

The Jewish VOICE

Informing and Connecting Jews in El Paso-Las Cruces

Tishrei - Cheshvan, 5782
October 2021



JEWISH
SUMMER
CAMP

#FOMO

DON'T MISS OUT!



Up Close: Norman & Sylvia Samet

What value do we need most in our world today?

Norman: Honesty, trust, hope, tolerance, generosity, compassion.

Sylvia: We need our world leaders to accept these needs and work together to make this a better world.

What do you value most in your friends?

We value honesty and trust and their ability to understand the needs of others and take action to help.

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

Norman: There are many heroes in my mind, but Golda Meir and Henry Kellen are my choices.

Sylvia: My heroes are two very philanthropic men that preceded me in my community and demonstrated how you get pleasure by giving and seeing how it benefits others.

What is your Jewish passion?

Our Jewish passion is to have our family carry on the traditions that we have been taught and practiced and that they will instill this in their children so that a Jewish way of life continues.

What is your Jewish camp story?

Norman attended Brandeis Camp Institute in Santa Susanna, California as a camper and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of being in a “Kibbutz” environment with Jewish youth from all around the U.S. He returned the next year as a counselor and Sylvia went to Camp Alonim where she also enjoyed being in a “kibbutz” environment, but they didn’t connect. Three years later, after Norman graduated from N. C. State and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant, he was sent to Fort Bliss in El Paso. While in El Paso, Norman connected with some Brandeis Camp alumni and got to know Sylvia. They married before Norman left El Paso. Sylvia and Norman have been married for 61 years living in North Carolina and Florida, but if you ask her where she is from, she answers, “El Paso”.

You recently created an endowment at our Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso for our Campership Award program. What led you to make that decision?

Sylvia’s parents Abe and Leza Lichten left Lithuania in 1922 because of the pogroms. They



could not get into the U.S. because of the quota on Jews, so they went to Mexico. First to Veracruz, then Mexico City, then Monterrey, and then Ciudad Juarez. Finally, they entered the U.S. in El Paso in 1931, thanks to the sponsorship of the Stolaroff family. El Paso gave her parents an ability to see their dream come true and become citizens of the United States. Abe had a dry goods store at 209 South Mesa Street and was able to provide for his family so that they could live a good life. Sylvia is very grateful to El Paso for making it possible for her to live the way she does, and she still has a great love for the people and the city.

We want to memorialize Sylvia’s parents, Abe & Leza, and her sister, Arlene, by doing something in El Paso in their names that would help Jewish Youth understand the importance of a Jewish life.

Why do you think attending Jewish overnight summer camp is important for young people?

We believe that attending a Jewish overnight summer camp is important so that they can experience the beauty and pleasure a “Jewish Life”.

What hopes and dreams do you have for Jewish life here in Greater El Paso?

Our hopes and dreams are the same for Greater El Paso as they are for Greensboro, N.C. (where we live). That is that Jewish life will continue to thrive in a safe environment and that we are able to continue to support our community, be productive citizens, and make life better for all. Just as we have taught our children, young people need to get involved in the community at large and support Jewish causes and the general community.

Music and Faith Transcend Border: High Holidays Tradition

The Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso (JFED) and the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) were pleased to present this year’s Shofar Across Borders/Shofar a Traves de la Frontera celebration, which was held virtually on Sunday, September 12, 2021, making it possible for our community to take part from anywhere.

Since 2015, members of the El Paso, Las Cruces and Ciudad Juarez Jewish communities have met at Border Monument/Marker Number 1 to sing, pray, and celebrate the Jewish New Year. This year, to welcome the year 5782 on the Hebrew calendar, a few representatives of these communities met at the border, which was a livestreamed on Zoom and Facebook.

In Jewish tradition, it is

important for each Jew to hear the Shofar, a simple instrument made from the twisted ram horn, at least once during the month leading up to Rosh Hashanah, the first day of the new year. The sound reminds Jews that they share both a common history and the Torah’s commandment to make this world a better place each and every day.

“With what has happened during the past year and finding our footing back to a new normal, it was so important for us to bring our border communities together to celebrate the High Holiday season,” Cesar Carrasco, event chair, said. “The Paso del Norte community is so unique from the rest of the country and to have representatives from Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico at

Border Monument One, it was a great way to reconnect and celebrate our unity with our Shofar.”

Border Marker Number 1 is on the National Register of Historic Places as the first point of the U.S - Mexico border and was the country’s first mile marker placed to delineate the border in 1855.

“The JFED and JCRC were excited to bring this event to our community” Robert French, JFED Executive Director, said. “While we are trying to find our way to celebrate together, it was important to continue on with this tradition to bring us together in spirit.”

The Shofar Across Borders event is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso led by Executive Director Robert French and its President,

Monika Kimball. The Federation’s Jewish Community Relations Council is chaired by Debra Kanof. Shofar blower – Stuart Kelter. To see the event visit facebook.com/JewishFederationofGreaterElPaso.

SHOFAR ACROSS BORDERS

SHOFAR A TRAVÉS DE LA FRONTERA

שופר על הגבולות

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 2:00 PM

JOIN US VIRTUALLY AS WE EXCHANGE THE SOUNDS OF THE SHOFAR WITH OUR FELLOW JEWS IN CIUDAD JUÁREZ, MEXICO AT BORDER MONUMENT NUMBER 1

Zoom Link
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 Meeting ID: 970 968 9690
 Passcode: 7912

www.jewishelpaso.org

Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater El Paso

Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso

Borderland's Café Europa

FOR SENIORS 65+

Virtual Shabbat Dinner with Rabbi Scott Rosenberg

Friday, October 22 | 5:00pm – 5:45pm

Shabbat dinner delivered to your home.

Registration required by Friday, October 15 @ 12pm
For Registration Assistance Call: 915-842-9554.

Borderland's Café Europa is funded by a grant from The Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso

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Thank you to our volunteers

Challah, Apple, and Honey Stick Delivery
 Marcia Dahlberg, Margie Hauptman, Noel Hollowell-Small, Beth Lipson, Alison Mann

Shofar Across Borders
 Cesar Carrasco-Event Chair, Stuart Kelter – Shofar Blower, Brian Kanof – photographer, Debra Kanof- Jewish Community Relations Council Chair, Monika Kimball-Board President, Edgar Mendez

Borderland's Café Europa Guest Speakers
 Rabbi Levi Greenberg, Rabbi Yisrael Greenberg

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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Brenda Ehrlich & Shari Schwartz, JCF El Paso Impact Grants Committee Co-Chairs

Members of the El Paso Jewish community have received the benefit of \$533,000 last year from The Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso. For the past 20 years, many individuals have contributed to the Foundation, starting funds that allowed the interest income generated to be allocated at their discretion, or by the Foundation's board. The fortunate recipients of that generosity include programs and projects of Congregation B'nai Zion, Temple Mount Sinai, Chabad, El Paso Holocaust

Museum and Study Center, J Center for Early Learning, Cherry Hill School, and the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso's Shalom Shuttle, ElPasoConnect and Borderland's Café Europa, as well as many more worthy projects throughout the past twenty years.

You may not know that \$205,000 of the \$533,000 was last year's earnings from the sale of Chai Manor in 2013 to the Housing Authority of the City of El Paso. A condition of this investment in The Jewish

Community Foundation of El Paso is that a percentage of the income be given annually to the Rabbis' Discretionary Funds of the three El Paso congregations for seniors in need.

You too can be a part of this legacy with a gift in your name to the El Paso Jewish Community Foundation. This gift can be established with an initial \$1,000.00 investment. This is the just the beginning and you may add to it at any time. When your fund reaches \$10,000 through additions to it and

the income earned each year you may designate the annual earnings to scholarships, programming, specific Jewish organizations, or institutions. People over age 71 may also contribute through their IRA or by a bequest in their will.

Please contact The Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso at 915-995-0513 if you have questions. We look forward to you partnering, investing, and playing an integral and critical role in building a strong Jewish future for our community.

Camp Gan Israel - Las Cruces

After a tumultuous 2020 and half of 2021, Camp Gan Israel, Las Cruces, Summer 2021 was a lifeboat to many children and their families in our community and throughout Southern New Mexico. CGI was the place where worries were left behind by entering the front doors, and smiles and laughter filled the halls and building.

As a pioneer of Jewish camping in Las Cruces and Southern New Mexico, Camp Gan Israel is instrumental in giving local children a positive Jewish identity along with a healthy self-esteem. Camp Gan Israel looks forward to providing important growth: physically, emotionally and spiritually, that Jewish summer camp experience gives our campers.

Camp Gan Israel, Las Cruces, offers a Kiddy Camp for ages 2-5 and our Gan Izzy program for ages 6-13, with opportunities for junior staff positions for teens 14+. All children and staff members



who attend, benefit from the safe, nurturing and loving environment that permeates throughout. CGI's one-of-a-kind program offers exceptional staff, handpicked from around the USA, and offers the best of Jewish education together

with a superior program of activities and trips that promote positive child development.

Although only a one-week day camp, the flame of Camp Gan Israel flickers for a lifetime where friendships are forever and Jewish

Pride is everlasting.

Stay tuned for Summer 2022 – made possible by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso - and email Chenchie@ChabadLC.org with any and all inquiries.

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

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

Visit www.JewishElPaso.org/summercamp for more information



915-842-9554

The El Paso Jewish Film Festival presents the latest award-winning Israeli TV hit from the producers of Fauda, Shtisel and Your Honor

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Campers have S'more Fun!

Some of the 22 campers JFED sent to camp through its Campership Award program.



Ari

This was my first year as a camper at Camp Interlaken JCC in Eagle River, WI. It was the most freedom I've ever had since I was born because I was away from my parents! It was very fun, and I made so many new friends. I can't wait to go back. Some of my favorite activities were disc golf, archery, sailing, water skiing and more. We had Maccabiah games too. Camp helped me connect with Judaism and nature and other people. I got to be in a cabin with other boys my age and every morning getting out of bed and seeing Lake Finley was beautiful. You got to do so many things at camp that you can't do at home. When I first arrived, I felt like I truly belonged there. It really is my home away from home!

Ari - 5th Grade (Camp Interlaken JCC)



Daniel

I was so nervous to go to Camp Young Judea because I had never been away from home for so long. I also didn't know anyone and was hesitant to leave my electronics behind! When I got to camp, I was so happy to see that they turned the staff house into a teen lounge. There was ping pong and foosball. I immediately made friends and soon enough, my bunk mates were like family. We did everything together. I got to experience really amazing things with the Israeli scouts and a banquet. After not being able to do anything last summer, this was really great.

Daniel - 9th Grade (Camp CYJ)



Leila

This was my second summer at Camp Interlaken JCC in Eagle River, WI. I'm so grateful that I went for four weeks this year instead of only going two weeks like my first year. There were seventeen girls in my cabin, and we called ourselves the "Dua Lipas" of Cabin Leah. I still talk to these girls almost every day. Some of them have become my closest friends. Two of my favorite memories were when I water-skied around the lake for the first time and when we did Maccabiah (color war). The theme was Actors vs. Musicians. I was on team Musicians, and we won! I'm glad that I went to a Jewish camp because I've never been in an environment with so many Jewish kids before and I really felt like I could relate to the other campers. I also got to help lead a Shabbat service which helped give me an idea of what my Bat Mitzvah will be like. I love camp and I can't wait to go again next summer!

Leila - 7th Grade (Camp Interlaken JCC)



Jordyn

Camp is such a special place to me. Last year, after hearing the news it was canceled, I was devastated. This year I was beyond excited to go back, although I was a bit nervous. We packed up the car and drove to San Antonio. Once I got back to camp, it was as if I had never left. I saw so many of my old friends and all the places where my best memories occur. Once I got there, I was extremely homesick. But once we started doing activities, it felt like I was right at home. I've made some of my closest friends this year, we've had so much fun.

This year I was in Keshet, where we got to set up our community. We each had roles like Entertainment, Environment, Security, and Judaism. We made up our games and activities for the younger ada's (units) to play. We had gone down into the campsite and had to set up the tents ourselves, making a community. At night, we all sat around the campfire and talked about our favorite parts of camp and bonding with our friends. Camp has so many fun activities like swimming, sports, Hugs (electives), the Ofie wedding, the talent show, and my personal favorite, Maccabiah. Camp has amazing experiences, and I can't wait to come back. Thank you to the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso for their generous gift in helping me go back to camp this year.

CAMP WAS SO KOOL (WITH A K!!!!)
Jordyn - 7th Grade (Camp CYJ)



Leeba

Dear Diary,
Today was the greatest day of camp so far!
This morning, the theme of the day was broadcasted on the speakers: JEWISH HOLIDAYS. 5th grade (that's us) got to dress up as Purim! My friends and I all put on fun costumes and put lollipops in our hair.
The morning started off like every day with Prayer - but today we pretended like it was Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. Breakfast was the

Holiday of Sukkot, with music blasting from the speakers. During lunch, we celebrated Chanukah - with all the special Chanukah treats. Supper was Passover so waitresses put out Seder plates and saltwater bowls in the middle of the Dinner Tables. We all had a laugh when we tasted that! Then obviously the best part. Which was... PURIM!!! NIGHT ACTIVITY! First, we had a dance party, then a fashion show. We had to dress our counselors up, as a character in the Purim story, with newspapers, toilet paper, and masking tape! We turned our counselor into Charvona (Do you know who that is?). Even though we didn't win, we still had tons of fun. And of course, we had a late night. So now I'm in bed writing this all down so I never forget the fun times at camp. I love it here with all my friends - new and old. I'm loving my time here at Jewish overnight camp! Good night!
Love Leeba - 6th Grade
(Camp Pardes Chana)



Kaylee

I want to thank all of you for the amazing opportunity to attend Camp Newman. It was never in my wildest dreams that I could experience a Jewish camp that is filled with so much love. It was exciting, but it ended too quickly. I also want to thank the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso for the campership award that allowed me to experience the camp.
Kaylee - 9th Grade
(URJ Camp Newman)



Marshall

CYJ is a fun community where I get to play and do fun things with other Jewish kids and adults that I didn't know before camp. My favorite time at camp is when we are doing our electives (Chugs) because you can basically choose whatever you want to do. My favorite elective was ropes because you get to do a lot of fun stuff like doing an obstacle course in the air. I also like Maccabiah (Color Wars). You can sign up to do different things. I was on blue team this year and I chose to do kickball and Jeopardy. This year green team won, sadly, but I still had tons of fun. My favorite camp food is coffee cake. They serve coffee cake every Saturday morning. When you live with these people for 3 weeks you really feel like a community and that is why I love camp.
Marshall - 7th Grade
(Camp CYJ-Texas)



Ross

I love CYJ. I get to see all of my friends that I do not usually get to see. I get to be surrounded by other Jewish people while learning Jewish customs. Getting to camp out and make your own food is really fun. Swimming at the lake and the pool is a nice way to cool off. One of my favorite parts of camp was when I was doing art. Not regular painting and drawing but using clay and even making pillows. Every morning after breakfast we would have morning prayers that was a nice time to be together and pray. Friday night and Saturday morning services were the perfect mix of fun and praying. HavaDalah lets me be with my friends as we sing and after we get to do Rikud (dancing). Finally, of course, the coffee cake was amazing. That is why I love CYJ.
Ross - 7th Grade (Camp CYJ-Texas)



Musia

This summer I was privileged to attend Camp Pardes Chana. For the past 50 years this Chabad girl's overnight camp operated in the mountains near Montreal, Canada but this year they rented campgrounds in New York State. This made my summer experience even more special, because instead of flying straight to Montreal, I was able to visit my great-grandmother in Brooklyn before boarding a bus for the two-hour ride to camp. I had not seen her in-person since Covid started. It was my first time being away from home for over a month, and after settling in I felt comfortable and had a blast. All the activities and field trips were very exciting and it's hard to pinpoint specific ones I liked best. Above all else I enjoyed meeting so many girls my age, especially my classmates from the Chabad online school I attend throughout the year. The staff were kind and dedicated and the atmosphere was warm and homey. Although Pardes Chana was not in its usual home, we "freshmen" felt part of the family and want to go back together next year wherever it takes place. Thank you, Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso, for making this summer experience possible.
Musia - 5th Grade (Camp Pardes Chana)



Lily


My experience at Camp Young Judea (CYJ) was super awesome! One of the many things that I love about camp, is that there are always so many activities and experiences to look forward to, especially when you're 13, you have 2 very exciting activities, Exodus and Army day. On Exodus Day you and your Aidah (unit) go out in the middle of the night and try to go to the Promised Land. Army day is a tough day but very fun, they teach you about the history of the IDF (Israeli Defense Force) and they treat us like soldiers and teach us Krav Maga moves (Israeli martial arts). Another exciting experience I love about CYJ is that it's a melting pot since people come from everywhere to CYJ! Israel, Mexico, and Texas! My favorite parts were the lake elective, competing in a relay race, the coffee cake, and the people! Thank you so much to the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso for this opportunity and I can't wait to come back next year :D
Lily (Camp CYJ)



Meir

I was especially glad to be in camp in the SGP - Sixth Grade Program - because there was a special Bar Mitzvah Program throughout the summer. This was so exciting because camp was in the two months right before MY Bar Mitzvah! I loved being able to delve deep into the learning of what this really meant together with my friends - new and old - who were all made in camp will stay with me forever! And not just that - every day was a joy to be there - surrounded all the time in a Jewish Atmosphere. With Jewish music on the loudspeakers, sports, and time for Torah Study and even while swimming, playing be Jewish, and my personal favorite - canoeing on the lake - we felt proud to be Jewish, and so happy to be in camp. Of course, all the fun activities, the trips (who doesn't love six flags!!!) and overnight bivouac (good thing I brought a tent and warm sleeping bag), in the nonstop rain (like the Catskill mountains!) and night activity, singing great friends telling scary stories... I miss Camp Chayotei, my counselors and friends and can't wait for next summer to have this all again!
Meir - 8th Grade (Camp Chayotei Hamelech)

We have 30!



The Cherry Hill School reaches 30 students in its second year.

Adventure At Camp Chai Summer of 2021!



Here at Camp Chai, we not only have adventures at Camp, we have weekly adventures with the El Paso Tennis and Swim Club! It has been a wonderful success to end each week with a Shabbat service and have some time at the pool!



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Lessons From the Wilderness

The Jewish people can claim so many places of origin. We come from Eden: A spiritual beacon which calls us "home" to a world of perfect peace. We come from the ark which Noah and his family built to survive the great and terrible deluge. One could also say we come from the mountains of Ararat where the ark rested as the waters of the flood diminished. Similarly, we come from Babel, and from there we were dispersed.

As the generations of the Book of Genesis go by, we come to Terah. Abraham's (at that time: Abram) father who came from Ur of the Chaldeans. Yet another place of origin for the Jewish people. He moves to Haran. Abram is called by God to Canaan. His family's journey

takes Abraham, Sarah, and their descendants from there to Egypt and back again (and back again). You know the rest!

We can claim origin to so many places. However, most of our Torah describes us as wandering. According to the Torah, we are never in one spot for long. The Israelites are wandering and camping in the wilderness for forty years, and for most of the books of Exodus through Deuteronomy. It is in that desert where they truly become Israel. The People of Israel who are ready to enter the Land of Israel to serve the God of Israel.

It is purposeful that they become who they are when they are not stagnant. When mobile, we are forced to adapt and to

wrestle with a constantly changing reality. There in the wilderness they receive the Torah. There they accept the Covenant as a people. There they receive the Laws and the Ethics which will guide them for living and praying in the Promised Land (eventually).

Human beings learn and grow the most when removed from the normal patterns of our lives. When we are confronted by challenges, we find our way through them by building communities of support around us. Many of us experience this uniquely through the American Jewish tradition of camp. At camp we are outside of our normal patterns of living. There we must decipher what our parents have taught us, to apply their lessons to new situations.

There we strengthen our identities and our personal values by confronting new people and new situation. At camp we build new communities of support, relationships and memories that last a lifetime.

It is no wonder that camp has made such a profound difference to the American Jewish landscape. It is no wonder that, if you went to camp, it made such a profound difference in your life. Camp has been a source of profound strength to the Jewish people.



Rabbi Ben Zeidman, Temple Mount Sinai

Matzo Ball Open 2021

We are excited to invite you to the eighth annual Temple Beth-El golf tournament, the Matzo Ball Open which is scheduled for October 10th, at Picacho Hills Country Club. The tournament will be a four-person best ball team scramble and our goal is to make it fun for golfers of all skill levels. Picacho Hills is building a new outdoor event center so all activities, including raffle and dining will be outside. This year part of the proceeds will benefit the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico. CFSNM serves as a vehicle for people of all means to make a lasting impact on quality of life in our region now and in the future.

Your individual entry fee of \$110.00 includes golf, cart, practice balls, lunch, and a complimentary round of golf at PHCC. If you are not a golfer, you can support our event as a hole sponsor for \$100.00 with your name advertised at a tee box and in the Temple Beth -El newsletter or donate items for the raffle (merchandise, gift certificates or services).

You are the key to our success, and we greatly appreciate your participation in our event. We look forward to a fun, warm day of golf overlooking the Organ Mountains and to seeing you there.

Please call Lynn Zeemont at (914-391-0903) with any additional questions.



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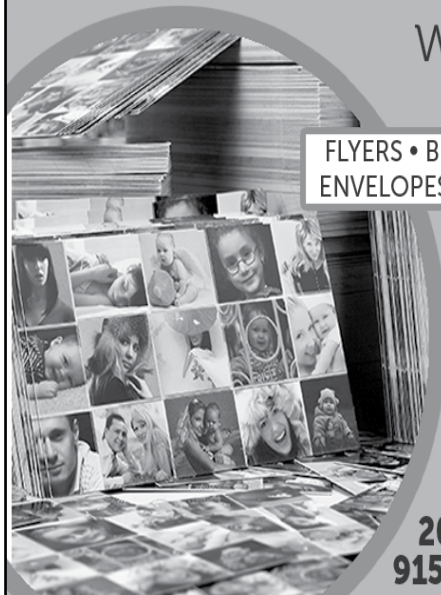


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