

The Jewish VOICE

Informing and Connecting Jews in El Paso-Las Cruces

Sivan/Tammuz/Av 5782
June/July 2022



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JEWISH EL PASO
CONNECTING EL PASO-LAS CRUCES

Up Close: Ruth Taber

Ruth was born in Brooklyn, NY and raised in The Bronx. Ruth attended P.S. 95 (and Yiddish school after the elementary school day), Music and Art High School, and received a B.S. Bachelors of Science in Music Education from New York University – while working part time as a professional accompanist. After deciding music was not her career choice, she applied for work at the nearby Montefiore Hospital.

Working there led to an interest in health economics; Ruth was accepted at Yale’s School of Public Health and received her MPH from Yale in 1954. She was hired by the New York City Health Department as a health educator and soon moved to the Department’s Public Relations Office. One of Ruth’s very successful P.R. accomplishments was getting Elvis Presley to receive a Salk vaccination from the NYC Health Dept.; photos appeared across the country and his willingness to receive the vaccine helped convince millions to do the same.

She married Dr. Ben-Zion Taber in 1958 and moved to El Paso. Their three children were born in this wonderful city. In her spare time, Ruth volunteered as an accompanist



at Texas Western’s Music Dept.

The family moved to Washington D.C. followed by a move to Northern California.

Ruth and a friend created a program to introduce opera to kids by performing in various elementary schools in the Palo Alto School District. Ruth also volunteered one day a week for Santa Clara County providing insight on public health matters.

nations place legal penalties on very intolerant/wild political messages (like holocaust denial) stating they incite violence and are socially disruptive.

That won’t fly in this country – our freedom of speech laws accept false data/hate ideology.

What do you value most in your friends?

Alas, at age 93 my list of friends is a diminishing species. Good friends let me talk/kvetch/cry/laugh without being judgmental. Good friends are reliable, caring and intelligent.

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

Mel Brooks – who’s smart, funny and a secular Jew. He exemplifies my background - NYC/ Jewish/Yiddish – and uses humor brilliantly to make a point. And he just keeps going at age 95 he’s just published his memoir “All About Me! I love his famous quote: “It’s good to be rich!”

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

The caring attitude towards elders. Most impressive: Temple Mount Sinai and Jewish El Paso’s caring programs (including transportation!) for elders.

What did we learn about the importance of relationships during the Covid-19 pandemic?

Human connectivity is vital to healthy living and aging. Texts, Tweets, Zoom, Skype etc can’t compete with sitting down to a meal with good friends/relatives. Remember the famous Streisand

Should one tolerate the intolerant? How about Tolerance with limits?

In 1990, Ruth and Ben retired to El Paso. Here, Ruth volunteered as the public relations director for the new “CLL” – the Center for Lifelong Learning at UTEP and promoted the program for ten years. (She and Ben also taught Beginning Bridge to CLL members.) Ruth was also a volunteer member of the El Paso Mayor’s Committee on Aging (unfortunately, disbanded in 2006)

Since retirement, Ruth has written about food, travel (here and abroad) and health for numerous publications including more than 25 years of columns for the El Paso Times. Other publications included Travesias (Mexico City), Sabroso, (Las Cruces), and most recently El Paso Inc. Magazine.

Ben passed away four months ago and Ruth’s main interest these days is writing/talking about “ageism”. She writes for and promotes “El Paso Matters”, the best source of El Paso and regional nonpartisan news. (elpasomatters.org)

Ruth is a member of the Society for Professional Journalists (SPJ) and the Association of Health Care Journalists.(AHCJ)

We need more Tolerance – and there’s a big paradox here:

Many Western European



song: “People who need people Are the luckiest people in the world.”

Did the pandemic add strain to relationships, or did it bring people closer together?

The pandemic did both; for me, pretty much confined at home as a full time caregiver for my late husband, the pandemic brought my family closer. It led to weekly family Zoom sessions - a wonderful way to enjoy our children/grandchildren in Maryland, New York and Oakland all together; we are continuing this “togetherness” and I look forward to our weekend sessions.

How do you think mental health was affected during the pandemic?

Not my field of expertise but I would assume that computer education was not only damaging for students’ learning skills but probably lessened their “people” skills. Many elders who depended on daily or weekly personal interaction suffered from depression and concomitant illnesses.

How can one improve their mental health and why is it important?

If we had answers, we’d have a society that didn’t spew anger, hatred, greed, and stupidity. And wouldn’t it be nice if the stigma of the words “mental health illness” disappeared?

Congratulations to (some of) our Graduates!



Reece Klein

Reece Klein is graduating from Cathedral High School and will be attending Louisiana State University in the fall studying Pre-Med. He is the son of Dr Terren Klein and Mrs Maria Deprang. His brother is William Klein and Grandmother is Mrs. Jody Klein. He is the nephew of Dr Al and Anne Sere Hernandez. Reece enjoys sports, skiing, traveling, music and art. And especially hanging with friends! Congratulations Reece!



Elan Zachary Goldstein

Elan Zachary Goldstein is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts from The University of Colorado in Boulder with a degree in Political Science and Business. Elan is excited to attend law school after a summer break traveling with friends and family. He is the son of Drs. Karen Herman and Randy Goldstein, brother to Dora and Leor, and grandson to Peter & Tova Herman (El Paso), Patricia & Sheldon Wallach (AZ), and Audrey Goldstein (NY). He’s balanced his 4 years at college with his love for skiing and outdoor sports. Way to go ELAN!! #skobuffs



David Yates

David Steven Yates, is currently an Associate at Morgan Lewis where he practices complex commercial litigation, representing clients in the healthcare and insurance industries with disputes involving breach of contract, unfair competition, and various business torts. David also represents clients in environmental disputes and provides advice on regulatory compliance related to Health Care fraud and abuse laws. David graduated from Duke University School of Law, 2021, J.D and from the University of Southern California, 2017, B.S., Health Promotion and Disease Prevention major: Health Policy and English minors, cum laude. His parents are Dr. Charles and Carmen Yates and his siblings are Yvette Yates Redick, UCLA.

Submit your pictures at www.jewishelpaso.org to be included in the next edition of The Jewish Voice

Hadassah and nineteen other Jewish organizations call on congress to address disparities in infertility awareness, research and services

NEW YORK, NY – Hadassah today released a letter to members of Congress outlining the disproportionate impact infertility has on the Jewish community and urging Congress to recognize that infertility is a disease that needs further research to improve treatments and outcomes and that individuals and families need access to infertility-related services.

“For too long, infertility and the struggle toward parenthood have been topics of quiet suffering, particularly in the Jewish community,” said Rhoda Smolow, Hadassah National President. “That’s why Hadassah is leading the call for change. By asking policymakers to expand access to infertility care and reduce the financial burden of treatments, we are empowering all of the patients, families and communities infertility affects. We are grateful for the strong support of our partners across the Jewish community.”

One in eight couples in the United States reports having trouble getting pregnant or sustaining a pregnancy and nearly 12% of women have received infertility services in their lifetime. Some conditions that cause infertility — like polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS), cystic fibrosis and Fanconi anemia C — are more prevalent in the Jewish community than the general population, increasing disparities.

Nineteen Jewish organizations have joined Hadassah in calling

for action on infertility, including Agudath Israel of America, A TIME/A Torah Infertility Medium of Exchange, Bonei Olam, Bnai Brith International, Center For Jewish Values, Chava/Programs and Services for all Women's Reproductive Health, Hasidah, HUG/Hope Understanding and Guidance for Pregnancy Loss, I Was Supposed To Have A Baby, Jewish Fertility Foundation, Jewish War Veterans, National Council of Jewish Women, Orthodox Union, Priya Kansas City, Rabbinical Assembly, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, Union for Reform Judaism, and Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

The letter asks members of Congress to support a bipartisan, Hadassah-backed resolution sponsored by Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) and Rep. Dan Crenshaw (R-TX).

“Bringing a child into the world is a blessing, and that possibility should be available for all who want to start a family. From my own experience in reaching that goal, I know we must better understand how infertility affects individuals and families. This bill clearly states that Congress needs to work together to develop bipartisan, common sense policies on this issue, and I am proud to be a part of that solution.” said Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz.

Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle have co-sponsored this resolution with Congresswoman

Wasserman Schultz and Congressman Crenshaw: Rep. Emanuel Cleaver [D-MO-5], Rep. Susan Wild [D-PA-7], Rep. Thomas R. Suozzi [D-NY-3], Rep. Brad Sherman [D-CA-30], Rep. Andy Kim [D-NJ-3], Rep. Ted Lieu [D-CA-33], Rep. John A. Yarmuth [D-KY-3], Rep. Elissa Slotkin [D-MI-8], Rep. Ro Khanna [D-CA-17], Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee [D-TX-18], Rep. Markwayne Mullin [R-OK-2], Rep. Judy Chu [D-CA-27], Rep. David J. Trone [D-MD-6], Rep. Tony Cardenas [D-CA-29], Rep. Jerrold Nadler [D-NY-10], Rep. Lucy McBath [D-GA-6], and Rep. Andrew R. Garbarino [R-NY-2].

Hadassah launched its reConceiving Infertility initiative in April 2020 to raise awareness, confront taboos, drive policy change and empower patients to advocate for their health. With the help of health and fertility writer Amy Klein, author of *The Trying Game: Get Through Fertility Treatment and Get Pregnant Without Losing Your Mind* and Hadassah's reConceiving Infertility ambassador, the initiative amplifies the voices of families struggling with infertility and shares resources to help the Jewish community learn more about and raise awareness of infertility.

Hadassah also supports infertility treatments and research through the work of the Hadassah Medical Organization in Israel. In a country that is the worldwide leader in vitro

fertilization (IVF), with the most IVF cycles per capita of any other, the Jerusalem medical center's fertility clinics stand out. They are renowned for their services and techniques and have made Hadassah a leader in fertility treatment and research since the 1960s.

ABOUT HADASSAH

Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc. (HWZOA), is the largest Jewish women's organization in the United States. With nearly 300,000 members, Associates and supporters, HWZOA brings women together to effect change and advocate on such critical issues as ensuring the security of Israel, combating antisemitism and promoting women's health. Through the Hadassah Medical Organization's (HMO) two hospitals in Jerusalem, HWZOA helps support exemplary patient care for over a million people every year and HMO's world-renowned medical research. HMO serves without regard to race, religion or nationality and earned a Nobel Peace Prize Nomination in 2005 for building “bridges to peace.” Additionally, HWZOA supports several Youth Aliyah villages that set at-risk children in Israel on the path to a successful future. For more information, visit www.hadassah.org or follow Hadassah on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter.



Jewish Heritage Night With El Paso Chihuahuas

Sunday, August 14 @ 6pm

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Local Leader Joins Women of Reform Judaism North American Board of Directors



El Paso, Texas, April 2022

Tina Baron-Wolfe was elected to the North American Board of Directors of Women of Reform Judaism at their annual Board Meeting on April 29, 2022. Tina joins the WRJ North American Board to serve a three-year term. Board members are responsible for articulating and promoting the organization's vision and consulting on project strategies essential to WRJ's success.

Tina was born and grew up outside of Philadelphia in West Chester County, PA. She attended undergraduate school at Thiel College in Pennsylvania, majoring in Spanish and English and did graduate work at Temple University in Philadelphia. She married a Texan and went to live in Puebla, Mexico where her son was born and where she completed a master's program at the Universidad de Las Americas in Cholula, Puebla, Mexico in Interamerican Studies. Moving to Colorado for a year, then back to Pennsylvania and, later, to New Jersey, she finally

settled back in Texas permanently in 1972. During this time she earned a second Master's degree at Stephen F. Austin University in Nagodoches, Texas. In 1984, she moved to El Paso where she has lived ever since. She attended New Mexico State University to complete course work for a PhD. In Educational Administration. She has taught at both secondary schools and university levels, has

been a school principal, assistant director of Radford private school and director of the International Academy of Texas here in El Paso.

Active in her local synagogue, Temple Mount Sinai, for the past 30 years, Tina trained as a Sch'liach Kihilah at HUC to serve as a rabbinic assistant.

She sings in the choir, Shir Chadash, is immediate past president of the local sisterhood, Area Director for the Pacific District Women of Reform Judaism and recently appointed to the national board of WRJ.

Her hobbies include reading, gardening, baking and hiking. She is the mother of three and grandmother of seven and lives with her husband (Louis Lopez) and newly adopted kitty cat named Jenny in El Paso. WRJ President, Sara Charney, stated "WRJ is fortunate to have Tina as part of an empowered group of new leadership to help develop and implement major initiatives and policies and inspire other women and girls in the Jewish community.

Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) is a global network of Jewish women working together to empower women through the

bonds of sisterhood, spirituality, and social justice. WRJ brings women together to find strength, joy and connection to their communities across North America and worldwide. We create ample opportunities for women to come together to deepen their connection to Judaism. Guided by the principle of Tikkun Olam, WRJ mobilizes collective action on various critical social justice issues to create a more just and compassionate world for all people of all backgrounds and identities.

WRJ's philanthropic efforts include the YES Fund (Youth, Education and Special Projects). The YES Fund provides grants for training rabbinical and cantorial students at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, financial support of our youth through NFTY, social justice initiatives at the RAC, organizations that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion like Avodah, and ongoing support for global Progressive Judaism.

WRJ, founded in 1913, is the women's affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism, the central body of Reform Judaism in North America. For more information, please visit www.wrj.org.

Texas Jewish Historical Society Summer Board Meeting to be held in Bonham

By Sally Drayer

The Texas Jewish Historical Society is having its summer board meeting the weekend of July 15th-17th in Bonham, which is an hour north of Dallas. The Society originally planned to have the meeting June 2020, but due to Covid, it was postponed.

The Society will tour the Sam Rayburn Home, the Sam Rayburn Museum/Library, and the Fannin County Historical Museum. In addition, members will be able to see buildings where former Jewish merchants had their businesses.

Following the Texas Jewish Historical Society Board Meeting on

Sunday, July 17th, members of the Society, with assistance from the Klay Kodosh of Congregation Shearith Israel, Dallas, will consecrate the land where the Jewish residents are buried as a Jewish cemetery.

There were Jewish settlers in Bonham and nearby Honey Grove in the late 1880's and 1890's and several of them were prominent merchants. The Jewish community disappeared by the 1930's, but while they were there, these families were an integral part of the community. Several of the merchants and members of their family are buried in the Willow Wild Cemetery. As Archivist/

Historians, along with members of the Fannin County Historical Commission and the Willow Wild Cemetery Association, we are seeking help in locating members/descendants of the Jewish families that are either buried in the Willow Wild Cemetery or lived in Bonham or in Honey Grove. Members of the community were: Morris Rosenbaum, the Rhine (at one time spelled Rein) brothers David, Nathan, Henry, Solomon, Abraham (buried in Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney), and Samuel. Other community members, were the Englander family (Arnold, and he had a son

named Marvin), the Klappholz brothers Arnold and Marcus, the Cohen family (not sure of first names), the Goldman family, Henry Levine and his brother Max, Max Hermer, and the Max Brown Family. The Cohen family is known to have had a business in Honey Grove.

If you think you may be related to the families that once resided in either Bonham or Honey Grove, or know of friends that could be related, please contact me at archivist@txjhs.org. The Texas Jewish Historical Society would be honored to have you join us for the weekend.



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EIPasoConnect: Shane Wagman Romero, Chair

To volunteer? Email letsconnect@jewishelpaso.org

Live and In-Person

*Rebecca Mendez,
Program & Engagement Coordinator,
Jewish El Paso*

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jewish El Paso has been dedicated to keeping the community (El Paso and Las Cruces) connected while separated. The safety of the community has been a top priority for us and yet, at the same time, understanding the desire to meet back together in-person.

As policies and protocols began to change, so began the slow moving in-person events with Borderland's Café Europa - seniors ages 65+, ElPasoConnect - 20s-40s, and PJ Library - young

families; while some major events were planned and postponed as the Delta- and Omnicron-variants grew and gave us great concern.

As 2022 started, we began with four major events to bring the Jewish Community back together. The Jewish Film Festival showcased a total of 4 films, which could be viewed virtually and in-person. Rise Against Hunger brought the community together for a good cause to package nutritious meals to be distributed in countries around the world as well as donate to El Pasoans Fighting Hunger to help the local community. L'Chaim-to Living was a time for friends and family



to have a fun day at the El Paso Zoo. To end the spring season, Celebrate Israel @ 74 allowed a safe space to celebrate our Jewish homeland and its achievements. We were joined by the Consul General of Israel to the Southwest, Livia Link-Raviv, and Israeli artist Hanoach Piven. Again, thank you to our committees, volunteers, and sponsors for making each event possible for our community to enjoy!

While we "take a break" from

our larger events for the summer, we'll continue to have a fun summer with Borderland's Café Europa - seniors ages 65+ and ElPasoConnect as well as plan for PJ Library, the fall season, Chanukah, and Spring 2023.

We're also happy to announce that we plan to kick-off our programming with Jewish Heritage Night at the El Paso Chihuahuas Stadium (watch for details). To get involved - contact rmendez@jewishelpaso.org

Always Feeling Welcome

*By Judith
Lazarus
Yellon*



As it became safer to meet in person, because more and more of us got vaccinated and statistics of the pandemic changed,

My husband Fred Yellon and I have been thoroughly delighted with the

Borderland's Café Europa program that is provided by Jewish El Paso. We became aware of it as the Covid pandemic created a huge change in our lives. Although Fred continued to shop, but much less frequently, I went into total isolation. He was the only one I was near for 14 months. This program became a beacon of light since we were no longer attending weekly Shabbat services at Chabad Las Cruces or having the option of going to communal celebrations of Jewish holidays. We felt as if Jewish El Paso reached out with loving arms and embraced us with stimulating presentations on Zoom and lunch delivered to our home. This contact gave us a vibrant connection to Jewish community.

Borderland's Café Europa began to take place in person. We have enjoyed getting to spend time with Jews in both El Paso and Las Cruces who participate. We appreciate the new and deepening friendships we are developing. Each event has shared talks and marvelous lunches.

We are impressed with the time, effort, and skills that the planners have used, and we always feel welcomed by name with warmth and joy.

We extend a huge thanks to those at the Jewish El Paso and The Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso who are putting grant money to such fine use, as they cut through any sense of isolation and contribute to a meaningful Jewish community.



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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

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Registration required by Thursday, July 14

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



DETERMINATION, HOPE & HONOR

On April 28, 2022, Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Equal Opportunity Advisor at the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command at White Sands Missile Range, invited Jewish El Paso to participate and educate its leaders, and special guests regarding the Holocaust and its lessons. JCRC Chair, Debra Kanof, guest speaker, approached the opportunity to place a special emphasis on Ukraine, the antisemitic preludes to the “Final Solution,” the Russian Pogroms of 1881 and 1903-1906, and the 1941-1943 Holocaust by Bullets massacres in Eastern Europe beginning at the ravine at Babyn Yar. The presentation concluded with a series of modern images of the devastation in Ukraine, and American anti-Jewish, Neo-Nazi protests. President, Monika Kimball spoke about the ADL and rising antisemitic sentiment.



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Jewish El Paso 85th Annual Meeting



Photos Courtesy of Brian Kanof

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Israeli Artist in Residence
Hanoch Piven Workshop
@ Celebrate Israel @ 74



AROUND OUR COMMUNITY



Consul General of Israel to the Southwest, Livia Link-Raviv shares a few words @ Celebrate Israel @ 74



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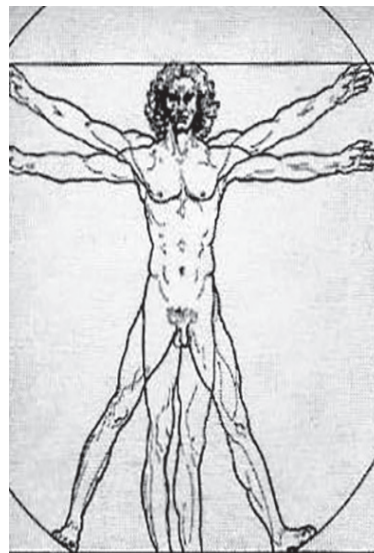
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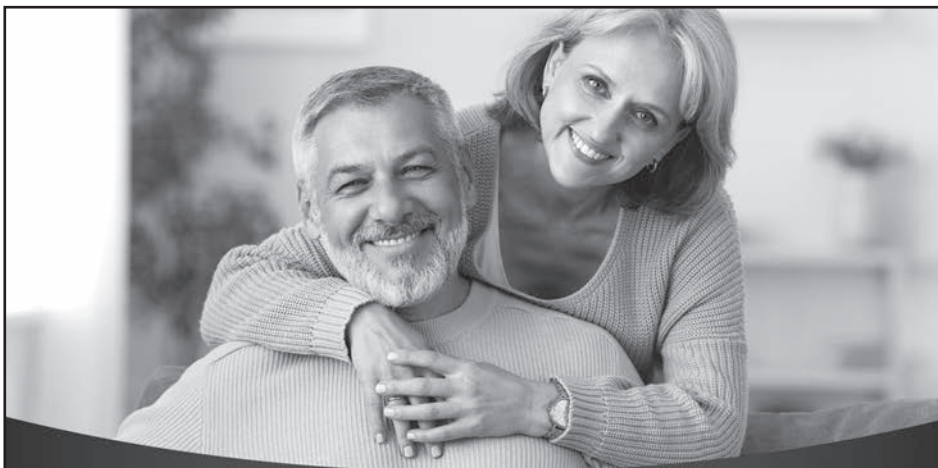
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