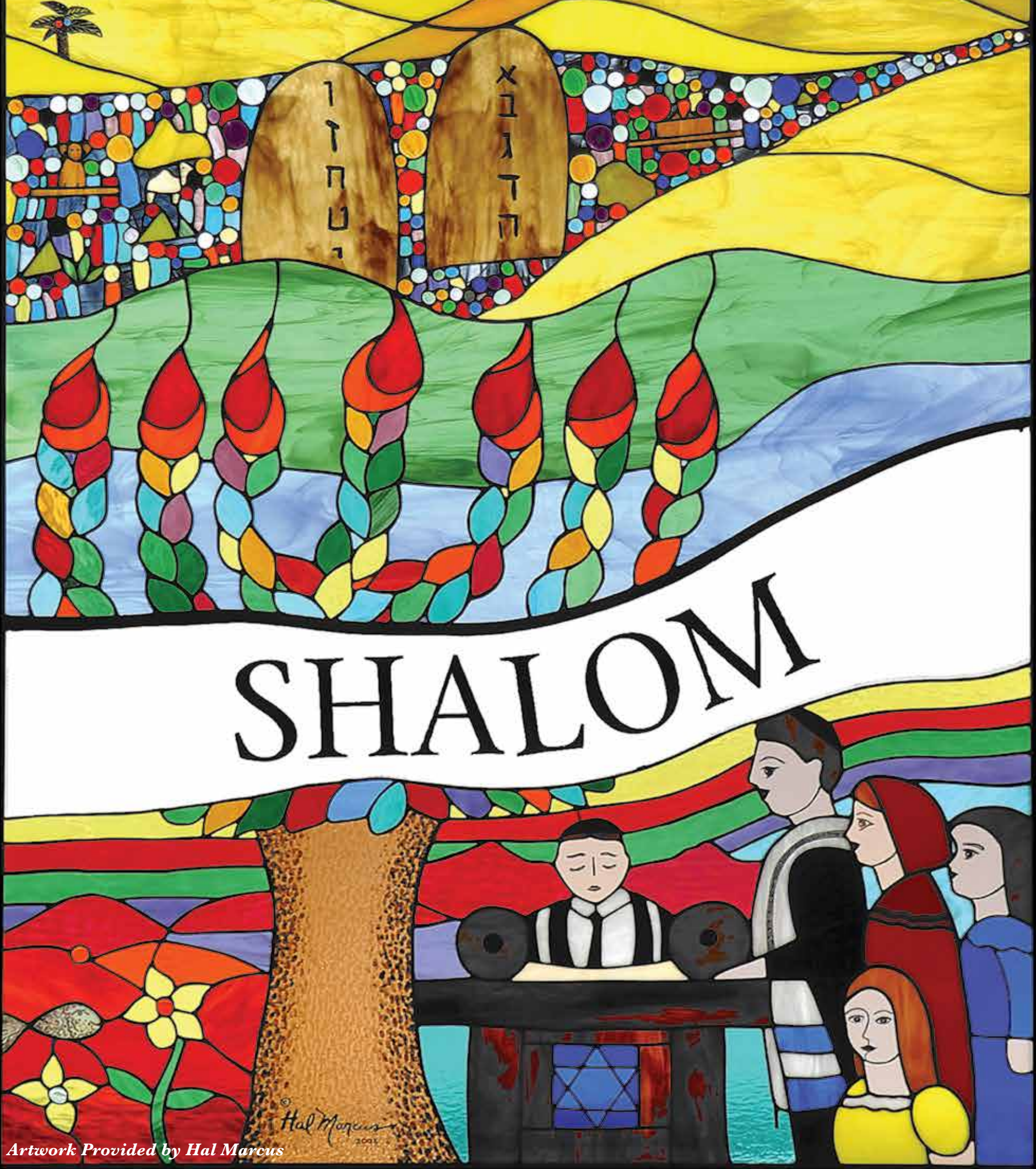


# The Jewish VOICE

Informing and Connecting Jews in El Paso-Las Cruces

Av and Elul 5782  
August 2022



Artwork Provided by Hal Marcus

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

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

**JEWISH EL PASO**  
CONNECTING EL PASO-LAS CRUCES

# Up Close: Blanca & Cesar Carrasco

**Blanca M. Garza Beagle Enriquez**, is the Program Manager for Student Success and Strategic Initiatives at the Department of Civil Engineering at UTEP. She was born in Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico and grew up in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. She is married to Cesar J. Carrasco and have two children, Rebecca and Joel Alejandro. She became very involved with the Jewish community by volunteering at Jewish El Paso, Congregation B'nai Zion's Sisterhood, and currently at the Anusim Center of El Paso.

**Cesar J. Carrasco** is a professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at UTEP. He was born in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. Cesar was the president of Congregation B'nai Zion and has been a member of Jewish El Paso for many years serving as board member for three years and being involved in multiple committees including the one organizing the Shofars Across Borders program.

**What value(s) do we need most in our world today?**

Tolerance and respect

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

The people that lead and work at the Anti-Defamation League for their work combating antisemitism

and extremism as well as protecting people's civil rights.

**Please share your journey to Judaism and what it means to you**

What started with an inquiry about the possibility of having Jewish (crypto) ancestors who were expelled from Spain because of our last names, lead us to Rabbi Stephen Leon's work with the Anusim, and to become part of the Jewish community.

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

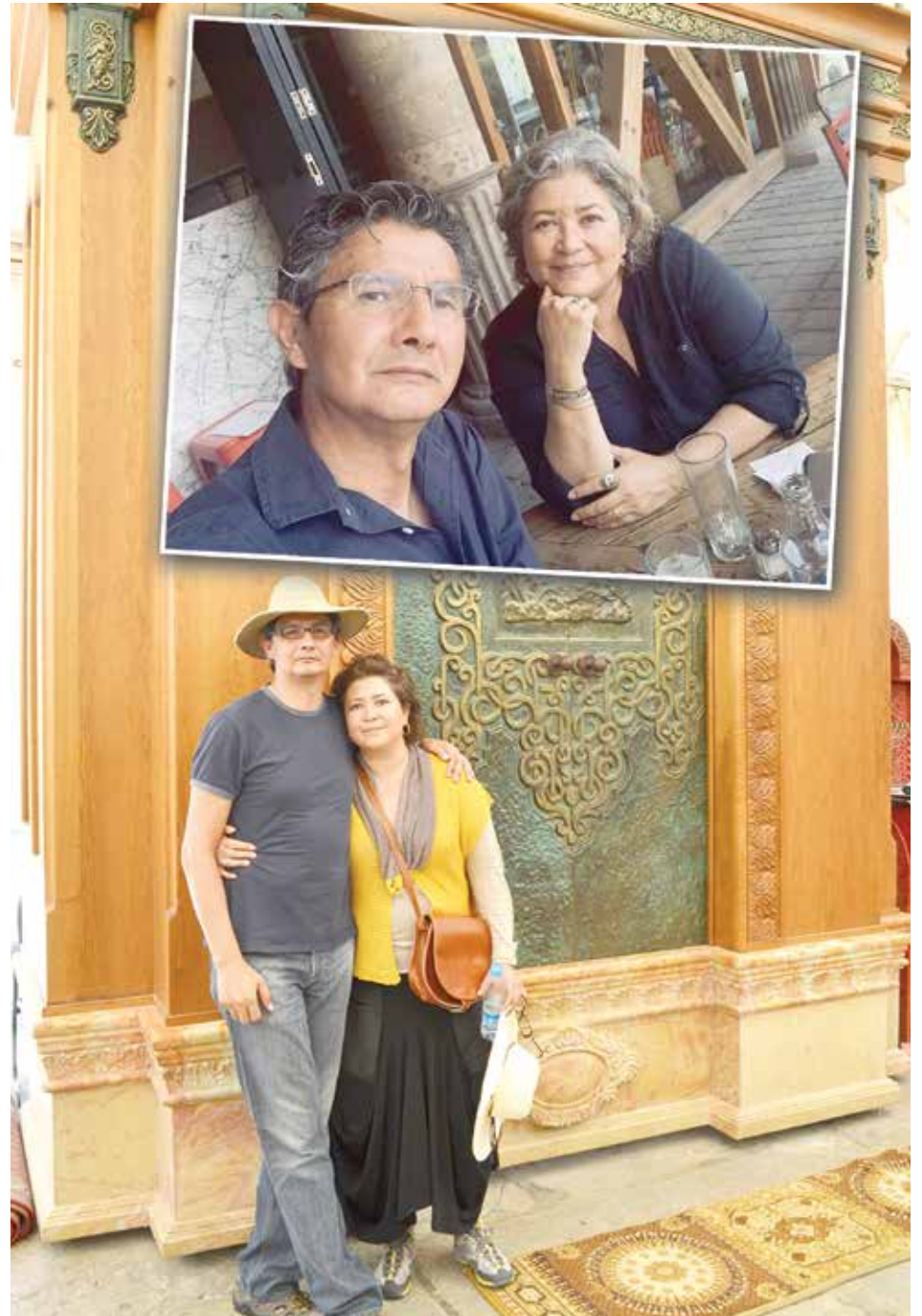
Getting to know people who share the same ideals as us to make this a better world.

**Why is it important to you to be involved in the Jewish community?**

Both of us have been very active at Jewish El Paso because we believe that it plays a very important role in bringing together the Jewish community in the region.

**What is the significance of the Shofars Across Borders program?**

It's a way to reach out to create "community" by showing support to our Jewish brothers and sisters in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua and other parts of Mexico.



## Social & Personal

### Baruch Dayan haEmet – May G-D bring Comfort to...

...to Marvin Abrams on the death of his wife Charlene Abrams  
 ...to the Armour family on the death of Rick Armour  
 ...to the Teplitz family on the death of Bob Teplitz  
 ...to the Crohn family on the death of Gloria Crohn  
 ...to Mr. & Mrs. Gary Weiser on the death of David Galatza  
 ...to the Gluck family on the death of Doris Gluck  
 ...to the Gluck family on the death of Gail Gluck  
 ...to the Kaplan family on the death of Pearl Kaplan  
 ...to Rabbi Ben & Katie Zeidman on the death of Shirley Harris  
 ...to the Lauterbach family on the death of Bernard Lauterbach

### Mazel Tov – Congratulations

...to Mariska Valdes, for being called to Torah as a Bat Mitzvah.  
 ...to Alexandra Goldstein, for being called to Torah as a Bat Mitzvah.  
 ...to Dan & Vanessa Sonnen on the birth of their son, Eric Andrew Sonnen, on July 2, 2022. Grandparents are Jon & Arlene Sonnen.  
 ...to Jack & Sandy Peitzer on the marriage of their daughter Tara

### Yom Huledet Sameach – Happy Birthday

...to Benjamin Galvan, August 7

**\*To post your announcement please visit  
[www.jewishelpaso.org](http://www.jewishelpaso.org)**

**Jewish El Paso | [www.jewishelpaso.org](http://www.jewishelpaso.org) | 915-842-9554**



## Shofar Across Borders

Sunday, September 18 at 2pm

The sound of the Shofar breaks the quiet of a desert afternoon where Texas, New Mexico and Mexico meet

Watch for details

Jewish El Paso | 915-842-9554 | [www.jewishelpaso.org](http://www.jewishelpaso.org)

# Marcus Family Celebrating 101 Years

by Leilainia Marcus from stories shared by Shirleen Askenazi and Hal Marcus

The year was 1921. Facing the economic and emotional damages families felt as Syria began to depart from French Rule, the merchant Helfon Marcos decided to create a better life for himself and his family by leaving Aleppo, Syria. He gathered his wife Latife, their newborn Mordecai (Morris) and their two year old Menahem (Clement), and boarded a bare assenger ship heading towards Ellis Island. With no beds, no kosher meals, and limited resources, the teenager Latife left everything she knew to follow her 37 year old husband to America. The journey took 3 months: from Aleppo, Syria to Ellis Island, NY New York to Galveston, TX Texas and ending in El Paso, TX Texas. Upon arrival in the United States U.S., a customs agent logged the family name as Marcus instead of Marcos.

Solomon, who already resided in El Paso, invited his brother Helfon to join him peddling dry goods and linens door to door by horse and buggy in south El Paso. Meanwhile Latife was home caring for the family. By the time she was 28 she had 6 children: Clement, Morris, Esther, Eddie, Sarah, and Jenny. Latife and Helfon continued to speak Arabic at home, they immediately learned Spanish, and little by little Latife learned English. They bonded with the Middle Eastern and Mexican communities throughout the area. Latife became well known on both sides of the border for her Syrian cooking.

In the early 1940's the synagogue became a huge part of their lives and Latife began playing cards with the women of the Jewish Community. The 3 boys joined the U.S. Army to serve in World War II.

Sadly, Clement Marcus died in the war. Esther and Jenny soon after moved to Mexico when they married. In 1945, after returning from the war, Morris married his sweetheart, Rena Shabot of Houston. Rena and Morris had 5 children: Shirleen, Lillian, Halfon, Meyer, and Clement.

In 1946 Morris and his brother Eddie went into the grocery business and started the Big 8 Food Stores. Everyone in the family worked in the grocery store. Gito Helfon ran the adjacent liquor store; (Gito is Arabic for Grandpa). In 1951 Sarah married Max Intebi. They had 3 children: David, Lettie, and Charlie. In the early 60's Eddie and his wife Alice moved to Mexico City. They had 6 children: Linda, Fred, Sammy, Sarah, Isaac and Morris. In the 1970's, Morris sold the Big 8 Food Fair Store.

He and his sons went into the real estate business Marcus Investments, now known as Mimco. Sarah worked as Morris' assistant and continued to take care of her family.

Latife and Helfon left a legacy of 177 and counting children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren, who currently reside in the United States and Mexico. Latife was the family matriarch. Her boundless energy created an atmosphere of boldness, strong work ethics, and pride in the Marcus heritage. Her legacy continues through the diversity of what her offspring bring to the world as realtors, artists, doctors, architects, accountants, entrepreneurs, free thinkers, and grounded individuals.



**The Marcus Family**  
Helfon, Latife, Clement, Morris, Edward, Esther and Sarah ca. 1927

## CRISIS IN UKRAINE

ACT NOW

JEWISHEL PASO

CONNECTING EL PASO-LAS CRUCES

[www.jewishelpaso.org/give](http://www.jewishelpaso.org/give)

### Congregation B'nai Zion is proud to present:

Wednesdays

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM MT

We invite the Jewish community of El Paso/Las Cruces to laugh your way through Jewish history as we explore Jewish concerns, preoccupations, and values buried in the jokes of our people! This 10-session online course from the global Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning reveals a treasure of irresistible Jewish jokes, wit, and wisdom.

Beginning with the ancient Israelite's relationship with God all the way to contemporary comedy, from Fanny Brice and Lenny Bruce to Mel Brooks, Seinfeld, and Sarah Silverman, humor has elevated our spirits and bonded us as a people. This course takes a serious look at being Jewish – and being funny!

- 09/07- Lesson 1 - How to 'read' a Jewish joke
- 09/14- Lesson 2 - A lack of graves
- 09/21- Lesson 3 - The goyim annoy'em
- 09/28- Lesson 4 - If you're so smart...
- 10/12- Lesson 5 - The joy of text
- 10/19- Lesson 6 - Take my wife, please
- 10/26- Lesson 7 - "You can change your noses but not your Moses"
- 11/02- Lesson 8 - Dig, I'm Jewish
- 11/09- Lesson 9 - Mothers and others
- 11/16- Lesson 10 - Seriously funny

Registration fee: \$50 (Tuition for this course is subsidized by Jewish El Paso, standard registration is \$295.)

Space is limited, register today!

For information and registration:  
[www.congregationbnaizion.org](http://www.congregationbnaizion.org)  
(under the Special Events tab)  
(915) 833-2222

Fee includes Melton-provided course books to be picked up at CBZ or, for an additional \$9 it can be shipped to home address.

Registration closes: August 24, 2022  
Zoom link provided upon registration  
Scholarships available upon request

Congregation B'nai Zion

JEWISHEL PASO  
CONNECTING EL PASO-LAS CRUCES  
Funded by a grant from Jewish El Paso

Never stop seeking.<sup>®</sup>

# Lead From the Front & Inspire Others



by Rabbi Bery Schmukler

Our family is honored and blessed to have monthly groups of the actual IDF soldiers who protect OUR Holy land and are here, in Las Cruces, to train for the Iron Dome come over to our house for Kosher food, BBQs, and just a good time. Have you ever seen a Soldier with his head bowed in prayer by the Western wall? The Rebbe remarked several

times on the visual power of soldiers in prayer at the Kotel (especially in Tefillin). There is a stunning contrast between the supreme confidence that is natural to soldiers and the simple humility which compels them to stand with bowed heads next to an ancient, sacred wall asking for Heavenly assistance.

This blend of self-confidence and selflessness is what the Torah wishes for all of us. It suits us to recognize the frailty of our own power, dependent as we are on G-d for each and every breath we gratefully take. But we must also know and never forget our inherent strengths and capabilities; after all, G-d Himself depends on us for the fulfillment of the Torah and the perfection of His universe.

We are at once completely powerless and completely powerful.

They do not contradict one another - in fact, they complement each other.

A soldier is a symbol of a nation's might, and few nations have soldiers as mighty as Israel's. When that same soldier begs for Divine aid, it is no less spectacular than Moshe Rabbainu pleading with G-d before parting the sea with his walking staff. Completely powerless and completely powerful. It is the truest form of power.

I hope that these fighters know how much their acts of faith are admired by everyone who sees them. Their acts of war have brought Israel salvation more than once; their acts of faith bring Israel a salvation no less urgent.

And in the spirit of the Israeli commanders' war cry of - not "Attack!" but - "Follow me!", leading

from the front and inspiring others to follow after them, it suits us to follow their lead here as well. With all our natural gifts of smarts, looks, wealth, fitness, family, connections and success, at no point is it beneath us to stand humbly before G-d - at the Western Wall or at our living room wall or boardroom wall or the back wall of our local Shul - and whisper a prayer for continued Divine aid.

We are completely powerless and completely powerful. By praying every day and saying the Shma Yisrael every morning and every night, we remind ourselves of that truth. We also honor the faithful fighters of the IDF, and we live the kind of life that we should be proud of.

With wishes for a healthy summer!

# Expressions of Gratitude on Memorial Day

By Maurice Kubby JWV Post #749  
Commander Scott P. Stevens

The Jewish War Veterans, Maurice Kubby Post #749 of El Paso, Texas, commemorated Memorial Day by placing flags on the gravesites of our local Jewish veterans. They organized about 30 participants that included members of the Post, Temple Mount Sinai (Reform) and Congregation B'nai Zion (Conservative). It was a beautiful day enjoyed by all.

Our community has long recognized that there are many Jewish-Americans among us whom have patriotically served their country in its times of need. Our

community recognizes that the military contributions made by our Jewish veterans (Women as well as Men) of all services, since the American Revolution have been significant and important to our nation and should not be forgotten. To that end they placed 316 flags at our veterans' graves which were provided by the Post through community donations. They request of the congregations of the El Paso & Las Cruces Jewish communities to inform the Post of all family members that have served their country so that they may honor them on Memorial Day from this day forward.

Photos courtesy of Brian Kanof



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



## Apple & Honey Sticks and Challah

We are once again offering freshly prepared Challah and Apple and Honey Sticks for the New Year.

(We will need volunteer help with delivery - to homebound only - and distribution on Thursday, September 29.)

Order deadline | Wednesday, September 21 at 12pm

Orders available for pick-up and delivery (homebound only)

**Thursday, September 29 4:00pm - 6:00pm**

Jewish El Paso | www.jewishelpaso.org | 915-842-9554





By Rachel Kallman

Rachel Kallman grew up in the beautiful border city of El Paso, Texas. From graduating preschool at the Jewish Community Center to being

# Jewish Identity Social Justice

Bat Mitzvahed at Temple Mount Sinai, the El Paso Jewish Community is her home. While pursuing a degree in Social Work at The University of Texas Austin, she created a second home in the Austin Jewish community as a Hebrew and Sunday School teacher for Kindergarten through 5th grade at Temple Beth Shalom. She served as a Social Justice Fellow with Texas Hillel and as a Resource Coordinator for Shalom Austin's Mitzvah Knitters program.

Rachel believes that while every individual's Jewish story is diverse, the shared history of resilience, resistance, and tolerance connects all Jewish people, urging them to think critically, to act with empathy, and to be anti-oppressive.

At the end of the summer, Rachel will be moving nearly 2,000 miles away to New York City to participate in the Avodah Jewish Service Corps. Avodah connects young Jewish Social Justice advocates to nonprofits in five national program cities to live and learn in a communal, pluralistic, and unique year of

service and exploration of Jewish identity.

Rachel will be serving as a Youth Advocate for End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT), an international organization fighting against child trafficking and sexual exploitation through policy, community education, and direct service. She hopes to apply these experiences in her future career as a Social Worker in the field of restorative and juvenile justice.

Support Rachel in her Avodah journey: <https://donate.avodah.net/RachelK>.



## Camp is Calling

We're proud to invest in our community's future

\$26,000 in awards to 19 campers for overnight Jewish Summer Camps including 5 who attended for the first time!

Plus, over \$40k in funding and scholarship awards to our local Jewish Day Camps

- |                               |                   |                           |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Camp Chayolei Hamelech        | Camp Newman       | Camp Zeke                 |
| *Camp Gan Israel – El Paso    | Camp Pardes Chana | Camp Gan Israel Parkville |
| *Camp Gan Israel – Las Cruces | *Camp Shamayim    | Camp Daisy & Harry Stein  |
| Camp Interlaken JCC           | Camp Young Judea  | BBYO Israel               |
|                               | Green Family Camp | YSP Morristown            |
|                               | Shwayder Camp     |                           |

\*local Jewish day camp

Jewish El Paso | [www.jewishelpaso.org](http://www.jewishelpaso.org) | 915-842-9554



## Join us for a delicious Shabbat Dinner with Rabbi Scott Rosenberg

Friday, August | 5pm  
@ Congregation B'nai Zion  
805 Cherry Hill Lane, El Paso, Texas 79912

Join us for Services after dinner

Registration Deadline | Tuesday, August 2

### History of Jewish El Paso with Mimi Gladstein

Details to follow

Shalom Shuttle assistance: 915-842-9554



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

Jewish El Paso | [www.jewishelpaso.org](http://www.jewishelpaso.org) | 915-842-9554



## Invest In You Building Community & Memories

[www.jewishelpaso.org/give](http://www.jewishelpaso.org/give)

# The Jewish VOICE

A publication of Jewish 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 Jewish El Paso and have relevance and appeal our 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@jewishelpaso.org](mailto:thevoice@jewishelpaso.org)

Opinions are those of individual writers and not necessarily those of Jewish El Paso. The Jewish Voice is not responsible for the kashrut of any product or eating establishment advertised herein.

Executive Director: Robert French  
Director of Philanthropy : Sue Bendalin  
Administration & Communications Coordinator:  
Desmond Galvan  
President: Debra Kanof

Editor: Desmond Galvan  
Program & Engagement Coordinator:  
Rebecca Mendez  
Layout and Design: Beatriz Garcia  
Printing: PDX Printing

Office: 915-842-9554 | 7110 North Mesa, El Paso, TX 79912

# Late El Paso Dentist's Legacy Honored as Second Class of Hunt School of Dental Medicine Students are Introduced

*Dr. Ross Fruithandler's family and El Paso dental community welcome class of 2026*

EL PASO, Texas — The life and legacy of a beloved El Paso-area dentist was celebrated as the second class of the **Hunt School of Dental Medicine** was formally introduced on Monday.

Family and friends of Ross C. Fruithandler, D.D.S., who passed away at the age of 59 on March 31, 2021, were on hand to welcome the class of 2026 to **Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso**. Before welcoming the new class of dental students, the Fruithandler family was present for the unveiling of the Dr. Ross C. Fruithandler Dental Suite at the Texas Tech Dental Oral Health Clinic.

Dr. Fruithandler's wife, Linda, said it was a touching tribute to her late husband, who had a successful career while making time for the important things such as his community, friends and, above all, family.

"In between your birth date and death date, there is always a dash. Well, Ross made that dash count," said Linda Fruithandler, who was accompanied by her son Corey. "It may not have been as long as we wanted it to be, but he made it count. I want to say to the dental students who are about to start their journey to do the same. You will be stressed at times and constantly challenged, but you got to make that dash count."

Dr. Fruithandler served the El Paso community as an endodontist from 1989 to 2019. He held membership in the El Paso District Dental Society for 31 years. Dr. Fruithandler was a supporter of the new Hunt School of Dental Medicine and helped select the inaugural class by generously volunteering to serve on the Applications and Interview Committee in 2020.

The dental suite that bears Dr. Fruithandler's name will include a plaque detailing his career and dedication to his patients, so every patient who visits the clinic will have the opportunity to learn more about his contributions to his beloved community. The 38,000-square-foot public dental clinic has 145-treatment chairs, where students train under the supervision of faculty providers to deliver high-quality oral health care to patients.

"Everything about this dental clinic is absolutely gorgeous. When we arrived here 33 years ago, I would have never imagined El Paso would have a world-class clinic, dental school or even the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso campus. It's amazing to see it come together," Linda Fruithandler said. "And it's all thanks to local leaders and donors. Ross is the one



who brought me here, but even though he is gone, I can't imagine ever leaving El Paso because of how special this place is. The dental community here always had open arms. They welcomed us early on in Ross's career and it's always been home."

Last year, TTUHSC El Paso community partners Robin and Tony Furman, who were close friends of Dr. Fruithandler, established the Furman Family-Dr. Ross Fruithandler Memorial Endowment. Through the generosity of community dentists, family and friends, the endowment has raised

training in the Texas Tech Dental Oral Health Clinic this fall.

Several of the students had visited and toured the campus prior to Monday's event, but now that the school year is officially underway, TTUHSC El Paso is starting to feel like a second home.

"It was emotional to hear Dr. Fruithandler's story. Seeing that he was such an integral part of the El Paso community and that his legacy continues with the dental school is inspiring. I've got to make the 'dash' count," said Skylar Gallegos, a graduate

excellent, and everything, including the faculty and staff, is top-notch," said Angelica Quinones, a University of Texas at El Paso and Parkland High School graduate. "Hearing everyone talk today highlighted the amount of care and generosity in the El Paso dental community. Everybody is supportive and willing to lend a hand, and I'm excited to one day be a dentist here."

## Class of 2026 by the numbers

Of the 62 new students, 34% are first-generation college students, and 61% speak more than one language. More than a third come from the West Texas and Texas border regions, including 11 from El Paso. The class of 2026 includes the school's first three students from southern New Mexico. Thanks to a partnership between the Hunt School of Dental Medicine and the New Mexico Higher Education Department, all three students from the neighboring state will receive tuition assistance. As part of the partnership, the agency covers the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition for New Mexico students who otherwise would be required to pay the higher out-of-state tuition to attend the Texas school.

The class of 2026 joins the school's



more than \$66,000, which goes to scholarships for Hunt School of Dental Medicine students, many of whom are expected to serve the Borderplex after graduation.

## Welcoming the new class

Linda Fruithandler said she hopes her husband's legacy will inspire members of the Hunt School of Dental Medicine's class of 2026. The second class in school history will begin their studies this summer and start hands-on

of Texas A&M University and Americas High School. "The El Paso community is important to me as it was to Dr. Fruithandler. We have a dental school and dental clinic that is serving the community, which was one of the biggest reasons why I chose the Hunt School of Dental Medicine."

Hunt School of Dental Medicine faculty, community leaders and Texas Tech Dental Oral Health Clinic staff were also on hand to welcome the new class. Hunt School of Dental Medicine Dean Richard Black, D.D.S., M.S., told students that the El Paso community — which has long faced a shortage of dentists — will embrace the new students.

"I've been anticipating this moment for a long time. The preparation and admission process has been worth it because this school is absolutely

first class of 40 students, who in one year experienced more than 2,490 first-time patient encounters in the Texas Tech Dental Oral Health Clinic.

"Our inaugural class has spent the past year setting a high bar. However, the class of 2026 is up to the challenge and will help us further establish our school as the premier dental school in region," Dr. Black said. "It was a joy to interview and admit the second class. They're intelligent, hungry and excited to learn. I believe they'll set the tone for generations to come."

The class of 2026 brings an average GPA of 3.7 and an average Dental Admission Test score of 20 out of 30. According to the American Dental Association, the national average score for the DAT is 18.

\*story republished from El Paso Herald Post

## Todah Rabah Thank you to our volunteers

**Borderland's Café Europa:** Rochelle Saks, Rabbi Ben Zeidman, ElPasoConnect: Shane Wagman Romero, Committee Chair  
**Volunteer:** Jeydi Schwegmann

To volunteer? Email [letsconnect@jewishelpaso.org](mailto:letsconnect@jewishelpaso.org)

# JScreen 1000 Words Success with Screening

JScreen's national public health initiative is based out of Emory University School of Medicine's Department of Human Genetics in Atlanta. This non-profit is dedicated to preventing Jewish genetic diseases through easily accessible genetic testing and counseling. People register for JScreen testing from home at [www.jscreen.org](http://www.jscreen.org) and testing is done on a saliva sample that is mailed to the lab. Genetic counselors provide results via phone or secure video conferencing.

JScreen's original focus was on reproductive carrier screening for diseases such as Tay-Sachs that are more common in the Jewish population, and diseases like cystic fibrosis that are found in the general population. JScreen's reproductive screening panel includes over 200 disease genes. JScreen has provided this type of screening for thousands of participants over the past seven years and has offered high-risk couples essential information and options to help them have healthy children.

JScreen's newly launched national cancer initiative offers a separate testing panel that analyzes the BRCA genes and over 60 other cancer susceptibility genes and helps predict risk for over 40 types of cancer, including ovarian, breast, prostate, colorectal, melanoma and many others.

Ashkenazi Jewish men and women face a 1 in 40 risk of carrying mutations in the BRCA1

and BRCA2 genes: more than 10 times the risk in the general population. These individuals are at increased risk for carrying these mutations even if they don't have a personal or close family history of BRCA-related cancers. Jews are also at increased risk for mutations in the APC gene, which increase their risk for colorectal cancer.

Before JScreen launched its national cancer genetic testing initiative, JScreen and Emory's Winship Cancer Institute conducted the Atlanta PEACH BRCA pilot study in July 2019 to assess the Jewish community's interest in testing for the BRCA genes via JScreen's at-home process. The study enrolled over 500 eligible participants in 6 months. Results confirmed an interest in at-home cancer genetic testing for BRCA and other cancer susceptibility genes and helped to inform the national launch.

Unlike direct-to-consumer companies, JScreen offers highly accurate testing, utilizing state-of-the-art genetic sequencing technology. Genetic changes that are identified are actionable, meaning if a person tests positive, prevention is possible. Licensed genetic counselors provide information via phone or secure video conferencing, ensuring people fully understand their results. JScreen believes the combination of education, access to premier screening technologies and personalized, confidential support are the keys to preventing devastating diseases.

"Launching our new cancer program and providing convenient and affordable access to cancer genetic testing will help save lives. We are thrilled to bring this important resource to the Jewish community," said Karen Arnovitz Grinzaid, MS, CGC, Assistant Professor of Human Genetics at Emory University School of Medicine and JScreen's Executive Director. "Over the years, we have helped thousands of people plan for the health of their future children. Now we are also helping people avoid cancer by giving them the life-saving information they need to be proactive about their own health."

## KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Sarah Abelsohn, who carries a mutation in the BRCA2 gene, shared her experience about how genetic screening saved her life and helped create the life of her beautiful baby daughter. "The word BRCA always played a big part in my life. Since my mother battled breast cancer from when I was 2, passing away when I was 20, I always knew what BRCA was. When my mother got tested, it was still a very new concept and we did not really know what to expect, as she was one of the first people to get tested for it." "After my mother passed away, my dad and I had a discussion, agreeing we'd rather know if our story with BRCA and cancer ends now, or if it carries on with me. I have always felt knowledge is power and would rather know early whether I had it or not. A few months after my mother passed away, I took the test and sure enough I was BRCA2 positive. Honestly, when the doctor called me with the results, I wasn't even shocked, as I had a gut feeling, I was positive. Once I knew, I knew it would just be a matter of time before I would do the preventive surgery, as for me it was a no brainer. I'd rather get it behind me than have it always be in the back of my mind!"

**L'CHAIM Magazine:** Please share your family history and experience so that you may help others learn about preventing breast cancer or survive through early treatment. Is your family of Ashkenazi descent, and what role does this play in identifying the BRCA gene?

**Sarah Abelsohn:** My family is Ashkenazi. My dad is South African, born and raised in Cape Town and moved to San Diego over 30 years ago. My mom was born and raised in New York, discovering she and her only sister were BRCA2 positive. We have never seen anything BRCA-related on my dad's side.

Knowing I was BRCA2 positive, following my preventive surgery I decided to undergo in vitro fertilization (IVF) with preimplantation genetic testing (PGT) to prevent my offspring from having the BRCA2 mutation. Although IVF is no fun feat, I

knew raising children who were not BRCA carriers was one last thing to worry about. If I could give that to my children, somehow participating in getting rid of BRCA, why not? My husband and I decided to ensure any embryos we used for the pregnancy were BRCA free. Over 80% of my eggs had the BRCA mutation, which is crazy to think about. Had I not done IVF, my children would most likely have had the mutation. Now I have the most delicious BRCA free baby girl!"

Although it is amazing to learn how early this disease can be identified. With current screening methods, so many lives can be saved, including those of future generations.

**L'CHAIM:** How do you believe we can do a better job of educating people about this disease and in what ways has this not been a focus in the past?

**Abelsohn:** I honestly just think it's getting out there with conferences and lectures, speaking about it whenever you can because to so many it's such a private matter. Sometimes they don't know where to go to get the information they need. Many times, personal stories and experiences help others get through their experiences and having the support of someone who went through it can be the most helpful through difficult times.

**L'CHAIM:** What is your life like now? Mazel Tov on the birth of your daughter! What will you share with her about your family history to keep her safe in the future?

**Abelsohn:** I am so blessed! I honestly feel overwhelmed with gratitude every time I look at my beautiful daughter, Ellie Capri. I will always share with her about our family history as it is important to know where you come from and who your family is. I will also share the steps I took to ensure she has a fruitful and healthy life. I always talk to her about her late grandmother, (my mom), and how I know she is smiling down on her, kvelling over her beautiful granddaughter!

**L'CHAIM:** What role has JScreen played in your life and how can it dramatically improve the lives of others? I understand you participated in a JScreen panel.

**Abelsohn:** I think JScreen has the opportunity to really change lives! As I've said before, I'm a big believer that knowledge is power. Having the knowledge can really change the trajectory of your life, allowing you to plan and giving you the tools to do so. Being able to test at home and know your results quickly is something changing people's lives for the better, hopefully allowing us to beat this awful disease.

For more information, visit [www.jscreen.org](http://www.jscreen.org).

Letting You Know...

WHAT'S IN YOUR GENES!

~~\$149~~ \$0 Reproductive Screening  
~~\$199~~ \$0 Cancer Screening

Use coupon code **EPLC50**  
for a free\* test.

\*Must provide insurance information. No out-of-pocket costs.

**NOW AT NO COST TO YOU!\***

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



# FACES & Places AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

The Cherry Hill School - Camp Chai



Hugs, Handshakes, BBQ & Iron Dome



Jewish El Paso - Community Leadership Meeting



The J Center for Early Learning - Camp Shamayim





# FACES & Places

AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

ElPasoConnect - Sun City Sunsets

Borderland's Cafe Europa -  
Together for Shabbat



Borderlands Café Europa – Vignettes  
of A Jewish Woman

El Paso Holocaust Museum –  
Remember. Reflect. Respond.



# BEATRICE L. WEISZ SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS NAMED

In 2001, a generous donation was made to the Jewish Community Endowment Fund in the memory of Beatrice L Weisz, pursuant to her wishes as memorialized in her Last Will. The gift was made “for the purpose of establishing a memorial scholarship fund in Beatrice L Weisz’ memory, the annual income of which shall be given to a needy and worthy Jewish College Student to enable him

or her to pursue his or her studies.”

Each year, The Fund, now administered by the Jewish Community Foundation, provides its annual income for distribution to a qualifying Jewish College Student. As was the case last year, this year there is a tie. Congratulations to Andrew Cabrera and Max Intebi as this year’s scholarship recipients.

Each of these young men’s

accomplishments are legion and would take pages to describe. Briefly, Andrew’s dedication to volunteerism, especially at Temple Mount Sinai, his recent involvement with the El Paso Holocaust Museum, his attention to national Jewish Youth causes, along with his outstanding academic record mirror the expectations for the Weisz recipient. Likewise, Max has distinguished

himself through his volunteerism and membership at Congregation B’nai Zion and at Temple Mt. Sinai, his astronomical grades and his commitment not only to Judaism, but also to his Hispanic Heritage, which also make him a model Weisz recipient. Jewish El Paso says Mazeltov to these special young men and their families. The future is brighter with them in it.

## Hugs, Handshakes, BBQ & Iron Dome



Rabbi Bery and Chenchie Schmukler and family had the distinct honor and privilege to host a group of the Israeli Defense Forces while they collaborated with, and trained at, White Sands Missile Range working on the Iron Dome program. Delicious food- BBQ, sides and desserts, hugs and handshakes greeted the group, but the most palpable was the sense of family, the feeling of coming home and that Am Yisrael Chai: wherever we are and whoever we are, we are one. Though they moved from one desert to another, the cultural differences and physical distance from loved ones and all that is familiar makes training so far from home and comfort very difficult. However, the camaraderie, the schmoozing, the toasting of L’chaim in abundance, and the utmost respect for the bravery and commitment of being on the frontlines of defending OUR country, made for a most memorable and enjoyable evening. The BBQ was generously underwritten by Randy & Janet Wechter through a partnership with Jewish El Paso



### International Lion of Judah Conference

December 11- 13, 2022 | Phoenix, AZ, Biltmore Hotel

Join us in Phoenix, AZ from Sunday, December 11 to Tuesday, December 13 for the International Lion of Judah Conference. The premier gathering of dynamic, philanthropic Jewish women. Together, we will examine the changing face of our world, be inspired, give back, and empower one another to do more.

Jewish El Paso | [www.jewishelpaso.org](http://www.jewishelpaso.org) | 915-842-9554

### Those we honor with Tributes

Federation  
Café Europa

**TO:** Robert French with thanks for all you do and have done for our community  
**FROM:** Rochelle Saks

**TO:** Deb Benedict with Best Wishes for a Happy Birthday  
**FROM:** Rochelle Saks

**TO:** Irene and Ira Batt with Best Wishes for a Complete and Speedy Recovery  
**FROM:** Rochelle Saks

**TO:** Charlotte Roth with Best Wishes for a Happy 90th Birthday  
**FROM:** Ruth Erlich, and Joani Schonberg

**TO:** Margie Hauptman in Memory of her Beloved Husband Guy  
**FROM:** Rochelle Saks  
**FROM:** John and Lourdes Eger

**TO:** Ira Batt with Best Wishes for a Very Happy Birthday  
**FROM:** John and Lourdes Eger

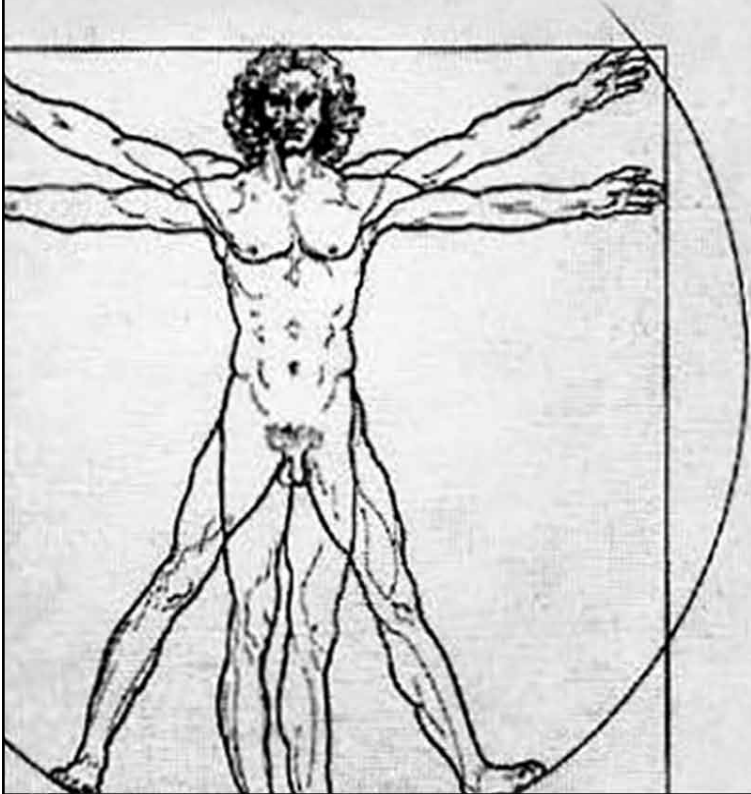
# Roberta L Fenning D.O.

PSYCHIATRY & OSTEOPATHIC MANUAL THERAPY

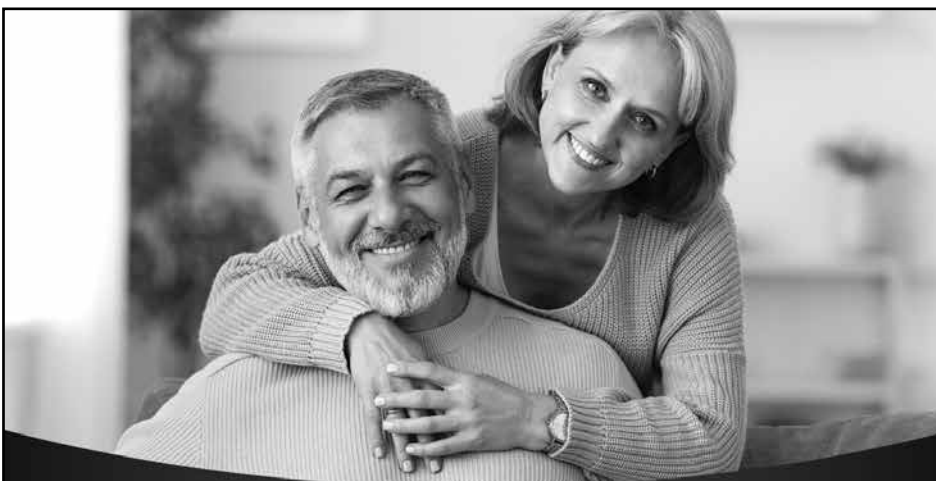
DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE  
5290 McNUTT RD SUITE 106  
SANTA TERESA, NM 88008

Phone: 915 494-1237  
Text: 915 494-1237

Fax 575-332-4545  
Email: refenning@aol.com



ROBERTA L FENNIG D.O.



## Comprehensive EYE CARE

Visit [SouthwestEye.com](http://SouthwestEye.com)  
or

**SCAN TO  
SCHEDULE**



Southwest Eye Institute  
915-223-5988

Five Locations Throughout El Paso and Las Cruces



# ENGAGE

In Jewish life

# PARTICIPATE

In social activities

# Cultivate

Friendships

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

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

**BORIS KAIM, M.D. F.A.A.N., FAASM**

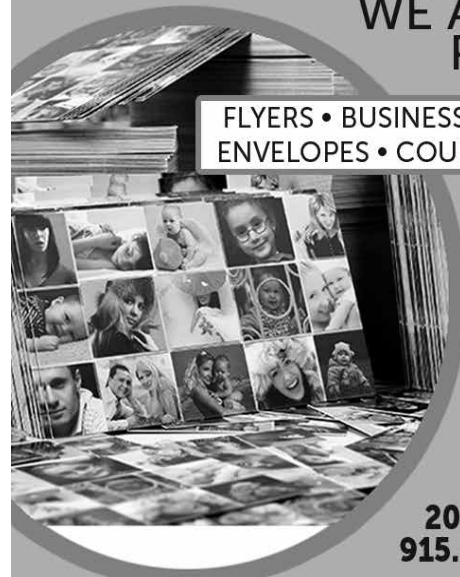
Board Certified in Neurology, Psychiatry and Sleep Medicine

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

## NEED PRINTING?

WE ARE A FULL SERVICE  
PRINTING SHOP



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



208 Octavia St. • El Paso, TX 79901  
915.544.6688 • [www.pdxprinting.com](http://www.pdxprinting.com)

# Thank you to our Volunteers

*(List current as of 7-13 and listed alphabetically)*

|                           |                                |                               |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Phil and Sally Alkon      | Cory Gelb                      | Nick Mendez                   |
| Tatiana Avila             | Melissa Gelb                   | Ryan Miner                    |
| Wendy Axelrod             | Kenny Gelb                     | Linda Miner                   |
| Mike Batkin               | Rebecca Glaser                 | John Moyer                    |
| Leslie Beckoff            | Mitch and Cathy Glen-Puschett  | Steve Newcomb                 |
| Anne Berkson              | Sydney Goldberg                | Lacy Olson                    |
| Stacy Berry               | Ellen Goodman                  | Ezra Ozanich                  |
| Logan Berry               | Judy Grodin                    | Jericho Ozanich               |
| Rylee Berry               | Jared and Romaree Herbert      | Brett Ozanich                 |
| Michael Blau              | Margie Hauptman                | Lisa Ann Raney Waldock        |
| Allen and Michelle Blum   | Herminia Hollowell             | Dora Roe                      |
| Stephanie Calvo           | Victor Hollowell               | Adam Rosenfield               |
| Cesar and Blanca Carrasco | Noel Hollowell-Small           | Nan Rubin                     |
| Bill Carvajal             | Rose Jacobs                    | David Sabal                   |
| Leah Chayes               | Alex Jaffee                    | Rochelle Saks                 |
| Michael and Teresa Cherno | Lindsey Jaffee                 | Paul Schreiner                |
| Austin Curtin             | Debra Kanof                    | Timo Schwagmann               |
| Cesar Curtin              | Brian Kanof                    | Jeydi Schwagmann              |
| Marcia Dahlberg           | Carlos Kaplan                  | Jerry and Marcia Schwartz     |
| Mindy Dember              | Lydia Kasmoch                  | Stuart Shiloff                |
| Edward Dubowitz           | Monika Kimball                 | Cortney Shimunov              |
| Christine Durfee          | Billy and Laurie Kirschner     | Derrick Small                 |
| Brenda Ehrlich            | Scott Klein                    | Brian Small                   |
| Jennifer Ehrlich          | Scott Kobren                   | Dan and Vanessa Sonnen        |
| Martha Eisenberg          | Robin Krasne                   | Terri Sugarman                |
| Marc Ellman               | Rebecca Krasne                 | Peter Svarzbein               |
| Staci Engman              | Steve and Wendy Lanski         | Ruth Taber                    |
| Naomi Estrada             | Liam Lanski                    | Denise Tolentino              |
| Hal Ettinger              | Libi Lanski                    | Eddie Trevizo                 |
| Rose Falcon               | Audrey Lavi                    | Joanne Turnbull               |
| Mark Fenenbock            | Fred and Judith Lazarus-Yellon | David and Shane Wagman Romero |
| Janet Fishman             | Mindy Leanse-Escobar and       | Brian Waldock                 |
| Dana Frank                | Georgina Escobar               | Janet Wechter                 |
| Jordan and Tara Freedman  | Donna Leffman                  | Virginia Wells                |
| Jordan and Alison Furman  | Samantha Levin                 | David and Alison Westermann   |
| Tony and Robin Furman     | Adam and Amanda Levine         | Dena Westermann               |
| Lori Gaman                | Ophra Leyser-Whalen            | Samuel Westermann             |
| Alana Garcia              | Martin Lowry                   | Lisa Wolf                     |
| Estephan Garcia           | Alison Mann                    | Amalia Zeitlin                |
| Kristine Garcia           | Ross Marks                     |                               |
| Liam Garcia               | Ed Mendez                      |                               |

**If you would like to volunteer, please contact our office at  
letsconnect@jewishelpaso.org or 915-842-9554**

**If your name is not reflected on the list above and you have  
volunteered in 2022, please call our office at 915-842-9554 so we  
can update our records**