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NURTURING OUR COMMUNITY

See what's happening around San Antonio!

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SHABBAT ON THE GO

Newly expanded program ensures seniors have access to vibrant Jewish life.

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PASSOVER 2015

Passover begins at sundown April 3. Community events.

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Grants Distribution Committee awards local programs

By Sophia Cathcart

Every fall the Grants Distribution Committee of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, a vital part of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, meets to review applications requesting grants for programs and services that are designed to ensure and promote the vitality of the Jewish community. The Grants Distribution Committee endeavors to promote tzedakah

through supporting new initiatives in San Antonio. The guidelines for the grants allow for project funding, up to two years maximum, to allow for a diverse range of programming throughout the community.

Committee chair Marc Schnall said, "This year the Committee received more grant applications than in the last ten years and had to make difficult decisions about funding worthy

See **GRANTS**, page 29

PARTNERS TOGETHER THROUGH PARTNERSHIP2GETHER



The Galilee Medical Center, shown above, is located in the coastal city of Nahariya. It is the second largest hospital in northern Israel, serving more than half a million people in the region. The hospital, founded in 1956 in wooden huts, has grown into a state of the art medical facility with dozens of departments and specialty units.

Through the Jewish Agency for Israel's Partnership2Gether, the Jewish Federation and San Antonio community has developed a strong relationship with the hospital's medical professionals and the diverse community that it serves.

FOR FULL STORY, SEE PAGE 8

JOIN A COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL DATE WITH THE STATE:

CRC sponsors legislative mission to Austin

On Thursday, March 26, the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio will meet for a Day in Austin at the Texas Capitol. The day will be held in conjunction with Community

Relations Councils and Jewish Federations in Texas who are coming together to advocate for issues coming before the 84th Texas Legislative.

Representatives from the Jewish communities of San

Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, and others will join to discuss issues of mutual concern and to meet with state elected officials.

Issues to be discussed may include healthcare, immigration,

funding of social services and education, regulation of pay day loan abuse, and texting while driving. Delegates from each community will have the

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FOCUS ON FEDERATION

SPOTLIGHT ON:

A Living Bridge: San Antonio, Partnership2Gether and the Galilee Medical Center

by Aya Kipershlak and Michael Ozer

Partnership2Gether (P2G), formerly Partnership 2000, has, over the past 15 years, become the Jewish Agency for Israel's most successful and effective model for building direct, enduring, and meaningful partnerships between global Jewish communities and communities in Israel. It is now the central platform for the promotion, empowerment, and development of deep connections among Jewish communities.

One of the most successful ways San Antonio connected to Partnership was through the Medical Task Force and the Galilee Medical Center.

With the goal of creating fraternity, camaraderie and professional enrichment that strengthen shared interests, the Galilee Medical Center established, via the Medical Task Force, programs for sharing knowledge, experience and interaction. Focusing on bringing medical professionals together, the MEDPEP (Medical Professional Exchange Program) enabled physicians and medical professionals from Israel and the partnership communities to build personal and professional relationships around shared interests.

Over the years, doctors from San Antonio from various fields such as radiology, plastic surgery, and pediatrics visited the Galilee Medical Center, and their Israeli colleagues have had the opportunity to visit the University of Texas



The Galilee Medical Center's new Woman's Health Wing.

Health Science Center and other physicians and medical facilities here in San Antonio.

The Galilee Medical Center is located some 6 miles from the border with Lebanon. Since it is the closest hospital to any border Israel shares with its surrounding countries, the staff has developed advanced knowledge and experience in dealing with mass casualty events and emergency situations.

For years the Galilee Medical Center has been conducting practice drills with the Israel Defense Forces to carefully refine techniques for receiving and treating patients in a mass casualty event. Unfortunately, it has become more relevant for medical professionals from all over the world to educate themselves in mass casualty events. The Galilee

Medical Center, together with P2G, established the ERG (Emergency Response Group), a weeklong course designed to familiarize physicians and hospital administrators from abroad with both emergency preparedness procedures practices in Israel and with techniques and procedures involved in transforming a general hospital to function as a field hospital that can absorb and treat large quantity of casualties of all degrees.

Each participant of the course was paired with an Israeli colleague in his/her specialty who was also his/her professional host for the week. The 40-hour course included lectures, hands-on workshops, scripted mini mass-casualty drills with actor-patients, on-site instruction with IDF border medical units, and allocated



The Galilee Medical Center's new and protected Heart Center.

hours in specialty units/departments.

This program was repeated for 12 years. Physicians from San Antonio who took part in this training remember it as being a very special experience both professionally and personally.

The Galilee Medical Center has been blessed with many friends and supporters from San Antonio, as the relationship between the hospital and San Antonio community grew stronger over the years.

In recent years CUFU (Christians United for Israel) has become one of

the leading organizations supporting the GMC. With the graceful support of Pastor John Hagee, the Galilee Medical Center has participated in three Night to Honor Israel celebrations at Cornerstone Church in San Antonio. Grants received on these occasions from the John Hagee Ministries have helped in the construction of the new protected Woman's Health Wing and a new protected Heart Center.

The Galilee Medical Center serves a diverse population of some 600,000 people in the Western Galilee of which half

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BELDON LIBRARY NEWS

Looking for Wi-Fi at the Jewish Campus? Thanks to the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Learning Academy, Wi-Fi is now available in the Beldon Library during regular library hours

While there, be sure to check out and “check out” the many new Judaica books for children.

Mark your calendars, too. The Beldon Library’s next Used Book Sale will take place on Sunday, April 26 – Tuesday, April 28 in the Holzman Auditorium at the Jewish Campus. Donations of gently used books, CD’s, and DVD’s are being accepted.

Beldon Library Hours:
Monday, 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Wednesday, 1:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The Beldon Library is a program of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

Perspective

Local Hillel leader visits Western Galilee Partnership Region in Israel

By Lauren Abraham,
Israel Partnership Coordinator

A true Zionist and former Tel Aviv resident, Samantha Mazuz, the San Antonio Hillel Director was thrilled to be selected to be a part of the Hillel International Senior Staff trip, to Israel in February. Upon arrival in Israel the Shabbat before the trip to be with family, Samantha reached out to our San Antonio partnership region in the Western Galilee asking if she could come for a visit. They immediately said yes and drafted her a full day itinerary to meet with all of the key players in the region. She rented a car and drove the hour and

half to take an adventure to see and meet our colleagues in Israel.

The day began as the Director of Israel Education, Miri Johnson and lay leader Avia Zimran gave her a tour of their school, Sulam Tzor High School, which is located on a kibbutz in the region. This beautiful school has won numerous awards for being “green” and encouraging its students to recycle and use materials.

They have a collection center for the entire area in which people can bring old computers, VCR tapes, bottles, and metal to the school. The gardens and outdoor areas are made up of recycled materials and the students worked together to create

these spaces.

Next, Samantha met with Sports Director of the Community Center, Gal Masur, and she received a personal tour of the area, met colleagues and visited many of his sports classes that took place in the afternoon. Masur oversees thousands of participants and hires trainers and coaches for sports teams who have won national awards and received recognition for their greatness.

The final meeting of the day was with the newly formed Young Adult Forum. They have selected a group of great leaders from the region to

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PARTNERSHIP
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are Jewish and the other half Muslim, Christian, Druze and Circassian.

This ethnic mosaic is also reflected in the diversity of the 24,000 employees and 300 volunteers. As its vision

is “To stand at the forefront of medicine, providing humane and professional medical care”, the Galilee Medical Center cherishes the support of its friends, as it continues its mission of rendering cutting edge medical care to the people of Israel’s northern periphery.

Aya Kipershlak is the Director of the Department of International Affairs, Galilee Medical Center, Nahariya, Israel. Michael Ozer is a San Antonio physician who attended the Galilee Medical Center’s ERG course in 2004.



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