

The Jewish VOICE

Informing and Connecting Jews in El Paso-Las Cruces

Kislev & Tevet 5783
December 2022

חג חנוכה שמח!
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JEWISH EL PASO
CONNECTING EL PASO-LAS CRUCES

Up Close: Alison Mann

Alison Mann is a member of Temple Beth-El (TBE) in Las Cruces and is TBE's community liaison to Jewish El Paso. Alison was born and raised in Maine, but her dream of becoming a nurse led her to the University of Michigan, a Master's from Boston University, and a doctorate from the University of Houston/Baylor College of Medicine. Her long nursing career included teaching, clinical work and serving as COO and CEO of hospitals. In 1997, she was asked to consider a position in Las Cruces. "I had never been to El Paso or Las Cruces, but I had lived in Mallorca for 6 months in the mountains, and when I saw the Organ mountains, I was hooked!" Moving from Houston, she eventually became an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing at New Mexico State before retiring in 2008.

A new El Paso friend, Rachelle Nedow introduced her to her future husband, El Pasoan Gary Mann, a year after she arrived in Las Cruces. "Gary had lots of interests which we shared like biking, hiking, fly fishing, and dancing, cooking and traveling. He came from an old El Paso family, and I was fortunate to enjoy his family and friends." Gary died a

year ago, but Alison has a strong support system. Her two sons live in Colorado with their families, and her step-children and their families are scattered across Texas. And all together she has twelve grandchildren from ages 1 to 23! She continues to be active at Temple Beth-El, serving on many committees, and maintains a membership at Temple Mt. Sinai, teaches and plays Mah Jongg, likes duplicate bridge, baking and cooking, is learning pickleball, goes to Pilates, writes, and is grateful for her wonderful friends in Las Cruces and El Paso.

What values do we need most in the world today?

Kindness and tolerance. I knew no one here when I came, but an acquaintance in Houston said that I should look up a childhood friend of hers who lived in El Paso. It was right before Rosh Hashana, and I called this person who said, "You must join us for Rosh Hashana..." it was Joyce and Larry Anenberg, and we celebrated with Bonnie and Marty Colton. That was such a kind gesture. As for tolerance, I believe that learning about other people and their cultures leads to tolerance and hopefully, acceptance.

Who is your favorite Jewish hero and why?

My wise mother Sarah who said what she believed and had guts, and my wise mother-in-law Charlotte who said what she thought but kindly.

What is your favorite Chanukah memory?

My first Chanukah in Las Cruces I was invited to a Chanukah party. The hosts were cooking the latkes outside in frypans on several grills...they didn't want the house smelling of latkes for days! It was chilly, we were bundled in coats and hats, and we lit our Menorahs under the star-filled Las Cruces sky, followed by delicious latkes and margaritas, and several off-tune Chanukah songs!

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

There are so many options for Jews of all ages and beliefs. Because of all the programs offered in our synagogues and temples, through Jewish El Paso, at museums and our Jewish schools, at army and air force bases, and through delivery of food, the Shalom Shuttle that helps people to get to appointments, Jewish films and Mitzva Teams and publications...and at all of these you meet other Jews who along with the programs, make your life fuller and richer.

Why is it important to be involved in the Jewish Community?

Because if you are charged with



making the world a better place, that task is accomplished more easily when you are holding the hands of many others.

As Las Cruces' liaison to Jewish El Paso, what benefit do you see in continued connection between Las Cruces and El Paso?

We are both stronger because of each other, and stronger by being together with each other. Las Cruces is now helping Jewish El Paso with people who want to be part of the organization like Monika Kimball, Ross Marks, Joanne Turnbull, the Blums and others who are serving important roles in the organization or leading programs. For Las Cruces, Jewish El Paso has opened so many wonderful opportunities to connect in learning, caring, joy and even in worship. And food!!! Can't forget the food!!

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

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.

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Nosh on Delicious Noodles

Wednesday, December 14 | 11:30am – 1pm
@ PF Chang's

Celebrate the Chanukah Season with a tasty plate of Chinese cuisine.

Registration required by Wednesday, December 7

Transportation available from
Las Cruces at 10:15 am

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

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By Rabbi Moshe Lans
Chapel 3, Ft. Bliss

The Jewish calendar is in the year 5783, which is significant because this year is a Hakhel (assembling/gathering) year. In the times of the Temple, the year following a Shmita (sabbatical) year, all the Jews assembled in the Temple on the first day of Chol Hamoed Sukkot (intermediate day of Sukkot) to celebrate the Hakhel year. Miraculously everyone fit in the Temple!

To start the Hakhel year, the King read the Torah parashah Devarim (Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22) and other portions of the Torah

where Hashem instructed the Jews to observe and safeguard his mitzvot (commandments).

Imagine everyone gathering and listening to the King reading the Torah! The inspiration from the Hakhel Torah reading inspired the Jews for the next six years until the next Hakhel.

The Jewish sage Rambam compares the Temple Hakhel experience to spiritually reliving matan Torah (receiving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai). The Lubavitcher Rebbe elucidates Rambam that the central idea of matan Torah was that Jews gathered at Mount Sinai had the commandment Anochi Hashem Elokecha (I am the L-rd your G-d) penetrate deep within themselves, forming their yiras Hashem (awe of G-d). In the times of the Temple, when the Jews gathered during the Hakhel year to listen to the King read the Torah, those Jews relived matan Torah, also acquiring a profound understanding of Anochi Hashem Elokecha, reinforcing their yiras Hashem.

M'doirasa (per the written Torah), the Hakhel is only

observed when all the Jews reside in Israel and there is a Temple, which means it is not literally applicable today. M'derabbanan (per the rabbinical law) observing Hakhel today is spiritually beneficial.

How do we observe Hakhel if it does not apply today according to the Torah? How can the rabbis say that Hakhel is spiritually significant if it is inapplicable today per the written Torah?

The Rebbe expounds that a mitzvah includes an action (abstaining or doing) and kavana (mindful intention

when performing the mitzvah). Similarly, Hakhel has two parts, action and conscious intention. Today, when Jews gather for a Hakhel event, their gathering is an action, but they also strengthen each other and their Yiddishkeit (Jewish identity), requiring deliberate intent.

Hakhel today is a mitzvah m'derabbanan. The Rebbe added that today we need Hakhel as much as the Jews needed it in the time of the Temple. Hakhel's timeless message is to do your utmost to join every opportunity to strengthen your Yiddishkeit.

Hakhel Today

Gratitude Shabbat at Temple Beth-El

By Alison Mann, Temple Beth El liaison to Jewish El Paso & Joanne Turnbull, Board Member, Jewish El Paso

On November 4, 2022, with a full sanctuary and others attending by Zoom, Temple Beth-El thanked Jewish El Paso for its support during our transition from Rabbi Larry Karol's 2020 retirement to the hiring of Rabbi Evette Lutman in August 2022.

The Covid pandemic coincided with our time without a spiritual leader. With Jewish El Paso financial support, we were able to hire a part-time student Rabbi who worked with congregants for two years, holding worship services and Torah and Talmud studies (in person and on zoom), and

operating the Religious School.

Jewish El Paso Board President Debra Kanof, Past President Monika Kimball, board members Lee Chayes and Noel Small, and Executive Director Robert French accepted two framed photographs, one of TBE's Religious School students, the other of the Temple which were presented by Joanne Turnbull and Alison Mann.

Addressing the congregation, Mr. French emphasized Temple Beth-El's importance as a member of the borderland Jewish community, noting that even with different spiritual orientations, we are all Jews who work together and help each other.

Monika Kimball, Joel Siegel, Debbie Levy and Alison Mann provided a special, celebratory Oneg following the service.



A musical weekend with
Josh Goldberg

December 9: Kabbalat Shabbat Evening Services
6:15 PM

December 10: Soul Shabbat and Brunch
10:30 AM

December 11: Chanukah Family Concert and Event
10AM-12PM

Hosted by and taking place at:
Temple Mount Sinai, 4408 N. Stanton St.

Funded by a grant from Jewish El Paso



Temple Beth El Art Show & Sale Celebrating a Legacy of Art and Friendship

Sunday, December 4, 2022, from 1-4pm
Temple Beth-El, 3980 Sonoma Springs Avenue, Las Cruces

Featuring works by Annetta Hoover, Award Winning Regional Artist as a tribute to her friendship with former TBE congregants Ruth Ann and Barney Sugarman (of Blessed Memory).

Works by TBE artists will also be shown.

Take a ride up the road and ride home with a terrific piece of Art!

For more information:
Alison 575 680-0207 or Joanne at 207 831--0310.

The Miracle of Oil

By Ruther Taber

Hanukkah begins Sunday evening December 18 this year and Jewish families all over the world will light the first candle on their Hanukkah menorahs. Fried foods are a feature of the week's holiday menu, recognizing the "miracle of oil": a very small quantity of oil used to light the *ner tamid* – eternal flame – in the Jewish Temple reclaimed from vanquished Syrian King Antiochus somehow miraculously burned for eight days.

Traditionalists in this country insist fried potato latkes are a must for the holiday. Other countries offer variations: In Mexico, Jewish families enjoy their *buñuelos*. Edda Servi Machlin's book (Classic Cuisine of the Italian Jews) described a favorite from her childhood in Pitigliano, Italy: *Frittelle di Chanuka* – diamond shaped yeast cakes with raisins, anise seeds, fried in oil and then coated with hot honey. *Mafleta* described by Kitty Morse in Sephardic Cuisine from Morocco is a labor intensive latke variation: bread-like dough used to make large pancakes which get stacked one by one as they fry. All the pancakes except the first one get cooked on one side only. After fifteen pancakes are stacked they're

moved to a serving plate where honey or sugar may be added.

The late Rabbi Gil Mark's Encyclopedia of Jewish Food describes the tradition of dairy products at Hanukkah - especially cheese - first mentioned in the 14th century by a Spanish rabbi - long after the Syrian battle! (Rabbi Mark writes that the cheese custom grew out of a misunderstanding of one of the Apocrypha books, Judith.) Surely a delicious misunderstanding.

I like adding cheese to the week's menu - a full week of potato - or other veggie -latkes would be tedious. Try this easy grilled cheese latke recipe; feel free to add other goodies to the cheese!

GRILLED CHEESE LATKES

serves 2-3

2 russet potatoes (just over a pound) peeled, grated
 ½ medium onion (finely grated)
 2 eggs, beaten
 2 tablespoons flour (ok to substitute potato starch or matzo meal)
 Salt, pepper to taste (I don't use salt)
 Oil for fry pan (I used olive oil)

Filling: Sliced cheese (I used white cheddar – your choice)

Extras: 2 apple slices, thinly cut or thin sliced avocado or thin tomato slice – your choice!

For the latkes, squeeze liquid from grated potatoes and onions in a cloth towel. (Too much liquid will prevent batter from holding together.) Place potatoes, onions in bowl and add beaten eggs, flour, seasonings. Mix well.

Pour 2 to 3 tablespoons of oil to cover bottom of large fry pan and heat on Medium-High.

Place two scoops (about 1/3 cup each) of potato mixture in the preheated pan; pat each latke gently with spatula (to flatten) and cook until bottoms are golden brown (about two minutes).

Turn latkes over and place cheese on one latke.* Place other latke (browned side touching cheese) on top of cheese. Cook about one minute; turn the "sandwich" over gently and cook




about another minute.

Place the grilled cheese latke on paper towels to drain oil and repeat with remaining potato batter.


***Add any extras on top of cheese at this time, if desired.**

Ruth Taber has been writing about food for the past thirty years. Former member of the International Association of Culinary Professionals, her columns have appeared in El Paso Times, El Paso Inc. Sabroso and Travesias (Mexico City)



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WE'VE WORKED IN UKRAINE FOR DECADES — BUT TODAY, THE NEED IS DIFFERENT



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The estimated 200, 000 Jews living in Ukraine have been profoundly affected by the political and economic instability that has wracked the country.

Thousands are trapped in conflict zones in the east. Thousands more have fled the fighting. Federation has allocated over \$40 million to our partner agencies on the ground. But the urgent need continues.

Photo Credit: AG

Social & Personal

Yom Huledet Sameach - Happy Birthday to...

Richard Zehden, CarlosKaplan, Elise Ehrlich, Dana Frank, Shirleen Askenazi, Richard Teplitz, Stuart Schwartz, Adam Frank, Catherine Winslow. Richard Krasne, Dr. Scott Stein, Dannah Meyers, Clifford Eisenberg, Sherman Levenson, Lynn Kobren, Mark Hutman, Jack Peitzer, Max Intebi, Cindy Metrikin, Keith Myers, Scott Stein, Cliff Eisenberg, Stacy Berry, Darren Brown, Rochelle Saks, Jordan Freedman, Georgina Leanse-Escobar, Dana Frank, Charles Yates, Stuart Schwartz, Adam Frank, John Eger, Marcia Dahlberg, David Kern

Baruch Dayan haEmet – May G-d bring Comfort to...

Eddie Lavis of blessed memory, mother of Benjamin and Vincent, grandmother of Joseph (Konley), Anna, Caleb (Mary), Alexis, Eddie and Max, and great grandmother of Hal, sister of Susanna, Vicky, Betty, Sal and Manny on the passing of Rachel Lavis

the Ackerman family and friends on the passing of Judy Ackerman Bob and Edi Brannon, Laura Brannon Rosales, David Chavez, Antonia Chavez and Lee Schwartz on the passing of their daughter, sister and niece Joanna Brannon

Beverly and Arvin Robinson, Robin and Tony Furman and Jordan and Allison Furman on the passing of their brother, Uncle and Great Uncle Phillip Morgan

to the Gaman family and friends on the passing of Charlotte Gaman the Garmel and Simon families on the passing of Marion Simon Garmel

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Questions?
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We Must Unite as ONE, Now!

By Leah Chayes
Vice President, Jewish El Paso

I returned from the Jewish Federation of North America's (JFNA) 2022 General Assembly and wanted to share some thoughts of my experience. I want to begin by saying I really didn't want to go because the conference was held during Halloween which like many of you is one of my favorite dress-up and give candy away holidays, but I went. I am so very glad I went!!

I was fortunate enough to have been one of 1300+ participants. My feelings and thoughts towards JFNA have become so enlightened that I would like to share my best experiences.

1. The speakers (just to name a few) – Isaac Herzog (The President of Israel), Andrea Mitchell (NBC correspondent), Rabbi Mayer Solavechik, Nancy Rotering (the Mayor of Highland Park who experienced a tragic shooting in her community similar to August 3, 2019), Michael Aloni and Swell Ariel Or (the starring actors in Beauty Queen of Jerusalem on Netflix) and my favorite speaker Dr. Deborah Lipstadt, Ambassador and Officer of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism appointed by President Biden).

2. Some of the most meaningful quotes I've ever heard as it relates to Judaism: Antisemitism is the longest prejudice known to mankind

If antisemitism exists, America is not safe
Prejudice is not limited – it leads to other prejudices
Jewish people are not safe when any other people are not safe
It's not about hating antisemitism... it's about loving Judaism

Young people are not leaders of tomorrow – they are leaders of today!

3. One of the most prevalent threads in the conference – The incredible rise in antisemitism around the world and especially in the U.S. Antisemitism is not limited to Sephardi or Ashkenazi Jews, but includes Jews who are Jews by choice, Black, Latino, Chinese, LGBTQ and all others. We are all Jews and should be all inclusive to all Jews. Antisemites don't care... a Jew is a Jew, and we must all unite as one, now. Antisemitism is not a violation against Jews... it is a violation of human rights.

There is so much to cover and as you can read, I am so inspired. Please join with me and get active in Jewish El Paso and in our (yours and mine) fight against antisemitism now. Lee Chayes - ccctrain@aol.com



I donated to the teen philanthropy fund for many reasons. But one of the main ones is because I wanted to give back to the community. The Jewish community have given me a lot like paying for part of my camp tuition and that is easily my favorite part of the summer, so I wanted a chance to give back. I also want other Jewish kids in El Paso to experience what I experienced and more. For a long time, I have been saving up money to give to an organization to help them, and in my opinion, there is no better one than this. This gives me an opportunity to show my gratitude to everyone.

To learn more about the Jaffee Family NextGen Teen Philanthropy Fund at The Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso contact Robert French, Executive Director, or Stuart Shiloff, President, at 915-842-9554. <https://jcfep.org/teen-philanthropy/>.

-Marshall Lipson

TEMPLE MOUNT SINAI'S 3RD ANNUAL MATZAH BALL GALA

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“The Immigrant” – New Book Resets Immigration Debate

October 18, 2022--Frederic Petrovsky's long-awaited new novel, *THE IMMIGRANT*, will be published October 25th by Koehler Books. Published simultaneously in hardback, paperback, and eBook formats, *THE IMMIGRANT* will be available at all online retail outlets, including Amazon and Barnes & Noble. An epic journey through a tumultuous period of history, *The Immigrant* will delight readers with its vivid portrayal of a world lost to time.

In a time of great controversy about immigration, *THE IMMIGRANT* vividly resets the immigration debate through its depiction of one young man's journey from Russia to America.

SYNOPSIS: The year is 1920, and a teenage Jewish Russian boy named Lev has just witnessed his entire world go up in flames. His parents killed in a horrific blaze, Lev, homeless and alone, finds himself joining up with a strange traveling circus. He sets off on a dark journey across a bleak landscape of corruption and persecution. Facing violent racists,

unscrupulous conmen, seedy thugs, and deadly Russian police, Lev's travels take him across the ocean, through the Big Apple, and finally to the wind-swept deserts of America's Southwest. But even as he searches for his last living relative, he finds himself embarking on another journey, into the mysteries of growing up. And discovering what the word 'home' truly means.

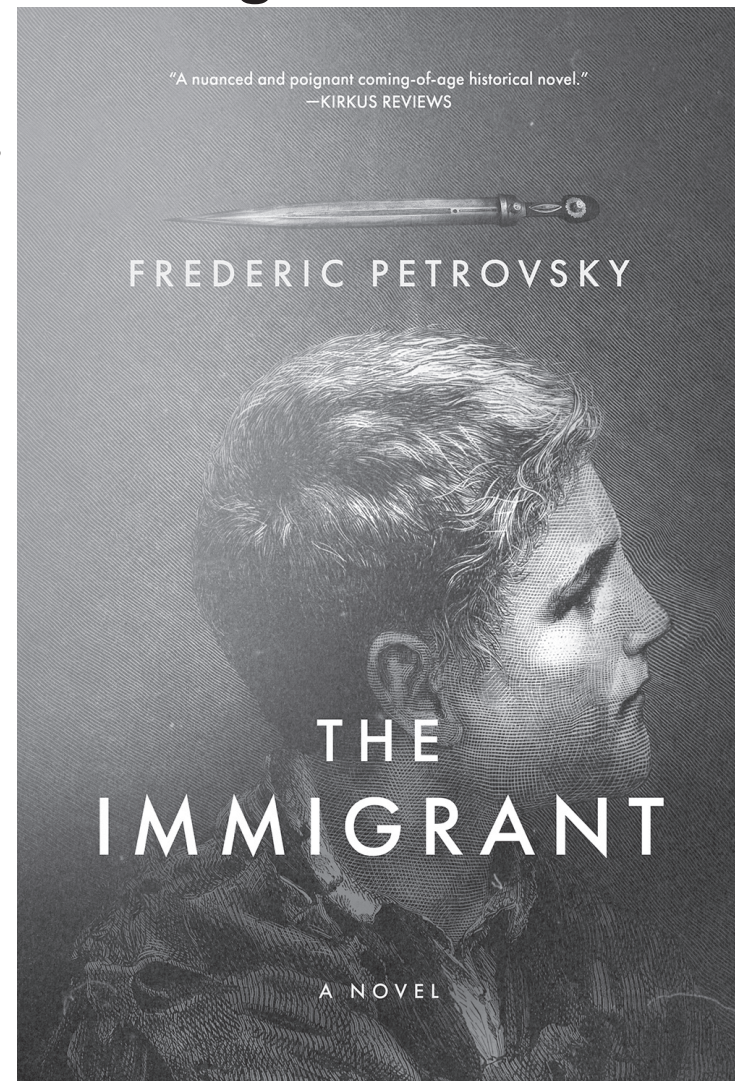
In an advance review, Kirkus Reviews says *THE IMMIGRANT* is “A nuanced and poignant coming-of-age historical novel.” J.L. Witterick, author of *My Mother's Secret*, calls the book “Insightful and compelling. *THE IMMIGRANT* captures the resilience of the human spirit and inspires us with a story of courage.”

THE IMMIGRANT can be found on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and all other retailers.

Information about the author can be found at www.fredpetrovsky.com.

Contact:

www.fredpetrovsky.com
info@fredpetrovsky.com



By Rabbi Scott Rosenberg

After publishing my high holiday message whose focus was the open path to teshuva, repentance, I learned that the classic Jewish joke I used to open my message proved offensive to readers for both its sexism and presentation of domestic violence. While this outcome was in no way my intention, the resultant offence demands acknowledgment and redress.

Given the level of gun violence in our country, combined with the increased incidence of domestic violence as recently reported by Jewish Women International (roughly 1 in 3 women have experienced violence by a partner) and local statistics that show an increase in domestic violence in El Paso, the joke was inappropriate.

As a Jewish community, we should be standing at the forefront of the fight against domestic violence.

The efforts of organizations such as Jewish Women International www.jwi.org and our local Center Against Sexual and Family Violence “hopeline” 915-593-7300 are critical and valued resources to our community.

Domestic violence diminishes our humanity irrespective of gender. It is not a joking matter and by incorporating a joke that suggested domestic violence be tolerated in any way or at any level was wrong.

I am truly sorry for any offense my message engendered.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Scott Rosenberg

From the Editor

The Jewish Voice reserves the right to edit articles and to forbear from publishing content it deems potentially offensive. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors. They do not purport to reflect the opinions or views of Jewish El Paso.

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www.jewishelpaso.org

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