

The Jewish VOICE

Informing and Connecting Jews in El Paso-Las Cruces

Kislev-Tevet, 5782
December 2021

Shining a Light



Up Close: Robert (Bob) and Elaine Krasne

What value do we need most in our world today?

Bob: Compassion and tolerance. We can view the world in a place where everyone benefits.

Elaine: We need to stop the hatred and blame that seems to be so evident in social media and the press.

What do you value most in your friends?

Bob: The ability to share wonderful times together and to be supportive of each other without an agenda.

Elaine: The shared memories we have created in the 45 years we have lived in El Paso.

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

Bob: Moses for his unwavering ability to deal with the mass of Jews that he led. He faced adversity and created a strong community that we are all part of.

Elaine: My grandmother who came from Europe, with love and simplicity, taught me what was important. Family, Jewish ideals and good deeds were central

to her life. Our children and grandchildren are in her mold.

Describe your favorite Chanukah tradition or memory.

Bob: My favorite memories of Chanukah were with our four children as we decorated our house, opened gifts every day and just enjoyed being together.

Elaine: Making latkes with everyone in the kitchen and snatching some from the pan before they hot to the platter.

The Chanukah story speaks about the fight against tyranny. Today we are faced with the resurgence of anti-Semitism even here in the USA. What do you think we can do about it?

Bob: As Jews we have always faced an uphill battle against the world. We must keep fighting by being positive and reinforcing basic Jewish principles.

Elaine: We need to maintain a flow of money to those who are fighting this oppression and hope for the best.



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

Bob: The people of El Paso who welcomed us with open arms and made us feel at home from day one.

Elaine: Moving here 45 years ago was hard for me to leave all my family behind. This community is so special and we always try to pay forward what we got.



Keeping Jewish El Paso

== Jewish ==

Announcing the The Loree and Norton Furman Fund

Norton and I chose to establish a fund with JCF to help provide funding to ensure the vibrancy of the entire Jewish community. I hope our fund can play a supporting role to perpetuate the goodwill the federation spreads throughout the El Paso Jewish community for our children, grandchildren, and future great grandchildren. In addition, I've been so inspired by the wonderful and creative programs the federation hosted during the pandemic. They provided me a great sense of pride in the federation and a wonderful outlet for me and many others during the pandemic.

Our vision is to see our Jewish institutions continue to thrive and serve the needs of the Jewish community now and in the future. Through our leadership and financial commitments in the past and today, my hope is for organizations like the Federation, Hadassah, the day school, and our religious institutions to continue serving the needs of the Jewish community. Our vision is for all our Jewish institutions to work to unite El Paso Jews and spread Tikun Olam here and in Israel.

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



Miracles Still Happen

As we once again lit our first Chanukah candle last Sunday and recalled the miracle of the oil and Judah Maccabee's heroic fight against the Seleucid Empire, (167-160 BCE), I am overwhelmed with a very personal miracle in my life that I would like to share with you. I have shared it with the members of the Executive Committee of the JFED Board but thought it might be worthwhile to share with you, because we often forget that miracles still happen. When they do, we often rationalize them away with explanations of science and happenstance. But I can neither explain nor rationalize this gift. It is simply a miracle.

My miracle happened recently when my daughter, Angie was faced with having her leg amputated due to a life

threatening infection, a result of her diabetes. She lives in a small town in Tennessee which is underserved by medical specialists and where a decision was made, at the regional hospital, that amputation would take place within three days while potent antibiotics would keep the situation stable.

Prior to this hospitalization, my husband had contacted the President/CEO of Vanderbilt University Hospital in Nashville describing the dire situation Angie was experiencing, and was told that a transfer was impossible. Due to COVID 19, there were no beds available. The amputation seemed imminent when the Hospitalist at the regional hospital contacted Vanderbilt again. He was told the same thing; Angie could not

be transferred to Nashville as there was simply no space. A day later, the miracle began. A call came from Vandy that Angie was now #1 on the list and would be transferred by ambulance for further diagnosis. She was designated as a VIP with privileges of that status. At Vanderbilt, top experts reevaluated her condition. Instead of amputation, she had surgery and an artificial heel was implanted.

You may not see the miracle in this story, but we certainly do. JFED Board members, Rabbis, congregants, friends and family all did double duty praying for Angie and she and her small family are the recipients of this miracle. We thank you for your prayers and good wishes. Most of all, our gratitude goes to



Monika Kimball
President, Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso

Adonai our G-d, whose miracles are all around us even though we may not always be aware because not all miracles are as obvious as ours.

Continue enjoying the Miracle of Chanukah while we sing "Maoz Tzur/Rock of Ages" and light the remaining candles knowing that miracles still happen.

Todah Rabah Thank you to our volunteers

ElPasoConnect – First Fridays at Fort Bliss: 1st Lt. Scott Klein and Shane Wagman Romero ElPasoConnect Chair

Celebrate Chanukah at San Jacinto Plaza: Noel Hollowell-Small, Event Chair, Debra Kanof- Jewish Community Relations Council Chair, Fred Yellon and Judith Lazarus Yellon



Judah Lesser

graduates in December with a BS in computer engineering from University of Maryland, and plans to begin work in January at Peraton Labs in Silver Spring, MD. Judah also learned at Yeshivat Har Etzion in Israel and is active in Kedma, the Orthodox Jewish student organization at University of Maryland.

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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Here for Good and bringing meaning to that!

Noel Hollowell Small, Event Chair

On December 1st, we celebrated in person the 4th night of Chanukah at San Jacinto Plaza. While last year's virtual event was about preserving tradition and keeping the light going, this year's event emphasized that light and how we are here for good. As a vibrant, diverse Jewish community in Greater El Paso, it's important to use Chanukah, as a way to

draw and educate our extended community, especially when taking up public space like San Jacinto Plaza. We were able to share our Chanukah traditions, like lighting the menorah, singing and telling stories about Chanukah, and eating traditional treats together. This may seem trivial to some, but I see the value in creating a moment to share the miracle of

the light together. A light that has been passed down for generations.

This year's Chanukah at San Jacinto Plaza featured students from the newly formed Jewish school, The Cherry Hill School. This put further into focus who will carry the light into the next generation and the importance of creating spaces for all kids to sing and celebrate openly. But is not

just The Cherry Hill students that will carry that light, we all can join in, especially as we continue to celebrate Chanukah on the Plaza for years to come.

However you chose to celebrate Chanukah this year, let's remember to carry that light into the upcoming dark winter months, and use what we have to shine a light for the next generation.

These We Honor With Tributes

Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso

TO: Mazel Tov to Cliff Eisenberg on his Special Birthday
FROM: Leslie and Rick Otis

TO: Herb and Brenda Ehrlich in Memory of Joyce Ehrlich
FROM: Sue Bendalin

TO: Herb and Brenda Ehrlich in Memory of Dr. Morton Ehrlich
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TO: Martha and Cliff Eisenberg with Thanks for the Wonderful Shabbat Dinner
FROM: Sue Bendalin

TO: Hal Ettfinger and family in Memory of his Beloved Mother Barbara
FROM: Sue Bendalin

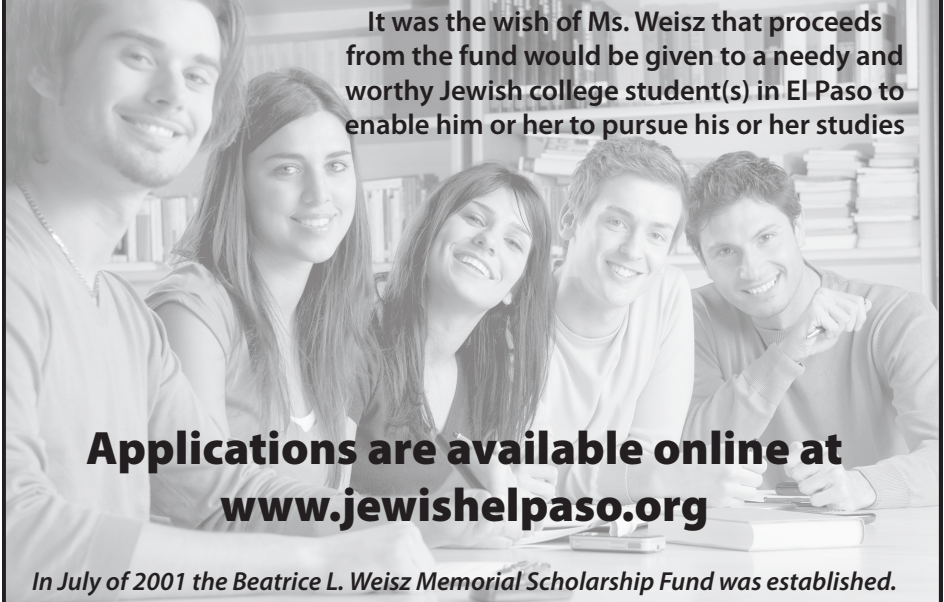
TO: John Eger with Best Wishes for a Happy Birthday
FROM: Rochelle Saks

TO: David and Cindy Metrikin in Memory of Joseph Metrikin
FROM: Elaine and Bob Krasne
FROM: Sue Bendalin

Bea Weisz Memorial Scholarship Fund

Applications are now being accepted for the Bea Weisz Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Applications must be received on or before
May 16, 2022 for distribution by August 12, 2022



It was the wish of Ms. Weisz that proceeds from the fund would be given to a needy and worthy Jewish college student(s) in El Paso to enable him or her to pursue his or her studies

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In July of 2001 the Beatrice L. Weisz Memorial Scholarship Fund was established.



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915-842-9554

A View from the Top

Sue Bendalin, Director of Philanthropy and Rebecca Mendez, Editor

Lions of Judah and members of the Pomegranate Society gathered together for the first time in a long time on Tuesday, November 2, at the Hotel Paso Del Norte, for a lovely luncheon, a visit, with coffee and dessert included at Dannah Lane Boutique. All this followed by a guided tour of the beautifully restored and remodeled hotel, with David Varela, Concierge and Resident Historian.

“This special event is our way to thank the philanthropic

women in this community for their generous support to the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso (JFED).” Martha Eisenberg, event chair, said. “Especially this year, it was great to be together again in-person.”

During the event, Robin Furman, JFED Campaign Co-Chair, and Robert French, JFED Executive Director, spoke about the impact that the Jewish Federation is making on our Greater El Paso community and

the ongoing need to do more to help Jewish education, to increase our support programs, and to bring our community together more as we emerge from the aftermath of the pandemic.

“The Lions of Judah and Pomegranate Society helps engender Jewish life in our community,” Mona Goldberg said. “It’s important to continue the support of these causes and resources to our community.”

“We have a thriving Jewish

community, and it has had a positive impact on my upbringing. Especially, when it comes to lifelong friendships,” Lory Rogers added. “I hope the annual contribution I give will help this community continue to thrive, and have an impact on educating, inspiring, and empowering women of all ages in our community.”

All in all, it was a wonderful afternoon, and all the women are looking forward to being together again soon.



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Hidden Miracles

On Chanukah, we traditionally celebrate two miracles: the miracle of the oil when a small cruse of oil, enough for one day, burned for eight days — long enough for new oil to be consecrated, and the victory of a volunteer army of guerrillas against the might of the Assyrian Greeks.

Chanukah is a Rabbinically-ordained holiday, and unlike holidays defined in the Torah, the Rabbis employed greater latitude when it came to both understanding the holiday and extending its meaning. One kabbalistic Rabbi, Rabbi Chaim Yosef David Azulai (Jerusalem 1724-1806), felt it appropriate to expand the number of miracles

connected to Chanukah. He taught that the two familiar miracles were merely those that a human could see. They were the primary miracles. According to Rabbi Azulai, at that same time God also ordained a set of derivative miracles that would be experienced in the future. These Chanukah -related derivative miracles were like the miracles that the Zohar states God created at the time of the Exodus from Egypt that would only play a critical role at the time of our ultimate redemption (messianic times). We don't know what they are, but we know that they exist.

While I like the idea of hidden miracles, I disagree about their passive revelation. I think

Chanukah teaches us how to shine light on these miracles. On Chanukah, the eight lights represent the miracles, but without the shamash, the candle used to kindle the other candles, there is no light. That ninth candle, the candle of empowered action, is a reminder of a derivative miracle associated with Chanukah. The role of the shamash is to enable the miracle to be seen and appreciated. Of all the candles, the shamash is the only candle from which we can derive direct benefit. The other candles only recall miracles past. The shamash empowers celebration present; it represents the light we bring into this world and use for sacred purposes.

The shamash, therefore, represents a miracle: the miracle of spreading light. The miracle of appreciating good things that often go unnoticed.

This Chanukah, I hope that each of us can not only celebrate the traditional miracles of the holiday, but also this hidden miracle. How do we do this? We cast light on something good, we communicate our good feelings, and we celebrate that as part of this festival of lights.

Hag Urim Sameach. A Joyous Holiday to all.



Rabbi Scott Rosenberg

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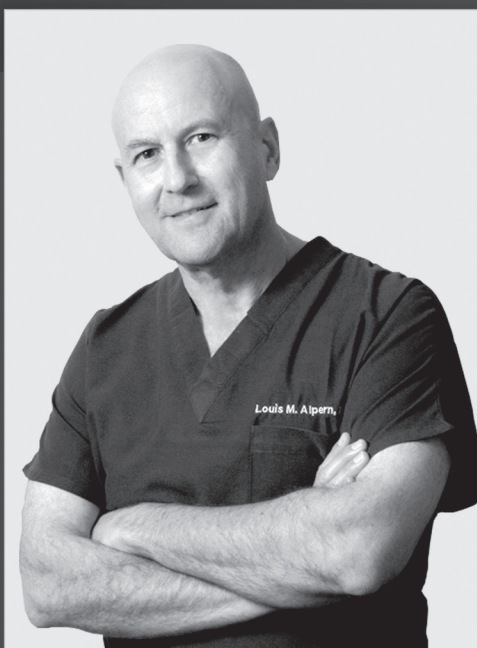
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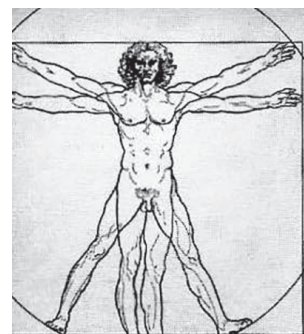
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