

# COMMUNITY

## El PasoConnect: Connecting the young community

The new ElPasoConnect group for Jewish people in their 20s, 30s, and 40s (formerly “Young Adult Division”) held their first get-together in August at the home of Dr. Karen Hermann and Dr. Randy Goldstein. It was a

wine tasting with Kosher wines and a make-your-own-pizza party. Participants could choose from among more than a dozen pizza toppings before their custom creations were baked in a wood-burning stove.

Chaired by Vanessa Sonnen and Wendy Lanski, the night drew more than 45 people to the inaugural event. Attendees got to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. Stay tuned for plans of the next ElPasoConnect event!



Wendy Lanski and Vanessa Sonnen, event organizers



Shainy and Rabbi Levi Greenberg chat with Robert French, new executive director



Dr. Steve Lanski and Caren Szanton, former J Center preschool director, talk at the pizza toppings table

### Bat Mizvah project at Beth-El



Hannah Saltman

Hannah Saltman is a 13-year-old member at Temple Beth-El synagogue. As part of her bat mitzvah, she held a donation drive for the Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary in Las Cruces. She placed a bin and sign at Temple Beth-El and asked for donations that were on Safe Haven’s needs list and monetary contributions.

“I am so thankful to members at Temple Beth-El who came out and gave so much to the donation drive for Safe Haven,” Hannah said. “Many members said they wanted to donate because they wanted to help and that they love animals like I do.”

“We were immensely grateful and encouraged by the hard work Hannah put into the project to help our dogs and cats,” said Tricia Quillen, volunteer coordinator for the animal shelter. “The official presentations were made at PetSmart in July as part of our monthly Adoption Event at the store.” On hand to receive the donations were Cass Walker, Sanctuary manager and Laura O’Connor, executive director.

### JTEP hosts fun party for teens



In May, through the generosity of a grant provided by the Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso, Jewish teens, such as Elise Ehrlich, Charlie Tennen, and Emily Zenner (above), got together for a dinner and comedy night put together by Jewish Teens of El Paso (JTEP). Forty attendees represented 11 different area schools. There were opportunities for the kids to meet and mingle before the evening got under way. All were treated to a delicious dinner at Ardivino’s Desert Crossing before the private show began. Two comedians were brought in from the New York comedy circuit to perform just for this lucky group. The night was a great opportunity to get to know each other and enjoy a break from studying to laugh out loud!

### Jamie Frank Gives Away Sneakers As Bar Mitzvah Project



Jamie Frank is surrounded by Israeli children carrying bags of shoe boxes to be distributed.

needy children in Kiryat Bialik Karin Ruzkowski in the Haifa District. Jamie used money he received in honor of his Bar Mitzvah to purchase the sneakers he gave away. He told News Haifa and the Krayot that as a sports fan and an avid basketball player, he “thought that most children who could not afford it would be happy to get their sneakers in order to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle and feel equal among their friends.”

Mayor Eli Dukorsky presented Jamie with a Certificate of Appreciation for his generosity saying, “I thank Jamie for giving moments of joy and happiness to the children of our city.”

This summer, Jamie Frank traveled with his family to Israel where, as his Bar Mitzvah project, he donated 1,000 pairs of new Nike sneakers to

The event was covered by several Israeli newspapers including Yediot Acharonot, Israel’s largest newspaper.

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