

THE JEWISH VOICE

Informing and Connecting Jews in El Paso & Las Cruces

Cultivating Community



JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL UPDATE



By Rebecca Mendez,
Program & Engagement
Coordinator
Jewish Federation of
El Paso & Las Cruces

Our Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) is in the process of a major update. The goal of the JCRC is to promote mutual understanding, collaboration, and advocacy for Jewish interests in the community and develop an intelligent and effective public opinion within and outside the Jewish community on Jewish community relations problems, concerns, and commitments. On Monday, September 11, 2023, our Board voted in Mrs. Blanca Carrasco by appointment as the Chair of JCRC.



Blanca Carrasco, JCRC Chair

So far, we have participated in the El Paso Chamber's Legislative Round Up Panel with State Representatives Representatives Lina Ortega, Joe Moodey, Claudia

Ordaz, Mary Gonzalez, and State Senator Cesar Blanco; U.S. Global

Leadership Coalition's Luncheon with Congresswoman Veronica Escobar (D-TX); and Government Relations Committee meetings to participate in important discussions regarding policy issue advocacy on behalf of members and the El Paso community in discussions regarding policy issue advocacy on behalf of members and the El Paso community in areas of Infrastructure, Healthcare, Cross Border, Education, and Workforce, Shared Value, Aerospace & Defense, MVAC, BOD, and EMCO.

Also, our office was pleased to partner with and be a sponsor with the El Paso Community Foundation's Plaza Classic Film Festival for People of the Crossing: The Jews of El Paso and Ernest & Celestine.

Our JCRC will continue to its educational initiatives through special programming to promote human dignity, individual rights, and fraternal relationships across religious, racial, and ethnic lines and groups. These events include Shofar Across Borders, Hanukkah @ San Jacinto Plaza, legislative updates, and promoting Jewish culture.

THE JEWISH VOICE is a publication of Jewish Federation of El Paso & Las Cruces

The Jewish Voice, published six 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 Federation of El Paso & Las Cruces 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 1,000 words.

Please email to thevoice@jewishelpaso.org Opinions are those of individual writers and not necessarily those of Jewish Federation of El Paso & Las Cruces. The Jewish Voice is not responsible for the kashrut of any product or eating establishment advertised herein.

From the Head of Content

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors. They do not purport to reflect the opinions or views of Jewish Federation of El Paso & Las Cruces.

Jewish Voice & Federation Team

- Head of Content: Rebecca Mendez
- Executive Director: Marla Cohen
- President: Debra Kanof
- Controller: Aaron Valenzuela
- Major Gifts Director: Sue Bendalin
- Program Coordinator: Alyssa Goldman
- Program & Engagement Coordinator: Rebecca Mendez
- Layout & Design: Rebecca Mendez & Alyssa Goldman
- Printing: PDX Printing

HIGH-HOLIDAY RECAP AT THE J CENTER FOR EARLY LEARNING



Fall is filled with so many Jewish Holidays and so much joy. The children began this year hand printing the Shabbat tablecloth that we use for Shabbat every week.



They love celebrating Rosh Hashanah especially the Shofar blasts that awaken us all. And they understand the importance of Yom Kippur and saying they're sorry when they've done something wrong.



But Sukkot is a perennial favorite. The children enjoy learning about the Sukkah being a reminder of how we lived after leaving Egypt and before arriving in the Promised Land. They love decorating it and making it feel like home. And they really enjoy dwelling, playing and eating in it. We share delicious seasonal foods, and all feel so very thankful for all we have.

EL PASO HOLOCAUST MUSEUM'S 9TH ANNUAL FLIGHTS & BITES: BREWS & BITES



EPHM is excited to present Brews & Bites, Wednesday, October 18th, 5pm-9pm. Join us for tastings of seasonal brews and ciders, brick oven pizza and other tasty bites from local eateries, lawn games, wine & gift pull, and more! All inclusive tickets are \$60, and all proceeds directly support EPHM's educational programming and outreach. For ages 21 and over only.

To purchase tickets:
[givesignup.com/https://www.givesignup.org/TicketEvent/BrewsAndBites](https://www.givesignup.org/TicketEvent/BrewsAndBites)

For more information: 915-351-0048

THE JOYFUL JEWISH FESTIVALS WHICH CELEBRATE DEATH



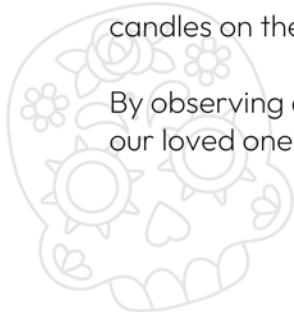
By Rabbi Stephen Leon
Rabbi, The Anusim
Center/Synagogue
Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation
B`nai Zion

Is it possible to demand that another be happy? After all, happiness is an emotion and a feeling and one cannot simply change his mood simply because someone says, "I command you to be happy!". And yet according to the Torah five days after the very solemn holy day of Yom Kippur God commands the Jewish people, "And you shall rejoice in your festivals and you shall only be happy." According to the rabbis this is more of a wish or a hope than a demand. In other words God wants God's people soon after spending an entire day confessing our sins and asking for forgiveness to spend an entire week celebrating traditions filled with fun, enjoyable activities and pleasure. That is the message of the harvest holiday of Sukkot. While this is true, among these happy traditions are two which are preoccupied with death. How can you rejoice when you are considering the loss of loved ones? Moreover these two Jewish practices regarding our beloved deceased, are directly connected to the Mexican tradition "The Day of the Dead" or "El dia de los Muertos".

There is a custom on Sukkot called "Ushpizin" which means "invited guests". According to the 13th century Spanish founder of Kabbalah, Moshe de Leon, we are supposed to invite deceased famous Jewish heroes and heroines to spend some time in our Sukkah. Included in this list are Abraham, Sarah, Moses and Deborah. Clearly these deceased leaders of our people are dead and yet we celebrate their immortality spiritually through these invitations. In the Mexican Day of the Dead practice it is customary to mourn the death of our family and friends and then to celebrate their lives with food, music, dancing and then welcome their spirits back to earth. On the eighth day of Sukkot which is called Shemini Atzeret we include the Yizkor service in our worship. Yizkor means "Remember" and during this service we spend moments recalling each of our relatives who are no longer alive.

The practice in El dia de los Muertos includes skeletons and other symbols to recall our family members and never forget them. On Sukkot we decorate these temporary dwellings with fruit and art work and on the Day of the Dead we decorate ofrendas which are altars with food, photos and gifts. In Italy Rabbi Barbara Aiello tells us that crypto - Jews used a special white candle on the Yahrzeit or anniversary of the death of a family member and the lighting of candles on the Day of the Dead borrowed this practice.

By observing and practising these traditions centered around death we keep the memories of our loved ones alive and we celebrate their lives with happiness.



HOLIDAYS IN MY MOTHER'S KITCHEN

By **Rebbetzin Shari Abramowitz,**
Temple Beth El

I cannot remember a time in my life when I did not have a passion for cooking. Even as a very small child I would stand on a stepstool next to my mother so I could help her cook. My two sisters always found an excuse to get out of helping, but I could never think of anywhere I would rather be than in the kitchen with mom.

Some of my favorite memories are of holiday times. At most holiday dinners, you could find 20+ people around our table as mom brought out dish after dish after dish. We always began each meal, whether Rosh Hashanah, Pesach or Shabbat with chicken matzo ball soup.

My family had a special name for my mom's matzo balls. We called them "flinkers". A wonderful combination of floaters and sinkers. They were so light and fluffy, yet firm enough to soak up all the delightful broth and not fall apart. I couldn't wait to get my hands in the sticky, oily dough.

Even though I could never shape them as perfectly as hers (quite the contrary!), she never criticized or corrected mine. She always told me they were as perfect as hers.



The aromas that wafted throughout the house will be etched in my memories forever. The sweet kugels baking, the chicken roasting, the brisket braising, the many side dishes covering every inch of counter and let's not forget the various desserts.

Looking back, I'm not sure how she accomplished all this in our very small kitchen.

As I prepare to bake her moist, yummy honey cake for Rosh Hashanah, I can feel her with me in the kitchen. I try my best to carry on all my mother's holiday traditions. She instilled in me such a love for feeding others, sharing holidays, and seeing the joy on loved one's faces as they savor each bite.

FACES & PLACES

PEOPLE OF THE CROSSING PREMIER: 2023 PLAZA CLASSIC FILM FESTIVAL




SOCIETY FOR CRYPTO-JUDAIC STUDIES 2023 CONFERENCE EL PASO



CAFE EUROPA: A MINYAN TO A MILLION WITH PETER SVARZBEIN



CBZ Book Zone Oct/Nov



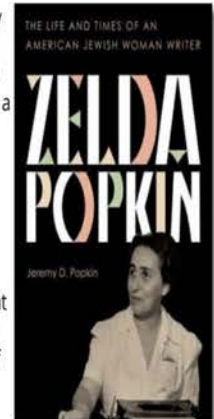

Jeremy D. Popkin

Jeremy Popkin is the William T. Bryan Chair Professor of History at the University of Kentucky and the author of numerous books, including *A New World Begins: The History of the French Revolution* (2019).

Zelda Popkin: The Life and Times of an American Jewish Woman Writer SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023
7:00 PM

In *Zelda Popkin: The Life and Times of an American Jewish Woman Writer*, Jeremy D. Popkin provides a loving, clear-eyed, and intellectual biography of his grandmother's life. Having previously held a relatively minor place in Jewish American literary history, Zelda Popkin (1898 - 1983) emerges here as a writer whose archive of novels, memoirs, and journalism demands a fresh rereading. Her story — "a story about our country," her grandson insists — continues to resonate a half-century after her death. Popkin makes a compelling case for Zelda's renewed importance. Zelda Popkin harbored a rich literary imagination and an "insider's view" of the "tensions in twentieth-century American Jewish life." Will her work get the revival that it's owed? That much remains to be seen. But Jeremy Popkin's faith-keeping, granular portrait is a revival of its own.

ZOOM: 857 5911 6680
PASSWORD: 805

Daniel Stone

Daniel Stone is a writer on science, history, and the environment, as well as the author of the national bestselling *The Food Explorer: The True Adventures of the Globe-Trotting Botanist Who Transformed What America Eats*. He's a former staff writer for *National Geographic* and a former White House correspondent for *Newsweek*. He lives in Santa Barbara with his wife and two sons, one of whom is a dog.

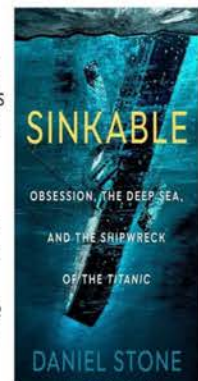
Sinkable: Obsession, the Deep Sea, and the Shipwreck of the Titanic THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023
7:00 PM

It's one of the most beloved stories of all times, and it has the most gut-wrenching human themes: tragedy, trauma, and survival. But what came next?

Sinkable is a sequel to the widely known Titanic story—not of a ship, but of a wreck, complete with a century's worth of scientific, economic, and biological oddities. It's a character-driven story about shipwrecks and the strange underworld of obsessive people who devote their lives to sunken ships, our mysterious oceans, and some wild CIA operations.

Daniel Stone takes audiences on an exciting deep-sea journey of mystery, discovery, and triumph with tales of ocean battles and eye-popping buried treasure. Geared toward a general audience, Stone answers the age-old question, what else on earth is still waiting to be discovered?

CONGREGATION B'NAI ZION
805 CHERRY HILL LN.
EL PASO, TX 79912



Events sponsored by:



EMBRACING FALL: CHABAD OF LAS CRUCES UNVEILS EXCITING PLANS



By Rabbi Bery Schmukler,
Chabad of Las Cruces

As the vibrant colors of autumn paint the landscape of Las Cruces, New Mexico, the Jewish community is eagerly preparing for a season filled with enlightenment, celebration, and community building.

The fall agenda promises an array of engaging activities and events that cater to a diverse range of interests and backgrounds. From the introduction of an illuminating adult education course to the highly anticipated Chanukah celebration in the plaza, here's a glimpse of what we have in store for the upcoming season.

Sukkot Celebrations: Under the Stars/in the Sukkah!

At Chabad of Las Cruces, we are very excited for the joyous occasion of Sukkot. As the sun sets and the stars emerge, we invite the community to join us for a remarkable Sukkot/Shabbat dinner under the enchanting night sky. It's a truly magical experience where families and friends can come together to share a delicious meal under the Sukkah, symbolizing unity and gratitude.

But the Sukkot fun doesn't end there! Join a delightful "Kosher Pizza in the Hut" party. Picture this: mouthwatering pizzas made on the spot in an outdoor pizza oven, with a plethora of delectable toppings to choose from. It's a culinary adventure that will satisfy every palate. While everyone enjoys their customized pizzas, the kids can bounce their way to excitement on moon bounces and carnival fun, creating an event that's not to be missed and offers fun for all ages.

Adult Education: One of the cornerstones of this fall's offerings is the introduction of a brand-new adult education course titled "The World of Kabbalah." Presented by the Jewish Learning Institute (JLI), this course is designed to cater to both beginners and those already well-versed in the mystical teachings of Kabbalah. Our flexibility, offers participants two separate options:

Morning In-Person Class with Lunch:

A morning/noon in-person class where you can engage in face-to-face discussions, share insights, and enjoy a delicious lunch together. This interactive experience allows for in-depth exploration and personal connections within the community.

In response to overwhelming demand, we are excited to present a unique opportunity for dedicated learners – a full-year, three-course package deal. This comprehensive package includes:

Fall- The World of Kabbalah: Revealing How Its Mystical Secrets Relate to You

Delving into the enigmatic world of Kabbalah, this course aims to demystify its teachings and illuminate its relevance to daily life.

Winter- Advice for Life: The Lubavitcher Rebbe's Guidance for Leading a More Purposeful Life

Participants will have the privilege of exploring the wisdom and guidance of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, gaining valuable insights to lead a more meaningful and purposeful life.

Spring- Decisions of Fate: Guiding Jewish Values for Making Life-and-Death Decisions

This course dives into the ethical and moral complexities of life-and-death decisions, drawing from Jewish values to provide guidance during challenging moments.

Evening Class on Zoom with Recordings: For those with busy schedules or preferring a virtual environment, we offer a separate evening class conducted exclusively on Zoom. These sessions are also recorded, ensuring that you won't miss out on valuable content if you can't attend a live class. The recorded sessions provide the flexibility to catch up at your convenience.

Participants will embark on a journey to establish a solid foundation in Kabbalah, gaining insights into its profound mysteries and discovering how its principles relate to their everyday lives.

We believe that education should be accessible to everyone, regardless of financial circumstances. With this commitment in mind, scholarships are available to ensure that no one is turned away from learning due to financial constraints. This inclusivity reflects the organization's dedication to fostering a community of learners who support each other in their quest for knowledge.

Chanukah on the Plaza: A Grand Celebration for All: Each year, Chabad of Las Cruces hosts a spectacular Chanukah celebration in the plaza, and this year promises to be the grandest yet. The event is set to be larger and more festive than ever before. This celebration has become a cherished tradition in Las Cruces, drawing people of all backgrounds to join in the festivities and share in the joy of the Festival of Lights.

A Tradition of Hospitality: Welcoming IDF Soldiers and Workers: For years, Chabad of Las Cruces has demonstrated unwavering support for the dedicated IDF Soldiers and Workers from Israel's Department of Defense. These individuals, working diligently on the Iron Dome to protect the Land of Israel, find a welcoming home away from home in Las Cruces. We host memorable BBQs and provide everything needed to ensure their comfort and well-being.

As Las Cruces and White Sands Missile Range continues to play a vital role in Israel's defense technology, we eagerly anticipate hosting new groups and supporting Israel's advancements in laser defense technology. The community stands ready to provide assistance and hospitality to those contributing to these crucial efforts.



Schmuckler family celebrating Chanukah at White Sands

Aleph Art Room: Jewish Education Through Art - A Unique Approach: At Chabad of Las Cruces, innovation is key. That's why we've established the Aleph Art Room, a place where Jewish education takes on a creative twist. Unlike your typical Hebrew school, the Aleph Art Room infuses art into Jewish learning, allowing students to explore and express their heritage through hands on creative expression. The goal is simple: to help students view Judaism in an intelligent, relevant, and upbeat light, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of their heritage.

Restarting Monthly Community Shabbat Dinners After the Summer Break: We are thrilled to announce the resumption of monthly community Friday Night Shabbat dinners following a well-deserved summer break. These gatherings provide an opportunity for community members to come together, share a meal, and strengthen their bonds. It's a time to celebrate the togetherness of Shabbat and unity that is so dear.

And remember, these are only SOME of the ongoing events offered - and there are many more exciting events and opportunities always on the horizon. The best way to stay informed and be a part of this vibrant community is to sign up for the weekly email updates at chabadlc.org/subscribe. Don't miss out on the latest news, events, and opportunities to connect with Chabad of Las Cruces. It's your gateway to a season filled with inspiration and community engagement.

THE POWER OF SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOMS AT THE CHERRY HILL SCHOOL

The Cherry Hill School teachers have begun implementing Social Emotional Learning (SEL) into their daily curriculum. Why SEL? Social Emotional Learning is the process of developing the self-awareness, self control, and interpersonal skills that are vital for school and life success. Students with strong social-emotional skills are better able to cope with everyday challenges and benefit academically and socially. As teachers we have come to realize that by teaching SEL it not only increases student interest in learning but also improves student behavior.

Some of the ways SEL is being implemented in our classrooms are with daily check-ins. At the start of class, students are asked to check-in with themselves and take notice of what emotions they may be experiencing at that moment. This allows them to feel connected to the class and gives them a chance to express their feelings in a safe place.

Another way SEL is being implemented is by creating opportunities for partner and group work during our Project Based Learning time (PBL).

PBL often requires students to collaborate with peers when working on projects. These opportunities encourages our students to express what they know, can do, and what they are thinking and feeling. We also nurture a culture of kindness.



By Barbara Stegmiller
3rd Grade Teacher
The Cherry Hill School



If we want to see kindness around us, we need to cultivate it ourselves. In other words, lead by example, all of us have incorporated our morning greetings into our daily routine and if you take a look around the classrooms you will see inspiring posters with uplifting references about the power of kindness.

The teachers have incorporated social-emotional vocabulary into their lessons. This enables the students to identify and communicate different types of feelings which in turn help them manage emotions in productive ways instead of hitting, acting out,

or withdrawing. At the end of each day we include reflective writing. Some students find verbal communication difficult, and writing prompts allow them to express themselves in a different way. Finally, the teachers have a “calm down corner” in their classrooms, a place where students know that they can go to step away from things. A calm area where it is a little bit quieter and allows the student a moment to take deep breaths, read a book, or to do what they need to do to regroup before they go back into the group setting.

As our students at The Cherry Hill School are provided with the tools associated with SEL, they have more ownership of their actions, a sense of belonging, and will intrinsically care about their education. Moreover, we feel students with strong social and emotional skills can recognize and handle their behaviors in positive ways. This development of social-emotional skills will lead to better school outcomes, adaption of future learning, well-being and ability to manage good behaviors.

THE CHERRY HILL SCHOOL EARNS COGNIA ACCREDITATION

The Cherry Hill School announced today that it has earned accreditation by Cognia™, a nonprofit organization that provides quality assurance for schools, school districts, and education service providers.

Cognia, formerly AdvancED, nationally recognizes districts that meet rigorous standards focused on productive learning environments, equitable resource allocation that meets the needs of learners, and effective leadership.



Earning accreditation from the Cognia Global Accreditation Commission means that the school is accredited, and that The Cherry Hill School is recognized across the nation as a school that meets Cognia Standards of Quality, and maintains a commitment to continuous improvement.

“School accreditation as conferred by the Cognia Global Accreditation Commission provides The Chery Hill School a nationally recognized mark of quality for our school,” shared Suzie Gibson and Meg Birk, Heads of School. “It demonstrates to our community our commitment to excellence, our openness to external review and feedback, and our desire to be the best we can be on behalf of the students we serve.”

To earn Cognia accreditation, a school also must implement a continuous process of improvement and submit to internal and external review. Schools in good standing can maintain their accreditation for a five-year term.

Dr. Mark A. Elgart, president, and CEO of Cognia, stated, “Cognia Accreditation is a rigorous process that focuses the entire school and its community on the primary goal of preparing lifelong learners in engaging environments where all students can flourish. The Cherry Hill School is to be commended for demonstrating that it has met high standards, is making progress on key indicators that impact student learning.”

Cognia is the parent organization of the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). Parents and interested community members can learn more about the Cognia Accreditation at cognia.org

About Cognia Cognia offers accreditation and certification, assessment, professional learning, and improvement services to institutions and other education providers. The result of the merger of AdvancED and Measured Progress, Cognia was formed to bridge the gap between school evaluation and student assessment. As a global nonprofit working in over 80 countries, our 36,000 institutions serve and support nearly 25 million students and five million educators every day. Cognia serves as trusted partner in advancing learning for all.

Find out more at cognia.org.



Wednesday, October 4, 2023 @ 11:30a.m.

Sukkot Celebration @ Temple Mount Sinai
with Rabbi Ben Zeidman

RSVP by Monday, October 2, 2023 by 10 a.m.

Wednesday, November 14, 2023 @ 11:30a.m.

White Sands Missile Range Museum

Transportation available in
El Paso & Las Cruces

More details to follow

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Watch for Details



Jewish Federation
of El Paso & Las Cruces

Happy
Hanukkah



@GinaJGarcia

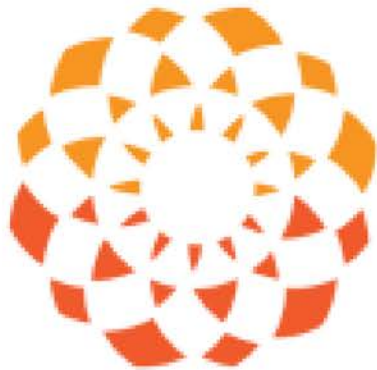
Celebrate Hanukkah @ San Jacinto Plaza

114 W Mills Ave, El Paso, TX 79901

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 | 6-7p.m.



Jewish Federation
of El Paso & Las Cruces



EL PASO
GIVING
DAY.ORG

Donate on
October 19th



Jewish Federation
of El Paso & Las Cruces

Early voting for El Paso Giving Day starts October 12!

Please go to elpasogivingday.org/organizations/jewish-federation-of-greater-el-paso to make your donations anytime between October 12 and October 19.

Community Update from Rabbi Stephen Leon



- Listen to Rabbi Leon’s weekly podcast "The Secret Jews of the Southwest" on iHeart Radio at iheart.com .
- Hebrew School Classes & Bar and Bat Mitzvah lessons on alternating Sunday starting on October 22, 2023 from 2-3:30p.m (Location TBD, contact Rabbi Leon at rabbisal@aol.com) . Future classes and lessons will be held at the Jewish Federation of El Paso & Las Cruces office.

Bea Weisz Scholarship Winner: Ryan Miner



"I would really like to thank the Jewish Federation of El Paso & Las Cruces for the Bea Weisz scholarship I received. The scholarship was able to provide me with technology which led to my success in my first semester this summer here at Princeton. Without this scholarship, I would not have been able to participate in using Snagene, a software that allowed me to complete my summer research project on the USPA genes activator site, as well as mutations of the UPx element on this gene regulator region. The scholarship provided me with this experience and many other experiences I will enjoy here at Princeton University." -Ryan Miner

ShabbAt Ritual Together

HIDDUR MITZVAH
BEAUTIFYING THE MITZVAH

Create Shabbat Mosaic Candlesticks
Sunday, October 15, 2023 from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Congregation B'nai Zion
Family fun, No experience necessary
Open to the entire Jewish Community
\$5.00 per person

RSVP: by 4:30 PM on Friday, October 6th
www.congregationbnaizion.org
(under Special Events tab)
(915) 833-2222



funded by a grant from
The Jewish Community
FOUNDATION
of El Paso

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES
TOGETHER
REPORT HATE CRIMES
1-800-CALL-FBI tips.fbi.gov



FBI FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION



KULANU: SYNAGOGUES AND ADL WORK TOGETHER TO FIGHT ANTISEMITISM AND HATE



By Peter Svarzbein
ADL Community
Engagement Manager
for El Paso

Seven synagogues in ADL's (Anti-Defamation League's) Southwest Region, including two in El Paso, participated in the agency's "Kulanu: Synagogues Standing Up to Antisemitism" program this past year, and ADL is counting on more synagogues taking part in it this year.

Kulanu, Hebrew for "all of us," is an annual program dedicated to empowering congregations to address antisemitism and hate in their communities through education, community engagement, and advocacy.

Congregations participating last year include Temple Mount Sinai and Congregation B'nai Zion in El Paso, and Beth Israel, Beth Yeshurun, Temple Sinai, Beth Shalom of the Woodlands, and Temple Beth Torah in Houston. Over 850 people from all the congregations participated in events designed to address antisemitism, how to recognize it and combat it; how to recognize white nationalism and fight it; and how to create inter-ethnic and religious alliances against hate.

In El Paso, Congregation B'nai Zion participated in a "Refugee Shabbat," a yearly nationwide program focused on learning more about the immigration and Jewish values. In addition, Temple Mt. Sinai initiated a number of programs, including a Ramadan break-fast with the El Paso Turkish Raindrop House and hosting a play, "Out of the Closet and Into the Fire," written and directed by synagogue member Jan Wolfe.

"Synagogue clergy, lay leaders, and congregants are well-aware of the rise in antisemitism, and they are justifiably worried," said Lisa Stone, ADL Goldensohn Fellow, and coordinator of Kulanu programs in ADL's Southwest Region. "Kulanu is a way for synagogues and their members to address their realistic fears by providing tools to address antisemitism and its effects on Jews here. It also empowers participants to fight other types of hate, and we can think of few higher forms of Tikkun Olam," she added.

2023 participating rabbis have endorsed Kulanu. Congregation Beth Israel Senior Rabbi David Lyon said, " 'All of Us' is an empowering community effort that makes an impact." Rabbi Scott Rosenberg of Congregation B'nai Zion added "our congregation appreciated the informative community discussion with Kulanu. We look forward to this upcoming year of engagement with our congregation and the Kulanu program.

Stone is grateful to report that all seven synagogues participating last year have registered to again partner with ADL and Kulanu. In addition, 6 more synagogues have already joined the new cohort and more are in the process.

Kulanu synagogues commit to:

- Forming a working group to oversee Kulanu programming in their community in partnership with a professional or clergy liaison.
- Promoting reporting of antisemitic and bias incidents to ADL.
- Implementing two programs or initiatives, one of which engages an external audience beyond the synagogue community.
- Participating in Kulanu webinars.
- Engaging in a community of practice for at least two meetings.
- Sharing impact at the end of the program.

Regional and national staff provide as much support and resources as requested.

ADL staff, at all levels, believe synagogues and their congregants are critical partners in the ongoing effort to fight antisemitism and all hate, while promoting safe, meaningful Jewish life.

Synagogues can sign up at the following link: <https://www.adl.org/apply-kulanu>. For more information, contact Lisa Stone at lstone@adl.org.

INTRODUCING: LATITUDES-DIALOGUES WITH SISTER CITIES



By Marla Cohen
Executive Director,
Jewish Federation of
El Paso & Las Cruces

I've been told repeatedly that living on the border is a unique experience. This stimulated my curiosity to explore the intersection of issues facing us in El Paso and Las Cruces with our sister cities, Hadera, Israel, Lerdo, Juarez and Chihuahua, Mexico. What are we all experiencing that are pressure points on our economy and our quality of life? Might we learn lessons from each other in addressing some issues, sharing solutions on other issues? In search of answers, I've been on an ever expanding research project that is evolving into a new learning opportunity for our entire community. Later this Fall, the Jewish Federation of El Paso and Las Cruces will launch "Latitudes-Dialogues with Sister Cities" (thank you Larry Lesser for suggesting the title based upon shared Latitudes).

We will be gathering experts representing private industry, universities, non-profits and government agencies to help us better understand curated topics and try to learn from each other what solutions might be adaptable to our own cities. Each topic will have a series of 6-8 sessions. Most of the presentations will occur on Zoom based upon our international speaker's availability. Each dialogue with speakers and participants will be recorded and uploaded to view in the future. Interpreters needed!

The goals of this project are to educate our community about share issues impacting our sister cities, to seek local solutions and other resources available globally, to expand our Jewish engagement into local and global issues of relevance, and to build partnerships beyond the Jewish community.

Our first topic will explore **water and agriculture**. Where does our water come from and who "Owns" it? How is it dispersed? Who is competing for the resources? What happens when we cannot meet demand? Are we replenishing resources? Replacing them? Reducing demand? How much water is taken by agriculture? Where are we getting resources? Where else could we look?

Other topics of this project may include:

- **Pharmaceutical Industry:** How are pharmaceuticals included in our health care industries? What happens when people cross a border to get medications?
- **Fashion:** Who is deciding fashion? What has changed in the industry over the last 20 years? What does local fashion look like? What efforts are being made to use sustainable fabric and dyes?

- **Borders & Human Migration:** Deep dive into the complexities of border issues and crossing borders: What is driving large human migration? What resources are available to which groups crossing Mexican, American and Israeli Borders? Who is getting preference? What might the Jewish community response be to and addressing housing and employment?
- **Democracy & Voting:** Each of our countries has experienced the fragility of our democracy. What is sustaining it? Where are we most vulnerable? Does our vote count? How is it protected?

CALLING VOLUNTEERS!

If you would like to help organize any part of this project please contact me at mcohen@jfedepc.org. I am looking for audience participation in all our sister cities and finalizing the presenters. Keep your eyes open for more publicity and watch for future emails. This program will be open to participants of all ages and backgrounds. No previous knowledge required.

FOOD FOR FRIENDS

B'nai Zion launched the "Food for Friends" program in February 2023, supported by the generosity of a grant from the El Paso Jewish Community Foundation. This program has a heartwarming two-pronged initiative aimed at providing mid-week meals to members of our community. This remarkable endeavor not only offers nourishment but also fosters a sense of connection and support within the community.

Meals are offered weekly on Wednesdays for the entire Jewish community to enjoy. Those who are in a position to pay for their meals are now enjoying an added option to our delicious Friday night Shabbat-to-go meals.

The program is also thoughtfully designed to cater to individuals and families who may require assistance for various reasons, whether due to health challenges, financial constraints, or any other circumstances that might hinder their ability to prepare or access meals. Recognizing that many in our community face unique challenges, the El Paso Jewish Community Foundation grant ensures that all members of the El Paso Jewish Community have access to these nourishing meals without having to worry about cost.

Participants can choose between picking up their meals and having them delivered directly to their doorstep by one of our wonderful volunteers. This convenient approach accommodates different preferences, allowing community members to partake in the initiative without unnecessary added stress of figuring out transportation. We are grateful to our dedicated team of volunteers who help get meals delivered every week and we are always looking for more people to help.

As the program continues to thrive, it serves as a testament to the power of collective kindness and the impact that a caring community can have on the lives of its members. The Food for Friends program truly exemplifies the spirit of tikkun olam, repairing the world one meal at a time.

For more information about the Food for Friends program, including how to participate, volunteer, or otherwise support this initiative, please contact Congregation B'nai Zion at 915-833-2222.

THANK YOU LETTER TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF EL PASO

By **Blanca Carrasco**, Chair of the SJCS 33rd Conference in El Paso, Texas

It is with great excitement that I reach out to the Jewish community of El Paso and the Paso del Norte Region to thank you for all the support provided to us so that I could confidently say, the recent SCJS 33rd Annual Conference was a tremendous success!

Thanks to all of you, the conference held at the El Paso Convention Center this past August welcomed over 100 people from different parts of the country, receiving attendees from as far as Israel, Spain, and Mexico, and over 40 people from our region, on a four-day program that included pre-conference events starting at Temple Mt. Sinai and ending at Los Portales Museum in San Elizario, Texas.

Over two years ago, I started knocking on doors, sent out emails, made calls, networked with people, and had the opportunity to make new connections that have now turned into friendships. This was done to introduce to our region the upcoming SCJS's vision to hold their annual conference in El Paso. I had one thing in mind: perhaps El Paso couldn't offer people beautiful beaches or astonishing skyscrapers or million-dollar shopping centers, but it had one of the most valuable things for our organization's members, something not many other places could claim to have, the history of El Camino Real and El Paso del Norte.

From the moment I started researching the history of our region to create a special event for those choosing to travel to El Paso to be part of this event, I not only enriched my life with the gold nuggets of information, I found, but also with the love and openness I received from the many people who offered their support towards this endeavor.

With many beautiful memories in mind, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to: the



Jewish Federation of El Paso and Las Cruces, The Anusim Center and Synagogue, Temple Mt. Sinai, Temple Mt. Sinai Sisterhood, Congregation B'nai Zion, Chabad El Paso, Temple Beth-El Las Cruces, Honorary Consul of Spain in El Paso, Honorary Consul of Mexico in El Paso, UTEP Center for Inter-American and Border Studies, KTEP, UTEP Friends of the Library, Mt. Franklin Insurance, Los Portales Museum, San Elizario Genealogy Association, El Paso Mission Trail Association, Ysleta Mission, Socorro Mission, El Paso del Norte Hotel, Destination El Paso, City Beat Magazine, El Diario de El Paso/Juárez, and Cinewest.

And to the many people who kindly and eagerly answered the call for help ranging from welcoming our guests, preparing registration materials, preparing special meals, coordinating specific programs, mobilizing members to support a specific event, helping us promote the many events in the schedule, posting marketing materials around El Paso all the way to San Elizario, playing music, singing, dancing, recording, translating presentations into Spanish, and much more.

Every one of you helped to leave a lasting memory among the people who attended the conference; you answered the call for help and showed that "El Paso is Strong" in the love its people show to those who come to visit to make them feel "¡Bienvenidos!"

Wishing you a New Year filled with abundant blessings. Shana Tova Umetuka!

COMMUNITY CIRCLES LAUNCHES!

Hiking Circle

Meeting Frequency: 4x - 6x hikes per year, depending on demand.

All hikes to take place Sunday mornings at 8:00 unless otherwise instructed in advance.

Duration: 2-5 hours (including transportation to and from), depending on trail and location.

Contact Tony Furman:

Overview: Enjoy hiking trails in Franklin Mountains State Park and Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument (Las Cruces) and other regional outdoor locations. Hikes will be geared to group members' fitness and experience levels.

Members should be active and expect moderately strenuous (no advanced or technical skills required) exercise activity level with routes over sometimes rocky or uneven terrain. Hikes will require a moderate level of physical exertion. Members of the hiking circle should have sturdy hiking shoes, carry ample water, and should dress appropriately for weather conditions and solar protection. Each hike will feature a 5-minute pre-hike orientation and discussion about the history, geology, and terrain specific to the hike. Unless otherwise advised prior to the date of a hike, all hikes will be "out-and-back" or "loop" style, meaning the ending point is the same the start point.

Mah Jongg

Jewish Federation of El Paso and Las Cruces has started Community Circles to bring people together with shared activities and interests. One of those activities is Mah Jongg. When I first came to Las Cruces and knew no one, Dorie Gorsky said she'd teach me mah jongg because that was the way to meet and make friends. She was so right...and in the past few years, I've carried along Dorie's tradition and I teach mah jongg... four two hour sessions when 4 people want to learn. If you already know how to play Mah Jongg, but haven't got a group yet, whether in El Paso or Las Cruces, we can be the conduit for helping you find fellow players. Just fill out the form on the website that is under community circles and we'll figure out time and place. It's free and it's FUN!

Alison Mann - alisonmd4@gmail.com (575 680-0207)

Wine Circle

Meeting Frequency: 3x - 4x per year
5:00p - 6:00p ("happy hour", not dinner)

Location: TBD (subject to availability) West El Paso

Group Size: Limited to 8

Contact Tony Furman:

Overview: Meet other people interested in learning about and enjoying sampling unique and fine wines of the world, and how to pair them with appropriate foods.

Cost: Free

Photography

Photography of people, places, and things. A hands-on workshop for intermediate to advanced photographers who want to increase their skills.

Six 1.5 hour sessions: weeks one, three, five for discussion and assignments; weeks two, four, and six for instructor and class critique.

Contact David Sabal: dsabal18@gmail.com
Time and place to be determined.

Class size: limited to seven.



Happy Birthday!

From all of us at the Jewish Federation of El Paso & Las Cruces, we wish everyone a happy and healthy birthday!

October

Wendy Axelrod
Sydney Bacera
Todd Blaugrund
Sara Blaugrund
Daniel Blumenfeld
Ellyn Bork
Eric Colvard
Stephen Feinberg
Jody Feinberg
Frances Fleischer
Deborah Frank
Tom Given
Elisa Given
Howard Goldberg
Brett Goldberg

Mona Goldberg
Tom Goldfarb
Shelly Gopin
Bruce Gopin
Karen Herman
Rose Gallardo -Herrera
Nat Holzer
Mark Hutman
Susan Jaffee
Michael Jaffee
Gil Kimmelman
Esther Kishk
Lynn Kobren
Seth Krasne

Beverly Litt
Nanci Maddux
Shelly Mansfield
Ben Marcus
Rebecca Mendez
Steven Miner
Lisa Nadler
Sandy Nadler
Ellen Nazarian
Cesar Pazos
Jack Peitzer
Mark Peyton
Yolanda Radcliffe
Henri Rafael

Beverly Reiter
Jaime Rubinstein
David Schechter
Lee Schwartz
James Schwartz
Lori Shapiro
Tara Siegel
Melissa Silverstein
Jon Sonnen
Jeff Spier
Yvonne (Bonny)
Stevens
Lettie Velasco
Karyn Weingarden
Susan Weiss

November

Shirleen Askenazi
Roberto Assael
Marla Cohen
Maria Cohen-Assael
Chantal Assael
Michelle Assael
Stacy Berry
Marcia Dahlberg
Cliff Eisenberg
Adam Frank
Dana Frank
Glenna Gaddy

Ralph Garcia
Louis Gelfand
Amy Gladstein
Alyssa Goldman
Daniel Hamicha
Lori Hartley
Carlos Kaplan
David Kern
Dick Krasne
David Ledebor
Moshe Ledebor
Ronald Marcus

Cindy Metrikin
Dannah Meyers
Keith Myers
Robert Novick
Carina Ramirez
Debby Robalin
Laura Rosales
Teri Rosen
Rochelle Saks
Bryan Schonberg
Dr. Dan Schuller

Stuart Schwartz
Walter (Buddy) Schwartz
Douglas Schwartz
Manuel Schydlower
John Shecter
Scott Stein
Bill Stein
Joseph Taylor
Rick Teplitz
Denise Tolentino
Martin Lopez-Vie

PJ LIBRARY NEWS

Meet your new PJ Library Coordinator!

The Jewish Federation is honored Alyssa Goldman has joined our staff. This part time position is partially funded to support PJ Library, Teen Philanthropy and provided much needed marketing and social media expertise. Executive Director Marla Cohen says, "Alyssa brings a wealth of skills and an ability to connect with young people of multiple ages and their parents."

Post the COVID-19 Pandemic, PJ Library has slowly re-engaged the community, especially with the help of past coordinators, Mindy Escobar-Leanse and Sarah Tolly, who both have moved on to amazing professional opportunities. Unfortunately, the role was contractual and not able to secure a dedicated coordinator. "We are excited to have Alyssa as our dedicated PJ Library Coordinator," Rebecca Mendez, Program & Engagement Coordinator said. "Her goal is to create fun and engaging events for our El Paso, Fort Bliss, and Las Cruces Jewish Families.

"Hello!" from Alyssa Goldman



Alyssa Goldman,
PJ Library
Coordinator

Hello to the Jewish Communities of El Paso, Fort Bliss, and Las Cruces! My name is Alyssa, and I'm excited to be a part of the PJ Library community. I was born and raised in El Paso and thrilled to have the opportunity to give back to the community. I am a licensed master social worker, a Yorkie mom, and proud Aunt to John and Nathan Pretiger and Elle Montez. I love spending my free time painting and playing guitar.

I am excited to become a part of this amazing and enriching program.

A graphic for a PJ Library event. On the left is the PJ Library logo, which consists of the letters 'PJ' inside a stylized book icon. Below the logo, the text reads 'AT THE PARK!' in a bold, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the event details are listed: 'October 15 @ 11 AM' and 'Mission Hills Park (3800 O'keef Dr.)'. On the right side of the graphic is a circular photograph of two young children, a boy and a girl, sitting on a swing set and smiling joyfully.

I look forward to many fun-filled events - and can't wait to get started! I hope to meet everyone at our first event on October 15!

Please RSVP by Oct. 12 to agoldman@jfedepc.org

JEWES AND HOLLYWOOD

How a People Shut Out of American Business Created an Industry That Changed History

NOTE: This article has been republished from JEW DICIOS, where Ross is contributing writer.

At the 2010 Academy Awards, co-host Steve Martin began a joke about Jews in Hollywood like this:

“In Inglorious Bastards, Christoph Waltz played a Nazi obsessed with finding Jews. Well, Christoph...”

Martin paused, then he spread his arms wide open in reference to the fully seated audience in the Kodak Theatre. He waited for the first big laugh to finish, then parlayed it into another by exclaiming “the motherlode!”

I am a Jew who has lived in Hollywood and worked there making movies. And if I was in that audience, I would have roared too.

It is an indisputable fact that Jews have an enormous presence and influence in Hollywood. In my view, this is a great thing. But it was not always a fait accompli.

The success that Jews have earned in the entertainment industry, which was born more than a century ago — started more or less by default. During those early years in Los Angeles, many Jews from Eastern Europe had migrated to the United States and were drawn to opportunities in the nascent film business — because they’d been shut out of so many other professions. Pedigreed law firms had banned Jews. Elite hospitals wouldn’t hire Jewish doctors. And so on. Of course, these exclusions were nothing new; more like part and parcel of Jewish history. And just as in the past — when there was a dire lack of opportunity to make a living — Jews just created it. Invented it. “No one will hire me, so I’ll just hire myself.” Jews began building Hollywood because they needed to eat. Actually, even the elite theaters of the early 20th century had banned Jews — so instead they began dominating Vaudeville. That opened up a wellspring of opportunity; a pipeline of talent for the fast-growing film business.



Ross Marks on the set of the film he directed, **Walking With Herb**, starring Edward James Olmos and George Lopez. The feature was released by Universal Studios in 2021.



By Ross Marks,
Writer, Producer and Director; teacher at New Mexico State University; founder of the Las Cruces Int’l Film Festival.

In the 1920s and 1930s, first generation Jewish immigrants like Louis B. Mayer, Samuel Goldwyn, Darryl Zanuck, Adolph Zukor and the Warner Brothers founded what came to be known as “The Big Five” studios (and the founders were referred to as “The Moguls”).

This was the front end of the Golden Age of Hollywood, and it was dominated by Warner Bros., Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, RKO, Paramount Pictures and 20th Century Fox. On top of that, Carl Laemmle founded Universal Studios and Harry Cohn created Columbia Pictures.

Ever since, Jewish filmmakers and producers have been making movies and passing the baton. The earliest pioneers were directors like Ernst Lubitsch and Billy Wilder. A century later, with directors being almost as well known as the stars, we readily recognize names like Spielberg, Reiner, Ephron, Abrams, Coen, Stone, Mamet, Levinson... it’s a rich history.



Ross pictured with one of his mentors, the late Mark Medoff, on their film *The Heart Outright*. One in a long line of Jewish writers and directors, Mark was a 40-year veteran of Hollywood and was nominated for an Oscar for Best Screenplay in 1986 for ***Children of a Lesser God***.

And throughout it, Jewish filmmakers introduced new genres, techniques, and storytelling approaches. They showed a willingness to take risks and address important social and political issues through their films.

The combination of Jewish executives working with Jewish writers and directors spawned some of the truly epic features in the history of film, among them: ***Gentleman's Agreement, On the Waterfront, Platoon, Annie Hall, Some Like It Hot, The Color Purple, The Graduate, Ben Hur, A Beautiful Mind, Schindler's List*** — and for my money, anything made by Neil Simon.

Moreover, in front of the camera, Jewish actors and actresses have made enormous contributions to the entertainment industry. Hollywood's major blockbusters in every decade have starred legendary Jewish stars: Kirk Douglas, Barbra Streisand, Jake Gyllenhaal, the Marx Brothers, Gal Gadot, Seth Rogen, Ben Stiller, Gene Wilder, Dustin Hoffman, Natalie Portman... it's a long list.

The early success that Jews enjoyed in the movie business made for a natural transition to television when small screens began invading American homes in the 1950s. Milton Berle, known as "Mr. Television," was the popular Jewish comedian and host of *The Texaco Star Theater*, one of the first successful variety shows on television. Producer and writer Norman Lear created groundbreaking sitcoms like *All in the Family*, *Maude*, and *The Jeffersons*. Lear personified moxie in his work, taking risks and pushing boundaries to tackle social issues in an honest and accessible fashion.

My friend and mentor, Garry Marshall (*Happy Days*, *Laverne & Shirley*, *The Odd Couple*, *Mork & Mindy*) considered himself to be an honorary Jew. Though he never converted, I can honestly say that he seemed as Jewish to me as many of the Reform Jews I grew up with!

Today, Jews are still leading the film and television industry, infusing shows with their unique perspective, born of a shared history. The legendary *Seinfeld*, created by Jerry Seinfeld and Larry David, and *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, created by Amy Sherman-Palladino, are great examples of comic minds who've taken idiosyncrasies from their own Jewish experience and made them palatable for the masses.

Beyond their prolific body of work in film and TV, Jewish leaders in the entertainment community are highly engaged philanthropically. Jews in America are inordinately generous overall when it comes to charitable causes — and Hollywood is no different. While Israel remains a major priority to the community, Jewish artists and executives support a wide variety of causes and organizations related to the arts, education, social justice, and more.

There's a famous old Jewish deli in Hollywood — "Nate 'n Al's" — that became popular during World War II. It's one of my favorite spots, and I still go there on my trips back to L.A. I can't say how many times I've ordered the pastrami and chopped liver on rye, but on more than one of those occasions, I've wondered which Jewish Hollywood legends might have once sat in the very same seat. Mel Brooks? Lauren Bacall? Jerry Lewis?

Then I'm reminded of just how long the list of possibilities is — and it makes me feel proud. Proud to be a Jew and working in the film industry — and eager to make my own mark on an already historic legacy. Cut.

Comprehensive EYE CARE



Southwest Eye Institute
915-223-5988

Visit SouthwestEye.com
or

**SCAN TO
SCHEDULE**



Five Locations Throughout El Paso and Las Cruces



NOW LEASING
GREAT RETAIL SPACE
THROUGHOUT EL PASO

915-225-5700

El Paso Hadassah invites you to
Healing our Tatas with Tones



Sunday, October 15, 2023 · 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Join us for a mystical, magical sound healing journey with **Noelle Meyer** (Certified Sound Healer). Immerse yourself in a calming and rest-inducing state of mind with this meditative experience. Bathe in healing sound vibrations produced by instruments. This is the second in a three-part series with this session focused on Spiritual Health and Well-Being. 

 Free to attend, donations welcome. Register here: events.hadassah.org/healingtataswithtones
Please bring your own water, yoga mat and pillow.

Questions? Please contact us at hadassah.elpaso@gmail.com
📍 Casa de Colores Montessori School, 4539 Emory Road, El Paso, Texas 79932

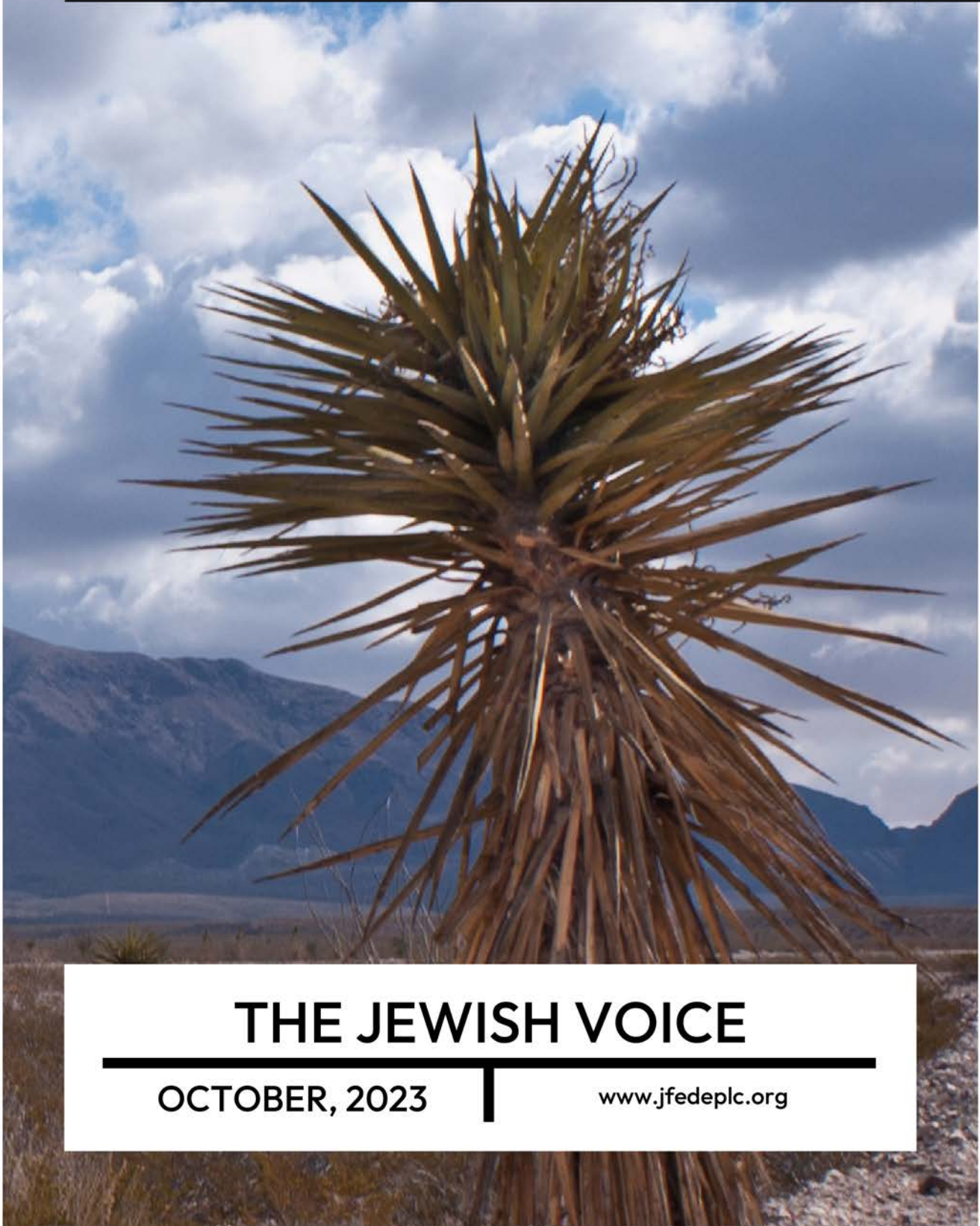
In accordance with IRS tax laws, only the amount of your gift that exceeds the value of goods and services received in connection of your gift is tax deductible as a charitable contribution for Federal income tax purposes. The amount of the individual ticket to the event that is tax deductible is 100%. Charitable deductions are allowed to the extent provided by law. Please consult with your personal tax advisor. Hadassah shall have full discretion, control, and discretion over all gifts (and that be under no legal obligation to transfer any portion of a gift to or for the use or benefit of any other entity or organization).



Jewish El Paso
7110 N. Mesa
El Paso, Texas 79912

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE JEWISH VOICE

OCTOBER, 2023

www.jfedepc.org