

The Jewish VOICE

Informing and Connecting Jewish People Here-Las Cruces

Cheshvan-Kislev, 5782
November 2021

*There is
Always
something
to be
Thankful for*



Up Close: Lee Chayes

What value do we need most in our world today?

The most important value in my opinion that we need most is the ability to communicate with each other, openly and honestly. We need to see each other as human beings that need to coexist for a finite amount of time on this beautiful planet and listen to each other without prejudice or personal agendas.

What do you value most in your friends?

The thing I value most in my friends is compassion which leads to love and understanding. My friends mean everything to me and I treasure our relationships and respect them for who they are.

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

I have several Jewish heroes so that's a tough question. One of my favorite heroes is Golda Meir, a woman who was born in Russia, emigrated to the US to become a teacher and then emigrated to Palestine in 1921 to live on a kibbutz. Golda was elected to Prime Minister of Israel in 1969 after serving as Labour Minister

and Foreign Minister. She is the fourth woman to serve as a prime minister in the world and the only woman to hold the office in Israel. What a remarkable woman.

What is your Jewish passion?

My Jewish passion is the tradition of following in my parents' footsteps in observance of holidays and family and friend gatherings. I love baking cookies for Rosh Hashana.

What are you thankful for?

I am most thankful for the good health of my family and friends.

Why do you believe is it important to give back?

I believe it is essential to "give back" to your family, friends, and community because giving is the meaning of life and being a small part of making a difference. Giving back doesn't have to be big, you can give food to the hungry by helping organizations fighting hunger or listening to a friend in need who needs a warm shoulder and a hug.

What does Judaism have to say about giving thanks?



I can only speak for myself as a Jewish woman and not all of Judaism. In my opinion, Judaism is based on tzedakah and giving thanks for all we have been

fortunate enough to receive. It is a religion that keeps on giving and asks only thanks in return.

Keeping Jewish El Paso — Jewish — Announcing the Marcia Dahlberg Leadership Fund for Temple Mount Sinai

I have been aware of the wonderful contributions the Jewish Community Foundation has made to the El Paso Community since the organization began nineteen years ago because my dad, Charles "Bud" Ramenofsky, was a member of the Foundation's first Board of Directors. My parents established two separate funds with the Foundation, and I have seen the impact of the annual distributions of those funds as well as so many more that have been created by members of our El Paso Community who are investing in the future of Jewish life in El Paso.

As a member of the Board of the Jewish Community Foundation for the past several years, I have seen firsthand the difference that the Foundation continues to make in our community with the annual distributions to so many organizations and have been privileged to be able to start my own fund. I plan to add to my fund annually and look forward to seeing the impact that the distributions can make in the life of our community.

For information on how you can start your own fund with us, please contact Robert French at 915-842-9554.



It Ain't What We Do It's the Way that We Do It

We have learned many valuable takeaways from you and from the CV-19 experience and we have received mostly positive feedback from you.

As part of our learning and listening, we have undergone a rebranding exercise which we plan on rolling out shortly.

We hope that you will find the new experience of our website, logos, online calendar, digital marketing and communications much easier to navigate.

We moved forward in response to what we heard from you, to reflect who we are and what we do more clearly and the pulse

of this marvelous community. We will never forget that, ultimately, you brand us, and we will endeavor to meet your expectations in all that we do in order to engage, connect, support and celebrate you in El Paso - Las Cruces, Israel and the Jewish world.



Robert French, Executive Director, Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso, The Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso



Picnic in the Park

Sunday November 21, 2021 2-4PM

Register by Friday,
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for a special picnic
meal from
The Culinary Studio

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Todah Rabah Thank you to our volunteers

Borderland's Café Europa:
Rabbi Scott Rosenberg, Margie Hauptman, Noel Hollowell-Small, Alison Mann
Camp Fair 2021 –
Iran Brown, Macy Glock, Lily-Shalom Sosa, Ari Untereker, Kaylee Zeledon



Borderland's Café Europa

FOR SENIORS 65+ In-Person Lunch

Visit to Old Mesilla Las Cruces, NM
Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Watch For Details

For Registration Assistance Call: 915-842-9554

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



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

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Informing and Connecting Jews in El Paso-Las Cruces

Las Cruces Chanukah Concert and Menorah Lighting

Sunday, November 28th at the Downtown Plaza De Las Cruces @ 4:30pm

On Sunday, November 28th, 2021, hundreds of local residents will kick off the holiday of Chanukah at the Downtown Plaza de Las Cruces as they observe the kindling of the Menorah, at what has become one of Las Cruces' mega events and the largest Chanukah celebration in the region.

Celebrating the first night of the Chanukah, a super-sized menorah will be lit as part of the free event, hosted by Chabad Jewish Center of Las Cruces. This year's MEGA Event will include a LIVE concert by singing sensation Tali Yess – a second generation singer and songwriter, as well as a Chocolate Gelt Drop from the top of an extended fire truck plus other forms of entertainment. Lots of giveaways, arts-n-crafts, moon-bounce, face paint, balloon artist, and a Chanukah Pop Up Shop will be



available. Additionally, take part in enjoying an array of edible treats: traditional jelly donuts, chocolate gelt, and a variety of savory Latkes (potato pancakes) with a twist. "Chanukah is the holiday

where light triumphed over darkness," said Rabbi Bery Schmukler, co-director at Chabad. "In a post – pandemic world, lighting the Menorah is a reminder to us to illuminate this world by increasing in random

acts of goodness and kindness and spread physical and spiritual light throughout our surroundings."

The purpose of this event is to bring the entire Southern New Mexico community together for Hanukkah, Rabbi Bery said in a press release. In a safe and outdoor environment, plans are underway to make this year's celebration the biggest and most exciting event yet. "We are so thrilled to be able to bring the Chanukah Concert and Lighting back to the community."

The public celebration, dubbed "Light Up Las Cruces," begins at 4:30 p.m. at the Downtown Plaza de Las Cruces and is open to all and free of charge. For more info, visit www.JewishLC.com or call 575-524-1330.

This year's event is made possible in part by a Grant from The Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso.

Consecration 2021

On September 27th Temple Mount Sinai celebrated Simchat Torah (rejoicing over the Torah). During this special occasion we marked the beginning of our youngest students' (Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st Graders) religious education. Included were those of our older students who were new this year to the Floyd S. Fierman Religious School.

Celebrating a new religious school year is special to me for many reasons. Religious school contributes to the communal commitment we all share to live our lives based on our Jewish values. It inspires meaningful Jewish conversations

between parents and children. It gives families the support they need to engage in Jewish life at Temple and at home. My role as Religious School Director is to facilitate that connection between home and Temple. To help inspire a love for Judaism that will last a lifetime. I cannot do it alone. I am so very grateful to have such wonderful teachers, committed parents and volunteers, who all come together to engage our students in a robust Jewish experience.

Temple Mount Sinai's curriculum includes Jewish history, the Torah, and Hebrew. We celebrate Jewish holidays. We

especially try to reinforce Jewish values in our students such as tzedakah, social justice, performing mitzvot, and righteousness. They learn to appreciate the essence of our Jewish homeland, Israel, and to recognize what makes Jewish community special anywhere in the world. They learn that there is far more to learn about Judaism. With Jewish learning as a lifelong endeavor, and Jewish community as a place they can call "home," they will continue to engage in Jewish life.

Celebrating Consecration this year at Temple is so special to our community. Mazel tov to our

Consecration students and their families:

Chris D., Walker G., Asher L., Levi M., Sarah P., Asher R., Audrey R., Andrew R., Davna R., Oliver R., Hannah S., Molly S., Dena W., Myles W., and Isabel Z.

May Consecration be just the latest step along the path of Jewish learning for these students. May they feel the joy and wonder in Judaism that we all share. May we all come together to support our families' efforts to create a strong foundation of Jewish living.

Iran Brown, Director
Floyd S. Fierman Religious School at Temple Mount Sinai

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.

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

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Already a commercial success in Israel, The Chef is destined to become the next international runaway hit. Gal Toren (Asylum City, Losing Alice) stars as the charismatic Dori, head chef of a popular restaurant, struggling to keep the top spot in Tel Aviv's gastronomic scene. All this is seen through the eyes of newcomer Nimrod, whose home life is threatened by this exciting, high-stakes world. The Chef offers us a dramatic, fast-paced inside look at the tensions and competition within the trendy Tel Aviv food scene.

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Our Community is Thankful for...



Dan and Vanessa Sonnen:

Our family is grateful for health, love, freedom, family and friends. We have so much to be grateful for but this year we especially are thankful for our families beautiful new home in El Paso's upper valley, Dan passing the Rigorous CFA exam, and our 2 precious boys, David (3.5 years) and Alex (1 year), who bring us more joy everyday than we could ever imagine. We are SO grateful, and our hearts are full.



Dr. Michael and Stacey Hyman:

We are thankful to be healthy and relatively sane despite Covid isolation. We are grateful for family and friends near and far and wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.



Sydney Goldberg and Guillermo Becerra:

We are grateful for the blessing of health in these times of uncertainty. We value the health of our families, friends, and community as we are more aware that we cannot take health for granted. We are grateful for this community which has always been so welcoming and supportive in every aspect of our lives. We are grateful for every single moment we spend together, safe, with a job, and more than anything else, with God. (Sydney pictured far left, Guillermo camera shy)



Amalia Zeitlin:

I'm thankful for music, humor, Jewish culture, and wonderful family and friends that I can share these things with. I'm also thankful to live in a part of the world where we can see the stars and take sunny hikes even in the late fall and winter seasons. (Amalia pictured second left)



Marieka Brown and Jeanne Abkes

This pandemic has made us grateful each and every day for our family and friends. Also, seeing how people in the Las Cruces and Temple Beth El communities have come together to support people through difficult times has been truly inspiring.

Beth Tierney

I am thankful for my jobs. One as an EA at Sonoma Elementary and one as a religious school teacher at Temole Beth El. I am also super thankful to be going to my parents for Thanksgiving for the first time in many years. (BETH is pictured far right)



Ben:

I am thankful for my family, my dogs, and my friends. I'm also thankful for all the stuff I have and that I am happy and healthy.



Eytan:

I am thankful for my family, friends, and pets, that add so much to my every day. I am also thankful to have food, clothes, and shelter. (Eytan is pictured second left)



Jacob:

I am grateful for my three dogs Beckett, Scooby and Quinn. I also miss my dog Harley very much. I am very grateful to have a mommy and daddy because they give me lots of love and they give me good food to eat and buy me toys. I am grateful to have best friends like Oliver and Rylee. Our favorite game to play is Gaga Ball and Chuckles (that's when my big brother chases us and scares us). (Jacob is pictured far left)

Hadassah and Hospice - Thanksgiving Mitzvah Project



We have always called it "Baking for Hospice", but times have dramatically changed with

COVID. Packaging homemade baked goods is no longer an option, however, Hospice El Paso still needs our help. Thanksgiving will be here before we know it. Many families will not have much to celebrate due to a loved one with a terminal illness and lack

of finances. Please join us in our annual mitzvah project by donating a turkey, canned goods, and/or small packaged pies or sweet breads. The official drop off will be at Lisa Mitchell's home, by 2:00 pm Sunday, November 21, 2021. It can be dropped off sooner, if needed. All items will be taken

to Hospice El Paso first thing Monday morning, November 22. If you are interested in helping, please leave Lisa a message (or text) via phone or email at (915) 494-9775 (or) ldm4165@aol.com. Thank you for **Lisa Mitchell** Chairperson, Hadassah and Hospice



Rebecca Mendez, The Jewish Voice Editor

There is Always Something to be Thankful for

try to comprehend how the Children of Israel could so easily forget the parting of the Red Sea, the water of Mara becoming sweet, G-d's provision of the cloud by day and pillar by night, and the mana from heaven. So when I was thinking about this month's theme, I remembered these events from Exodus. That no matter what, there is always to be thankful for. In our day-to-day lives it would be easy for us to forget about the blessings that made our day better and be overshadowed by what made our day horrible. Blessings such as the clothes we wear, food, shelter, transportation, a career, financial security, loved ones, etc. By the time this issue prints, the Borderland's Café Europa Shabbat Dinner, led by Rabbi Scott Rosenber, will have taken place.

While preparing for the event I stopped by Congregation B'nai Zion, and read Psalm 116:12 "What can I render unto the Lord for His gifts to me?" I think Lee Chayes said it best in her Up Close Interview on page 2, "... giving thanks for all we have been fortunate enough to receive," and "...giving is the meaning of life and being a small part of making a difference." While Thanksgiving is a day when we stop and give thanks,

it's good to think about something to be thankful for every day. As the day begins to end, reflect on the blessings that were present and how, if possible, we were able to be a blessing in someone else's life.

As we approach Thanksgiving, it's a time to stop and think about what we are thankful for. However, for the past couple of months, I have thought about Exodus 14, 15 and 16, where the Children of Israel began to mumble, grumble, and complain against Moses about their situation in the desert: "...you have taken us to die in the desert?", "...what shall we drink?", "For you have brought us out into this desert, to starve this entire congregation to death." It's easy for us to read Exodus and

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Borderland's Café Europa Shabbat Dinner with Rabbi Scott Rosenberg – Congregation B'nai Zion.

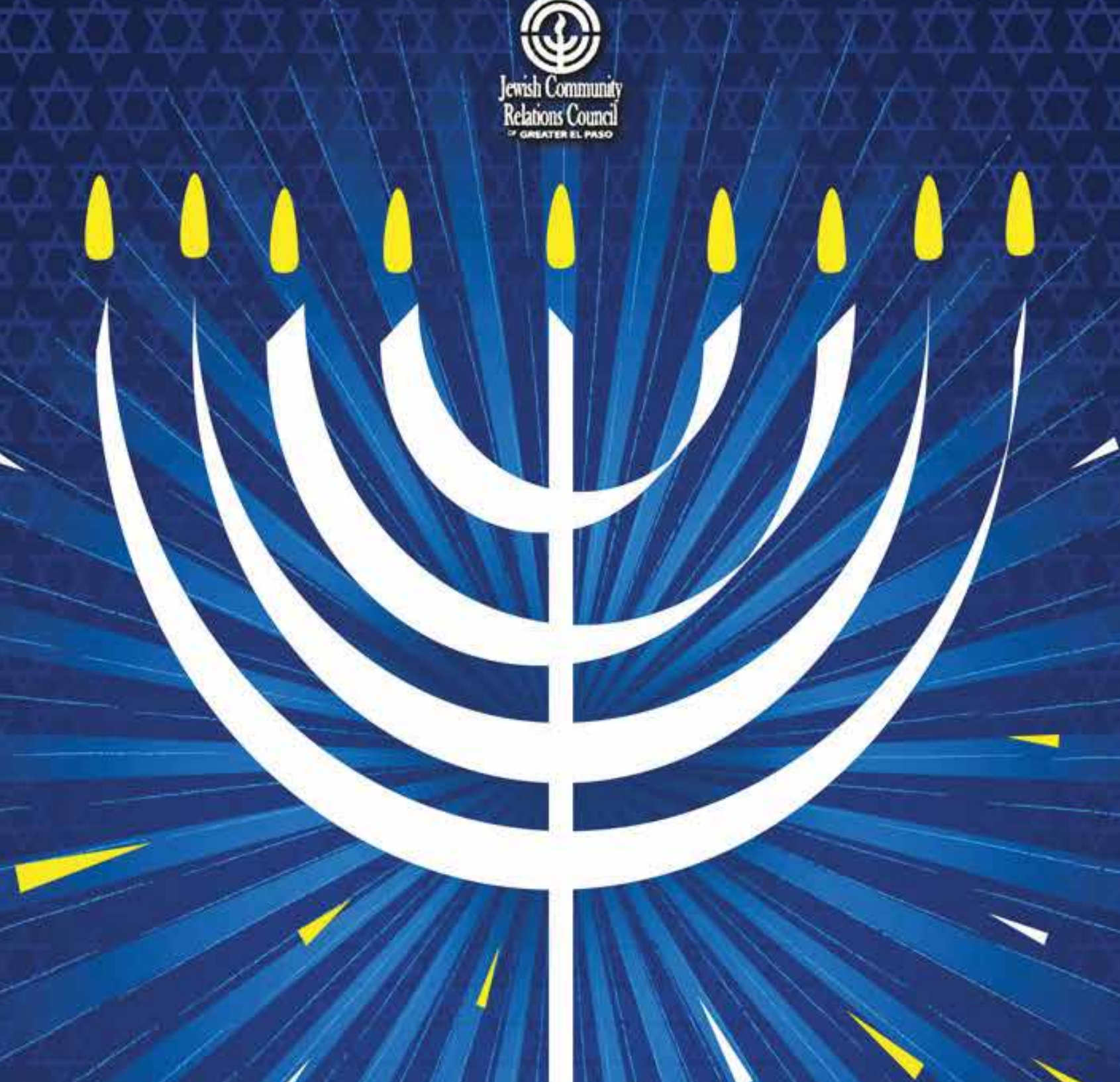


Cherry Hill School Sukkot Fall Harvest



Borderland's Café Europa: Sukkot Celebration at Chabad Lubavitch of El Paso





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