public Service Award, and the Las Cruces Sun News 2018 Distinguished Resident. The exhibit will run at the Branigan Cultural Center at 501 North Main Street through February 6, 2021. To learn more and see photos featured in the show, visit [www.las-cruces.org/2380/Through-a-Different-Lens](http://www.las-cruces.org/2380/Through-a-Different-Lens).

**WHAT'S COMING FOR PACESETTERS?**

**THINK MASTER CHEF**

**THINK FRIENDS**

**& FUN**

**STAY TUNED**

**FEBRUARY 2021**

**SUMMER CAMP FAIR**  
(Virtual)

**Come see and hear the very best of Jewish sleep away camps and local Jewish day camps**

**Coming Soon**  
**Watch for details**  
[www.jewishelpaso.org/summercamp](http://www.jewishelpaso.org/summercamp)

 Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER EL PASO

  
**RIVER OAKS PROPERTIES**  
915 225 5700  
[www.riveroaksproperties.com](http://www.riveroaksproperties.com)

**NOW LEASING**  
GREAT RETAIL SPACE THROUGHOUT EL PASO  
**915-225-5700**

**TEXAS NEURODIAGNOSTIC, HEADACHE & SLEEP DISORDERS CENTER, P.A.**

**BORIS KAIM, M.D. F.A.A.N., FAASM**  
Board Certified in Neurology, Psychiatry and Sleep Medicine

PRACTICE LIMITED TO CONSULTIVE NEUROLOGY, PSYCHIATRY, ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY, NERVE CONDUCTION, EMG, SLEEP DISORDERS, AND TESTING FOR DIABETIC NEUROPATHIES.

**2311 N. Mesa, Bldg. F • El Paso, Texas 79902**  
**Phone: (915) 544-6400**



**Sweet Dreams are made of this...**

We have funding available to make jewish summer camp a reality

[www.jewishelpaso.org/summercamp](http://www.jewishelpaso.org/summercamp) or call 915-842-9554

Jewish Federation OF GREATER EL PASO



# GET ON THE ROAD TO LEISURE

WITH GECU INVESTMENT & TRUST SERVICES\*

The time to kick back and relax after all of your hard work is calling your name! GECU Investment and Trust Services can help develop a financial plan with short- and long-term strategies that fit your financial goals. No matter what retirement looks like to you, we'll be there.

GECU Investment and Trust Services can help you with ...

- 401(k) rollovers\*\*
- Retirement planning
- Financial management
- Insurance services
- Estate planning, settlement and guardianship\*\*\*
- Trust management and administration\*\*\*

Visit [gecu.com/invest](http://gecu.com/invest), or call 774.1765, today for your no-cost, no-obligation appointment.



\*Representatives are registered, securities sold, advisory services offered through CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. (CBSI), member FINRA-SIPC, a registered broker/dealer and investment advisor. CBSI is under contract with the financial institution to make securities available to members. Trust services are available through Members Trust Company, a federal thrift regulated by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. Not NCUA/NCUSIF/FDIC insured, May Lose Value, No Financial Institution Guarantee. Not a deposit of any financial institution. CBSI is a registered broker/dealer in all 50 states of the United States of America.  
 \*\*Prior to requesting a rollover from your employer-sponsored retirement account to an individual retirement account (IRA), you should consider whether the rollover is suitable for you. There may be important differences in features, costs, services, withdrawal options, and other important aspects between your employer-sponsored retirement account and an IRA.  
 \*\*\*Representatives are neither tax advisors nor attorneys. For information regarding your specific tax situation, please consult a tax professional. For legal questions, including a discussion about estate planning, please consult your attorney.

FB-3225040-1-0920-1022

[gecu.com/invest](http://gecu.com/invest)



# 2020 Calendar

## Thank You to

List current as of

### Patron

Jerry and Stanlee Rubin  
Bob Shiloff  
Sylvia Wechter

Leslie Beckoff  
Jack Eisenberg  
Martha Eisenberg  
Nancy Heydemann  
Bob and Elaine Krasne

Rick and Judy Amstater  
Dan Blumenfeld  
Bill and Marcia Dahlberg  
Cliff Eisenberg  
Tony Furman  
Jay Gladstein  
Bruce Gopin

Ira and Irene Batt  
Robert Beckoff  
Sue Bendalin  
Bill and Holli Berry  
Michelle Blumenfeld  
Ron Blumenfeld  
Walter Chayes  
Cindy Cohen  
Louis Cohen  
Bonnie Colton  
Eric and Clarisse Colvard  
Nancy Dahman Laster  
Marc Ellman  
Sam Ellowitz  
Barbara Ettinger  
Robert French  
Ross Fruithandler  
Mimi Gladstein  
Howard Goldberg  
Mona Goldberg  
Allan Goldfarb  
Robert Goldfarb

Harvey Greenberg and Idelle Weisman

### Anchor

Louis and Laura Alpern  
Adam and Dana Frank\*\*  
Felicia Rubin

### Leader

Wendy Lanski  
Cindy Metrikin  
David Metrikin  
Dannah Meyers  
David Schechter

### Sponsor

Joyce Jaffee  
Terren Klein  
Frances (Paquitta) Litt  
Sol (Skip) Litt V  
David Mansfield  
Lyndon Mansfield  
Arvin Robinson

### Supporter

Tom and Cyd Goldfarb  
Eddie and Susie Goldman  
Randy Goldstein and Karen Herman  
Bruce Gulbas  
Ellen Gulbas  
Jackie Gulbas  
Paul Gulbas  
Jack Heydemann  
Michael and Susan Jaffee  
Fifi Heller Kaim  
Debra Kanof  
Carlos Kaplan  
David Kaplan\*  
Sofia Kaplan  
Jimmy and Judi Keller  
Barry and Robin Kobren  
Chuck and Peggy Kovan  
Alan and Rebecca Krasne\*\*  
Dick and Robin Krasne  
Eitan and Audrey Lavi  
Norma Levenson  
Tom and Deborah Levy

### Partner

Boris Kaim  
Barry and Tammy Karch  
Alan and Cheryl Karp  
David Kern  
Robert and Monika Kimball  
Jody Klein  
Marty Klein\*  
Scott and Lynn Kobren  
Alan Krasne  
Rebecca Krasne  
Irwin Kurland  
Steve Lanski  
Bernie Lauterbach  
Michael and Barbara Mandel  
Gary and Allison Mann  
Becky Myers

### Sustainer

Robin Furman  
Randy Wechter

Rose Schechter  
Stuart Schwartz  
Sara Shiloff  
Jon and Arlene Sonnen  
Janet Wechter

Jonny and Lory Rogers  
Adam Rosenfield and Lauren Eisenberg  
Stuart and Nancy Shiloff  
Andrea (Dee Dee) Spier  
Jeffrey Spier

Myer and Beth Lipson  
Ranee Mansfield  
Amy Marcus  
Meyer and Mindy Marcus  
Bob\* and Susie May  
Stuart Meyers  
Keith Myers  
Gary and Lisa Nadler  
Robert Novick  
Mitch and Cathy Glen Puschett  
Louis and Marie Robbins  
Beverly Robinson  
Jeff Roth  
Dick\* and Jean Scherotter  
James Scherr  
Dan Schuller  
Bob and Jane Snow  
Jim Spier  
Bill and Anne Spier  
Gary and Judy Weiser

Robert Oppenheim  
David Paul  
Bobby Perel  
Robert and Laura Piñon  
Mimi Pittle  
Jerry Rosenbaum  
Harriet Roth  
Nancy Rothschild  
Phil and Ann Rothstein  
Shari Schwartz  
Hy and Marilyn Silverstein  
Anne Spier  
Curtis and Jacque Spier  
Marc Zuckerman



# Campaign of Our Donors

August 20, 2020

## Fellow

Anonymous	Paul Feil and Karen Matthews	Amanda Levine	David and Sue Schecter
Jeff Aaronson	Andy Feinberg	Mark and Kyta Levit	Sidney and Meralee Schlusseberg
Marvin and Charlene Abrams	Asher and Jody Feinberg	Carl and Joyce Lieb	Jim Schwartz
Philip and Sally Alkon	Jeremy and Kim Frank	Les and Cherryll Lieberman	Lee Schwartz
Dan and Simy Allan	Alan and Lori Gaman	Shane and Jeanne Lipson	Walter (Buddy) Schwartz
Missy Altus Ayala	Chris and Jennifer Giese	Arthur and Wendee Lorbeer	Manny and Elizabeth Schydlower
Jerry and Haidi Appel	Rebecca Glaser	W. Gordon Mahon Jr.	Lolli Scott
Richard and Eileen Armour	Leslie Glater	Klim Maling	Steve Shapiro
Tatiana Avila	Merton and Laura Goldman	Ron Marcus	Saul and Norma Sidransky
Harry and Diane Bass	Michael Goldman	Hal and Patricia Marcus	Jeff and Wendy Siegel
Sam and Gayle Belford	Rachelle Gomolsky	Moises and Dora Margolis	Jerry and Ann Sigholz
Bernadine Belkin	Erline Gordon	Mort and Leanie Mendelsohn	Ed and Helene Solomon
Deb Benedict	Norman and Cheryl Gordon	Gilbert and Jon'l Miranda	Dan and Vanessa Sonnen
Arthur and Rebecca Berkson	Sandy and Judy Grodin	John and Bitia Mobbs	Miriam Spitz Domnitz
Burt and Ann Berkson	Deborah Hamlyn	Taylor Moreno	Bill Stein and Susan Michaelson
Marvin and Carol Bernstein	Mary Hines	John Moye	Sharon Stein
Michael and Carol Bernstein	Fred and Nina Hirsh	Lee and Sandy Nadler	Bill and Neva Stiller
Allen and Michele Blum	Nat Holzer	Dorene Naparstek	Mark Tombosky
Bob and Edi Brannon	Ira and Becky Horowitz	Rachelle Nedow	Paula Tombosky
Jeff and Cherri Brown	Julian Horwitz	Shirley Nussbaum	Amit Toren
Ron and Pearie Bruder	Mark and Patty Hutman	Irene Oppenheimer	Fred and Ellen Torres
Steven and JoAnn Burman	Bob and Claire Jacobs	David Pearlman	Jill Vexler**
Stephanie Calvo	Stuart and Frances Kahn	Mark and Rosanne Peyton	Shain and Julie Vinikoff
Cesar and Blanca Carrasco	Eddie and Rebecca Kallman	Joyce Post	Scott and Mylena Walker
Bill and Jessica Carvajal	Marc Kaplan	Justin and Jessica Pretiger	Bob Warach
Leah Chayes	Rabbi Larry and Rhonda Karol	Dennis and Anat Reiter	Jane Warach
Cindy Graff Cohen	Richard Katz	Debby Robalin	Jeff and Cathy Weislow
Larry and Mara Cohn	Richard and Rosalie Kaufman	Mike Robalin	Dan and Ophra Leyser-Whalen
Dee Cook	Ellyce Kimmelman	Noel Rosenbaum	Mike White
Damon and Janice Crossland	Sam* and Lenore Kobren	Rabbi Scott Rosenberg	Frances Williams
Damon Crossland**	Joan Korn	Adam Rosenfield and Lauren Eisenberg**	Tina Wolfe
Suzi Davidoff	Ken Korn	Allen Roth	Moshe and Laura Yardeni
Rita Davis	Lloyd Krapin	Charlotte Roth	Jackie Zehden
David and Angela Dobrin	Vladik Kreinovich and Olga Kosheleva	Wendy Rothschild	Richard Zehden
Shari Ehrlich	Shaked Laks	Greg and Shelby Rubin	Mark Zimmerman
Ruthie Erlich	Yosef and Susan Lapid	Selma Ryave	
Hal and Linda Ettinger	Adam Levine	Tibor Schaechner	

## Friends

Sandy Aaronson	Rose Lillian Falcon	Erika LaCoste	Wilma Salzman
Desiree Ainsa	Peggy Feinberg	Donna Leffman	Etta Mae Scherr
Maria Almaraz	Randy and Loretta Fertel	Frankie Lerner	Carl Scoggin
Steve and Sheila Alper	Chet Frame	Marlene Levine	Brian and Noel Small
Alan and Lynn Ames	Lester and Renee Frank	Clara Levy	Sherry Smith
Mario Aranda and Gail Slater	Rose Gallardo Herrera	Jeff and Avis Lewis	Nathan and Letty Stevens
Art* August	Norma Geller	Robert and Carla Libby	Scott and Bonny Stevens
Gloria August	Steve Geller	Marilyn Littman	Annette Stone
Wendy Axelrod	Paul and Maria Geneson	Frima Marquez	Joseph and Marilyn Strelitz
Ho Baron	Doris Gluck	Jeffrey Marquez	Bob and Carol Teplitz
Frank and Dinny Bomberg	Mendle Goldberg	Sylvia Mirrop	Eddie Trevizo
Julie Bondi	Sydney Goltz	Stan and Gerie Muchnikoff	Robert Trevizo
Moshe and Ellyn Bork	Allen Green	Donna Munch	Joanne Turnbull
Lynette Brown	Richard and Leslie Grodin	Ilisa Naparstek	Jed and Melissa Untereker
Susan Brown	Joan Grossman	Allen and Eve Palanker	Esther Valenzuela
Sylvia Cohen	Holly Hernandez	Helen Pearlmuter	Shane Wagman Romero
Rabbi Craig	Elizabeth Hicks	Jorge and Elena Perez	Jordan Waltzer and Lindy Eisen
Gloria Crohn	Michael and Stacey Hyman	Martin and Elissa* Poel	Maurice and Viola Wiener
Joyce Davioff	Elisa Kahn	Louann Pranses	Jo Witkoff
Lauren Davis	Jerry and Julie Kallman	Bob and Elaine Prenskey	Jan Wolfe
Rita Davis	Cyrille Kane	Louise Rice	Charles and Carmen Yates
David and Cheryl Decker	Daniel and Linsey Kaplan	Jim and Marianne Panzini Rosenthal	Fred and Judy Yellon
Bert and Socorro Diamondstein	Stuart Kelter and Leora Zeitlin	Ron Roth	Erich Zameret
Andrea Dresser	Bob and Judy Kirschner	Marvin Rubin	David and Lynn Zeemont
Norine Dresser	Mary Kirshenbaum	Ned Rubin and Francine Feinberg	
John and Lourdes Eger	Sylvia Krapin	David Sabal	
Nancy Ellowitz	Linda Kruger	Rochelle Saks	



# First semester at The Cherry Hill School

We are off to a great start at The Cherry Hill School! Founded less than a year ago, the community's new primary school serving first- and second-grade children has exceeded expectations with its strong focus on educational excellence within the framework of Jewish values. Here are a few highlights from a very rewarding first semester.

### Learning from leaders

Wendy and Dr. Steve Lanski, President of our Board, introduced The Cherry Hill School staff and teachers to Liz Paige, director of ethics and cultures at the McGillis School, an open-enrollment Jewish School in Salt Lake City. Liz helped our school build our six core values and Jewish calendar and integrate and weave all of this through daily instruction and studies.

We were able to invite her to speak to the teachers and staff again at The Cherry Hill School and the J Center for Early Learning at the beginning of the school year. She will be joining us again soon.



Special guest Liz Paige from the McGillis School



### Special guests

Two special guests have visited and will continue to every month. Rabbi Levi Greenberg visited with Musia and Menachem Greenberg, told stories and taught the students about the purpose of the Lulav and Etrog used during the holiday of Sukkot.

Rabbi Ben Zeidman was our guest for our Judaics and Hebrew classes. He told and explained the story of Noah and the Torah. We are looking forward to many more visits from the Rabbis, including Rabbi Rosenberg.

### More special treats

Every week, Dina Hamicha delivers fresh Challah for our Shabbat services for the students and staff. This past month, Dina and her daughter Shirley came to explain the meaning of challah and



Special guest Rabbi Levi Greenberg



Special guest Rabbi Ben Zeidman

each student got to make his/her own from scratch to take and bake at home with his/her family. Gratitude and kindness were commemorated by giving tzedakah and sharing Challah and grape juice.

### Core values

The students learned more in depth about "Kindness" with "Ms. Mindy" Leanse, one of our fabulous teachers. They were able to be involved in a performance encouraging one of the characters to understand what it means to be kind to one another and the importance of treating each other in such a manner. Stay tuned for our upcoming Chanukah program scheduled for December 11 through the JFed Eight Days of Chanukah celebration and social media.

### Gratitude for your support

Many thanks for grants from both the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso and the Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso as well as support from our generous donors, parents and students, who all together make The Cherry Hill School special and possible.

*Suzie Gibson  
Head of School  
Administration  
The Cherry Hill School*



**ElPasoConnect**  
For those of us in our 20s and 30s

**Around the World Scavenger Hunt**  
Wednesday, December 9 | 8:00 – 9:15 p.m.

**A VIRTUAL GLOBAL ADVENTURE FROM HOME!**  
Hosted by Watson Adventures

Explore the world's best museums and historic locations. Follow the clues, find amazing objects, and answer tricky questions.

Appetizers from El Layali and a choice of drinks will be delivered to your home – on us

\$5 minimum donation per person required by Monday, December 7, for Operation Noel to purchase coats for underprivileged children in and around El Paso

Zoom link will be sent upon RSVP  
Must attend with camera and sound on: People like to see people and hear from them!

Reserve your spot at [www.jewishelpaso.org/elpasoconnect](http://www.jewishelpaso.org/elpasoconnect)

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



# One single spark in one Jewish heart...

Jewish law indicates that each Jewish home is to light the Chanukah menorah over the course of the holiday. Early legal codes reference the tradition of some to light a menorah for every member of the household.

In his book "What is Hanukkah?" Rabbi Judah L. Magnes reflected on this tradition:

*"Just as the Chanukah candles are lighted one by one from a single flame, so the tale of the miracle is passed from one [person] to another, from one house to another, and to the whole House of Israel throughout the generations. The miracle of Chanukah is thus turned inward, into the soul of each individual. For at Chanukah the injunction is that there be a candle for every household, and for greater piety a candle for every member of each household."*

### Time of trouble

What do we know about the period leading up to the rebellion of Judah Maccabee and his brothers? There were differences of opinion about where the Jewish people should place their loyalty (between Egypt and the Seleucid Empire). It was a time of arguments over the

role and politics of Hellenism as well as destructive actions of selfish people in power who would do anything for more wealth or more power.

The situation in the lead-up to Antiochus IV's desecration of the Jerusalem Temple makes for fascinating reading. We like to recall that this small band of rebels was fighting against the great empire led by Antiochus IV. But the reality points not only to external forces, but also to the internal strife between the people of Israel.

The Maccabees arose to rebel against the Hellenists. So they fought against the Seleucids and the Israelites who had sided with them.

### Israelite against Israelite

In some ways the story of Chanukah was not only the defeat of a large army by a small one (the Maccabees succeeded not only through military prowess, but also because Antiochus IV was pulled away by a war with Parthia). It was also a civil war. Israelite pitted against Israelite for the sanctity of Israel. A war between those who

had been cowed, bought, or turned by the Seleucids against those led by Maccabee who were committed to the spirit of Israel.

We often forget that the Maccabean revolt was not only against the Seleucids. It was a battle against Jews who had brushed aside their commitment to Israel.

Chanukah is not only about our efforts to overcome evil from the outside, nor just about the miraculous story of the oil. Chanukah celebrates the ability of a few to keep the spark of Judaism alive and to rekindle the soul of Judaism for all of us. As we take the shamash to light each candle, we are reminded that Judah Maccabee was a shamash in his day. So it may be our turn in the days ahead.

### Keeping spark of Judaism alive

As Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch wrote in "Judaism Eternal: Selected Essays,"

"One single spark, loyally treasured in but one single Jewish heart, is sufficient for God to set aflame once more the whole spirit of Judaism."

He continues that if even one small cruse of oil, one single soul, were to remain untouched, it is "sufficient to become the salvation of the entire sanctuary when the right time and hour has come."

He teaches of the importance of every single soul, that we each are valuable and incredibly significant.

On Chanukah we are reminded that we cannot rely on others to keep the spark of Judaism alive. We are reminded to kindle the spark within ourselves, and to be a light for one another. To pass our light on as we light the candles and find ways to celebrate together our shared commitment to Judaism despite differences of opinion and practice. May this festival of lights inspire us each to be a light.

*Rabbi Ben Zeidman  
Temple Mount Sinai*



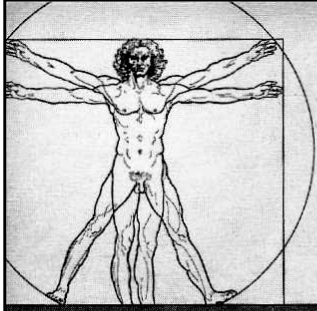
Rabbi Ben Zeidman

**Let's Connect!**

**Jewish Federation brings you**

**Yoga with Jillian Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.**

Visit <https://jewishelpaso.org/letsconnect>



ROBERTA L FENNIG D.O.  
Psychiatry & Osteopathic Therapy

Phone: 915 494-1237  
Fax: 575 332-4545

LOCATION: 5290 McNutt Rd Suite 106  
Santa Teresa, NM 88008

**ROBERTA L FENNIG D.O.**

**KC Kasher Co-op**  
5,500 Products, 25%+ below Retail

**Local Delivery**  
Kosher Meat, Cheese, Milk, Fish, Snacks, Dry Goods, Candy, & More!

Chaim and Katie White  
admin@kckoshercoop.com

Register for free at:  
[www.kckoshercoop.com](http://www.kckoshercoop.com)

**KC Kasher Coop**

**Order By:**  
**Wednesday, December 30**

**Delivery Around:**  
**Wednesday, January 13**

**Shop and Order:**  
[kckoshercoop.com](http://kckoshercoop.com)

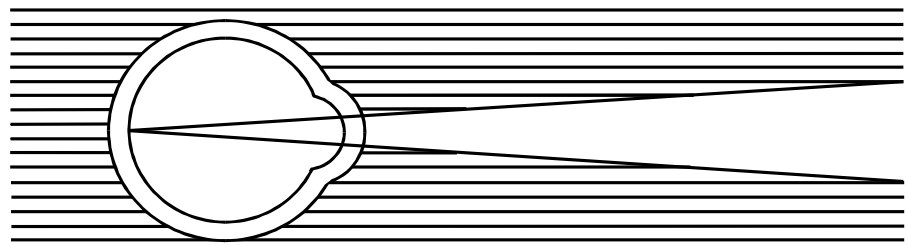
5400 N Mesa Suite G  
El Paso, Texas 79912  
915-581-4900  
FAX 915-581-1026  
[www.rentalnetwork.com](http://www.rentalnetwork.com)

NAT HOLZER, RMP

LINDA HOLZER, RMP  
Texas & N.M. Licensed

**RENTAL NETWORK**  
Property Management, Inc.  
Network Real Estate

**THE CATARACT & GLAUCOMA CENTER™**



**LOUIS M. ALPERN, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S.**  
DIPLOMATE OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

4171 N. Mesa, Bldg D, Ste 100 El Paso, TX 79902 (915) 545-2333 Fax (915) 544-4808

1030 N. Zaragosa Rd., Ste Y El Paso, TX 79907

**Chaplain's Catering**

**Gerry Chaplain**

3950 Doniphan, Suite P  
El Paso, Texas 79922

(915) 585-0595  
[goodfood@whc.net](mailto:goodfood@whc.net)



# J Center students love celebrating

Hanukkah, “The Festival of Light,” is nearly upon us. The children at The J Center for Early Learning will be learning all about how the Maccabees overcame a tyrannical rule, and the miracle of oil that should have lasted for just one night lasting for eight.

It's a story of courage, teaching children the importance of standing up for oneself, and of having faith that things will get better, especially if you help make that happen.

We celebrate Hanukkah with latkes, sufganiyot, candle lighting, songs, playing dreidel and, of course, our annual Hanukkah program. This performance is always planned and practiced with great enthusiasm and this year is no exception.

The theme this year is “Twinkle Twinkle Hanukkah Lights” and our children will be singing and dancing with great delight as they do love celebrating. I can hear the song “Don't Let the Light Go Out”

already!

Since we won't be able to safely gather all our families together, we will be recording our program. This also enables us to keep each class safely in their own pods. You'll be able to watch the program in the comfort of your home and can share it with friends and family far and wide.

We hope this will help spread the joy and light that is at The J always, but especially at this special time of year. This year we will participate in the Jewish Federation's “Eight Days of Chanukah” program by sharing the joy our children bring into the homes of our community. The J's presentation has been scheduled on Wednesday, December 16, at 6:30 p.m. Join us for a fun and meaningful celebration!

*Meg Birk  
Head of School*

*The J Center for Early Learning*



## Harvesting Our Wisdom Workshop: Legacy letter writing with Joanne Turnbull

The “legacy letter” is a way to let future generations know who we really are and what really matters to us. Participants in this four-session course will learn about the Jewish context of the legacy letter, how to transmit values and important lessons, how to connect the generations, and how to convey love and blessing to those who come after us. No previous writing experience is necessary.

**Four online sessions on Wednesdays,  
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.  
January 20, January 27,  
February 3 and February 10**

Course requires computer access to join online Zoom sessions. Advance registration is \$18 for the complete course benefitting Sage-ing International and is required by Friday, January 15. Space is limited; links will be emailed upon registration.

*Joanne Turnbull, PhD, is a licensed clinical social worker, certified Legacy Facilitator, certified Sage-ing Leader, and published, award-winning writer. She was honored with an award from Maine's Jewish Community Alliance to develop the material for this course and has taught it several times.*



**Core Mado**  
TV & Appliance Service  
Your One Stop Repair Shop  
Since 1976  
**(915) 581-1827**  
7112 N. Mesa St.  
Colony Cove II  
El Paso, TX 79912  
www.elpasotvrepair.com



## NEED PRINTING?

WE ARE A FULL SERVICE PRINTING SHOP

FLYERS • BUSINESS CARDS • POSTCARDS • CATALOGS  
ENVELOPES • COUPONS • TICKETS • AND MANY MORE



**NEW LOCATION!**

208 Octavia St. • El Paso, TX 79901  
915.544.6688 • www.pdxprinting.com



## Congregation B'nai Zion Book Zoom Day Sunday, December 6

Meet Outstanding Authors Online!

**11:00 a.m.**

**“The Art of the Jewish Family”  
with Laura Leibman**

Sponsored by CBZ Sisterhood and Hadassah El Paso

**4:00 p.m.**

**“The Ninth Night of Hanukkah” with Erica S. Pearl**

**5:30 p.m.**

**“Wandering Dixie” with Sue Eisenfeld**

**Zoom ID: 82462990015**

**Password: 805**

*To buy signed copies, call Congregation B'nai Zion at  
915-833-2222 no later than Tuesday, December 8.*

*Authors will sign bookplates for everyone who purchases a book.*



**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

@ADLSouthwest  
southwest.adl.org



# Lions of Judah get Royal Treatment – The Crown Style!

Royalty, fashion, fun, and delicious scones were on the menu for a virtual afternoon tea in November for the Lions of Judah, women who donate \$5,000 or more each year to the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso (JFED) to enable it to do its important work for our community and beyond.

Thanks to JFED Executive Director Robert French’s hometown connections in London, the women had a transatlantic teatime with Royal Couturier Stewart Parvin, who has designed clothes for Queen Elizabeth II since 2007. While wearing a purple day dress designed by him, the Queen appointed Parvin a Member of the Royal Victorian Order in 2016.

The unique event was hosted by Gary Bull and his son Coby, owners of Joel & Son Fabrics, which supplies fabrics by Royal Appointment to Her

Majesty The Queen. With their lively dog, Alfie, in tow – the English do love their dogs, they gave El Pasoans a walkthrough of their London studios, stopping to unfold bolts of stunning beaded and appliqued cloth and fine silks in rainbows of colorful designer prints.

The Federation sent out “By Royal Appointment” gift bags with English tea, scones, strawberry jam, face masks with the Lion of Judah logo, and beautiful scarves that featured the Queen’s crest, which includes two crowned lions.

“You poured your tea and listened – it made us feel like this was really something special for us,” says Rose Schecter, a long-time member of Lions of Judah. “It was lot of fun and informative. If I ever get back to London, I definitely want to go and feel those fabrics!”

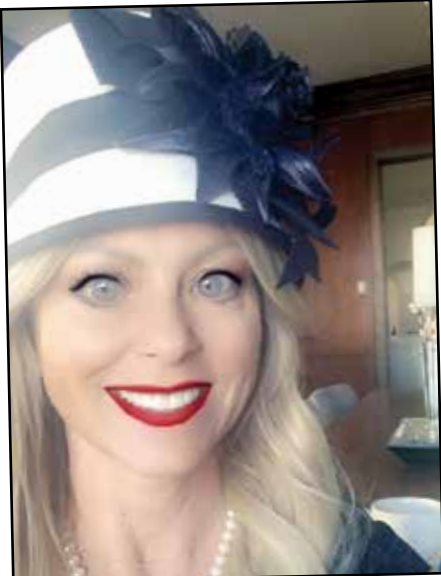
Under the guidance of Campaign co-chairs, Robin Furman and Wendy Lanski, Cindy Metrikin and Janet Wechter co-chaired the hit event, with many thanks to Sue Bendalin for her hard work. The afternoon recognized the contributions of these donors, who are among 18,000 women around the world who commit to give generously to support the local, national, and international Jewish community. For information on becoming a Lion of Judah, contact Sue Bendalin, Director of Philanthropy, at sbendalin@jfedelpaso.org or at 915-842-9554.



Stewart Parvin, Coby Bull, and Gary Bull with Alfie



Participants set up tea for one in their homes



Wendy Lanski, co-chair

**GET ONE FREE!**

## WEBCAM MUSIC LESSONS

Guitar, Voice, Drums, Piano, Songwriting, Violin, & More  
Live & Online - \$30 / lesson

REGISTER ONLINE OR CALL  
TAYLORROBINSONMUSIC.COM  
(800) 827-6521

**Albertsons** Low Prices Local Values Since 1992

**Proudly serving El Paso since 1992**





# 8 Days of Chanukah

**Communal Chanukah Candle-Lighting  
6:30 PM each night**

**Followed by fun, creative programs for all ages  
on Zoom and Facebook Live!**

**(4:15 PM on Friday, December 11)**

**Thursday, December 10:**  
*Interactive Magic Show - Chabad Las Cruces*

**Friday, December 11:**  
*Ice, Ice Chanukah - The Cherry Hill School*

**Saturday, December 12:**  
*Light the Latke Cocktail - Temple Beth El*

**Sunday, December 13:**  
*Sharing the Light - A Hopeful Chanukah from Hadera to El Paso  
(from San Jacinto Plaza) Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)*

**Monday, December 14:**  
*Light Up with Latkes! - Congregation B'nai Zion*

**Tuesday, December 15:**  
*Sip & Paint - Chanukah Painting - Temple Mount Sinai*

**Wednesday, December 16:**  
*Twinkle, Twinkle Chanukah Lights - The J Center for Early Learning*

**Thursday, December 17:**  
*A Chanukah Celebration - Jewish War Veterans & Hadassah*



**Don't forget to order your complimentary  
Chanukah donuts - sufganiot - and treats by Friday, December 4**

**[www.jewishelpaso.org/eightdays](http://www.jewishelpaso.org/eightdays)**