

The Jewish VOICE

Informing and Connecting Jews in El Paso-Las Cruces

TEVET/SH'VAT 5783
January 2023

TU BISH'VAT



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INFORMATION INSIDE

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JEWISH EL PASO
CONNECTING EL PASO-LAS CRUCES

Up Close: Joanne Turnbull

Joanne Turnbull chairs Jewish El Paso's Granting Committee. She is a member of Temple Beth-El where she has been Vice President of the board and chaired the two-year transition between rabbis. She moved to Las Cruces in 2017 from Maine where she was a board member at Congregation Bet Ha'am, served on the rabbi search committee, and taught classes for the Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine.

Her family – three daughters, one son, and five grandchildren – live in Maine, Michigan, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. The exception is her grandson Jake who lives with her and is studying Creative Media at New Mexico State University. Joanne has worked as a family therapist, professor, researcher, healthcare administrator. She is Executive Director Emerita of the National Patient Safety Foundation. In 2013 she created Your Write Mind to help people find their creative voice and tell their stories. She enjoys family and friends, film, improving her Spanish, and when she can, writing and singing. Her favorite pastime is contemplating the view of the Organ Mountains from her patio.

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

Integrity and the willingness to listen.

Who is your favorite Jewish hero and why?

My 10th grade English teacher saved my life. Identified as not working up to potential, I was selected for a pilot program taught by a Carnegie-Mellon graduate student who was not much older than her pupils. Philaine Katz introduced literature that awakened my social conscience. With her guidance, I won an award that

opened unknown possibilities. Decades later when preparing for conversion, I was asked to reflect upon Who, or what specific Jewish person, would you invite to Succoth? This prompted me to find and thank Miss Katz. After exchanging emails, we spoke by phone. She explained that the class was funded by a one-year federal grant before there were classes for the gifted. She remembered a group of frightened teenagers who, by year's end, were excited about literature. This motivated her to lobby the city's educational administration to continue the program. Her efforts failed, but the experience led her to pursue a long, fulfilling teaching career.

We celebrate Tu BiShvat - the New Year for Trees this month – what message do you think Judaism teaches us with this holiday?

Judaism has several messages for me with this holiday. First, gratitude for nature's abundance. Second, faithfulness as reflected in the reliable seasons; as I write this, new buds are replacing the yellow leaves

falling the trees in my backyard as they do every year. The third message is hope. On a trip to Israel I had the opportunity to donate

to planting two trees, expressing hope for my friend's ailing sister.

What is your favorite fruit or veg? Really?
Tomatoes.

Why is it important to you to be involved in the Jewish community? Why would you encourage others to become involved?
At my beit din, I promised to add my strength to the Jewish community and stand

with the Jewish people no matter what. I take that vow seriously. Space doesn't allow me to list the numerous ways the community here and in Maine has been there for me and my family. I have found a home for my soul in Judaism, and it is an honor to support the community. I encourage others to become involved because we shouldn't take our special community for granted. The rising tide of overt antisemitism—last week an article described it as mainstream—makes it critical that we support and strengthen our community. We

cannot afford divisiveness. **You led outstanding workshops for our community on the importance of writing your legacy.**

Explain what that entails and why it's so valuable.
Most people think legacy means preparing a legal will. This narrow view can leave future generations wondering who a person really is. In contrast, writing your legacy is about harvesting your wisdom. It is rooted in the medieval Jewish tradition of the ethical will (a document of instructions passed from father to son). Harvesting wisdom conveys what matters to us so that future generations know who we really are.

Writing your legacy is about telling your story, communicating values, and passing wisdom and blessing. In 2013, I was honored to receive an award from Maine's Jewish Community Alliance's to develop a program that helps people find their inner voice. Using systematic steps, inner awareness is integrated with key events and people in one's life. It is a process that transforms experience into wisdom so that a person can express who they are and what they want to say. Legacy letters may also pass along ancestral stories and traditions and share wisdom through lessons learned.

They are often written for life events such as birthdays, weddings, birth of grandchildren, b'nai mitzvot, etc. Harvesting wisdom helps develop an appreciation for the ways in which past, present, and future are connected. We also fulfill an obligation of l'dor v'dor, giving loved ones a priceless gift by letting them know what provides us with a sense of fulfillment and meaning. To make a statement that our lives matter and that we matter is also a gift we give ourselves.



Joanne – pictured with her grandson, Jake

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.

JEWISHEL PASO
CONNECTING EL PASO-LAS CRUCES

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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Borderland's Café Europa is funded by a grant from
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Celebrating Hadassah-El Paso's Past, Present and Future Leaders

By Debra Cohen, President

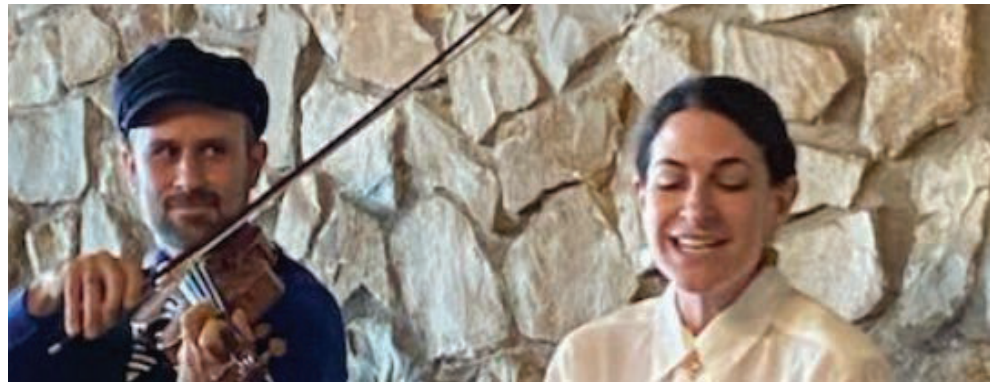
On December 5, Hadassah gathered for "Celebrating Hadassah-El Paso's Past, Present and Future Leaders" at a Membership Tea. It was an opportunity to honor Charlotte Roth and Jane Warach for their over 50 years of dedicated commitment to our Chapter. Charlotte's leadership influence inspired others for decades to step up as leaders. Likewise, Jane's strong impact was through her tireless service as Treasurer for 30 years. Both women exemplify "the Power of Women Who Do."



Hadassah-El Paso also recognized multiple youth as our future leaders who demonstrated leadership and community service participation. The honorees include Lily "Shalom" Sosa, Alia "Ali" Ureste, Zuheyla "Heyli" Ureste and Hannah Ureste. It is our hope, that their mitzvot (teaching Hebrew, assisting with Services, educating our community about anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism) continue and may include Hadassah, as well.

In addition to the celebration, Hadassah-El Paso installed their 2023 Board which was conducted by Hadassah National Board member-Haidi Appel

- President Debbie Cohen
- VP Membership Mindy Dember
- VP Fund-Raising Audrey Lavi
- VP Programming Rose Falcon
- Treasurer Cathy Glen-Puschett
- Secretary Susie Schaechner



As a special treat, musician Josh Portuondo-Dember performed with Mindy Escobar-Leanse as his accompanist. We look forward to a wonderful 80th Anniversary year and welcome you to join us!! Connect via email (Hadassah.elpaso@gmail.com) or Facebook. (<https://www.facebook.com/HadassahElPaso/>).

Want to see what's happening in our community?

Visit our online community calendar.
www.jewishelpaso.org

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Todah Rabah – Thank you to...

ElPasoConnect: Noel Hollowell-Small, Interim Chair
Café Europa: John Eger, Rochelle Saks, Sally Parke & Temple Mount Sinai, Robert French

Chanukah @ the Plaza: Michael Blau & Noel Hollowell Small (Co-Chairs); Lee Chayes (Interim Chair)

To volunteer, get involved or help out – contact letsconnect@jewishelpaso.org

PJ Library
 Presents
Hamantaschen Bake

A family-friendly baking class and costume party to make delicious Purim treats!

K to 3rd Grade (siblings are welcome)

Congregation B'nai Zion
 February 19, 2023
 Time: 3:00 PM

Contact Sarah Tolley at pjlibrary@jewishelpaso.org

<https://pjlibrary.org/home>

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Sarah Tolley | 915-842-9554 | pjlibrary@jewishelpaso.org

FACES & PLACES

PJ Library families climbed for gold



Our Lions of Judah at the Conference in Arizona



The Cherry Hill School Students Rehearse for Hanukkah



Rabbi Evette Lutman's Installation @ Temple Beth El



These Are a Few of Our Favorite Things... (Some of) Our Campers Share their Summer Camp Experiences

By Ari Untereker

One of my favorite things about camp is being able to make new friends with kids in all different age groups. I also like water skiing around the lake because it is so fun and I can't do it anywhere besides

camp. Another activity I like to do at camp is disc golf - you can play it competitively or just for fun with your friends. Camp is a nice break in between the school years to take my mind off of school. I've made a whole lot of friends and memories at camp that will last a lifetime.



By Leila Untereker

Last year was my third year at Camp Interlaken JCC and it was probably the best summer I've had there so far. I was in Cabin Judah with 18 other girls. We have all grown up

together, so it is always a fun time. Some of my favorite activities are playing tushball with my friends and learning how to slalom around the lake on one ski. I am so grateful to have these friends and these memories. I can't wait to go back next year!

Alexis and Jacob Siegel both attend Camp Young Judea and this summer will be their 4th year. They love going to camp and getting to experience things they would not here in El Paso. They have enjoyed

meeting other Jewish kids from throughout Texas and taking part in Jewish experiences such as weekly Shabbat, Rikud, and Army day. They talk about camp all year and can't wait to go back this summer!



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

We offer non-need based One Happy Camper awards for first time campers to overnight Jewish summer camps, and need-based camperships to our campers through our matching partnership with The Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso.

Jewish El Paso offers grants & scholarship funds to our partners to make Jewish overnight and local Jewish day camp experiences more available and/or accessible to the future leaders of El Paso & Las Cruces and the Jewish world...

**Visit www.jewishelpaso.org for more information, eligibility and due dates
915-842-9554**



A Fun and Meaningful Way for your Child to Spend the Summer



*By Samantha Levin
Hebrew & Judaics Teacher – The Cherry Hill School*

Jewish Sleepaway Camp: A Fun and Meaningful Way for your Child to Spend the Summer, while Forming Lifelong Friendships and a Permanent Connection to Jewish Culture, Values, and Spirituality.

I still remember the smell of the rain on the grass and trees at Camp Morasha in Lake Como Pennsylvania. I still crave the shabbat "morning cake" for which we waited all week. The Hebrew songs we adopted for team songs during "Maccabia" (aka color war) at Camp Massad in Quebec are on my spotify playlist 17 years later. I recently walked down the aisle as a bridesmaid at my best friend's wedding, a friendship formed at Camp Massad when we were teenagers. The simple fact is that Jewish summer camp had a profound and positive impact on my life and shaped the way I am today. Camp was my whole life growing

up, I lived from summer to summer. If you were in my tight circle of friends, you knew the countdown to next summer began the moment I got off that bus taking us back home. Ultimately, camp was the place where I formed lifetime friendships, learned leadership skills, grew a love of Israel, further explored my Jewish identity, and grew spiritually as a young Jewish woman.

The benefits of the Jewish sleepaway camp experience go far beyond the fun and the friendships formed, it also builds a lifelong connection to Jewish culture, values, and much more. There was a study done in 2000-01 called the Jewish Population Study where the goal was to compare "the Jewish attitudes and behaviors of adults who attended Jewish camps as children with those of adults who did not attend camp as children." The study found that Jewish camp attendance as a youngster raises the likelihood of feeling an attachment to Israel as an adult by 55%. In addition, the prospect of lighting Shabbat candles is raised by 37%. Jewish Campers are more prone to donate to a Jewish charity 25% more than those that did not attend summer camp, and are 26% more inclined to be members of synagogues as adults. The study concluded that "camp not only builds a long-lasting taste and yearning for community, but it also creates habits of Jewish practice."



Tzedakah Makes the World Go Round...

By Davna Rosenfield

One of the many reasons I am proud to be Jewish is because of the philanthropic mindset of our religion. Giving tzedakah to those in need is such a beautiful thing, and I am so grateful that the Jaffee Family NextGen Teen Philanthropy Fund at The Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso has given me the amazing opportunity to save

and grow funds for causes that I support. It would be my honor to be able to save money for charitable causes such as giving kids the amazing experience that is Jewish overnight summer camp, or even just to help programming within my community. This program is also especially meaningful to me, given that I am related to the Jaffee family, and I am so happy to be able to support their

wonderful cause. Thank you very much to Congregation B'nai Zion for matching my contribution and to the Jaffee family for doubling my contribution.

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. www.jcfep.org

THROUGH DAYS THAT TESTED OUR RESOLVE, WE DID NOT WAVER.

Will you join us in the charting the path forward for our community?

JEWISH EL PASO

Join Us to Celebrate 20 Years

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International Holocaust Remembrance Day 1-27-23

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Tu BiSh'vat

Tu BiSh'vat (Hebrew: ט"ו שבט, of Sh'vat') is a Jewish holiday occurring on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Sh'vat (in 2023, Tu Bi'Sh'vat begins at sunset on February 5 and ends in the evening of February 6). It is also called Rosh HaShanah La'Ilanot (Hebrew: שנת האילנות), literally "New Year of the Trees". In contemporary Israel, the day is celebrated as an ecological awareness day, and trees are planted in celebration.

Tu BiSh'vat appears in the Mishnah in Tractate Rosh Hashanah as one of the four new years in the Jewish calendar. The discussion of when the New Year occurs was a source of debate among the rabbis, who argued:

- The first of Nisan is the "new year for kings and festivals".

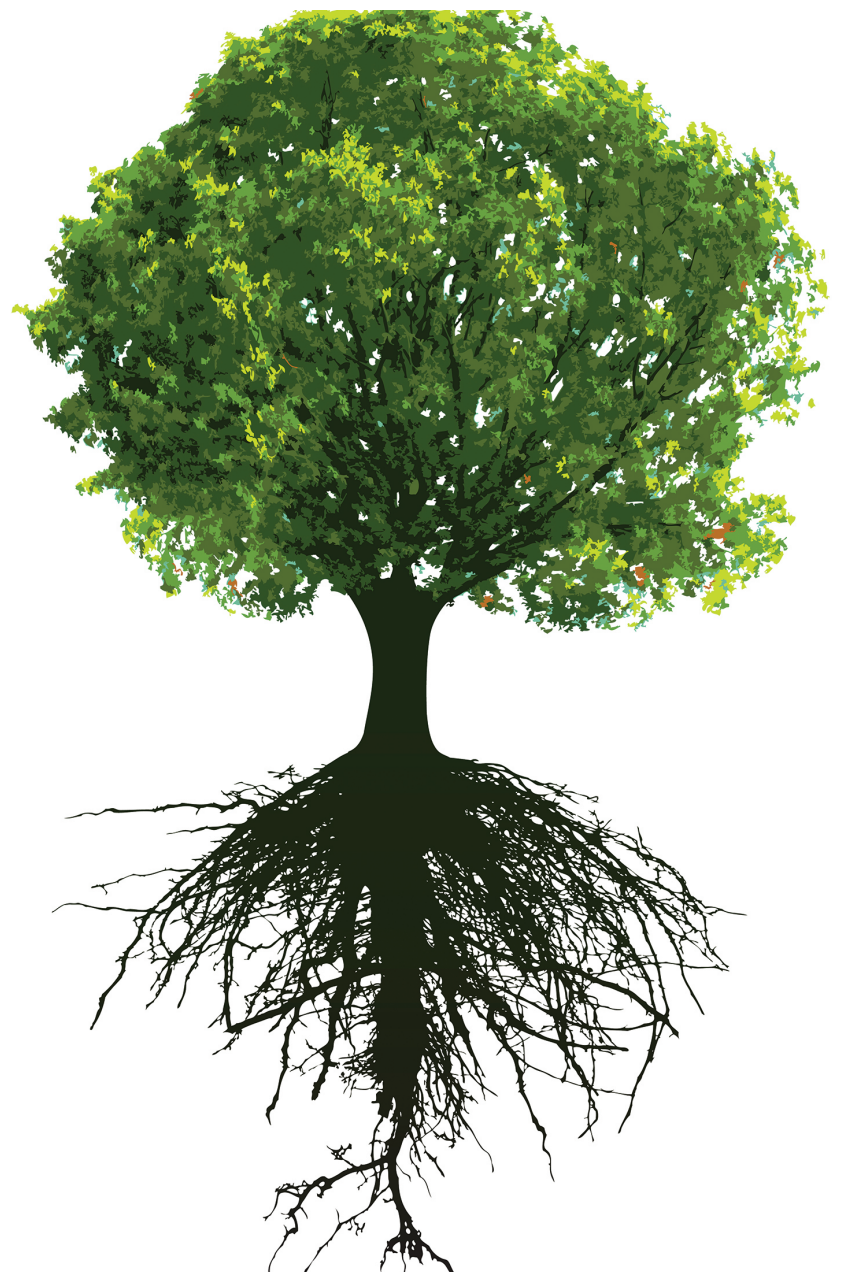
- The first of Elul is the "new year for the tithe of cattle"; Rabbi Eleazar and Rabbi Shimon, however, place this on the first of Tishrei.

- The first of Tishrei is the "new year for years" (calculation of the calendar), "for release years" (sabbatical years) jubilees, planting, and for the tithe of vegetables.

- The first of Sh'vat is the "new year for trees" according to the school of Shammai; the school of Hillel, however, place this on the fifteenth of Shevat.

The rabbis ruled in favor of Hillel on this issue and the 15th of Shevat became the date for calculating the beginning of the agricultural cycle for the purpose of biblical tithes.

Source Wikipedia



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



Photo Credit: AG

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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.

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Hear from camp attendees and meet representatives from summer camps:



Camp Gan Israel
(Chabad Lubavitch)



Camp Young Judaea
Texas יהודה הצעיר



Camp Gan Israel
(Chabad Las Cruces)

and more

**Meet camp reps., get your "passport" stamped,
win prizes and have fun
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Registration required by Tuesday, January 3, 2023