

The Jewish VOICE

Informing and Connecting Jews in El Paso-Las Cruces

Tishri/Cheshvan 5783
October 2022



Honoring our Veterans
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JEWISH EL PASO
CONNECTING EL PASO-LAS CRUCES

Up Close: Ross Kagan Marks

Ross Kagan Marks is an award-winning director, writer and producer best known for directing WALKING WITH HERB, THE TWILIGHT OF THE GOLDS and HOMAGE. His other credits include the films THE HEART OUTRIGHT, FOWL, TARRANT COUNTY, SHOWDOWN ON RIO ROAD, FLUFF and PRINCESS, which was on the short list for the Academy Award live-action shorts. His films have won awards at the Sundance Film Festival, Chicago International Film Festival, Cleveland International Film Festival, Berlin Film Festival and festivals throughout the world. He is a graduate of the American Film Institute and a member of the Writers Guild. The Executive Director and founder of the Las International Film Festival, Ross teaches at New Mexico State University.

What value do we need most in our world today?

We need love and empathy most in our world today.

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

My favorite Jewish hero is my longtime mentor, partner and father-in-law, the late Mark Medoff. He was an honorable and dedicated teacher who always put his students and community first. He taught at New Mexico State University for 52 years. He was a wonderful and provocative storyteller who integrated his Jewish roots and background into his stories. He was an accomplished writer and even better family man. And supremely talented winning the Tony award for his iconic play "Children Of A Lesser G-d."

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

The best part of being part of the Jewish community is the communal celebration and group support of each other. Being a Jew

means you are part of an important tribe that watches out for one another and lifts each other up.

What's your favorite Jewish themed movie and why?

My favorite Jewish themed movie is "The Ten Commandments." We watched the film every year for the bulk of my childhood. Its grandeur and message still resonate to this day. Certainly, portrays the Jews in a good light. At the time, the film was revolutionary technically and visually. The music and G-d like voice-over still gets me. Cecille B DeMille was an innovator and master storyteller.

Filmmaking is a laborious job, what keeps you motivated?

Filmmaking is the ultimate collaborative medium. As a director you need to lead and inspire dozens of people and get their very best work heading in the same direction. I love when a large group of strangers creates something from nothing and then document that on film for eternity. As human beings we need stories to guide us and inspire us. Film is the medium with the most tools and toys for its storytellers. Making films enriches me and the audience.

Which filmmakers inspire you?

Mel Brooks, Mike Nichols, John Ford, Martin Scorsese, and John Cassavetes really inspire and motivate me for different reasons.

You are on the Jewish Film Festival Committee...

What do you hope to bring Jewish El Paso next season?

I'm on the Jewish Film Festival board for the second year. I love bringing Jewish stories to an appreciative audience. The best way we can keep our Jewish culture alive, and thriving is by telling and sharing our stories. Film is of course my favorite story-telling vehicle.

Next season, I hope to help Jewish El Paso-Las Cruces

continue their mission of leading Jews in our area in culture and community. I hope I can bring an awareness of the arts and film

to our Jewish community. I hope we can galvanize our Jewish community to bond and strengthen each other.



**BORDERLAND'S
CAFÉ EUROPA**

Sukkot Celebration

**Thursday, October 13 | 12 – 1pm
@ Chabad El Paso**

Wishing you a chag sameach – a happy holiday! May your Sukkot holiday be one of joy, togetherness, and peace! Join us at Chabad El Paso for a delicious lunch with Rabbis Levi and Yisrael Greenberg.

Registration required by Thursday, October 6

**Transportation available from
Las Cruces at 10:15 am**

Please call Jewish El Paso to arrange
transportation via
Shalom Shuttle 915-842-9554



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

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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

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Breaking the Age Code

By Ruth Taber

You go to the kitchen, and suddenly can't remember what you're looking for. "Oops, I'm having a senior moment"? Really? At age 26? Brief memory lapses strike all ages; 150 years ago American psychologist William James described them as a "gap in the mind that is intensely active". So why do we call these lapses "senior moments?"

Amazing revelations about mind and body connections are described by Dr. Becca Levy in her new book: **Breaking the Age Code** (William Morrow). Dr. Levy, a Professor of Epidemiology at Yale's School of Public Health and Professor of Psychology at Yale University has provided a page-turner based on her years of research: more than 400 studies in five continents - some still ongoing! Dr. Levy introduces us to remarkable older people who have benefited from their positive age beliefs, the fascinating positive aging culture of Japan where men and women enjoy the longest life expectancy in the world, and an entire town in Vermont that is flourishing because of positive aging beliefs!

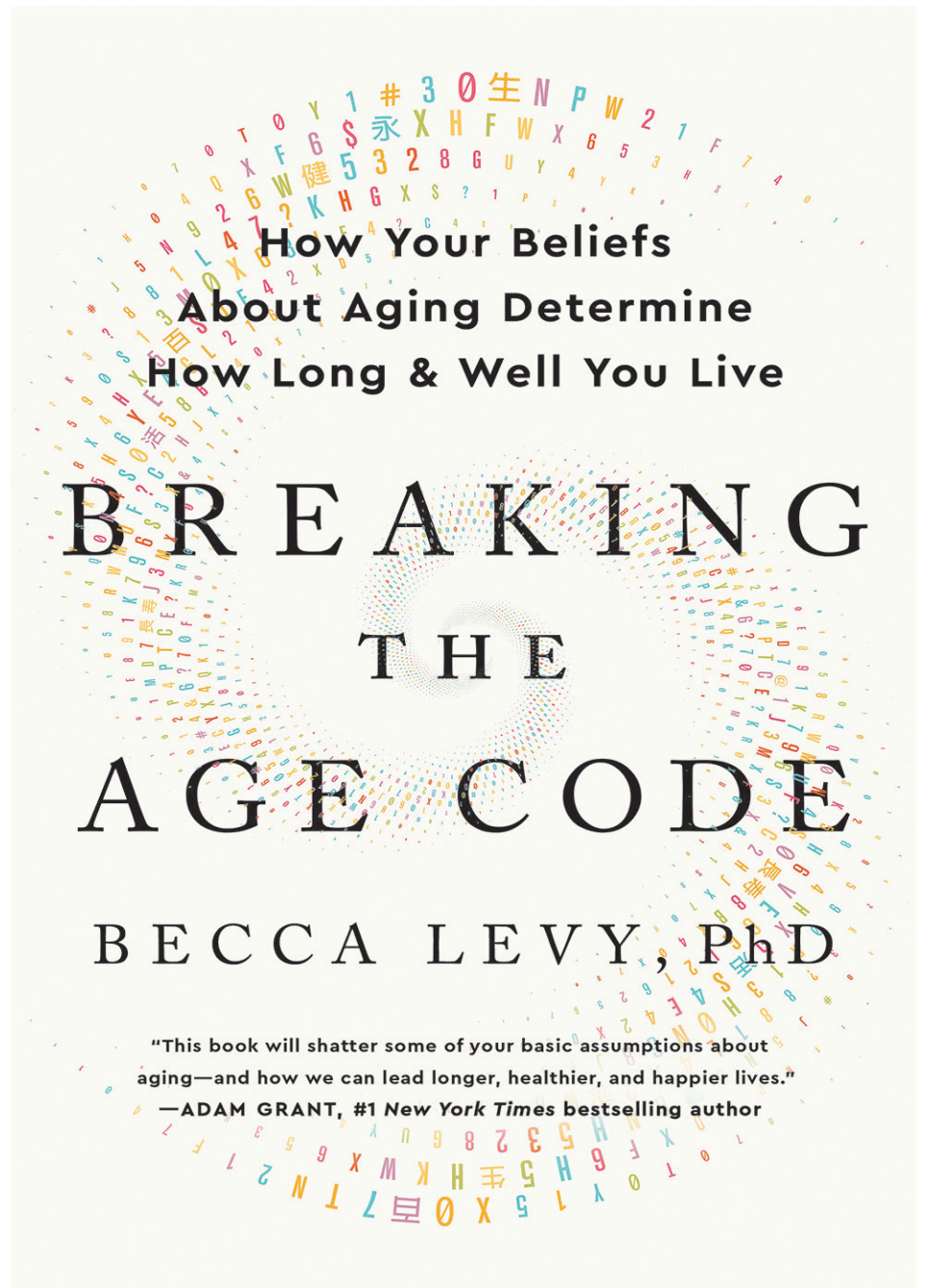
The bottom line: Many health problems formerly considered entirely due to aging (memory loss, hearing decline, cardiovascular

problems, etc.) are influenced by negative age (ageist) beliefs. Changing these negative attitudes can benefit every aspect of our aging process – even the way our genes operate – and her scientific studies have shown that **positive age beliefs can extend life expectancy by 7.5 years!**

Society is suffering from **AGEISM** – a word coined in 1969 by Dr. Robert Butler (founding director of the National Institutes of Aging). Basically, AGEISM stereotypes and discriminates against people – just because they are old. "Senior moments" are ageist expressions! (Old incorrectly equates with slow, forgetful, hard of hearing, etc. and alas, many older people foster ageism by repeating accepted casual comments, jokes, etc.)

Dr. Levy's book is a must read; she explains how we can acquire and promote positive aging beliefs/methods in our everyday life. (And think of all the money that can be saved by not buying the **worthless** pills and potions "guaranteed" to improve your memory and well-being.)

Ruth Taber received her Masters in Public Health from Yale University in 1954 and is a member of the Association of Health Care Journalists. She writes and speaks about aging frequently for various publications/organizations.



Honoring our Veterans



Name: Michael Levin
Branch: US Army JAG Corps
Rank: Major
Served: 2012 - Present



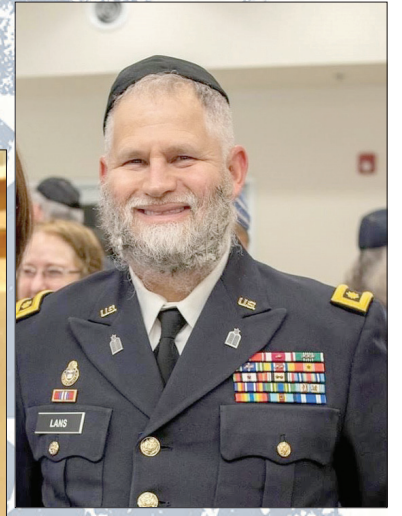
Name: Victor Alexander Munoz
Branch: US Army
Rank: Major
Served: 2011 – Present



Name: Sarah M. Tolley
Branch: US Army Pennsylvania Army National Guard
Rank: SGT
Served: December 2010 – December 2016



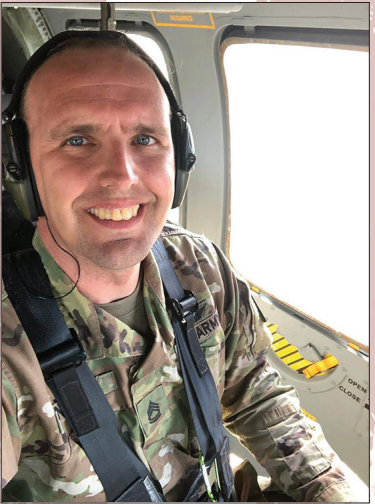
Name: Edward Solomon,
Branch: US Army, Ordnance corps in HAWK maintenance and supply.
Last rank was CPT.
Served: January 1970 - March 1978.



Name: Moshe Lans
Branch: US Army
Rank: Chaplain (Major)
Served: Current



Name: Nathan Green
Branch: US Army
Rank: Sergeant First Class
Served: Current



Name: Corey Neal, Aviation
Branch: Army
Rank: Sergeant First Class
Served: Current



Name: Scott P. Stevens
Rank CW4
Branch: US Army
Served: 1974-2004
Rank/ Branch: CW4, US Army



Name: Brian Kanof
Branch: US Army Signal Corps
Rank: Major
Served: 1971 - 1985



Name: Allen D. Goodman
Branch : United States Air Force
Served: 1973-1978
Rank: E4 Aircraft Mechanic Tactical Fighters

Hakaras Hatov

by Rabbi Moshe Lans, Brigade Chaplain & Rabbi of Fort Bliss

Hakaras Hatov is Hebrew for recognizing the good. Judaism imbues hakaras hatov from the moment a Jew wakes up by reciting Modeh Ani, which is the daily prayer thanking G-d for returning the soul and rejuvenating the sleeping. Life is unpredictable and beginning each day by expressing thanks to G-d for giving another day accentuates gratitude and positivity. Reciting Modeh Ani starts the day with appreciation to G-d.

Saying thank you is paramount to living healthily. Many people deserve hakaras hatov, but military veterans and current military Service Members are especially worthy of a heartfelt thank you. Military veterans preserved the United States of America, ensuring it is an inheritance to the next generation. Military Service Members and their families are worthy of an earnest thank you for sustaining democracy and freedom.

November 11 is Veteran’s Day, a federal holiday of hakaras hatov

to military veterans. This year, November 11 is on Friday. Jewish El Paso, Jewish War Veterans Post 749 El Paso, Texas, and the Jewish Community of Fort Bliss invite you to join us in honoring military veterans, Service Members, and their families at Fort Bliss for an epic Friday night Shabbat. There will be a scrumptious homemade meal immediately after Friday night's Shabbat services.

Please join us on Friday, November 11, at Fort Bliss’s Chapel 3, 1441 Cassidy Road, Fort Bliss, TX, at the Jewish Chapel to express hakaras hatov to military veterans, Service Members, and their families. The unforgettable Shabbat of hakaras hatov begins at 6:30 PM. RSVP at Jewish El Paso (<https://jewishelpaso.org>).

Everyone should join the November 11 Veteran’s Day Shabbat at Fort Bliss. The Friday night Shabbat service and dinner accommodate all Jews. Shomere Shabbos accommodations are available with prior arrangements. Please do not pass up this unique mitzvah (commandment that connects G-d and people) to express hakaras hatov to military veterans, Service Members, and their families.

The Jewish Community FOUNDATION of El Paso



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023

Social & Personal

Mazel Tov – Congratulations to...

Chabad El Paso on celebrating their Double Chai 36 Year Anniversary

To Shayna Breanne Kurland & Michael Flores on the birth of Xander Isaac Kurland-Flores. Grandmother Beth, great grandfather Irwin Kurland, great aunt Debra Kurland, great uncle Maurice Kurland. Paternal grandparents Lissette & Miguel Flores.

to Ross and Rebecca Otis Leder on the birth of their daughter Mila, Grandparents are Rick and Leslie Otis of Austin and Great Grandmother is Joyce Jaffee

Dr. Shauna Goldman and Bobby Montes on their marriage Ben and KC Marcus on the birth of their son and to grandparents Meyer and Mindy Marcus

Zach Krasne on his new position at Hello Amigo to Dr. Charles and Carmen Yates on daughter Yvette Yates Redick and son-in-law Shaun Redicks Netflix film "Day Shift".

to the following attorneys named to "Best Lawyers in America" Allan Goldfarb, Bernard Felsen, H. Keith Myers.

yom huledet sameach - Happy Birthday to...

Ruth Erlich on her 99th birthday

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

the family and friends of David Zeemont

*To post your announcement please visit www.jewishelpaso.org/Announcement

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Jewish El Paso CAMP Fair

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 8
2:30 - 4:00PM**

@ ADVENTURE ZONE

REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY JANUARY 3

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Temple Beth EL Welcomes New Rabbi!



By Nan Rubin, President
Temple Beth El, Las Cruces

After two years of functioning without a full-time rabbi, Reform synagogue Temple Beth-El in Las Cruces was thrilled to welcome Rabbi Evette Lutman to the community at the beginning of August.

Although Rabbi Evette has been involved with the congregation for less than two months, she has already demonstrated her commitment to the congregation. Along with her immediate responsibilities leading High Holiday services and teaching B'nai mitzvah students, she has visited several ailing congregants, took part in the Shofars Across Borders event, attended an interfaith

community meeting on gun violence, and helped plan a memorial service for beloved congregational member Dave Zeemont who passed away suddenly in mid-August.

In addition, the Rabbi has launched a series of discussion classes on Musar, the study of Jewish ethics. The subject is dear to her heart, and after just a few sessions the class has already grown to more than two dozen participants.

This is a second career for the rabbi, who was ordained by the Reconstructionist seminary after years as a practicing attorney. She moved to Las Cruces from Denver where she worked at B'nai Havurah, the Reconstructionist congregation there.

Temple Beth-El began looking for a new rabbi with the retirement of Rabbi Larry Karol, but the search was impeded by COVID restrictions. The congregation had a wonderful student rabbi for two years, but she was based in Los Angeles and unable to visit Las Cruces very often. Looking for candidates from CCAR Central Conference of American Rabbis, the reform rabbinical network, revealed a serious shortage of pulpit rabbis in both Conservative and Reform

synagogues, so Temple Beth-El listed the position on several other rabbinical sources.

Rabbi Evette responded to the posting, and after a couple of very successful interviews on zoom, she was invited to Las Cruces to visit the congregation. The long weekend was filled with activities meeting synagogue members at several services, private dinners, and social events, and congregants were then asked to assess how well she would fit into the temple community.

Nearly everyone who met her gave her an enthusiastic endorsement to become Rabbi here, and for her part she felt the same way about coming to Las Cruces and serving at Temple Beth-El. So it was not a difficult decision to offer her the position, and she

and her wife and dogs relocated here in July.

All the people who provided references for Rabbi Evette spoke about how she was a passionate and engaging teacher, and Temple Beth-El has seen this already through her lessons on Torah and the growing popularity of her Musar class.

We at Temple Beth-El feel extremely fortunate that Rabbi Evette Lutman has joined our congregation as our spiritual leader and has brought a great deal of optimism to the community as we enter the new year.

We welcome everyone to come join us anytime at services or classes, and we hope many of you will come to the happy celebration we will have in November to welcome her as our rabbi!
Shana Tova!

Want to see what's happening in
our community?

Visit our online community calendar.

www.jewishelpaso.org

JEWISH EL PASO

CONNECTING EL PASO-LAS CRUCES



Temple Beth-El Matzo Ball Golf Open supports Mesilla Valley Hospice

Temple Beth El's 9th Annual Matzo Ball Open golf tournament will be Sunday October 16, 2022 at Picacho Hills Country Club. The scramble-style tournament begins with a shot gun start at 9:00 AM with registration opening at 8:00 AM. Entry fees of \$120.00 per player or \$480.00 per foursome, covers the round of golf, with cart, practice balls and dinner as well as a voucher for a complimentary round of golf at Picacho Hills CC. During the event, there will be contests for longest drive and closest to the pin on a par three for both men and women. If golf is not for you - sponsor a hole (\$100 each) with your name of your business advertised at a tee box and in the Temple Beth-El newsletter.

The tournament is a fund raiser for Temple Beth-El and Mesilla Valley Hospice. Monies are raised through entry fees, hole sponsors, and 50/50 raffle sales. Proceeds to Temple Beth-El are used to support a wide range of programming for temple members as well as supporting cultural and education events in the community.

For those interested in participating, please contact Allen Blum (480 529-8170) or Joel Siegel (575 302-3518)

Lions of Judah

Guess Who's Turning 50?

Lets Go to Phoenix, Arizona to the Biltmore Hotel
December 11 - 13, 2022

For the International Lion of Judah Conference
The Place to be for dynamic, philanthropic Jewish women

For our Lions and Future Lions
Join us for Coffee and Conversation on Friday, October 14
10 - 11:30am at a private residence
by Invitation Only
Please RSVP by calling Sue at 915-995-0513

Janet Wechter, El Paso Chair -
International Lion of Judah Conference



Alone with G-d

*Rabbi Yisrael Greenberg
Chabad Lubavitch*

Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the year--the day on which we are closest to G-d and to the quintessence of our own souls. It is the Day of Atonement--"For on this day He will forgive you, to purify you, that you be cleansed from all your sins before G-d" (Leviticus 16:30).

For nearly twenty-six hours--from several minutes before sunset on Tishrei 9 to after nightfall on Tishrei 10--we "afflict our souls": we abstain from food and drink, do not wash or anoint our bodies, do not wear leather footwear, and abstain from marital relations.

The Maggid of Koznitz would say: "Why would anyone want to eat on Yom Kippur?" Obviously, his Yom Kippur experience was far more elevated than that of most of us. However, we can all certainly relate to it. Haven't we all heard of scientists and mathematicians who were so absorbed in their work that eating and sleeping was out of the question?

Yom Kippur is the most sacred day of the year. It was the day on which the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies in the Holy Temple, experiencing a direct bond

with G-d. There was nothing else there but him and G-d's revealed presence.

In microcosm, this state of connection is experienced by every Jew on Yom Kippur. This is the heart of the Neila service, the last of our Yom Kippur prayers. Neila means "locked." During Neila, every person is "locked in," alone with G-d.

Will we consciously feel this? Surely there are differences between what goes on in each person's heart, but on this day, every person feels some spiritual inspiration. He or she draws closer to G-d and becomes more aware of his or her Jewish roots.

That's why we recite confessional prayers on Yom Kippur; it's like a couple making up. If they've felt distance and separation, and then come together again, they'll look at each other and say they're sorry. It's got nothing to do with a guilt trip; it's a natural response when you've hurt someone you love.

And the couple will promise to change their conduct in the future, to turn away from those things which cause each other pain and to do more of those things that bring them happiness.

That's what our prayers are

about on Yom Kippur: coming closer to G-d, saying we're sorry because we caused Him pain, promising that in the year to come, we will try to do better.

Yom Kippur is not intended to be an isolated spiritual event - it should inspire and permeate our conduct throughout the year. On Yom Kippur, we need to think about what happens afterwards, how to make the spiritual feelings of that day enable us to live better

and more fulfilled lives in the year to come.

May the New Year bring blessings of abundance and peace upon the Jewish Nation and all of man-kind.



Rabbi Yisrael Greenberg

Nominate a Young Leader Today

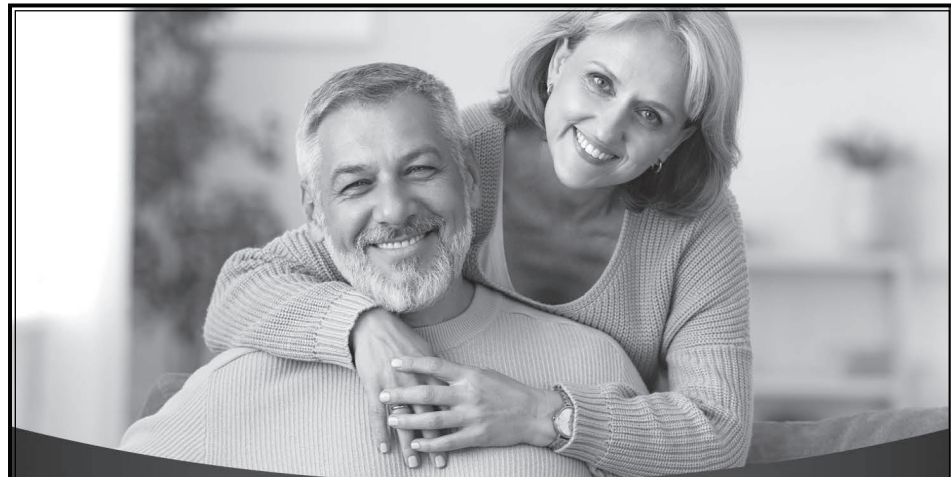


Applications and nominations for the 2023 Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards are now open! Every year, up to 15 Jewish teens from across the country are selected to receive an award of \$36,000 to honor their leadership and efforts to repair the world. The Diller Tikkun Olam Awards recognize teens who are currently serving in a leadership role on a project that is making a difference in their community. Eligible applicants are 13-19 years old who self-identify as Jewish, are residents of the United States, and who are not receiving compensation for their work. Projects may focus on the Jewish or the community at large.

Nominate a young leader today or teens can apply directly by January 5, 2023 at

<https://jewishelpaso.org/featured/nominate-a-young-leader-today/>

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Todah Rabah – Thank you to Our Volunteers

Cafe Europa: Rochelle Saks; Mimi Gladstein

Shofar Across Borders: Cesar Carrasco, Co-Chair; Shane Wagman Romero, Co-Chair; Debra Kanof, President; Rabbi Stephen Leon; Edgar Mendez; Ariel Lysander; Kosher Cow Pokes;

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FACES & PLACES

AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

ElPasoConnect (20s - 40s)



Shofar Across Borders

Photos by Brian Kanof



Borderland's Café Europa
The History of Jewish El Paso



FACES & PLACES

AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

Chabad El Paso - Celebrating 36 Years



Jewish El Paso - Board Meeting



Generations Day Meeting

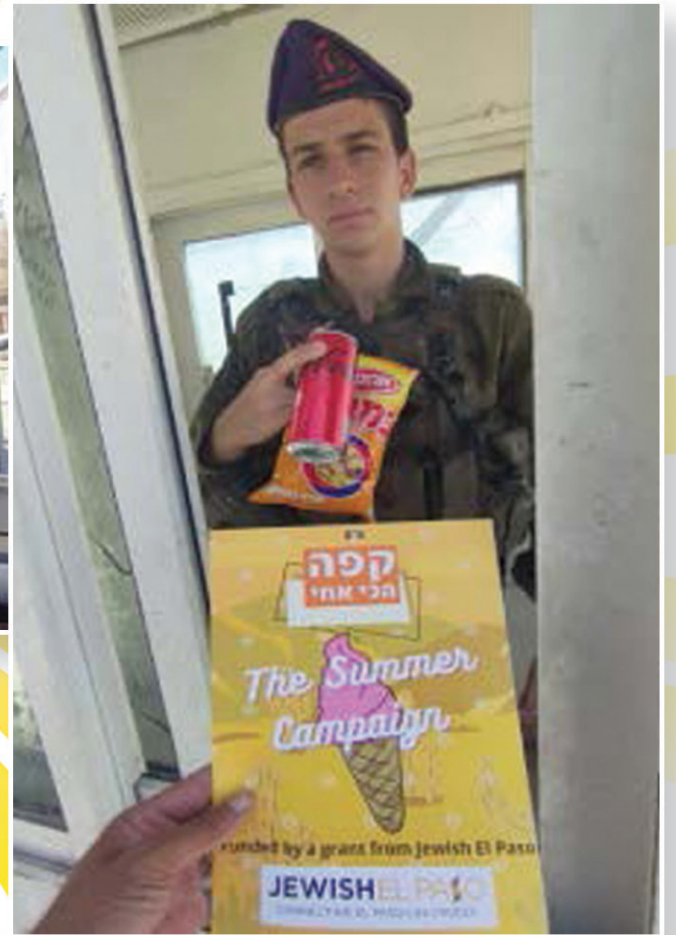


Congregation B'nai Zion - U-Pick @ Mesilla Valley



FACES & PLACES

Hachnasat Orchim Hebron - Ice Cream Summer Campaign



The Cherry Hill School - Back in Session





**International Lion of Judah Conference
Biltmore Hotel, Phoenix Arizona**

The International Lion of Judah Conference is the premier gathering of dynamic, philanthropic Jewish women from across the globe. At this year's ILOJC, we will celebrate 50 years of building flourishing Jewish communities worldwide and begin to shape how our Jewish communities can flourish for the next 50. We'll start with the most critical issues that our domestic and global communities face.

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11-11-22

VETERANS

★ ★ ★ DAY ★ ★ ★

SHABBAT AT FT. BLISS

**FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 11, 2022
6:30PM**

**HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED AND THOSE WHO ARE
CURRENTLY SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES WITH
SHABBAT SERVICES FOLLOWED BY DINNER**

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE FROM JEWISH EL PASO | 5:30PM

REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY NOVEMBER 4

SHABBAT DINNER

\$10 PER PERSON OR \$36 FAMILY OF 4

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