

Guide to

JEWISH NASHVILLE 2023



Jewish Federation
of Greater Nashville

Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville
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Shalom

Welcome to Nashville!

We hope you are as glad to call Nashville home as we are. Our goal with this Guide is to help you feel included as an important part of who we are and what we do. During challenging times such as these, having a warm and welcoming Jewish community is essential for newcomers, native Nashvillians, and everyone in between.



**Leslie Kirby is
President of the
Jewish Federation
of Greater Nashville**

Through the Jewish Federation, our five Jewish congregations, four Jewish agencies and multiple Jewish community organizations, there are many opportunities for people to connect and feel part of our extended family. We continue our outreach and engagement efforts to involve everyone, including interfaith couples and families, LGBTQ+ individuals and families, and individuals with differing disabilities.

Whether through newcomer outreach, efforts to draw in those who are unaffiliated, attempts to educate our members about key issues, mission trips, or just hosting events and spaces where our full community can gather together, we look forward to continuing to provide vital resources to the broader Nashville Jewish community, both independently and in partnerships. Together, our volunteers and staff show a passion for the Federation and its mission that is touching and remarkable. We look forward to being in community with you.

Best Wishes,
Leslie Kirby
President,
Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville



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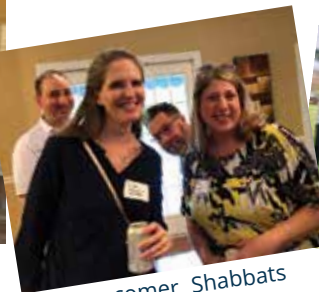
There have never been more ways to engage in your Jewish Community.



Meet Ups



Women's Programming



Newcomer Shabbats & Gatherings



Programs to deepen our connection to Israel



Volunteer Opportunities



NowGen Young Professionals Events



TGIT Senior Lunch Programs



Journeys to Israel



Jewish Federation
of Greater Nashville

Learn more at jewishnashville.org



Building Community Since 1936

Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville

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www.jewishnashville.org
(615) 356-3242
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Every day, the Federation helps Jewish life thrive in Nashville, in Israel and in 70 countries around the world. Your generosity makes it all possible.

This is an exciting time for Nashville and for the Jewish community. The Federation is the central voluntary organization of the Nashville Jewish community, with a growing and increasingly diverse Jewish population. Through fundraising, planning and community relations efforts, either independently or with other Jewish organizations, we work to promote the general welfare, viability, and cohesiveness of the Nashville Jewish community and to ensure the continuity of the Jewish people locally, in Israel and around the world.

Our work centers around five areas:

- funding ongoing and innovative programs that promise to improve Nashville and world Jewry,
- convening local Jewish organizations to implement short- and long-term community-building strategies,
- building bridges with allies and local partners outside the Jewish community,
- deepening connections between Israel and the Middle Tennessee Jewish community, and
- creating endowments to ensure a Jewish future for generations to come.

In every area of Jewish Federation activity and programming, we work to meet the evolving concerns in our community, including individuals and families in need. With your help, we assist our own and other Jewish communities when disasters strike. Whether it is a local tornado, a hurricane in another state, or a worldwide global pandemic, we can efficiently and nimbly respond to emerging needs. We've raised over \$125,000 for Ukraine relief and sent two humanitarian missions to Poland to work directly with the refugees. We have resumed missions to Israel post-COVID. In the past several years, we have successfully obtained over a million dollars in federal nonprofit security grants for our community, as well as successfully lobbied for supplemental state funding. We hold numerous events and coordinate initiatives aimed at combatting antisemitism, including recently having Deborah Lipstadt and Noa Tishby speak with our local community as well as numer-

ous ongoing antisemitism initiatives. We provide resources to our community with educational events on timely issues and teach our community members to be effective advocates. We hold inclusive events that allow our entire community to come together. And we give out 2 million dollars a year in grants to benefit our local community as well as national and international programs.

Alongside an incredibly hard-working and dedicated staff, the board, and all of our wonderful volunteers look forward to continuing our mission into the future. Partner with us to support and sustain Jewish life and plan for a vibrant Jewish future. Only with your help can we do our sacred work of serving vulnerable populations, building bridges within our community and with outside partners and allies, and supporting Jewish life and learning - in Greater Nashville, in Israel, and throughout the world. •



Newcomers are welcomed to Nashville's Jewish community through Shabbat dinners, receptions, coffees, and other in person and virtual events.

Welcoming Newcomers

Are you new to Nashville? Considering moving to our community? Let's talk! (coffee on us whether in person or virtually). The Jewish community in Nashville is an exciting, dynamic and friendly community. Our outreach services will connect you to the community resources you are looking for. The Jewish Federation works with the local synagogues and other Jewish organizations and agencies to make newcomers feel at home. Our goal is to welcome every newcomer with a letter from the Jewish Federation

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Newcomers

Continued from page 5

executive director along with a copy of the Guide to Jewish Nashville and other information about local congregations, agencies and organizations. Our quarterly newcomer receptions (in person or virtual) allow those new to Nashville to meet other newcomers and people from our community, to mingle and to get all the information they need about living in Music City. At the reception, Nashville newcomers meet with volunteers

from our community, called Welcoming Ambassadors, who have volunteered to join with the Jewish Federation in reaching out to the newly arrived. Even if you've lived here for a few years, feel free to attend a reception to get better acclimated to Jewish life in Nashville. To learn more about connecting as newcomers, contact outreach@jewishnashville.org or call (615) 354-1696. And we need you to help us reach every newcomer. If you or someone you know would like a welcome packet or more information about the Welcoming Ambassadors, contact Eitan Snyder at (615) 354-1664, eitan@jewishnashville.org. •

Community Relations Committee

The Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville

Steven Remer, Chair

Deborah Oleshansky, Director
deborah@jewishnashville.org
(615) 354-1637

Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC) is the public affairs arm of the Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville. We are the local affiliate of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, (JCPA) which convenes, coordinates, builds consensus and mobilizes on key issues to the U.S. Jewish community.

Guided by our Jewish values and the imperative to “repair the world,” JCRC works to:

- Promote Jewish values through community education and engagement;
- Increase knowledge, understanding, and support for the state of Israel;
- Oppose any climate of anti-Semitism as we work to build positive, respectful interfaith and intercultural relationships; and
- Remain informed and ready to speak out or support others in our community who may be threatened by injustice.

JCRC members reflect the diversity and passions of the Nashville Jewish community. We work closely with local Jewish congregations, other faith-based organizations, social justice groups, and agencies on issues of joint concern. Recent projects have included working with parents to coordinate reporting of antisemitic incidents in local schools, coordinating discussion groups aimed at tackling race relations, interfaith advocacy work with the Muslim community, and outreach to the local Kurdish community. We also host a book series in conjunction with the Jewish Book Council, where we bring Jewish authors to Nashville to discuss their recent publications.

Each spring, we host the JCRC Community Seder, which uses a modified Passover Seder format to highlight social action and social justice themes and activities. The event is an opportunity to invite members of the greater Nashville community to join us as we continue to build meaningful and lasting relationships and recommit ourselves to the work of creating a more just community. The JCRC Social Justice Seder won the 2020 Phila Award in the Nation United category which honors and celebrates using food to bring people together to discuss issues related to justice, equity, and inclusion.

To learn more, contact Deborah Oleshansky, deborah@jewishnashville.org To access the antisemitism reporting form, visit <https://form.jotform.com/211203475860046> •



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The Observer is the monthly newspaper for the Jewish community of Nashville, published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville. We cover local stories, updates from local Jewish organizations and news of Jewish interest from around the world.

We strive to be a primary source for community information, both in our print edition and online at jewishobservernashville.org.

We welcome submissions from our readers, including articles and digital photos, suggestions for stories or information about upcoming events. Readers also may submit letters to the editor and op-ed columns with a Jewish perspective about current events and trends. Email submissions are preferred; all submissions are subject to review by the editor and/or editorial board before acceptance for publication. Deadline for submissions, including ads, is the 15th of the month before the intended month of publication (Jan. 15 for February issue, for example).

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The Jewish Observer of Nashville is online at
www.JewishObserverNashville.org



Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville

Your donation supports, strengthens and secures our Jewish community in Nashville, in Israel, and in over 70 countries across the globe.



**Learn more at jewishnashville.org
or contact Carolyn Hyatt at
carolynh@jewishnashville.org**

Jewish Foundation

Being a Jewish philanthropist is for those who believe in the Jewish future. The Jewish Foundation of Nashville was established more than 35 years ago, as the endowment arm of the Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville. It offers a variety of estate planning and charitable giving opportunities to enable donors to meet their individual financial and estate planning needs, realize their philanthropic dreams and create a legacy for our Jewish future. Moreover, the Jewish Foundation provides a major source of funds to support the vital work of the Jewish Federation and the broader community to make Nashville a thriving city for Jewish life.

The Jewish Foundation not only helps connect donors' interests and values to the legacies they wish to create within the Jewish community; it also helps to create a culture of generosity by educating teens on the importance and rewards of giving. And it provides a framework for Nashville's Jewish organizations to create the financial resources that will enable them to continue to provide service in the years ahead.

The LIFE & LEGACY™ program, now in its sixth year, is an initiative of the Jewish Federation in partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. The LIFE & LEGACY™ program has



enabled Nashville's Jewish community to strengthen its financial future through a systematic approach to creating endowments. Initially, 13 Nashville Jewish organizations, including all five synagogues, participated in the program. This year, two Jewish schools have joined the program. Since 2017 more than 360 people throughout the community have signed over 826 letters of intent pledging to support Jewish Nashville with after-lifetime gifts. To help community members learn more about legacy giving, our Professional Advisory Committee offers a series of seminars each year. The PAC is a group of attorneys, accountants, financial planners, and wealth advisors that provide education to the Jewish community related to wealth transfers to families and for charity.

To learn more about the Jewish Foundation, contact Scott O'Neal, Financial Resource Development Director at scott@jewishnashville.org.

Partnership

Our Jewish Federation has emerged as a key leader in our Partnership2Gether program, which brings together the Hadera-Eiron region in north central Israel and several Jewish communities in the southeastern United States, including Nashville, and the Czech Republic, including Prague. Nashvillians are taking national leadership roles with the P2G Joint Steering Committee and on the Jewish Federations of North America's board of trustees.

Partnership2Gether

Partnership2Gether connects regions in Israel with specific Jewish communities outside of Israel. Established by the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) in 1995, over 500 Diaspora communities have been matched with 45 regions in Israel to bring Jewish people closer together as equal partners on joint projects and activities.

In Nashville, Partnership2Gether is a community initiative of the Jewish Federation that seeks to create people to people connections with the Jewish members of our community and the Jewish members of our partnered communities in the Southeast Consortium and in the Hadera-Eiron region of Israel, which is 30 minutes north of Tel Aviv on the coast. The Partnership also includes the Jewish community of Prague and the Czech Republic as well as other communities in the Southeast United States, including Charlotte, Charleston, Chattanooga, Florida's Gulf Coast, Greensboro, Northeast Florida, Knoxville, Lee and Charlotte Counties, Pinellas, Richmond, and Volusia/Daytona County to create the Southeast Consortium.

Partnership2Gether is committed to creating meaningful, life-long bonds between Israelis and Diaspora Jews. We organize and

offer programs for members of all different ages and interests in our community to have the opportunity to learn and interact with Israelis both here and in Israel. Our programs include:

- Summer teen exchanges through Get Connected
- Educator exchanges
- Leadership2Gether Young Adult programs and exchanges
- Professional exchanges which have included medical professionals and firefighters
- Online programming including cooking demonstrations, a joint Passover Seder, virtual tours of different parts of Israel, advocacy and philanthropy programs for teens and young adults alike and more.

Israelis and members of our community have visited with each other, toured our respective communities and spent time in each other's homes and workplaces so as to develop a shared sense of peoplehood. These connections have come through exchanges with doctors, firefighters, educators, teens, young adults, musicians, artists and teens. These ties are meant to deepen Jewish identity and strengthen our resilience as a people by demonstrating that Jews everywhere are part of the same family and are responsible for one another.

Locally, the Partnership is maintained and strengthened through the P2G Committee, with a chair and volunteers, all of whom have been active in one or more aspects of Partnership programming, including visits to Israel and the Hadera-Eiron region and hosting Israelis visiting Nashville. It is the members of this committee who shape the local component of our partnership with Israel, Prague and the other communities across the Southeast United States through in-person exchanges and online programming.

For more information about P2G Nashville, contact Adam Bronstone, Director of Israel Partnerships, at adam@jewishnashville.org.

Ways to Make a Gift to Continue Your Jewish Legacy

When making a charitable gift to Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville, please consider utilizing one of the following assets or giving vehicles.



CASH Cash contributions are fully deductible to the degree allowed by the Internal Revenue Service.



SECURITIES Securities must be held for at least 1 year and may be donated directly to the Foundation. Capital gains can be avoided by donating securities directly to the Foundation rather than selling the securities first and then making the donation.



REAL ESTATE Examples of ideal gifts include homes and vacant land.



LIFE INCOME GIFTS Charitable Remainder Trusts and Gift Annuities provide income to the donor for life or a term of years with the remainder being distributed by a trustee to a donor advised fund at the Foundation or directly to a charity of the donor's choosing.



RETIREMENT ASSETS Donors may name charitable organizations as beneficiary of retirement accounts. This is a simple and tax-wise way to establish a legacy gift.



COLLECTIBLES Gifts may encompass items such as artwork, coins and sports memorabilia. The charitable deduction varies depending upon the mission of the charitable organization as it relates to the item being donated.



LIFE INSURANCE Donors may purchase a new policy or name the Foundation or other charitable organization as the owner and beneficiary of an existing policy.



BEQUESTS Bequests may be stated within a will as a specific amount, a particular asset, a percentage of the estate or as a remainder of an estate.



CHARITABLE LEAD TRUSTS Charitable Lead Trusts transfer assets into an irrevocable trust and the Foundation or other charitable organization is named to receive fixed annuity payments from the trust for a specified number of years. At the end of the trust term, the balance of the trust passes to heirs.

To learn more, contact Scott O'Neal at scott@jewishnashville.org



Jewish Federation
of Greater Nashville

“Just as my ancestors planted for me, I too am planting for my descendants” — Talmud (Ta'anit 23a)

Security

Thanks to efforts by The Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville, several organizations within the Jewish community received 2022 Department of Homeland Security non-profit security grants, with grants totaling \$782,708. Organizations receiving these funds include Akiva School, Congregation Michah, Congregation Sherith Israel, Gordon Jewish Community Center, The Temple – Ohabai Shalom, West End Synagogue

and Vanderbilt University Hillel. These funds helped cover necessary and important security needs throughout the community and helped make these facilities even more secure than they are at present. These awards are the result of a collaboration process between the Federations and its many partner organizations, for the benefit of the entire Jewish community of Nashville. •

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Keep up to date with our upcoming programs via our weekly newsletter. You can see archives of the newsletter and sign up to receive the newsletter here: <https://www.jewishnashville.org/newsletterarchives>.

Focus on Belonging:

Inclusion in Nashville's Jewish Community

By BARBARA DAB

The Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville believes in creating welcoming, inclusive spaces for everyone in the Jewish community. The Jewish Federation distributes about \$2 million annually to organizations, congregations, and agencies throughout the local Jewish community here in Nashville and Middle Tennessee, regionally, nationally, and internationally. The grants are the single largest infusion of funds that support services and programs locally each year and represent approximately 85% of the total funds raised by The Jewish Federation's annual campaign. In addition, The Lori Ann Fishel Fund for Special Needs, housed in the Federation's Jewish Foundation, has expanded its focus to offer grants to organizations, as well as to individuals. The effort has served to broaden the reach of the services and programs of The Jewish Federation.

A key component of the various inclusion efforts has been to offer workshops presented by both the Federation's Grants Committee and Inclusion Committee. The workshops help provide information about the grants process, inclusion efforts, and are an opportunity for The Federation's professional staff and volunteers to hear from community members.

The Inclusion Committee has worked hard to help people in the community to be able to participate in and enjoy the programs and services offered by local Jewish agencies, congregations, and organizations. The committee developed a visual aid in the form of a graphic badge to provide to local congregations and agencies. The badge will be added to websites, flyers, and buildings to let people know accommodations can be made to aid in their participation in services, programs, and other events. The use of the badge is also designed to educate and raise awareness in the community about grants and services that are available. The badge was created with the mindset that disabilities take many forms, some of which are not visually obvious.

The use of an inclusion badge is the latest in The Federation's efforts ensure everyone in Nashville's Jewish community can participate more fully in Jewish life. For information about The Jewish Federation's ongoing inclusion efforts, contact Deborah Oleshansky, Director of the Jewish Community Relations Committee, deborah@jewishnashville.org,

Guide to Inclusion Policies and Practices:

The following is information from all the synagogue and main agencies of the community with respect to the services in place at each regarding inclusion accommodations, practices, and policies. This is not a definitive guide to the inclusion services offered in the Jewish community of Nashville, and these services are being added to on a regular basis.

Akiva School

- Creating the equivalent of an IEP to support students' continued support and growth

- Differentiated learning and leveling in the Hebrew language experience
- Differentiated learning and small group opportunities with a learning specialist (where applicable) in all GS classes.
- Providing spaces for children with all disabilities to learn together and find comfort in each other's strengths and areas of growth (students with dyslexia, dysgraphia, weaknesses in verbal expression, weaknesses in executive functioning, selective mutism, etc...)
- Creating varied opportunities to express knowledge (art, music, dance, poems, reflections, writer's response, etc...)
- Providing each child what he or she needs to be successful with the ultimate goal of having them be able to get any additional services in the course of their day (including speech, OT, additional academic support, etc...)
- All Jewish families regardless of levels of observance welcome
- Interfaith, multiracial, and LGBTQ+ families are welcome
- Participates in local and national social action projects

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Inclusion

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- Teachers and staff receive professional development for best teaching practices for a wide spectrum of learners
- Teachers and staff receive professional development in inclusive practices including positive behavior supports and techniques
- Building is wheelchair accessible
- Updated technology in classrooms to help facilitate visual learners' needs
- Full-time Learning Specialist to support students who need academic support and those who need academic enrichment
- School Counselor who works closely with students and faculty to ensure behavioral supports are put in place

To learn more about Akiva Advantage and our inclusive community and supports, please contact the Director of Enrollment and Operations, Julie Fortune at jfortune@akivana-shville.net.

Chabad of Nashville

What Is Inclusion?

True inclusion begins with a mindset – a change in our thinking.

Chabad has pioneered this concept in its truest form, valuing every person based solely on that person's inner essence. The Chabad philosophy tasks us to make Judaism accessible to every Jew, without regard to that person's physical or spiritual status. Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of Blessed Memory, has empowered every Chabad Center to be instinctively inclusive – to embrace each and every Jew and treat him or her like family, regardless of background or lifestyle.

Inclusion goes beyond welcoming and accessible spaces. Real inclusion is when someone feels that they belong—and that they are valued. We achieve inclusion when we not only treat people like equals, but when we also truly believe that each person is our equal. ***Of course, this does not mean that everyone is the same. It means, rather, that each person has the ability to succeed and thrive if given the appropriate supports to do so.***

But how do we know what is meaningful and important to another person?

We open our doors.

We ask.

We listen.

We take the journey together.

We do not do things for people with disabilities. We do things with people with disabilities. It is time for us to acknowledge that "Inclusion" (with a capital "I") means, simply, that we treat people as individuals – not as a group of "those people" whose needs can be met through special programs or occasional visits to synagogues.

How we Create an Inclusive Jewish Community?

Chabad of Nashville raises awareness and support people with disabilities in our communities by incorporating practices that stress the importance of belonging.

- The rabbi shares sermons on inclusion, and engages the community in discussion.
- Chabad offers tours of the shul to people who are new or visiting so they can become familiar and feel more comfortable. They can see and touch ritual items, stand at the bimah, and find a seat where they will be comfortable sitting. Familiarity can help ease some anxiety about a new situation.
- We announce page numbers often. Describe the siddur and chumash by color and size, in addition to name.

- We Ask people with disabilities ahead of time to participate in the service. We Honor them by calling them to the Torah and help them practice the blessings. We ask people with disabilities and their family members to give the d'var Torah, carry the Torah, and say Kiddush.
- We encourage families to hold milestone celebrations for a child with a disability at a synagogue so that your community can attend.
- Provide siddurim and chumashim in accessible format (i.e. Braille, large print, audio versions).
- At each service we encourage congregants to turn to their neighbors and introduce themselves, and make sure that every person has someone with whom to share this greeting.
- Promote Inclusion. Invite people with disabilities to attend services, programs and events by including an accessibility statement in our publications.

Every Chabad community is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment. The Chabad Center has ensured that its facility is ADA accessible to all who visit.

- All entrances to Chabad center, sanctuary, pre-school & religious school are wheelchair accessible. There are not any stairs at any entrance to Chabad.
- There are three accessible bathrooms that are wheelchair accessible.
- Outdoor patio with a ramp for wheelchair accessibility
- Accommodation for wheelchair seating in sanctuary
- There are various prayers booklets that are large print.
- Accessible parking at the Chabad Center
- Seating accommodations for people using wheelchairs
- On program information, we include special accommodations can be provided upon request

Thank you for joining us in taking these important steps toward inclusion. Together, we can achieve our goal – to create a culture of inclusion for all in the Nashville Jewish community!

Congregation Micah – “Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with thy God”

Congregation Micah serves Middle Tennessee and beyond by offering creative and diverse celebrations of Jewish life informed by the rich beliefs and practices of modern Reform Judaism. We have adopted the words of the biblical prophet and civil rights advocate Micah as a message of equality and welcome for all – ***“Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with thy God.”*** (Micah 6:8)”

General

- Annual funding for an Inclusion Specialist who also serves on the Federation's Inclusion Committee
- Member of NOAH – Nashville Organized for Action and Hope
- Interfaith and Multiracial Family-Friendly
- Welcoming the LGBTQ community through programming, signage and gender-inclusive restroom
- ADA-compliant building and campus
- Updated strategic plan includes new inclusion practices and programs
- Monthly participation in local, national and/or global social action projects

Services

- Worship experiences include English, transliteration and Hebrew with diverse musical accompaniment
- Large-print siddurim
- Hearing assistance devices
- Hands-free worship for all ages with projected prayers
- Livestreaming for the homebound and out-of-town
- Welcoming committee members at all in-person services

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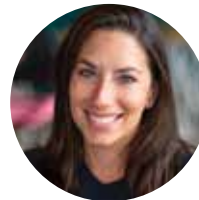
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Inclusion

Continued from page 12

- Special programs for Seniors, including weekly “Schmooze and Views” sessions
- Multi-sensory worship service support materials including “busy bags”, sensory boards & noise-cancelling headphones
- Closed-captioning services provided for select services through a generous TN Disability Coalition grant, benefiting livestream viewers worldwide

Education

- Inclusion Specialist available to all Micah Children’s Academy
- Staff training in inclusive practices including positive behavior supports and techniques
- Partnership with Matan for training and materials to develop and support differentiated learning plans for both in-person and virtual learning
- The Shema taught and practiced in ASL
- Use of social stories to help prepare students for group participation
- Hebrew instructional options include one-on-one and small-group tutoring

Congregation Sherith Israel

Guiding Values

As an Open Orthodox synagogue, **Congregation Sherith Israel (CSI)** is a welcoming community for individuals of all ages, abilities, countries of origin, and Jewish backgrounds. In our Jewish spiritual home, everyone is accepted, respected, and valued. We encourage and support congregant participation and facilitation with myriad ritual and service opportunities. We strive to engage and personally interact with all congregants. We work closely with the Jewish Federation of Nashville to create an inclusive shul community.

Safety

We are committed to keeping our congregants, guests, and premises as safe as possible from external physical threats, internal hazards, and we attend to serious health risks and vulnerabilities as needed. We have a comprehensive security committee comprised of both contracted and volunteer/member licensed security guards. We have made security improvements to our locked doors and entry and exit points. We take COVID-19 risk and containment seriously. We make decisions related to on-site services/programming, social distancing, and virtual programming, under the guidance of our medical advisory committee.

List of Accessible Features

- Hearing loop for hearing impaired
- Wheelchair accessible seating in sanctuary
- Mobility assistance upon request
- First aid equipment
- Defibrillator equipment

Inclusion Commitment

At CSI, we strive to continually learn and grow with our understanding of inclusion and inclusive practices, to best serve the spiritual needs of all congregants and guests to

our shul. We seek out best practice information, resources, and trainings to be welcoming, inclusive and accommodating to all, to the greatest extent possible. We are open to feedback, both within and from outside the synagogue, to help guide this commitment. We know there is always more to learn and more that we can do to accommodate and best meet the needs of our entire synagogue community.

Gordon Jewish Community Center

The mission of the Gordon JCC is to welcome all, build community, and provide excellent programs rooted in Jewish values to enrich the mind, body, and spirit. We realize that each person who participates in our programs may have different abilities, and we strive to meet every person’s needs so we can fulfill our mission to welcome all.

- In Early Childhood, our teachers assess developmental milestones and work with parents and pediatricians as needed. We welcome specialists to train our staff and to work with our children. We partner with TEIS, Metro Schools and private therapists who help develop goals for our children’s success.
- Camp Davis is committed to creating a spiritual community by appreciating the differences that all campers and counselors bring to the summer experience. Our Inclusion Specialist helps children with atypical neurological development and behavioral disabilities to have a successful summer experience. This Inclusion Specialist also helps train staff to handle difficult situations as they arise.
- In our fitness areas, we carefully address accessibility. Our pools have ramps and/or lifts to allow swimmers to safely enter the water. Staff members are trained in first aid and AEDs. We offer indoor Family Changing Rooms to allow privacy for those who need a quiet place to change.
- We work with Seniors to address a variety of needs from specialized transportation to large print books and activities that are accessible to all.

Jewish Family Service

Jewish Family Service strives to accommodate all individuals who desire services. While we have the basic ADA structure for physical disabilities, we look at each person’s specific needs. Whether it be a physical accommodation or a mental one, we provide services to everyone regardless of their unique abilities.

Accessible building and offices

Wheelchair accessible

Single-stall accessible bathroom

Accessible parking

Mobility assistance available upon request

Will consider all request for accommodations

Accommodation requests can be submitted to Toni Jacobsen, Clinical Director of JFS, at tonijacobsen@jfsnashville.org or by phone 615-354-1672.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville is the central voluntary communal organization of the Jewish community. Through its fundraising, planning and community relations efforts, either independently or in partnership with other Jewish organizations, the Federation works to promote the general welfare, viability, and cohesiveness of the Jewish community of Nashville and Middle Tennessee and to ensure the continuity of the Jewish people locally, in Israel and around the world.

We are leading the way in providing inclusion training, education and programming to our employees and partner organizations because we are committed to developing, strengthening, and celebrating the diverse community of Jewish Nashville.

Learn more about the
Nashville Jewish community at
www.jewishnashville.org

Our inclusion efforts:

- Accommodations when requested for Federation programs
- Working with organizations in the community to help with their inclusion efforts
- Placement of an inclusion-related question in all application forms for possible grant funded programs
- Inclusion training of Federation staff
- Establishment of a community-wide Inclusion Committee
- Development of a community-wide survey to understand inclusion needs by community members

For more information please contact Adam Bronstone at adam@jewishnashville.org.

The Rohr Chabad House at Vanderbilt University is committed to helping every Jewish student partake in Jewish life on campus. We ask students if they need accommodations and work with them on fulfilling their needs.

The Temple

At The Temple, we live by the value of B'tzelem Elohim ("We are all created in God's image") and want all who enter our building (or attend a virtual event) to feel comfortable and that their needs are being met. The Temple is a member of NOAH - Nashville Organized for Action and Hope and we also welcome Interfaith/Multifaith, LGBTQ+, and Multi-Racial families. Accommodations and assistance that are requested will be met to the best of our ability.

Currently the Temple provides the following:

Leadership and Planning:

- Director of Membership and Inclusion
- Creation of Inclusion Committee* (2022)

Building:

- Accessible parking available
- Single stall gender inclusive restroom
- First Aid/Defibrillator equipment
- Hearing enhancement devices

Programs/Services:

- Welcoming Committee at services
- English/Hebrew/Transliteration prayer books
- Livestreaming services/programs
- Large print books for services
- Ramp to our pulpit
- Written and personal (one on one) technical support for all virtual events

Education:

- Elevator access to all classrooms
- Support students of all needs
- Intentional planning for inclusion of all abilities for our new outdoor learning environment
- Preschool welcomes, and accommodates needs for support professionals for children receiving developmental services
- Meet the Bar/Bat Mitzvah student where they are to ensure success
- Hebrew School/ B'nai Mitzvah distance learning options available

We at The Temple are always looking for ways to be more inclusive. We have made it a priority to be more accessible to people of all abilities, and we continue to access our needs.

If anyone interested in attending a program or service at The Temple needs accommodations that aren't listed above, please reach out to Sheri Rosenberg (Director of Membership

and Inclusion) at sheri@templenashville.org.

West End Synagogue ensures that accommodations are made as much as possible for those who request such assistance. In addition, the synagogue provides the following services to anyone who enters the synagogue:

- Large print books for services
- Hearing enhancement devices
- Zero-step entrance to building, sanctuary, pre-school & religious school
- Plan for exiting the building in an emergency includes how to help people with disabilities
- Usher assistance exiting vehicles, entering the building for Holiday services
- Seating accommodations for people using wheelchairs
- New for COVID but good for accessibility and will continue - recorded and live video of services, Rabbi's sermon, Religious School classes

Vanderbilt Hillel serves the religious, social, and educational needs of the undergraduate and graduate Jewish-student communities at Vanderbilt University and other higher education institutions in Middle Tennessee. The organization is committed to creating an inclusive environment and strives to produce accessible programming at the Schulman Center for Jewish Life and on campus. Accommodations offered include, but are not limited to:

- Virtual accommodations for distanced participation
- Stepless entry into the Schulman Center
- Powered door entries into the Schulman Center
- Single-stall restrooms at the Schulman Center
- Elevator access to the second floor of the Schulman Center
- Accessible parking at the Schulman Center
- Provisions for dietary restrictions at programming
- Amplified sound at programming
- Travel aid assistance for Vanderbilt Hillel's Taglit-Birthright Israel - Campus Trip participants
- Large-print prayer books

Additional services may be available through Vanderbilt University for students and guests. Please contact Veronica Grady at veronica.l.grady@Vanderbilt.Edu for more information or with questions. •

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Shine a Light on Antisemitism

Reporting and Resources

Our world is filled with much that is dark. For Jews, an added darkness is the dramatic rise in antisemitism over the past few years. Antisemitism reached an all-time high in the US in 2021, averaging seven incidents per day, a 34% increase from the previous year. And 2022 is on pace to be even worse. Even though we are only 2% of the population, Jews are the number one target of religious-based hate crimes.

We must be equal opportunity in our calling out of antisemitism, everywhere we see it. When it is in the form of a friend's social media post, when it is in the form of a colleague's joke at work, and when it is in the form of statements and deeds from members of our own political parties. There is no acceptable level of antisemitism, just like there is no acceptable level of racism or sexism or any other oppressive system.

Unfortunately, antisemitism is not something that just happens in other places. Nashville has experienced numerous instances of antisemitism over the past several years. Locally, the Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville works every day to fight the threat of antisemitism.

To better address and respond to community members facing occurrences of antisemitism, we launched a local antisemitism reporting form: <https://form.jotform.com/211203475860046>. Our form focuses on school settings, since that is where the bulk of our local antisemitic incidents occur.

While we cannot accept anonymous reports, the form does allow students or parents to submit a form simply for data collection without requesting any specific action or follow-up to the incident. So far, most reports have re-

quested our assistance in approaching the school to address the incident in a productive and effective way. Different school districts have different policies and take different approaches to addressing these situations, and for student privacy concerns, we are not always privy to the specific action taken by the school to hold the student accountable. The response must also consider what is age appropriate for the situation. An incident at the elementary school level is handled differently than an incident at the high school level.

The antisemitism reporting form allows us to track local incidents and responses, better coordinate communication among different local entities, and hold leaders accountable for working to reduce antisemitism in our schools and in the community more broadly.

In addition to the reporting form, we have numerous other programs aimed at combatting antisemitism. In 2022, we have launched a new program for high school students called Student to Student, where Jewish students go into local schools to answer questions about Judaism from their peers. We've also just begun a program in partnership with the American Jewish Committee (AJC) where we train Jews to visit Christian churches to talk about antisemitism. We're also working with a lobbyist to create a state-wide commission on antisemitism. We will continue to shine a light on antisemitism through these and other programs in 2023.

Please commit to joining us in our ongoing efforts. Educate yourself about antisemitism. CALL OUT antisemitism wherever you see it. If you would like to be more involved in our ongoing efforts to combat antisemitism, please contact Deborah Oleshansky, deborah@jewishnashville.org.



LGBTQ Guide for Jewish Nashville

Akiva School is a community K-6th school that is committed to maintaining a diverse population with regards to its socio-economic, denominational, and cultural composition. We strive to foster a love of learning that supports our children's social, emotional, spiritual and intellectual growth. It is founded on helping children deepen their curiosity, morality, perseverance, communication, collaboration, and creativity. As the only Jewish Day School in a 200-mile radius, ensuring that every family feels included and welcomed is at the heart of who we are and what we do.

BBYO strives to welcome all Jewish teens, regardless of background, denominational affiliation, gender, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status, including those with a range of intellectual, emotional and physical abilities.

BBYO has a licensed social worker on staff as a full-time Director of Inclusion to oversee the inclusive programming and services being offered. Their job is to work with the regional staff throughout the year to ensure that they can provide inclusive experiences. We provide teens with a one-on-one aide when necessary at conventions, provide accessible transportation, secure appropriate rooming, and more.

Congregation Micah offers creative and diverse ways to celebrate Jewish life using the rich beliefs and practices of modern Reform Judaism as its foundation. We have adopted the words of Micah (6:8), the Biblical prophet and civil rights advocate, as our congregation's message of equality and welcome for all: "Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with thy God."

Micah is a place where everyone — families, singles, interfaith couples, and the LGBTQ+ community — all feel comfortable exploring Jewish life. Our congregation warmly opens its doors to all for weddings, life-cycle events and services. Seeking justice and practicing mercy, we humbly invite you to come laugh, eat, sing, pray and learn with us.

The Gordon JCC is at the center of Jewish life in Nashville. Our community center is built on Jewish values and delivers Jewish cultural content and programs. At the Gordon JCC, we don't assume that everyone is the same; and so, we try to meet our members "where they are." We serve a wide range of individuals and families. We are among one of the first centers of our type in the region to include same-sex couples and families as members and warmly welcome those families in our pre-school and after-school programs. We have a diverse staff, including LGBTQ+ in various positions across the J, including leadership roles.

We offer a range of welcoming programs, including Under One Roof, an experimental art exhibition that involves diverse organizations across Nashville to produce artwork based on themes such as "Welcoming the Stranger" and "Reflection, Remembrance, Resilience" and celebrates the Jewish fall harvest, Sukkot. Our center helps sustain a community where people, across all backgrounds and generations, can learn, play and connect.

Hadassah Nashville supports hospitals and youth villages in Israel and has strong advocacy efforts in the U.S. Our top four focus areas are: health, medical research, support of Israel and social justice. Hadassah strongly opposes all efforts — whether through legislation, referendum or constitutional amendment — that would selectively limit or deny civil rights to LGBTQ Americans.

Jewish Family Service has been providing adoption services to the LGBTQ community in Nashville and Middle Tennessee since 2002. Over the past 17 years, there are 49 children who have been originally adopted and 105 second-parent adoptions which have been finalized in the LGBTQ community through JFS.

The agency is well known for our welcoming stance toward LGBTQ adoptive individuals and couples. We don't look at a prospective adoptive individual or couple as gay or straight, we look at them as a potential loving and supportive forever family for a child.

JFS Counseling: Our social workers are LGBTQ affirming, knowledgeable and sensitive to the needs of LGBTQ individuals. We accept private health insurance and Medicare. Sliding-fee scale based on the client's ability to pay may also be available.

The Jewish Federation of Nashville is the central voluntary com-

munal organization of the Jewish community. Through its fundraising and community relations efforts, either independently or in partnership with other Jewish organizations, the Federation works to promote the general welfare, viability and cohesiveness of the Jewish community of Nashville and Middle Tennessee and to ensure the continuity of the Jewish people, locally in Israel and around the world.

We believe in b'tzelem Elohim, the idea that we are ALL created in the image of G-d, and tikkun olam, the idea that each of us bears an individual responsibility to make the world a better place. We are Jewish Nashville, and we welcome ALL with pride!

National Council of Jewish Women is inspired by Jewish values through working to improve the quality of life for women, children and families. NCJW takes a progressive stance on issues such as women's rights and child welfare. NCJW Nashville Section's 490 members are involved and volunteer in service to the community in a number of ways. The Nashville section is a proud supporter of the LGBTQ community and is excited to participate in this year's Nashville Pride.

At **Sherith Israel**, our mission is to live lives with meaning by bridging the divide between the traditions which we inherited and the world which we encounter and to enable the Jewish way of life to thrive as we embrace Am Yisrael with open arms.

Our mission is to be an open community to our fellow Jews and all people, by welcoming all who enter our doors without judgment, bringing the beauty of the Torah into the lives of whoever is interested through learning programs and sharing our most uplifting as well as our most difficult moments.

Our mission concludes with passion. We have to love what we do, love what we stand for, believe deeply that all we do is for God, for the Torah, and for the Jewish people.

The Temple is a welcoming and Inclusive congregation: we have a diverse membership from singles to married and same-sex couples, interfaith and intercultural families, newcomers and natives, families with children, midlifers and senior adults. We honor and cherish all of our members and families no matter what their background — Jewish or non-Jewish, traditional or interfaith. We work hard to connect our members to one another through our programs such as 'Next Dor' for young adults and couples ages 22 to 40, Passover Seders around the city including the LGBTQ Community, W.E.L.L. (Women Engaged in Living and Learning), JACS (a support group for addictive behaviors), and much more.

Our congregation continues to deepen and expand our commitment to making our city a better place for all people. The Boulevard Bolt, Room in the Inn, our booth at Pride, social action initiatives & drives, interfaith programs and leading community conversations on issues of immigration, criminal justice and transgender rights, all help make our community stronger. Our clergy and staff are available and accessible to meet your lifecycle and pastoral needs in both times of joy and celebration and times of difficulty and hardship.

Vanderbilt Hillel is proud to be an open and accepting organization that happily welcomes students of all genders, sexualities and identities to experience Jewish campus life. Hillel regularly offers egalitarian religious services, diverse social programming, and a variety of social justice opportunities for the 1000 Jewish undergraduates at Vanderbilt University. Recognized as an outstanding community partner by The K.C. Potter Center / Office of LGBTQI Life, Hillel regularly hosts LGBTQI Shabbats that feature engaging dinner conversations between student participants.

West End Synagogue is committed to blending tradition and change as we welcome families of all ages and backgrounds. As part of the Conservative Movement, our congregation offers a full range of Shabbat and holiday services as well as the only egalitarian daily minyan (mornings and evenings) in town to provide for the spiritual needs of the entire Jewish Community of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. We are dedicated to promoting both family and community through Limud (study), Tefillah (study) and Tzedakah (acts of justice and loving kindness). Come and visit us. Our doors are always open! •



Gordon Jewish Community Center

Gordon Jewish Community Center
(Gordon JCC)
801 Percy Warner Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37205
(615) 356-7170
www.nashvillejcc.org
info@nashvillejcc.org
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Contacts

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Leslie M. Sax, executive director
(615) 354-1633

Marilyn Rubin, executive assistant
(615) 354-1679

Arielle Kaufman, membership director
(615) 354-1639

Anita Howards, director of finance
(615) 354-1621

For contacts for all departments:
www.nashvillejcc.org/team

The Gordon Jewish Community Center is our Jewish community "Living Room." It welcomes all, builds community and provides excellent programs rooted in Jewish values to enrich the mind, body and spirit. In addition to our health, fitness, sports, and aquatics programs, we offer vibrant programming for children, families and adults around Jewish life. Through our community wide programs, we connect, convene and create community. You will feel at home, whether you are Jewish, Jew-ish, not sure or not Jewish at all.

Jewish Life

The Gordon JCC is pleased to offer programming in the areas of dynamic and diverse arts, education, and cultural activities for all members of our community. Throughout the year, the JCC hosts special events and activities including the Jewish Food Festival; Under One Roof, a special arts project at Sukkot; the Kasher Nashville Hot Chicken Festival and Jewish Arts & Music (JAM) Fest; and Hanukkah Fest. These events typically draw 300-1000 people, including many of those new to Nashville.

We are the proud home of the Nashville Jewish Film Festival, which just celebrated its 22nd and most successful year, and the Nashville Jewish Book Series. JGalleries present monthly art



Preschoolers in our Early Childhood Learning Center



Community members enjoying the Kasher Nashville Hot Chicken & Jewish Arts and Music Fest

shows in our four galleries and an art opening each month. Each spring, we host Art on the West Side, a regional art show featuring local and regional artists. You can join us for bridge and mah-jongg play and classes. Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT), featuring talks, through a Jewish lens, on the latest trends in the arts, business, science, and pop culture feeds and entertains our Seniors each week. The J also provides 24-hour, 6-day-a-week transportation assistance for those 65 and older through Shalom Taxi.

Health & Wellness (Fitness, Sports & Aquatics)

Our Fitness Center has everything you expect, and more. We offer a great variety of cardio equipment to get your heart pumping and a new full-strength Cybex circuit, along with free weights, Olympic benches and racks, plate-loaded equipment, dumbbells, barbells, plates, and an indoor track. We offer group exercise classes, indoor cycling and fusion studio, yoga, and Pilates, personal

Continued on page 20

In Nashville, helping people find places is my thing!

As a native Nashvillian, I am deeply rooted in the communities we call home, giving me expert knowledge and insight into the local market. As a Corcoran Reverie agent, I join a thoroughly modern real estate company built on service, integrity, market expertise, and neighborhood fluency. Corcoran's human-first approach to the real estate business is the foundation on which they've built one of the industry's most luminous international brands, which I am so grateful to be a part of.

I am here to help you achieve your real estate goals in the greater Nashville area and beyond.



Jackie Roth Karr

jackie.karr@corcorangroup.com
JackieKarr.com
m 615.330.9779 | o 615.250.7880

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THE GORDON JCC

connects and creates community



Nashvillejcc.org
801 Percy Warner Blvd
Nashville, TN 37205
615.356.7170

Gordon Jewish Community Center

Continued from page 18

training and massage. Thanks to the generous support of the Our Community, Our Future Capital Campaign, we have completed the renovation of our indoor and outdoor pools, and locker rooms. Featuring additional showers and new finishes, the locker rooms and family changing rooms have been transformed into a luxurious spa-like space to refresh after working out.

The Gordon JCC aquatics program is one of the most robust and sought-after aquatics programs in the city. Our classes and teams are led by highly qualified and trained instructors. We have a magnificent indoor 25-yard pool and infant/toddler pool, and



Gordon JCC Board Member Matt Leff, Board President Cidee Gold, and Director of Camp Davis Andrew Fishman enjoy Hanukkah Fest at the J

a world-class Olympic sized outdoor pool. The outdoor pool includes 50-meter lap swimming lanes, two water slides, and shaded baby pool. We offer swim lessons, swim team, water fitness classes and lifeguard classes.



Everyone enjoys the outdoor pool



Over 200 campers joined us each week at Camp Davis.

Children & Families

The Gordon JCC provides a continuum of programs for children of all ages. Infants and preschoolers attend one of our ECLC programs, have fun at Tot Shabbat, and learn to swim in our Aquatics program.

Camp Davis, one of Nashville's premier summer day camps for children in grades K through 9; has been "getting kids dirty since 1930" and providing incredible summer experiences for local families for over 90 years. Our current campers are the great-great-grandchildren of those who first attended so many years ago. Our new state-of-the-art camp lodge and arts center will be open in the summer 2023, providing a home base for Camp Davis and housing a new arts program. Since its inception, the Gordon JCC has always been committed to providing a growth-based summer camp program for all members of the Nashville and Middle Tennessee Community. For more information about school-age programs, contact Andrew Fishman, director, (615) 354-1681, or visit the camp website at campdavisnashville.com

Planet Kid, our after-school program, and School's Out Days by Camp Davis, are out-of-school programs delivered for children in grades K through 6, providing a fun, safe experience for school-aged children when they are out of school. Check our website for future information at nashvillejcc.org/planetkid.

Our programs for teens include the JCC Maccabi Games, an Olympics-style competition for sports and camaraderie; AZA and BBG, the two local BBYO groups, and BBYO Connect for middle-schoolers. Contact rmoriarty@bbyo.org for more information regarding teen programming. •

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615.245.4070 | cathy.werthan@marcumllp.com

Learn more about the Nashville Jewish community
at www.jewishnashville.org



Seniors enjoy speakers, lunches, and more at the Gordon JCC TGIT program

For Active Adults at the Gordon JCC

www.nashvillejcc.org/adultt

Contacts

Carrie Mills

carrie@nashvillejcc.org

(615) 354-1699



The Gordon Jewish Community Center's offers many programs for Older Adults, often based upon different interests, rather than age. Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT) combines fitness, lunch, and a different program every week including speakers on a variety of topics as well as a monthly musician. Topics include healthy aging, travel, technology, storytelling, and comedy. On occasion, this group goes on special outings such as the Bluebird Café.

The J also runs several opportunities to learn and play card games: mahjong, bridge, and canasta. And our cultural events, such as the Jewish Book Series, Jewish Food Fest, Art on the West Side, Nashville Jewish Film Festival, and Mazel Tov Theater offer programs of special interest to older adults.

And, of course, there are ways to stay healthy and fit in our Fitness Center, Group Exercise classes, and swimming pools.

Watch the Senior Scene in The Observer for more information on upcoming programs.

For more information on programming, see nashvillejcc.org, or contact Carrie. •

PJ Library

801 Percy Warner Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37205
www.nashvillejcc.org/pjlibrary
pjlibrary.org
pjourway.org

[f @PJLibraryNashvilleMiddleTennessee](https://www.facebook.com/PJLibraryNashvilleMiddleTennessee)

Sharon Benus, coordinator

PJLibrary@nashvillejcc.org

(615) 356-7170



The PJ Library is not a physical library but rather a program where Jewish children ages 6 months to 8 years can receive high-quality Jewish children's books and music each month for free. An affiliated program, PJ Our Way, offers children ages 9-11 the opportunity of choosing their own Jewish books each month. This incredible program reaches over 1000 Nashville children each month. The affiliated programs are made possible by a partnership between the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, Akiva School, the Gordon Jewish Community Center, Micah Children's Academy, The Temple Preschool and West End Synagogue.

Books, activities for kids, families

Knowing that families read together at bedtime, the program's founder, Harold Grinspoon, reasoned, "Why not make those moments Jewish moments?" By providing families with high-quality Jewish children's books, PJ Library helps families explore the timeless core values of Judaism. To date, more than 5 million books have been mailed to children in more than 200 communities around the world.

With all of our partners, PJ Library is able to provide children not only with books but also with Jewish-themed monthly programs. Some of our programs include:

- Apple picking on a farm for Rosh Hashanah
- Making projects out of real clay
- Peace, Love, Havdalah
- Library Pete Story Time for the Birthday of the Trees
- Learning about Jewish sports heroes at a Nashville Predators game

We are always looking for new ideas for programs, so please share any ideas you have. •

To sign up: Follow the link at www.nashvillejcc.org/pjlibrary/

To access the Jewish Federation
Community Calendar,
go to www.jewishnashville.org
and click on "Calendar."

The Jewish Observer of Nashville is online at
www.JewishObserverNashville.org

Nashville Holocaust Memorial

801 Percy Warner Blvd., Nashville, TN 37205
www.nashvilleholocaustmemorial.org

Felicia Anchor, chair, Nashville Holocaust Memorial Committee

In 2006, the Nashville survivor community and their descendants, with the support of many generous donors, created the Holocaust Memorial and Educational Site on the grounds of the Gordon Jewish Community Center to honor the Jewish victims of this monumental tragedy and inspire future generations to live by the principle: “Never again to us or anyone.”

Designed by architect Manuel Zeitlin, the interactive memorial provides an educational opportunity to learn about the Holocaust through the distinctive history of Nashville survivors and their families.

The site includes memorial walls inscribed with the names and personal information of loved ones, an eternal flame and a symbolic sculpture of the “Book of the Jewish People,” inspired by Holocaust survivor Irvin Limor and created by his son, Alex. The creation and fundraising effort was led by Felicia Anchor.

The wooded site has proven to be well suited for personal re-



flection. It is open to the public and accessible during the hours when the Gordon JCC is open.

A self-guided tour is available through a series of information stations describing the memorial area as well as a printed guide.

Donations to the memorial upkeep and educational efforts are appreciated and can be made through the website or mailed to the Gordon Jewish Community Center's Holocaust Memorial Fund at the address above. •

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Learn more about the Nashville Jewish community at www.jewishnashville.org

Jewish Family Service of Nashville and Middle Tennessee Inc.



Jewish Family Service

801 Percy Warner Boulevard, Suite 103
Nashville, TN 37205

(615) 356-4234

Fax: (615) 301-0676

Jfsnashville.org

info@jfsnashville.org

 www.facebook.com/Jewish-Family-Service-of-Nashville-and-Middle-Tennessee-Inc-233398806777505/

Contacts

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Pamela Kelner, executive director

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Jewish Family Service supports our community – one child, one adult, one family at a time. Our agency has provided social services to the Nashville Jewish community for over 170 years. JFS offers a comprehensive range of social services — including adoption, financial assistance and programs for children and seniors – to people of all incomes, ages and backgrounds.

Since its beginnings in 1853, Jewish Family Service has provided continuity in our ever-changing community. From the birth of a baby to the passing of an elder, enormously complex and challenging issues are met with compassion, professionalism and sensitivity by our staff and volunteers. People from many backgrounds walk through our doors. Last year alone, JFS served more than 1,700 people. We are here to help Navigate Life's Transitions. Together. Please take a look at our website, www.jfsnashville.org to find out how we can assist you.

Among our services, we offer professional, affordable and fully confidential counseling services, provided by licensed clinical social workers. Counseling can address issues such as depression; anxiety; significant transitions such as divorce, job loss or illness; relationship conflicts with friends, spouse or partners; loss and grief; domestic violence; issues of aging and child behavior problems. In addition to individual counseling, we are currently



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sponsoring two support groups: Caring for the Caregiver, and Anxiety Support.

Helping Hands supports senior citizens and people with disabilities. Volunteers match their interests and skills with the needs of seniors to create a mutually rewarding experience. Services include friendly visiting, telephone reassurance, transportation to medical appointments and the grocery store, Shabbat observance, holiday gift basket deliveries, and Jewish programming in assisted-living facilities. In addition, Helping Hands matches musicians and trained OMA facilitators with people living with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia for one-on-one musical visits or art.

The Kosher Food Box Program provides vital food assistance to those experiencing financial hardship. The Chanukah Gifts for Children Program provides holiday presents for children who would otherwise go without. Emergency Financial Assistance can help alleviate a temporary financial crisis by helping to pay for basic needs such as rent, utilities and food.

Fees are charged for some services. Counseling fees may be covered through private health insurance and Medicare. A sliding-scale fee is available for those without insurance or who choose not to use it. JFS also serves as a professional resource, offering consultations and other services to agencies and congregations throughout the community.

Please support Jewish Family Service by volunteering your time, by making a financial contribution and by attending the annual JFS Chessed Dinner, which will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2023. Save the date now! •



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ADOPTION JOURNEYS: A Program of Jewish Family Service

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Nashville, TN 37205
(615) 356-4234
Fax: (615) 301-0676
www.jfsnashville.org/services/adoption-journeys/

Toni L. Jacobsen, LCSW, adoption supervisor

Ashley Franklin, LMSW social worker
info@jfsnashville.org

Adoption Journeys has been bringing children and adoptive families together for more than 40 years. Jewish Family Service is a Tennessee-licensed adoption agency that, through its Adoption Journeys program, provides confidential professional services to prospective adoptive parents, adoptees and birthparents without regard to race, religion, marital status or sexual orientation.

Whether a prospective adoptive parent is seeking a child domestically or internationally, independently or through an agency, JFS can provide the required education, preparation, home studies and post-placement services.

We maintain relationships with domestic and international placing agencies across the country, our services are available both during the adoption process and also throughout the life of the adoptive family.

JFS does not provide placement services for expectant couples but does offer counseling to enable them to examine the available options in order to make a decision that is in their best interests and that of the child. Such counseling may also be offered to support them through the placement process and with issues of post-placement grief and loss. If the expectant parent decides to make an adoption plan, Jewish Family Service will provide referrals to a list of licensed adoption agencies and attorneys within the Middle Tennessee area.

Jewish prospective adoptive families may be eligible for adoption loans through the Earl Kirshner or the Abe and Renette Corenswet Free Loan Program. Contact JFS for additional information.

JFS adoption services are open to all in the Middle Tennessee region, regardless of religious affiliation, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. •

Two things that are short and to the point.



Jane R. Snyder

• WRITER •

| Jane@JaneRSnyder.com | 615.557.6277 |

Synagogues

and affiliated organizations

Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad

95 Bellevue Road
Nashville, TN 37221
(615) 646-5750
www.chabadnashville.com



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Congregation Beit Tefilah (CBT), renowned for warmth and friendliness, is a synagogue and center of learning for Jews of all backgrounds, and engenders a feeling of comfort and belonging to all who attend. Even during the Covid era, CBT kept its doors open safely, and served the needs of hundreds of families that called upon us.

Congregation Beit Tefilah offers true Jewish Southern hospitality in a place where everyone feels at home. Our congregation is diverse and is characterized by a culture that is welcoming and non-judgmental. CBT provides a place for our congregants to grow spiritually and to find a level of commitment with which they feel comfortable.

Whether you're a longtime Nashville resident or a newcomer, CBT welcomes you and offers something for everyone. Come for Shabbat services, lifecycle events, study groups and much more.

More about us

Renowned for warmth and friendliness, Congregation Beit Tefilah offers true Jewish Southern hospitality. Whether you're a longtime Nashville resident or a newcomer, Chabad Beit Tefilah welcomes you and offers something for everyone.

A place to call home

Imagine worshipping in an atmosphere of total acceptance, where you are welcomed and implored to be nonjudgmental of your neighbors.

Services are traditional and conducted primarily in Hebrew, with select readings in English. Neither the language you use nor your pace is of paramount importance. Our beautiful sanctuary, enveloped in a natural environment, is the perfect setting to feel connected to G-d.



Many friends and family, joined together for the joyous Torah Dedication ceremony that was dedicated by Brian and Dianne Berry to Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad. This beautiful Torah has been a source of joy to the community and is read every Shabbat morning, and the story of the week is translated and shared by Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel.

Shabbat shalom

As the sun sets on Friday, everyone streams in for that magical moment of candle lighting when the spirit of Shabbat settles upon Nashville. Congregants lift their voices in song and prayer. Mystical insights from the rabbi bring in a meditative peace. Prior to the Covid era we hosted on the second and fourth Friday of the month, a grand T.G.I.S. (Thank G-d It's Shabbat) dinner follows services and is open to the entire community, always at 6:30 p.m.

Shabbat morning brings the reading of the Torah, as the rabbi tells the story of the weekly Torah portion, and guest cantors lead musaf prayers. Children also enjoy the CKids Shabbat morning service, which includes story time, edible crafts and prayer.

Bar and bat mitzvah and other lifecycle events take place in our new ballroom and are tailored to the talents and personality of each child. Community members enjoy a weekly Shabbat buffet lunch following the services, including a cholent and an array of Shabbat delicacies.

Jewish study roundtable

Join us on Shabbat afternoons for the popular Jewish Women's Circle that features discussions on values and ethics led by Reb-betzin Esther Tiechtel. Beit Tefilah also hosts weekly classes that

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Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad

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explore the weekly Torah portion and other topics, including Jewish mysticism, and adult Hebrew reading

Youth programming

At Chabad Hebrew School, children study the Treasures Curriculum, mark the holidays with family workshops and learn to read Hebrew with the nationally acclaimed “Aleph Champ” reading curriculum. Teens enjoy their first foray into kabbalah and their chance to wrap tefillin together.

Chesed and caring

We extend a welcoming hand to guests, giving all visitors a warm welcome and the feeling of being with mishpacha – family. Our “Chicken Soup Squad” brings hot foods to the homebound or ill.

Congregation Beit Tefilah is a place you want to call home. Come and visit and we are sure you’ll want to stay. L’Hitraot!

To Join or visit, please drop by, or call or email us at the phone number at the beginning of this listing •

Mikvah Mei Chaya

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Mikvah Mei Chaya is a spa for the body and soul to bring holiness and purity to every Jewish family. To make an appointment for the Mikvah call 615-646-5750.

Mei Chaya is the first and only mikvah built in Nashville exclusively for the mitzvah of taharat ha-mishpacha – family purity. Experience the beauty of this special mitzvah in the privacy of a luxurious mikvah fully equipped with all your spa needs and beautifully appointed to make your visit a pleasurable one.

All materials – from the travertine stone imported from Turkey to the glass tiles, from elegant lighting fixtures to the exquisite furnishings and paintings, from the limestone vanities to the surround-sound audio system – were selected by a team of top interior designers to make it a five-star “mikspah” experience.

Mei Chaya was built with the needs of the local Jewish community in mind. It offers women the opportunity for a moving, spiritual experience – a spa for both body and soul. The facility boasts a well-appointed reception room, two luxurious preparation rooms and a uniquely designed mikvah that offers both a tranquil and spiritual setting.

Mikvah means “a gathering of natural water.” Unlike an ordinary tub or pool, complex laws and specifications govern construction of a mikvah. The primary uses of a mikvah cover many elements of Jewish life, but the most significant usage today is by brides and married women practicing taharat ha-mishpacha—the Jewish laws of family purity.

The mikvah lies at the heart of the beauty and spirituality of the marital relationship, endowing it with a charming dimension of sanctity and love. For thousands of years, it has been Judaism’s secret to harmonious marital living and Jewish survival.

The mikvah is available by appointment only. Please call for an appointment 48 hours in advance. •

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To access the Jewish Federation Community Calendar,
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Congregation Micah

Reform

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(615) 377-9799

office@congregationmicah.org

www.CongregationMicah.org

facebook.com/CongregationMicah

@MicahNashville

(Also look for us on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok)



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Dr. Howard Baum, President

Micah is an EVERYBODY friendly community; an inclusive, innovative synagogue exploring and celebrating Jewish life, committed to building community and repairing the world. We are thinkers, activists, seekers, skeptics, dreamers and doers. Honoring our communal commitment to God, Torah, Israel, each other, and the world in which we live, our congregation is authentically diverse, unabashedly interfaith, and unafraid to break the mold. Guided by our mission, Micah infuses the lives of its congregants with a Judaism that is meaningful, relevant, and transformative. Our religious services are musical and participatory, our educational opportunities compelling, and our social gatherings undeniably enjoyable. Promoting the values of progressive Judaism, our community asks deep questions like what it means to live as Jews in Tennessee.

God

We approach God through the authenticity of our intentions, the prayers of our heart and the ancient rituals of our people. On Shabbat and at other services, we include traditional, contemporary and innovative musical settings of liturgy by our nationally known musical team as well as other local artists, as we relive the ongoing

tale of the Jewish people through image and story. Our award-winning sanctuary inspires us by framing its beautiful ark with windows which invite the natural beauty behind us inside. Our 35-acre campus also includes a chapel for more intimate worship, a memorial garden for meditation, classrooms, and a cemetery.

Torah

Lifelong learning begins in infancy. Micah Children's Academy begins at 6 weeks and continues through pre-kindergarten; the curriculum includes Tot Shabbat and time on our natural play-scape. Our religious school is known for its creativity in Hebrew instruction, family services, *b'nai mitzvah* preparation, confirmation classes and beyond. Special programs include the Kids/Teen Choir, music, photography, Jewish history, family education, and social action programs. Additional youth enrichment is provided through our flourishing youth groups and Chai Society programs. Micah Midweek allows students to pray, eat and learn together. Our *b'nai mitzvah* candidates are tutored exclusively by our clergy. The rabbis weekly teach Torah, schmooze with our seniors and educate from the pulpit. Our Micah Book Club convenes monthly, short courses are offered for adults weekly, and scholars visit seasonally. Together we celebrate the holidays: At Hanukkah and Passover, we share a meal as a community, and Purim is an exciting time of skits and a carnival.

Israel

Micah supports and advocates on behalf of the State of Israel and celebrates its culture, while holding her up to our highest Jewish values. The name Yisra-El means to struggle with God. As such we wrestle with the many aspects of what it means to be a Jew in America, but also seek to make connections to Israelis and other Jewish communities throughout the world, offering trips to Israel for teens, families, and adults. •

To learn more, scan here.



The Jewish Observer of Nashville is online at
www.JewishObserverNashville.org

Congregation Sherith Israel

Orthodox

3600 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205
(615) 292-6614
www.sherithisrael.com

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Janet Harris, office
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office@sherithisrael.com

Mikvah information: office@sherithisrael.com

Congregation Sherith Israel is a century-old Orthodox synagogue with a rich history. We welcome every soul to our community: those who are Shomer Shabbat and those who are not; those who can read Torah or lead a class and those just learning the Hebrew alphabet; first-generation Americans and lifelong Nashvillians; young families, seniors and every age group in between.



More about us

Congregation Sherith Israel is a diverse congregation, yet we are all committed to our Shul family, the Jewish people and the State of Israel. Our well-attended services are meaningful, warm and welcoming, with inspiring words of Torah, beautiful singing and a feeling of community. We offer extensive programming, including education for youth and adults alike, social events, an active Sisterhood and community service.

Shabbat at Sherith Israel begins with a beautiful Kabbalat Shabbat in the heart of Music City. All are then welcome to join in a festive Shabbat dinner in Abraham and Sarah's Tent. Shabbat day services are filled with joy, song and active participation as well as special programming for younger children. Following services, we join together as a community at our catered Kiddush luncheon, catching up with old friends and making new friends. There are classes both before Shacharit and after the Kiddush luncheon.

The calendar is full of community celebrations of Jewish holidays, starting with a Rosh Hashanah luncheon and tashlich, Yom Kippur break-the-fast after a day of truly inspiring prayer, Shabbat in the Sukkah and a community Simchat Torah dinner, Hanukkah menorah lighting and party, Purim Se'udah, Passover Seders, and Shavuot learning. In addition, we join together to commemorate national days of service and holidays, including Martin Luther King Day.

Youth Programs: Our growing team of Jewish educators offers dynamic programming for kids 6 weeks and up on Shabbat and throughout the week.

Adult Education: Every year the Shul offers a variety of educational programs and ongoing classes. Please see the website for the latest information.

Events: Our calendar includes scholars-in-residence and other special speakers, concerts featuring our talented congregants and distinguished guests, and outings to concerts or plays. We also

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Join Our Shul Family!

Our open-orthodox congregation is a family bound by love, mutual respect, and lives committed to Torah. Traditional, but innovative, we are deeply committed to strengthening the bonds of understanding amongst different movements within the Jewish community. Come experience Shabbat, holidays, and programming!

CONGREGATION SHERITH ISRAEL

Rabbi Saul Strosberg, Senior Rabbi | Cantor George Lieberman, Cantor Emeritus | Cantor Dov Rosenblatt, Cantor-in-Residence
3600 West End Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37205 | 615-292-6614 | www.sherithisrael.com

Congregation Sherith Israel

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commit time to community service, such as Room at the Inn, Habitat for Humanity and other programs.

We invite you to join us for Shabbat services, meet our community at Kiddush luncheon, and become part of the Sherith Israel family.

To join

Membership application available at www.sherithisrael.com •



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We Have a Bright Future & We Invite You to Become a Part of Our Temple Family



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The Temple – Congregation Ohabai Sholom

Reform

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Nashville, TN 37205
(615) 352-7620

www.templenashville.org

Virtual Programming Website: thetemplehub.org

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The Temple was established in 1851 as the Vine Street Temple. In 1873, we became a founding member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, now the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ). Our mission is to nurture and cultivate a caring, inclusive,

educated, and vibrant Reform Jewish congregation through the four primary functions of synagogue life: House of Learning (*Beit Midrash*), House of Worship (*Beit Tefilah*), House of Community (*Beit Knesset*), and House of Social Justice (*Beit Tikkun Olam*). In fulfilling these integrated functions, The Temple strives to foster an environment where our members create and participate in the shared experiences of learning, living, and growing as Jews.

Online, Onsite, One Community

The Temple is committed to staying connected through a wide range of programming, worship and study opportunities for all ages that can be accessed in person or virtually. We hope you join us to deepen your Jewish knowledge and understanding while strengthening your connections to our congregation. You can learn more about our programming on thetemplehub.org or via www.templenashville.org.

More about us

The top 10 things people are saying about The Temple:

Welcoming and inclusive

We have a diverse membership from singles to married and same-sex couples, interfaith and intercultural families, newcomers and natives, families with children, mid-lifers and senior adults. Our members live all over greater Nashville.

Embracing

We honor and cherish all of our members and families no matter what their background – Jewish and non-Jewish, traditional and interfaith. For those seeking to learn more about Judaism, our Into to Judaism/Conversion Conversations program provides opportunities for deeper understanding and connection.

Approachable

Clergy and staff are available and accessible to meet your life-cycle and pastoral needs. Our clergy participate actively in the life of our larger Jewish and Nashville community.

Joyous

Shabbat worship and holiday celebrations are filled with music, warmth, creativity and joy. Our preschool and religious school hallways are filled with the laughter of children.

Innovative

- We offer relevant, current and intentional programs including:
- Interfaith/collaborations such as Thanksgiving concert, Habitat for Humanity, clergy dialogues and social justice initiatives;
 - Scholar Series featuring rabbinic, national and community experts and leaders;
 - Social justice initiatives focused on advocacy for criminal justice reform, racial injustice, immigrant issues and LGBTQ+ rights;
 - Holiday programs such as Rosh Hashanah by the Creek, Clergy in the Kitchen, Sushi in the Sukkah, Purim with a Purpose, and 8 nights of Hanukkah fun
 - Vibrant musical programming including the Temple Mazel Tones (youth choir), Temple Volunteer Band, Musicians in Residence, collaboration with local Jewish musicians and mitzvah concerts; and
 - Fun, engaging monthly programming for young adults and families with young children.

Evolving

We strive to improve on our successes year to year. We find

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The Temple – Congregation Ohabai Sholom

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opportunities to try new approaches and programs to meet the needs and desires of our growing and evolving congregation, including our wellness initiative, lay-led study groups and programs to connect people throughout our city.

Enriching

We offer dozens of opportunities to learn and grow Jewishly throughout the year with our weekly Lunch with the Rabbi, Shabbat morning Torah study and Women's Torah Study, family and parent education programs on Sundays, and scholars-in-residence series.

Connecting

We work hard to connect our members to one another through our programs throughout the year, including Next Dor (social

events for young adults and couples ages 22-40), creative and meaningful Passover Seders for all, W.E.L.L (Women Engaged in Living & Learning), Temple Tribes (building community through shared interests), Temple Together (social events for adults ages 35-50), and Caring Connection (congregants helping congregants at times of joy and sorrow).

Making an Impact

Our congregation continues to expand and deepen our commitment to making our Nashville community a better place in so many ways: the Boulevard Bolt, Urban Housing Solutions, MNPS Family Support, monthly collections of food and other needed supplies, social action and social justice initiatives, interfaith programming, and connections with other local congregations.

Proud

We kvell (feel happy and proud) over our:

- Preschool, with its top-rated, full-time program, innovative and stimulating curriculum with dynamic and caring teachers.
- Religious school and its emphasis on learning in the context of community through fun, creative, relevant, engaging and meaningful experiences for our students and families.
- Our strong and rich tradition as the heart of Reform Judaism in Nashville since 1851.

To participate

Don't just take other people's word for it. Experience The Temple for yourself. You are always welcome. Give us a call or check out our website and find a Jewish home here at The Temple! •

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Learn more
about the
Nashville Jewish
community
at
jewishnashville.org



JOIN YOUR LOCAL PARKINSON'S COMMUNITY

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 6,400 people in Middle Tennessee are diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease (PD). The Peterson Foundation for Parkinson's is a non-profit organization committed to providing support, educational information and programs for people affected with Parkinson's. We understand a Parkinson's diagnosis affects the entire family and PFP provides support for the individual living with Parkinson's, care partners, spouses and family members.

The PFP Nashville Support Group meets the second Wednesday of everyone month at Gordon Jewish Community Center (901 Percy Warner Blvd., Nashville, TN 37205). We encourage all individuals living with Parkinson's or their family members to attend.

New! Peterson Voices Nashville Group - Enhance your vocal health every Thursday at 10:30am at the JCC

For more information contact Brent@petersonforparkinsons.org or visit petersonforparkinsons.org

The Jewish Observer of Nashville is online at
www.JewishObserverNashville.org

West End Synagogue

Conservative

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Miriam Halachmi z"l, Education Director 1979-2011

Stephen Potash, Board President
Stevepotash1@gmail.com

West End Synagogue is Nashville's traditional, egalitarian congregation. Our diverse community is united by the shared values of



Torah (learning), avodah (prayer) and gemilut chasadim (kindness). Together, we strive to imbue ancient rituals with modern meaning.

Torah

Torah is our element and lifelong education is integral to the West End experience. Our Beit Miriam Religious School, led by Sharon Paz, enriches the lives of our children and teaches them Hebrew and Jewish values and rituals. We are proud to have so many students spend summers at Camp Ramah Darom in Georgia, where they are fully immersed in Jewish life and community.

We offer ongoing opportunities for adults to study Torah in a broader sense, learning the weekly Torah portion, Talmud, Jewish mysticism and Bible on a weekly or monthly basis. We also host the special Learn and Lunch series for seniors. Guest scholars from Nashville and beyond teach us through our Pray, Eat, Learn series and our annual scholar-in-residence program. You can join dozens of students of all backgrounds for Introduction to Judaism, taught by Rabbi Joshua Kullock on Sundays from January-May.

Avodah

Morning and evening minyans bring us together in prayer every day of the year. Minyannaires provide comfort for mourners who come to say *Kaddish* and offer blessings for families celebrating life-cycle events. Bagels and coffee fill our bellies after the morning minyan has fed our souls.

Shabbat is the highlight of the week. We usher in Shabbat together on Friday evening, filling the chapel with soulful melodies. After services we often have potluck meals organized

Continued on page 34



West End Synagogue

A center for Jewish community life, inspiration and celebration

Worship • Education • Service

Award-Winning Religious School
Children's Services
Family Programs
Youth Groups
Camp Ramah
Torah Study

Adult Education
Social Action
Seniors' Activities
Sisterhood
Men's Club

Rabbi Joshua Kullock
Jim Holzer, Executive Director
Sharon Paz, Director of Lifelong Learning
Miriam Halachmi z"l, Education Director 1979-2011



West End Synagogue
3810 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205



615-269-4592



office@westendsyn.org



www.westendsyn.org



/WestEndSyn



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West End Synagogue

Continued from page 33

by congregants. Shabbat morning services are led both by our clergy and lay-leaders of all ages, and Rabbi Joshua engages us with enlightening sermons. Families and children come together for bi-monthly children and youth services. *Kiddush* lunch is our weekly opportunity to eat, schmooze, and sing together.

Gemilut Chasadim (Social Action)

We partner with many Nashville organizations to serve those in need. Through Room in the Inn, we house and feed homeless men each Monday evening from November through January. With the Martha O'Bryan Center and Second Harvest, we stock a food pantry and deliver meals on wheels. Each year, we fill a Mitzvah Crib for families in need. We also care for one another – visiting the sick and providing food for members of our community in times in need through our We Care Committee.

We invite you to join our synagogue family. Come visit us any time! •



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West End Synagogue Sisterhood

Sisterhoodwestendsynagogue@gmail.com

The Music City Sisterhood of West End Synagogue has many projects and activities that touch every member of the Synagogue. All of our members also have the opportunity to participate in the national programs of the Women's League of Conservative Judaism our national organization. In conjunction with WLCJ, we raise funds in the international Torah Fund campaign which helps educate Conservative clergy, educators and lay leaders at two seminaries in the United States, one in Israel, one in Germany, and The Seminario Rabinico Latin Americano in Buenos Aires, Argentina from which our Rabbi Joshua Kullock was ordained.

Our members span a wide range of interests, ages and backgrounds, all joining together to create a warm, supportive environment for our synagogue. Sisterhood supports or funds:

- Free one-year membership to new female synagogue members.
- New member social events.
- Walking group on Nashville's greenways.
- Transportation to conventions for Kadima (middle school) and United Synagogue Youth (high school) members.
- USY young leader attendance at the annual leadership retreat.
- Scholarships to Camp Ramah Darom and other Jewish camps.
- Holiday gift packages for college students.
- Discounted babysitting on the High Holidays.
- Kosher challahs every Thursday and Friday of the school year, to enhance your Shabbat meals.
- Thistle Farms, by collecting and donating new women's undergarments and hygiene products.

Proceeds from the annual sale of Purim bags (Mishloach Manot) provide enhanced religious school programming, a first-day-of-school brunch for parents and pizza in the Sukkah.

We foster our personal Jewish education and spiritual growth through lectures, a book club and participation in Sisterhood Shabbat.

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are currently limited to programming via Zoom and Facebook. We will still schedule monthly walking group dates weather permitting. We are hoping that when the Spring arrives, we will be able to have some face-to-face (masked) outdoor group meetings. For updated information, please keep checking the information under the CONNECTION section of the West End Synagogue website at: www.westendsyn.org •



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2023 B'nai Mitzvah

Congregation Micah

Abby, Ben & Sam Bauman	January 14
Ava Posey	January 28
Eli Shuster	February 4
Henry Isaacs	February 18
London Fair	March 4
Peyton Horowitz	April 15
Alex Krakauer	April 22
Aitan Martinez	May 27
Violet Spiro	June 10
Molly Lichtenstein	August 5
Sam Margolis	August 12
Wolff Geringer	August 19
Charles (Mack) Kearns	August 26
Ben Marshall	September 9
Brendan Hasson	November 11
Cedric Numbers	December 2

Congregation Sherith Israel

Oliver Abromovitz	March 30
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The Temple - Congregation Ohabai Sholom

Hilary Fremont	January 21
Matthew & Jacob Johnson	January 28
Alex Klein	March 4
Arden & Zoe Salomon	March 25
Henry & Ruby Kammerman	April 1

Hannah Mackler	April 22
Sydney Lasher	April 29
Eli Salter	May 6
Jacob Mann	May 13
Simon Dowell	May 27
Lana Komisar	June 24
Rena Zagnoev	August 26
Lily Salvado	September 9
Matthew Lodi	September 23
Casey Nuchow	September 30
Miriam Russ	September 30
Annika Abramson	October 7
Milo Metzger	October 28
Harley Mitchell	November 11
Mila Brazil	November 25

West End Synagogue

Ethan Kaplan	February 13
Abi Kullock	April 1
Lucas MacBrair	June 3
Ella Gribben	August 5
Eli Cheng	August 19
Maytal Wiston	September 2
Yosef Prebus	October 28
Edwin Gordetsky	December 16

Dates are subject to change.



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Jewish Schools and Preschools



Akiva School

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Fax: (615) 356-1850
www.akivanashville.net

Larry Hyatt, Board President

Daniella Pressner, Head of School
dpressner@akivanashville.net
(615) 356-1880

Julie Fortune, Director of Admissions and Outreach
jfortune@akivanashville.net
(615) 356-1880

Located on the Gordon Jewish Community Campus, Akiva School is a high-performing, K-6 academic institution and a leader among Jewish Day schools. Akiva's mission is to pursue excellence, foster critical inquiry and inspire informed Jewish living. Akiva is proud of its diversity, with a student body that is rich with multiple nationalities, and a range of socioeconomic, racial, ethnic and denominational backgrounds. Akiva graduates are consistently accepted into the most selective private middle and high-schools. They are recognized as leaders in both character and academic achievement and known for their deep sense of self, their curiosity and wonder, a strong work ethic, and their commitment to their communities.

The rigorous curricula in both General and Judaic Studies challenge students to analyze, investigate, question, and take risks. Classes include mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, mindfulness, Hebrew language, Jewish Studies, music, swimming, art, S.T.E.A.M., and physical education. Akiva students are repeatedly praised for their ability to articulate their own thoughts, as well as their ability to listen to and learn from their peers' opinions. On average, over 30 percent of Akiva students score in the 90th percentile and above on nationally-recognized assessments, and almost all graduating 6th graders obtain their top choice school for 7th grade. Students customarily graduate Akiva fluent in Hebrew and are able to seamlessly analyze and understand high-level texts in both Hebrew and English.



The Akiva education is hands-on, experiential, and S.T.E.A.M. (science, technology, engineering, the Arts, and mathematics) focus. Akiva is one of the only elementary schools in the state of Tennessee that holds the S.T.E.A.M. certification and the first Jewish Day School in the world to receive this designation.

At Akiva, students learn in an environment that promotes a love of learning, an appreciation of our shared experience, and a pride in one's growing and changing identity. Students learn about the world's problems and then engage in empathy-based design-thinking to conceive solutions to impact our world.

Akiva offers a wide variety of conveniences including: a daily hot-lunch program, transportation and after-school programs including S.T.E.A.M. learning, sports, and more.

We take pride in the diversity of our student body and respect every family's decisions regarding religious observance. Our goal for all families, regardless of denominational or synagogue affiliation, feel welcome at Akiva.

Smaller class sizes are maintained to provide a nurturing atmosphere that meets individual students' needs. Akiva is

Continued on page 38

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Akiva

Continued from page 37

dedicated to hiring the brightest talent in Nashville, and teachers are regularly engaged in professional development and participate in national conversations on education.

Akiva is accredited by Cognia (formerly AdvancED and SACs, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.)

For more information, please contact Julie Fortune, Director of Admissions and Outreach at 615-356-1880 or go to www.akivanashville.net/akiva-admissions/request-information/ •

Beit Miriam

West End Synagogue
3810 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

Sharon Paz
Director of Lifelong Learning
spaz@westendsyn.org
(615) 269-4592 ext. 17

West End Synagogue's Religious School educates children from 3-years-old through eleventh grade, and many of our graduates return as Madrichim (Teacher Aides) in their senior year. While West End is the Conservative Synagogue in Nashville, the school is successful in large part due to the diverse make-up of the students and staff, from all streams of Judaism.



Our classes cover a breadth of Jewish literacy including Jewish History, Customs, Holiday Celebrations, Israel, Torah, Talmud, and Hebrew. Our program is highly community-focused with times for students to



come together for interactive learning in music, art, technology, current events, and holiday celebrations. We also plan programs with the other Nashville Jewish congregations that build a sense of community and friendship. All our students (preschool -11th) come to Religious School on Sundays from 9AM until noon; additionally, second through seventh graders come to school on Wednesday afternoons from 4:15 -6:30PM and attend Shabbat services led by our students on Saturdays twice a month. We are open and look forward to celebrating Shabbat together through our children and family Shabbat services.

Beit Miriam @ West End Synagogue is proud that 75% of its faculty are certified teachers and 50% have master's degrees or higher in Jewish Education. Our teachers engage students in meaningful Jewish learning. The school also offers opportunities for teen involvement in Synagogue life, parent parallel learning sessions and Hebrew tutoring for students and parents who want Hebrew enrichment or who have little or no Hebrew language experience.

Please feel free to contact Sharon Paz, Director of Lifelong Learning at 615.269.4592 x17 or spaz@westendsyn.org for more information about joining our Beit Miriam Kehilla (community). •



Beit Miriam
@ West End Synagogue

Come Learn at Beit Miriam:

- Where lifelong Jewish values are taught in a thought-provoking and relevant way
- Where Jewish history, traditions, and prayers come alive through lively experiential programs
- Where Hebrew is a living language
- Where students, teachers and families share special holiday and Shabbat celebrations

To become a part of the Beit Miriam family contact Sharon Paz, Director of Lifelong Learning at (615) 269-4592 ext. 17 or spaz@westendsyn.org



The Gordon JCC Early Childhood Learning Center

801 Percy Warner Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37205
(615) 354-1640
Fax: (615) 353-2659

Sharon Golden, Director
Sharon@nashvillejcc.org

Renee Geltzer, Assistant Director
Renee@nashvillejcc.org

West End Synagogue Location
3810 West End Ave. Nashville, TN 37205

Jill Ellen, Director
Jill@nashvillejcc.org

At the Gordon Jewish Community Center's Early Childhood Learning Center, sounds of fun, laughter, and learning echo through the halls. Open to children from ages six weeks through pre-Kindergarten, the ECLC embraces families of all backgrounds and cultivates a connection with Jewish values and traditions. Both our JCC and West End Synagogue campuses hold a 3-Star rating from the Tennessee Department of Human Services. The ECLC offers year-round scheduling at both locations to meet family needs.

Reggio Emilia philosophy

With practice rooted in research, our teachers work collaboratively to nurture the gifts of each child, encourage a questioning mind, spark creativity, and foster independence. Every classroom offers age-appropriate progressive academics enriched by specialists in music and physical education. The ECLC is a Reggio Emilia-inspired school with great attention given to the look and feel of the classroom. Environment is considered the third teacher so teachers carefully organize spaces to encourage children to engage in activity and discover. Nature is integrated into the curriculum so that children learn to appreciate the physical and structural environment, and their work, plants, and items collected during outings are displayed at the eye-levels of both children and adults.

The ECLC curriculum uses the Tennessee Early Learning Development Standards to guide lesson plans. It also includes the JCCA Discover CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Children's Health) programming, used at JCC's across North America. CATCH uses stories with puppets and activities that resonate with preschoolers to provide an environment where physical activity, health education, gardening, and healthy eating behaviors are valued and taught. Little ones are motivated to walk, run, jump, dance, and move their whole bodies while playing and having fun. In our pre-K classroom, a STEAM-infused curriculum called Connect 4 Learning helps prepare your pre-K child



through several academic domains as well as a heavy influence of social-emotional learning resulting in a better transition and greater success for kindergarten.

Jewish roots

Jewish culture, traditions, and language are central to our program and are included in every classroom. Jewish holidays are explored and celebrated. Every Friday our preschoolers welcome Shabbat with song and dance during Tot Shabbat celebrations, virtually during times of social distancing, and all together as an ECLC family when it is safe to do so. On Mondays they come together in small groups for Havdalah, to say goodbye to Shabbat and hello to a new week. Our West End Synagogue location embraces its position as a smaller, intimate Early Childhood program in a more urban setting, closer to Nashville's universities and downtown area. The ECLC at the JCC takes full advantage of its location on the campus. There is plenty of space to explore and play on our age-appropriate modern playground, in our gymnasium, in the indoor and outdoor swimming pools*, and throughout the beautiful campus. Children may also participate in after school enrichment activities such as tennis, soccer, dance, and swim lessons.

Please visit nashvillejcc.org/preschool for more information.

*Use of the indoor building spaces and swimming lessons will be reinstated at the JCC campus when it is safe to do so. •



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www.MicahChildrensAcademy.org

Play-Based Learning

Micah Children's Academy was created with the vision of age-appropriate, play-based learning that integrates the best of early childhood education theories and research-based best practices. The Academy strives to focus on the whole child and scaffold growth in each developmental domain by structuring our day with a variety of learning opportunities where children can construct their own knowledge. We integrate our Jewish values, art, sensory experiences, music, movement, love and awe of nature, math, and science into our every day.

The Micah Children's Academy provides an educational environment that honors each child within the context of their development, family, and culture, while being leaders in early childhood education. Our Academy cultivates a love for learning—cognitive, social, emotional, physical, spiritual, and verbal—and a thriving intergenerational and diverse community committed to growing the intellectual curiosity and moral consciousness of students and families based on Jewish values.

Our educators build classroom communities that are inclusive and reflective of each child, family, and culture. They place value



on facilitating an environment that is positive, supportive, and reflective of the conviction that: (1) childhood is sacred (2) children learn best through their play and by constructing their own knowledge, (3) children's imaginations need to be nurtured and inspired, (4) children are capable of great empathy, (5) children are capable problem-solvers, and (6) children are best guided by thoughtful questions, redirection, an age-appropriate natural and logical consequences.

Each week, specialized educators will lead students in enriching, play-based activities that build upon the mission and classroom curricula of Micah Children's Academy. These specialized weekly activities will take place 10 months out of the school year and are as follows:

- **Music:** Cantor Goldberg will enrich our students' lives with his musical talents, allowing students to explore various instruments, musical games and songs in both Hebrew and English.
- **Judaic:** As children learn the Jewish culture through their explorations daily, our Judaic leaders will strengthen their understanding through songs, stories, games, and rituals. The Hebrew language will be introduced in meaningful ways.
- **Vibes:** Vibes stands for Voice, Imagination, Body Exercises, and Storytelling. The goal of this enrichment is to strengthen students' body awareness and abilities to self-regulate. Using songs and stories as our base, students will be led through engaging whole-body movements, vocalizations, and imaginative play. Much of what takes place lends to creative self-expression, mindfulness, and theatrics.
- **Nature:** With Congregation Micah's beautiful campus, the Academy has ample opportunities to engage with nature. Our gardens give real-life experiences to understand life cycles and how to care for our Earth. Children are not only exploring, cultivating, growing, and tending to all the nature our campus provides, they are using these opportunities to build foundational math and science knowledge through activities that engage their whole body, mind, and spirit. •

To access the Jewish Federation Community Calendar, go to www.jewishnashville.org and click on "Calendar."

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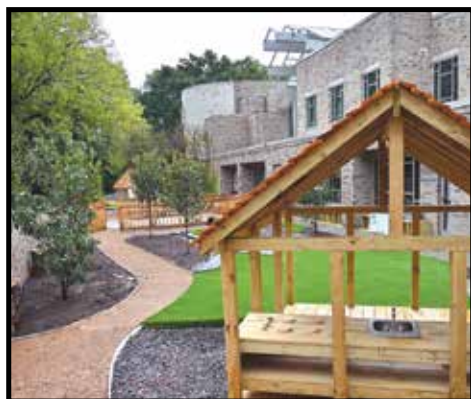
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As educators, we value children as competent, curious and complex members of our community. We understand that children are much more capable than most adults give them credit for. Can children wear masks all day, at preschool? Can infants, toddlers and preschoolers be dropped off to teachers from the car without the parents entering the building? Not only can they, but they became the models for us, showing us that the world around us can be embraced and enjoyed, even when it is not necessarily the way that we have determined that it should be.

We view our role to be one of learning alongside children and joining their parents (as well as the environment) as integral educators, who allow them to be solution seekers, deep thinkers and embracing their own style of learning.

We continue to be grateful to the entire Jewish community for its ongoing support. Particularly, we thank The Temple Congregation for sharing their campus and their values of Tikkun Olam, Tzedakah, Social Justice, Love and much, much more. We are also grateful for The Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee for annual Scholarship support that allows members of the Jewish community financial aid in attending The Temple Preschool, or any of the Jewish preschools in the Nashville area.

We would love for you to explore our environment, virtually (for now), and/or in person (depending on the status of the pandemic).

We offer 2, 3 and 5-day a week enrollment. Our school day is 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and we offer options of extended mornings (beginning at 7:30 a.m.) and extended afternoons (until 5:30 p.m.).

Additional information can be found on The Temple Congregation's website www.templenashville.org •



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Jewish Middle School (JMS)

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Board Chair: Batia Karabel

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alene@jmsnashville.org
615-686-0050

Jay Riven, Associate Head of School for Judaic Studies and Administration
dhoffman@jmsnashville.org
615-686-0050

The Jewish Middle School is Nashville's newest and most exciting addition to the independent school scene. Having doubled its enrollment in the 2020-2021 school year, the community has clearly expressed its desire for an institution that lives out Jewish values and ethics in its curricular and co-curricular programs. Educating students in grades 5-8, JMS encourages families of all faiths to apply, enriching its diversity spiritually, socio-economically, and ethnically. JMS encourages families of all different backgrounds and beliefs to apply and be a part of this welcoming and caring community. For a school its size (under 35 enrolled), the offerings are rich. All students take:

- Either Advanced or Beginner Hebrew
- Either Jewish Studies or Comparative Religion (courses both designed for and unique to JMS)
- Math
- English/Language Arts
- Science
- Social Studies
- Art
- Ethics
- Physical Education
- Counseling/Leadership

Despite the copious offerings in a school so intimate, JMS is most proud of its nurturing educational environment that embraces a love of learning and a commitment to repairing the world through a Jewish lens. Located on the JCC Campus in the Akiva building, JMS is not only convenient for most of its families, but affordable to the community as well. JMS is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools.

Admissions:

For inquiries or to apply or schedule a visit, go to jmsnashville.org •



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Mrs. Esther Tiechtel, Educational Director

The Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool, Tennessee's only Jewish Montessori preschool, is a great place for children ages 12 months to 6 years to grow and learn. Our stimulating environment encourages confidence, exploration and promotes physical, emotional and social development. Your **children will experience a classic Judaic foundation in a Montessori setting.**

Our philosophy

"The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn."

—Dr. Maria Montessori

Intrinsic to Jewish educational heritage is an understanding that children learn at a young age. Putting them in a caring and nurturing environment, providing guidance and love, ensures that they can become aware of their potential and the good they bring to our world. At the Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool, children are given freedom with responsibility; their learning and achievements become their own. They value their peers; their class is a community with each one contributing; their faces light up as they practice kindness and respect for one another.

Whole-child experience

Montessori learning in a supportive, Jewish environment is a whole-child experience. As children's minds absorb new concepts, their hands perfect the skills, their hearts feel secure and they learn through song and joy the Jewish values of the Torah and our heritage. The beautiful, aesthetically-pleasing materials help them explore the world and learn building blocks of math and language. They refine their senses as they experience all their learning in a sensory way. The practical life area prepares them for the skills they need in daily life. The geography and culture area open the window for them to the world we are a part of. Science



Children of the Revere Montessori preschool enjoy the brand new outdoor playscape, where children spend hours of educational playtime in the great outdoors.

helps them gather information and observe and learn how nature functions. Our art curriculum helps them express their individuality and share their impressions through different media. Through it all are woven the customs and beauty of the Jewish holidays and the rich traditions from around the year.

At the Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool, **children can learn at their own pace.** They come to it with an open heart and are given time to learn, understand, and make it their own. Like our nature-themed logo, we give our little ones a space to grow and to let them experience the soothing rain and the warm sunshine, teach them the Aleph-Bet and the ABCs and watch as they bud and blossom, each their own flower in a beautiful garden.

Learn more: To learn about our open houses, or to arrange for a tour of our preschool, and to register your child, please call our office at (615) 646-5750. •

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Jewish Youth Groups



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BBYO Connect

Rebecca Moriarty
Regional Director, Cotton States Region, BBYO
rmoriarty@bbyo.org
www.nashvillejcc.org/bbyo

Engaging over 100 Jewish teens year-round, BBYO in Nashville is a place Jewish teens from throughout Middle Tennessee have called home for more than 50 years. BBYO is the



nation's leading pluralistic Jewish teen movement, aspiring to involve more Jewish teens in more meaningful Jewish experiences. With a network of 725+ chapters across North America and engaging in 55+ countries on 6 continents, BBYO reaches over 80,000 teens annually and serves as the Jewish community's largest and most valuable platform for delivering fun, meaningful, and affordable experiences that inspire a lasting connection to the Jewish people.

The Aleph Zadik Aleph (AZA) and the B'nai B'rith Girls (BBG) are a fraternity and sorority for Jewish teens. Since our founding in 1924, we have been member led. Our priorities and programs reflect the interests and issues that matter most to us. Our pursuits are as diverse as our participants. AZA and BBG welcome Jewish teens of all backgrounds, denominational affiliation, gender, sexual orientations, and socio-economic statuses as well as those with a range of intellectual, emotional and physical abilities.

With BBYO being forced to shut down all in-person events, programs, and meetings back in March 2020, teens became innovators of the virtual Jewish space, and BBYO On Demand took the world by storm. Here teens, BBYO members or not, are able to join live virtual programs, create their own programs to run, and get ideas on what they can do with their own chapter and friends. BBYO On Demand has become the leading platform for Jewish teens world-wide and is still engaging hundreds of teens weekly across the globe.

The teens have discovered how to host appropriately mitigated, in-person programming while layering in the virtual space. They were able to normalize social distancing and figure out new ways to connect without physical touch. They wore their masks while continuing to speak out about the things they believe in. Most importantly they continued to grow their brotherhood and sisterhood because they knew it was not about the where and the what, but about the who and the why. And if they had each other and never lost sight of their mission, they will forever have BBYO.

In Nashville we have two chapters, Music City BBG (for those who self-identify as female) and Athens of the South AZA (for those who self-identify as male). Nashville is part of Delta Region, a region within BBYO's global movement that brings together teens from throughout Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. BBYO is THE place to be for Jewish teens throughout the South. Here in Nashville, we are fortunate enough to have an incredibly supportive community that sees the importance in Jewish continuity, teen programming and building the leaders of our future — a community that shares the same values as BBYO and one that is deeply rooted in the history of AZA and BBG.

Want to know more? Don't hesitate to reach out or visit our website, bbyo.org •



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(615) 356-3242 x820
www.jewishnashville.org/get-connected

Deborah Oleshansky
deborah@jewishnashville.org



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Would you like to “Get Connected” to other Jewish teenagers from the Nashville and Middle Tennessee area through a fun and exciting trip to Israel? Imagine seeing the sun rise over Masada, floating in the Dead Sea, participating in an archaeological dig, and dancing in the streets of Jerusalem on Shabbat... with your best friends!

Get Connected is designed to provide Nashville’s 10th- and 11th-grade students with a deeper sense of their Judaism and a greater connection to their peers in the Nashville community, to Israel and its people. The two-week summer trip to Israel is highly subsidized by the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Greater Nashville.

“The views, people and food were amazing. Israel is one of my favorite places out there. In some ways it feels like home.”

—Sydney

Research indicates that teens benefit greatly through achieving Get Connected’s goals of connecting more deeply with Judaism, with Israel and Israeli teens and Jewish peers at home. The program enables teens to live a meaningful Jewish life with affinity to the Jewish community. We welcome Jews from all denominations, backgrounds, and levels of observance.

There are three main components to the program, including the trip itself.

The first part provides students with the introductory tools to understand the experience they will have in Israel. These educational sessions, kallah, help the students to understand the geography, history, culture, and language of Israel. These classes begin during the school year (once a month, January through May). In the process, the teens transform from being merely future travel partners to becoming a close-knit community of friends, connecting socially with each other and their chaperones so that they are better prepared for their amazing journey.

The second and most meaningful part of Get Connected is the transformative and awe-inspiring two-week trip to Israel during the month of June. Teens connect not only with the land of Israel through an exciting, spiritually-enriching, and in-depth tour, but also with Israeli teens and their families through the hospitality of home stays for a few days during the trip.

“Being teenagers, we bond over music, food, hanging out with friends, and of course Judaism. It’s amazing to see people living in the place we both fight for in different ways... It’s crazy that the people we met would be going to the army while we were preparing for college, both enabling us to fight for our beliefs. It was an eye-opening experience that I would recommend to anyone.”

—Jordan



The third part of the program is the opportunity to host some of the same Israeli teens when they visit Nashville. These visits reinforce the important connections made in Israel and create relationships that last a lifetime. Over the past 12 years, Get Connected has brought more than 200 Nashville-area students to Israel. This is a highly subsidized trip offered through the Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville, with additional scholarship opportunities available. If you’d like to learn more about this fabulous adventure, please contact us!

“The Get Connected trip was such an amazing experience. It challenged me spiritually and pushed my comfort zone. I was able to learn about my culture and make friends to last a lifetime!”

—Kaitlyn •

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CHAI & MiTY Middle MiTY

Congregation Micah
(615) 377-9799

Julie Greenberg, Congregation Micah education director
jgreenberg@congregationmicah.org

For high school students

CHAI Society, Congregation Micah's high school program, brings teens together for social, spiritual and educational activities and includes membership in Micah Temple Youth (MiTY), part of the National Federation of Temple Youth. CHAI Society meets on Wednesday nights with Rabbi Flip Rice and Education Director Julie Greenberg. MiTY Advisor Sam Herb is a local musician and NFTY alumnus from Jacksonville, Fla.

Together with guest speakers, teens explore texts and topics anchored in Jewish tradition and reflecting modern themes. Through both CHAI Society and MiTY, students enjoy social and spiritual activities, including attending and hosting national and regional NFTY kallot. Locally, members develop social action projects, host lock-ins, and hold fundraisers such as the Purim Carnival to support travel and tzedakah efforts. Teens also enjoy immersive Jewish journeys to New York City, Washington, Montgomery and Israel.

For middle school students

Middle MiTY is Micah's youth group for those in grades 6 to 8, with activities centering on worship, social action and team-building.

Under the guidance of sponsor Rebekah Zeitlin, these students' tzedakah contributions benefit the Ronald McDonald House, where they also volunteer by making meals for resident families and collecting aluminum pull tabs. Chanukah on Wheels with Henry S. Jacobs Camp and the annual Rockin' Lock-In hosted by local songwriters and musicians are two of many highlights.

To participate: Call the Micah office or contact Education Director Julie Greenberg for details and come see what the fun's about. •

MTUSY/Kadima Middle Tennessee United Synagogue Youth

West End Synagogue
3810 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205
(615) 269-4592
www.westendsyn.org/community/usy-and-kadima
hanegevusy.org
mtnusy@gmail.com
 Facebook groups/54855516356/

Rosalie Shays, Advisor
Debby Wiston, Youth Commission Chair

MTUSY is the local chapter of United Synagogue Youth, the official youth organization of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. It provides a comfortable social and educational environment for Jewish teens in Nashville, the Southeast region, the United States and throughout the world. USY strives to build meaningful relationships between its members.

More about us

MTUSY, West End Synagogue's chapter of USY, is open to all Jewish youth in grades 8 to 12. MTUSY falls under HaNegev region, which includes chapters in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida and Mississippi. HaNegev is divided into three subregions; MTUSY is in the Ein Gedi subregion, which includes every state in the region but Florida. MTUSY participates in local, sub-regional, regional and national events including conventions, leadership training and Shabbatons with sister chapters. MTUSY plans a wide variety of local events such as Friday night dinners, Shabbat services for USY, social action projects such as Room in the Inn and activities like laser tag, swimming, baking hamantashen, leading services, movies, Ein-Gedi sub-regional conventions, HaNegev conventions, and Yom Universal in Florida.

United Synagogue also has a youth group called Kadima, which offers social, cultural and religious events for those in grades 5 to 7. There are also regional conventions and events for this age group.

How to join

If you are interested in learning more about USY or Kadima, please visit www.hanegevusy.org. You can also contact West End Synagogue at (615) 269-4592 or obtain registration forms by emailing MTNUSY@gmail.com •

TOaSTY

The Temple – Ohabai Sholom
5015 Harding Pike
Nashville, TN 37205

Rabbi Michael Shulman, director of education and next generation programming
(615) 352-7620, ext. 233
rabbishulman@templenashville.org

The Temple Ohabai Sholom Temple Youth is our high school youth group for 8th-12th graders. Whether you are interested in social events, social action projects, or religious and educational events, TOaSTY has something that will interest you. If you are interested in getting more involved in any of these programs for high schoolers, NFTY trips to Israel, Regional Kallot, or our local TOaSTY events please contact Rabbi Shulman at rabbishulman@templenashville.org •

Learn more about the
Nashville Jewish community at
www.jewishnashville.org

Young Adult Organizations

NowGen Nashville

801 Percy Warner Blvd., Suite 102
Nashville, TN 37205
nowgennashville.org
Facebook: NowGen Nashville

Eitan Snyder
eitan@jewishnashville.org



develop the next generation of local, national, and international leadership in the Jewish community. •



Young Jewish adults in Nashville enjoy social, cultural, and religious events and programs.

NowGen is the Young Adult Division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville and is a hub for young Jewish life in Nashville. NowGen hosts a wide array of events, programs, and activities to connect Jews in their 20s and 30s to each other and to the rest of Nashville's Jewish community.

NowGen's goal, in partnership with the rest of Nashville's Jewish organizations, is to inspire young Jews in Nashville to build robust Jewish practices and social networks, support the community's future financial foundation through regular campaign giving, and



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Rabbi Shlomo Rothstein, rabbi and co-director
(615) 686-3905

Nechama Rothstein, co-director

Rabbi Gavriel Isenberg, assistant rabbi and general manager of Aryeh's Kitchen
(520) 425-6411

The Rohr Chabad House at Vanderbilt University connects with Jewish students, creates Jewish community at Vanderbilt, provides a meaningful and authentic Jewish experience on campus and is a warm, accepting home away from home for all college students.

The college years are a unique time, four intense years away from home during which young adults experience a new sense of freedom and stress, new ideas and opportunities, fear of the future and becoming an adult, and everything that growing up entails. It is also the time when people forge their identities and make decisions that will impact their lives in a significant manner.

The Rohr Chabad House is a Jewish rock in the storm of life and there for students in all ways to help them grow and develop as human beings and as Jews.

The first thing you will notice upon entering the Chabad House is the feeling of home and acceptance. Students from all sorts of Jewish backgrounds are celebrating together like family. The ideas shared are uplifting and thought-provoking and you can't miss the joy that fills the air.

We work to create a healthy Jewish environment at Vanderbilt in which Jewish students are excited to identify and act like Jews and where non-Jewish students appreciate and respect their Jewish peers.

Our signature offerings are weekly Shabbat dinners, Mega Rosh Hashanah and Passover Seder on Alumni Lawn, Birthright trips to Israel, the Sinai Scholars Society and other Jewish classes, and on-campus engagement events and talks that reach the broader Vanderbilt community. We offer a Rabbi and Rebbetzin on call at all times for students and spend much time meeting, counseling, and studying Torah with them.

To participate: Check the website for times of classes and events. Drop by, or email Nechama Rothstein at nechama@chabadvanderbilt.com •

Learn more about the Nashville Jewish community at
www.jewishnashville.org



Upper classmen FYSH-cilitators leading 2021 leading preorientation program FYSHfest

Vanderbilt Hillel

Schulman Center for Jewish Life
2421 Vanderbilt Place
Nashville, TN 37212
(615) 322-8376

www.vuhillel.org

Hillel@vanderbilt.edu

f www.facebook.com/vanderbilt.hillel

Twitter, Instagram: @VandyHillel



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Russell Smith, Board president

Professional staff, below, can be reached with main phone number above

Ari Dubin, Executive Director
ari.dubin@vanderbilt.edu

Veronica Grady, Programming Director
veronica.l.grady@vanderbilt.edu

LilyFish Gomberg, Ezra Springboard Fellow
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Leetal Shoshan, Jewish Agency & Escoll Family Israel Fellow
Leetal.shoshan@vanderbilt.edu

Shannon Small, Development Director
shannon.small@vanderbilt.edu

Valerie Landa, Accountant
valerie.landa@vanderbilt.edu

Vanderbilt Hillel is the center of Jewish life at Vanderbilt, serving the religious, social, and educational needs of the undergraduate and graduate Jewish student communities. Vanderbilt Hillel prides itself on offering Jewish college students different ways to express their Jewishness through creative holiday programs and cultural events.

Established in 2002, Vanderbilt Hillel is a student-centered



Students enjoying the 2021 Rosh Hashanah seders with delicious kosher catered meals from Goldie Shepard

Jewish organization on the Vanderbilt University campus that caters to the over 1000 Jewish students at Vanderbilt University and Jewish students engaged in institutions of higher education all over the Middle Tennessee region. Vanderbilt Hillel is based within the Schulman Center for Jewish Life, conveniently located in the heart of the Vanderbilt University campus, and the home of the popular Grin's Kosher Vegetarian restaurant.



Student leaders in front of Vanderbilt Hillel

Part of the Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life movement, Vanderbilt Hillel is a national leader in empowering students to create micro-communities to explore their interests through a Jewish lens and with their peers. Hillel's micro-communities include Tikkun Olam Makers (TOM), Challah for Hunger, Senior Leadership Initiative (SLI), First Year Students of Hillel (FYSH) Programming, etc.

Vanderbilt Hillel's committed staff engages hundreds of students each year through religious and social programming, meaningful conversations about Israel, and impactful community service. Hillel provides an annual Birthright trip and other experiences for students to connect with Jewish communities around the world.

How to participate: Membership is not required for students interested in participating in Vanderbilt Hillel events. All are welcome.

Vanderbilt Hillel offers student-led religious services for Shabbat and holidays during Vanderbilt's academic year. Shabbat services start at 5:30 p.m. weekly. Shabbat dinner is served at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Community members should contact Vanderbilt Hillel, via the contact information provided, for more information about Hillel programming. Vanderbilt Hillel offers financial assistance for students to participate in programs, immersive trips, etc. through the generous support of parents, alumni, the Jewish Federation, and community supporters. •

Micah-Nections

Micah-Nections is a new social hub at Congregation Micah for Nashville area Jews (and those who are Jewishly curious) in their 20s and 30s. Micah-Nections offers programming throughout the year ranging from informal holiday gatherings, Shabbat dinners, hikes, volunteer opportunities, Jewish text study, music and worship gatherings, and more. We invite you to celebrate and explore Jewish life with us as we build community together! •



Moishe House Nashville



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Welcome y'all!! Moishe House Nashville is the new kid on the block and our three residents couldn't be more excited to meet you! We're located in Cleveland Park in East Nashville and provide a welcoming space for all of Music City's Jewish community to gather, meet, and eat. Our house is passionate about making the world a better place and we hope you'll Tikkun Olam with us to deepen our collective impact. We are eager to build partnerships within Jewish Nashville and our community at large! At MoHo Nash, you can expect backyard Shabbat under our string lights, queer text studies, game nights, social justice learnings, and more. Like us on Facebook (Moishe House Nashville), follow us on Instagram (@moishehousenash), and/or contact moishousenash@gmail.com to stay up to speed with all the things we're doing! •



Moishe House residents l. to r. Rose Capin, Shea Northfield, Rachel Pozin



Senior Living Honors Jewish Traditions



Clarendale at Bellevue Place is a senior living community focused on total well-being—mind, body and spirit. The proof is evident in the way the community honors day-to-day traditions and celebrations.



“We are passionate about getting to know all who choose to call Clarendale home, and we love honoring the practices and customs important to our Jewish residents,” says Donna Adlington, Executive Director. “The smiles on their faces are a blessing.”

According to Adlington, she also received words of praise recently from a Clarendale couple’s family; and the comments touched the hearts of the entire team.



The email read: “Thank you and the entire staff at Clarendale for not only acknowledging the Jewish holidays, but for also giving my parents and other Jewish residents the opportunity to observe and celebrate in a safe and beautiful way. It means so much to all of us that you and the staff go above and beyond to be inclusive and accommodating. I knew that Clarendale would be a wonderful home for my parents soon after walking in the door, but I’m more certain than ever that we picked the perfect place for our loved ones.”

Clarendale at Bellevue Place offers independent living, assisted living and dedicated memory care. It is located just 13 miles southwest of downtown Nashville at the intersection of I-40 and US 70 South in One Bellevue Place. To schedule a visit, call 615-271-5511 or go to ClarendaleAtBellevuePlace.com.



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Cultural, Service and Social Organizations

B'nai B'rith Maimonides Lodge #46

Steven Remer, president
go4mets56@aol.com
(615) 356-2383

Founded in the fall of 1863 during the Civil War, B'nai B'rith Maimonides Lodge #46 is the oldest chartered Jewish organization in Nashville. For more than 150 years, it has maintained an out-standing record of brotherhood and benevolence.

Aiding the visually impaired

The lodge has committed to assisting the visually impaired children of Nashville and the surrounding area since 1971. It continues to support visually impaired children by sponsoring the annual Braille Challenge and the Academic Challenge at the Tennessee School for the Blind.

The lodge also works with Jewish Family Services to help meet the many needs of our local visually impaired seniors with products that will enhance their lives. The lodge has established a scholarship that it has awarded for the past six years to help a visually impaired student from Nashville pay for educational needs.

Community outreach

As part of its community outreach, the lodge also assists Jewish Family Service with its Chanukah program for Jewish families in our community. The lodge sponsors brunches throughout the year that feature interesting speakers. Traditionally, the lodge holds four events and four business meetings annually. We have participated in the communitywide celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) and Global Day of Jewish Learning.

The Maimonides Lodge #46 is very proud of its commitment to the mission of B'nai B'rith, which is recognized as a vital voice in promoting Jewish unity and continuity, supporting the State of Israel, advocating on behalf of senior citizens and providing humanitarian aid and disaster relief. There are many opportunities to work with B'nai B'rith, through its website www.bnaibrith.org. The lodge continues to research and apply methods to recruit and retain membership to meet today's busy lifestyles. •

Learn more about the
 Nashville Jewish community at
www.jewishnashville.org

The Jewish Observer of Nashville is online at
www.JewishObserverNashville.org

B'nai B'rith Social Unit

Gayle Lipp, president
gaylelipp@gmail.com

Marilyn Krick, programming vice-president
krick1374@gmail.com

Our B'nai B'rith unit is a social group for empty nesters and those who are about to become empty nesters who are interested in a social connection as well as community involvement.

Friendship, togetherness and support are what our B'nai B'rith chapter is all about, now as well as when we started.

In the early 1990s, Nashville saw an influx of Jewish empty nesters from all across the country. Most came for business reasons, and had moved around enough to know how important it is to become connected to the Jewish community. Because many of these couples came here with no family, a Chavurah was established where friendships flourished and a support group was created.

The group soon decided to affiliate with a Jewish organization, and a new chapter of B'nai B'rith International was established. We decided to organize differently from most existing chapters, so we were founded as a social group for active adults, with the continuing emphasis on support and friendship. Since our inception, we have served as a model for other B'nai B'rith chapters that also strive to promote friendship, social awareness and camaraderie while conforming to the values of Judaism and B'nai B'rith.

Our unit has grown from fewer than 30 members to almost 90. Through the years, we've been engaged in a number of community service projects. These include an annual book drive among our members to provide books to Book'em, which serves underprivileged children; an annual drive to support specific needs of Jewish Family Service; and delivering Meals on Wheels on Christmas Day.

In addition, we plan monthly social, educational or cultural events such as theater outings, lectures on Jewish as well as secular topics, Shabbat dinners, or simple gatherings where we come together as a group just to enjoy each other's company.

We have worked hard to ensure our "togetherness" continues to nurture new and long-lasting friendships with the knowledge that in times of need, we are surrounded by people we can count on for help and support.

We welcome new members to our chapter, whether they are new to Nashville or long-term residents. Contact Marilyn Krick, membership vice president, at krick1374@gmail.com or Gayle Lipp, president, at gaylelipp@gmail.com for further information and to obtain a membership application form. •

Genesis Campus for Jewish Life

Chabad of Nashville

95 Bellevue Road

Nashville, TN 37221

(615) 646-5750

www.chabadnashville.com

www.facebook.com/chabadnashville

rabbi @chabadnashville.com

Tommy Bernard, Board President

Rabbi Yitzchok and Esther Tiechtel

Executive Directors

The Genesis Campus for Jewish Life offers a welcoming space where Jews come together to embark on spiritual journeys, renew their commitment to Judaism or simply enjoy the holidays and traditions. It is a place to nourish your mind, body and soul, spiritually. All are welcome regardless of affiliation, perspectives on Judaism or levels of observance. Looking for a connection, for meaning in the everyday, for joy in our tradition? Chabad of Nashville has what you're seeking.

Our campus

Chabad of Nashville is situated on the Genesis Campus for Jewish Life, on a nine-acre natural landscape in Bellevue. The center uplifts you with its Jerusalem-like entrance, sanctuary with soaring windows, oak library for Torah study, magnificent ballroom with outdoor patio for lifecycle and communal events, two Shabbat guest suites, state-of-the art Montessori preschool, child-friendly classrooms for summer camp and Hebrew school, two commercial kosher banquet kitchens (one dairy, one meat), meditation courtyard, hip youth lounge and spa-like mikvah, the MikSpa. It's a true lighthouse of Judaism.

Programs for people of all ages

Chabad offers a host of services that reflect the work and wisdom of the Rebbe, who taught us to teach and care for everyone, for every individual is important and brings a special light to this world. During the Covid Era Chabad provided Shabbat and holiday meals and essential needs for those who were quarantined, and support for families in needs of financial assistance. Chabad kept its doors open safely, and were a place that



Prior to COVID era, the last event was the Grand Purim Celebration that was attended by many from across the Nashville community. During the COVID era, Chabad of Nashville created the Holiday-In-A-Box series 2021 for Purim, Passover, Shavuot, the High Holidays and Chanukah, and hand delivered them to over 1000 members of the Nashville Jewish community across Middle Tennessee.

many Jewish people from across Middle Tennessee called upon for support and assistance.

Chabad publishes Nashville's Jewish art calendar which includes a programming guide for many of the events and lectures taking place through the year.

Holidays are always celebrated with a unique, creative twist. They include the Shofar Factory, Family SukkahFest, Purim celebrations and the Model Matzah Bakery. We ignite Jewish pride with the lighting of public Chanukah menorahs at the state capitol and around Nashville, and host community Passover seders.

Educational programs include the Jewish Learning Institute, Lunch N' Learn sessions for businesspeople, guest lectures, Rosh Chodesh Society women's group, the Mega Challah Bake, and Torah To Go, tailored to various levels of study and interest in Judaism.

Chabad of Nashville also runs a most fun and nurturing summer day camp for youth, Camp Gan Israel, where children experience warm and loving moments that they cherish for a lifetime.

There's also Shabbat-To-Go, Glatt Kosher take-out Shabbat meals by order, and Shabbat bed and breakfast getaway suites – the "ChallahDay Inn" – that include lodging and delicious Shabbat meals. Call our office about these services.

Chabad also publishes a weekly e-magazine, "eTorah" (sign up to receive it at rabbi@chabadnashville.com), and has an active Facebook page, where you can find upcoming events. Chabad also has a most comprehensive website with all the answers to everything Jewish, at www.chabadnashville.com. Chabad also assists Jewish prison inmates and families in the military services.

To join the Chabad family or just want to check it all out, come on by Chabad of Nashville. We will welcome you as a VIP. We happily look forward to seeing you soon.

At Chabad of Nashville, our motto is "Judaism Done Joyfully." •

To access the Jewish Federation
Community Calendar,
go to www.jewishnashville.org
and click on "Calendar."

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Nashville Chapter of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America

www.hadassah.org

nashville@hadassah.org

 Facebook: Hadassah Nashville

Deana Goldstein, President

deanaegoldstein@gmail.com

615-438-5225

About us

The Nashville Chapter of Hadassah is comprised of a dynamic group of women who share a passion for social action, helping others and supporting the State of Israel. This multigenerational group of women also focuses on women's health issues, education, and just getting together to have a good time. Our Nashville chapter, comprised of more than 600 women and over 150 male associates, offers many programming and volunteer opportunities for those who want to be involved. We endeavor to combine programming that is informative and inspirational, encouraging members to contribute to Hadassah's mission. Some of our programs have included:

- Virtual Book Club Discussions Bi-Monthly
- Election Discussion with Frontline Producer Gabrielle Schonder
- Hanukkah Happy Hour
- Challah Baking
- Annual Donor Event

Hadassah's fundraising efforts support the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) in Israel, which has been a world leader in medical research and in fostering peace through the power of healing. In 2005, Hadassah Medical Organization was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. It treats all patients regardless of race, religion

or nationality. HMO has also been a leader in helping to treat COVID 19 patients during this pandemic.

Other Hadassah initiatives include Youth Aliyah that provides services to immigrant and at-risk children in Israel, and Young Judea, which runs camps and youth programs in the United States and the well-attended Year Course in Israel.

In addition to supporting causes in Israel, Hadassah promotes equality and advocates for women's issues here in the United States. Included on Hadassah's domestic advocacy agenda are gender equity in medical research (GEM), ending human trafficking, securing women's reproductive rights, and sensible gun safety legislation.

How to join

Call or e-mail us if you would like to attend any of our events. Go to www.Hadassah.org to join our organization and check out our Hadassah Nashville Facebook page. Each of us has the power to heal our world and make an impact! •



Our Global Impact

- Healthcare & Research
- Israel & Jewish Values
- Women's Empowerment

Nashville@Hadassah.org

Web: www.Hadassah.org ■ Nashville Facebook: Hadassah Nashville

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The Nashville Israeli Folk Dancers

Sharon Morrow
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615-312-9019 - work
(615) 491-0840 - cell

Evelyn Koch
kochevelyn@hotmail.com
615-337-4482

f Facebook: Nashville Israeli Folk Dancers

The Nashville Israeli Folk Dance Group was started in 1993 by a small group of amateur folk dance enthusiasts. It is modeled after groups found in every major city in the world in which people of all ages and cultures get together regularly to participate in Israeli folk dancing.

Since Israel's population is the result of an ingathering of many different nationalities, its folk dance repertoire is truly international. Dance styles include Spanish, Hasidic, Moroccan, Yemeni, Greek – even disco and rock. The Nashville group has flourished with weekly dance sessions, courses for beginners, workshops with renowned instructors from Israel, community outreach, parties and performances. In Nashville, Israeli dancing means great music and exercise among the friendliest people in town.

We have two weekly sessions:

- Wednesday, 5:45-7:00 p.m., at Akiva School. The first half hour is for beginners/easy dancing and remainder for intermediate/advanced dancing.
- Friday, 11:30-12:45 a.m. at the JCC in the gym downstairs

Please contact us if you would like to be on our mailing list to receive notices of upcoming events, including special beginner courses and dance workshops, or if you have any questions about our group.

And check our Facebook page (Nashville Israeli Folk Dancers) for upcoming workshops, weekly class information, or special events. •



Nashville Jewish Film Festival

801 Percy Warner Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37205
(615) 356-7170
www.nashvillejewishff.org
f www.facebook.com/
nashvillejewishfilmfestival
fran@nashvillejcc.org



Volunteer co-chairs: Jamie Brook, Laurie Eskind, Jackie Roth Karr, Cindy Moskovitz, Loretta Saff

Managing director: Fran Brumlik
fran@nashvillejcc.org ;

Program Assistant; Sharon Benus
sharonb@nashvillejcc.org

Each year, NJFF shows 15 contemporary films that reflect upon Jewish life in Nashville, the U.S., Israel, and the world, in an effort to build bridges of understanding within our community and with our neighbors.

Plans are under way for the 2022 Nashville Jewish Film Festival, set for October/November. While we may not know the location of the festival at this time, we do know that the films selected will be the best new films that fulfill our mission as well as meet the highest standards of cinema.

NJFF is a program of the Gordon Jewish Community Center, and 2022 will be its 22nd year of creating a forum for the wider Middle Tennessee community to understand the complexity of issues surrounding Jewish life in contemporary society. We are following a busy, successful, virtual 2021 season.

Our seasons are varied, with comedies, documentaries and features with films ranging from the Opening Night feature, "Kiss Me KOSHER" to documentaries like "Soros," "The One and Only Jewish Miss America" and "Bully. Coward. Victim: the story of Roy Cohn." Narrative films reflect Jewish life in an entertaining manner. Among last years, features were "Love It Was Not," "Tango Shalom" and "A Starry Night Over the Roman Ghetto."

Integral to our festival are the post show discussions and talks with both creative participants in the films or experts in the areas that the films address.

Each year NJFF presents the annual Kathryn H. Gutow Student Film Competition. Originating in 2005 and named in memory of the co-founder of the festival, the competition features thematically Jewish films made by students from campuses around the world. The student filmmakers are eligible for a \$1,000 cash prize made possible by the Kathryn H. Gutow Fund for Jewish Arts and Culture. Student film competition finalists are screened during the NJFF. The winning film is then screened the following year during the annual Nashville Film Festival.

How to participate, volunteer, sponsor the NJFF or submit student films: contact Fran Brumlik at fran@nashvillejcc.org

How to participate: Contact Fran Brumlik to submit a student film. •

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National Council of Jewish Women, Nashville Section

801 Percy Warner Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37205
nashvillencjw@gmail.com
www.ncjwnashville.org

Erin Coleman, president

La Quita Martin, Sherri Rosenberg and
Harriet Workman, vice presidents of advocacy

Hayley Kupin and April Nemer, vice presidents of
projects

Stephanie Korn, Marci Levy, Mollie Perry and
Lauren Wachsman, vice presidents of programming

Felicia Abramson, Tracy Leff, and Katie Wayne,
vice presidents of membership

Julie Fortune, secretary

Kim Lapidus and Liza Star, treasurers

Amy R. Smith, immediate past president

Jennifer Hoffman, executive director

The Nashville section of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.

Nationally, NCJW takes a progressive stance on issues such as child welfare, women's rights and reproductive freedom. The Nashville section is pleased to support advocacy efforts such as NCJW's Reproductive Justice Campaign, which educates and empowers individuals to advocate for women's universal access to contraceptive information and health services.

Locally, NCJW's 490 members are involved and volunteer in service to the community in a number of ways. Some of the local projects the Nashville section currently supports are:

- A Step Ahead, providing women with access to free long acting, reversible contraception so that they can plan for pregnancy and parenthood
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program for children
- Gilda's Club of Middle Tennessee, supporting youth and family programming
- Jewish Family Service Kosher Food Box, providing food for local Jewish families
- Jewish Family Service Passover Box, providing Passover sup-

plies for local Jewish families who also receive Kosher Food boxes

- REACH for Survivorship, a program for children and adults with cancer at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt and the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center
- Renewal House, Nashville's first, largest, and most comprehensive long-term recovery community for women with addictions and their children
- Scholarship Loan Program, providing no-interest loans for undergraduate and graduate students
- Senior Friends, delivering traditional Rosh Hashanah food items to seniors
- Snack Box Program for children attending the Sexual Abuse Clinic
- Vanderbilt Hillel Shabbat dinners •



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Behind the Mall at Green Hills


www.nashgreenhillssuites.hamptoninn.com

Learn more about the
Nashville Jewish community at
www.jewishnashville.org

The Jewish Observer of Nashville is online at
www.JewishObserverNashville.org

East Side Tribe Nashville

Eastsidetribe.org

 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/eastsidetribenashville/>

East Side Tribe is a grassroots social and spiritual community fueled by Jewish values and rooted in East Nashville. Our mission is to create and strengthen relationships with each other and with Judaism by collaboratively organizing social, ritual, and educational gatherings in our own neighborhoods. We welcome every Jewish or Jew-related individual regardless of background, faith, or ability, and help them feel a sense of belonging in the community. Join us for monthly Shabbat gatherings, holiday events, newcomer meetups, and engaging learning opportunities. Sign up for our mailing list at eastsidetribe.org and join our Facebook community at [facebook.com/groups/eastsidetribenashville/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/eastsidetribenashville/). •



East Side Tribe community members enjoy Shabbat gatherings, holiday events, and other engaging opportunities.



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Federation of
Greater Nashville



Jewsic City Shabbat

 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/jewsiccityshabbat>

Co-leaders: Ellie Flier, Julia Motis and Natalie Steinberg

Jewsic City creates a space for people to come together for Jewish musical experiences outside of traditional synagogues and denominations, and in the style of Jewish summer camps. We are a thriving group of young professionals and others who want to experience Judaism in a meaningful way through music, prayer and community. No matter if we gather for Friday night services, Havdalah campfires, song sessions or other innovative programs, the core of our events is a Jewish musical experience, incorporating prayers and melodies from multiple streams of Judaism and spiritual secularism. As Jewsic City's motto goes: "We are rooted in tradition, but not at all traditional."

Please feel free to email us with any questions or to join our Facebook page! •



The Jewish Genealogical Society of Nashville

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Nashville is a member of the IAJGS (International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies). We hold meetings on a monthly basis with guest speakers, presentations by subject experts, and to assist other members with their research. The objectives of the Society are:



- 1) To collect, preserve, and disseminate knowledge and information with reference to Jewish genealogy.
- 2) To promote interest and encourage interested persons to engage in genealogical research.
- 3) To stimulate and provide instruction in research methodology, the utilization of resources and adherence to standards of accuracy and thoroughness.
- 4) To provide opportunities for the sharing of Jewish genealogical information.
- 5) To foster careful documentation and to promote scholarly genealogical writing and publication.
- 6) To hold meetings for the instruction and education of its members and the general public.

For information regarding upcoming events, please see our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/JGSNashville>. For membership and additional information, please email us at: NashvilleJGS@gmail.com. •

Jewish Murfreesboro

An outreach effort of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, Jewish Murfreesboro is a locally-organized group where Jews living in Rutherford County can get together, communicate, organize programs and grow community. The first program was a Hanukkah party held in December 2019. •

Jewish Nolensville

Established in late 2019, the group, an outreach effort of the Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville, began with a Hanukkah party at Nolensville Town Hall. The group is for Jewish families and individuals in Nolensville to celebrate events and socialize. •

Political Organizations

AIPAC – The American Israel Public Affairs Committee

Southeast Regional Office

Atlanta, GA

(678) 254-2620

www.aipac.org

AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, is the only American organization whose sole mission is to lobby the U.S. government about legislation that strengthens the relationship between the United States and Israel. AIPAC is not a political action committee and does not rate or endorse candidates. AIPAC is a pro-Israel, bipartisan lobbying organization.

More than 100,000 citizens from across the country work with AIPAC staff to strengthen the bonds between the United States and Israel. AIPAC members in all 50 states are encouraged to be politically active and develop relationships with their members of Congress to help educate them about the importance of U.S.-Israel ties. While building support in Washington is essential, AIPAC is found wherever the future of the U.S.-Israel relationship could be affected. AIPAC has a network of 10 regional offices and seven satellite offices that help pro-Israel activists from Missoula to Miami learn how they can affect Israel's future and security by promoting strong ties with the United States.

Pro-Israel advocacy and strengthening the U.S.-Israel relationship is a cause that concerns a broad spectrum of Americans. AIPAC professionals work with synagogues and churches to promote pro-Israel advocacy in their congregations. African-American and Hispanic leaders work with AIPAC staff and their members of Congress to ensure that America supports our ally in the Middle East. AIPAC also works on hundreds of college and high school campuses, empowering and educating student activists to answer Israel's detractors and on how to use political involvement to build support for Israel. AIPAC empowers pro-Israel activists across all ages, religions and races to be politically engaged and build relationships with members of Congress from both sides of the aisle to promote the U.S.-Israel relationship. •

J Street Nashville

P.O. Box 58525

Nashville, TN 37205

www.Jstreet.org/nashville

Shayna Abrams, Chair

hapshepsute@gmail.com

J Street Nashville is the local chapter of J Street, the national political home for pro-Israel, pro-peace Americans. The organization gives political voice to mainstream American Jews and other

supporters of Israel who believe that a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is essential to Israel's survival as the national home of the Jewish people and a vibrant democracy.

J Street's mission is twofold: first, to support American diplomatic leadership in helping to achieve a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians, as well as a broader regional peace; second, to ensure open discussion of Israel and the Middle East in national politics and the American Jewish community.

J Street Nashville, part of the J Street Educational Foundation, offers a variety of educational activities and opportunities. Such events include nationally and internationally recognized speakers, and smaller group presentations on various topics, relating to American Jewish concerns regarding Israel and the Middle East. •

Nashville Jewish Social Justice Roundtable

Irwin Venick and Avi Poster

www.jsjrnashville.org

jsjrnashville@gmail.com

The Nashville Jewish Social Justice Roundtable is an independent, non-partisan Jewish voice for progressive views on social justice issues including poverty, affordable housing, education, mass incarceration, employment and voting rights primarily focused on local and state concerns.

Formed in 2016 and open to all members of the Jewish community, the NJSJR stands on the Jewish moral values of mishpat (justice for all); tzedakah (social justice); gemilut hesedim (acts of loving kindness) and rahamim (compassion for those in need). Our mission is to advocate in support of solutions to problems that will advance the principles of democratic pluralism, religious freedom and economic justice.

When appropriate, NJSJR takes positions on specific social justice issues and encourages its members to advocate for those positions by contacting civic leaders and others via email and telephone, being sure to let them know that the opinion expressed is from this Nashville Jewish organization. At other times, NJSJR will join with groups in the broader Nashville community to strengthen advocacy for social justice issues. NJSJR also sponsors membership meetings to educate its members and the larger Jewish community about timely concerns. Over time NJSJR plans to affiliate with national Jewish social justice organizations to better educate its members and the greater Nashville Jewish community on national issues of specific local and state concern.

As NJSJR is primarily concerned about local and state social justice issues, it does not address issues involving Israel or the Middle East.

Anyone interested in joining the Nashville Jewish Social Justice Roundtable can sign up at <http://jsjrnashville.org>. To learn more about NJSJR contact Irwin Venick (irwin.venick@gmail.com or (615) 390-6689) or Avi Poster (aviposter4@gmail.com or (615) 414-2396). •

Community Educational Resources

Annette Levy Ratkin Jewish Community Archives

801 Percy Warner Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37205
(615) 354-1655
Fax: (615) 352-0056

www.jewishnashville.org/resources/annette-levy-ratkin-archives

Lynn Fleischer, archive associate
archives@jewishnashville.org

The Jewish Federation & Jewish Foundation of Greater Nashville is the main source of funding for the archives which was cre-



ated by the Jewish Educational Services Committee of the Federation in the 1970s. A grant from the National Historical Records and Publications Commission was secured to hire staff and purchase materials. The first collections included the research materials amassed by Fedora Small Frank when she published two books about the development of the Nashville Jewish community in the latter half of the 1800s.

Since 1979, records of individuals, families, businesses, organizations, and institutions of the Jewish communities of Middle Tennessee have been added to create an archive of 319 linear feet. Housed in the Gordon Jewish Community Center, the archives can be accessed by appointment. If the archive is to remain relevant, the members of the community must support its growth by contributing their stories. Please remember when closing a business, cleaning out a house or changing organizational officers that documents and photographs tell a story and can be deposited for historical use in our archive.

An endeavor to digitize the archives began in late spring of 2020. The objective of the five-year Digitization Project is to make collections accessible from anywhere for future generations. The scanning of the Federation holdings, the GJCC collection, Jewish Family Service files, plus several Manuscript and Small collections have been completed by an intern who was hired specifically for the project. Continuation of this project is financially supported by independent fundraising. To learn about opportunities to support this important endeavor, please contact Scott O'Neal at Scott@jewishnashville.org.

One of our greatest treasures is an oral history audiotape collection, created by National Council of Jewish Women. The transcribed histories document the memories of older adults who grew up in Nashville. There are opportunities for volunteers to record additional interviews. A DVD oral history collection contains the experiences of Holocaust refugees, survivors, and liberators, some of which are available on the website of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission.

Important ongoing work of the archives staff is developing and housing local family trees used in genealogy research. It is amazing the family interconnectedness in this Jewish community. An active Jewish Genealogical Society meets in person and by Zoom monthly. Many useful research resources are housed in the GJCC Library as well as the archives. The mission of the archives is to preserve the records of the Jews of the Middle Tennessee Area. Please consider donating your family's papers as a legacy. To find out further information contact the staff using the information listed above. •

Crawford Funeral Home



2714 Grandview Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37211
(615) 254-8200
www.crawfordservices.com

Learn more about the Nashville Jewish community at
www.jewishnashville.org

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Gordon Jewish Community Center Library

801 Percy Warner Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37205
(615) 356-7170, ext. 1679
Fax: (615) 353-2659

The Gordon JCC Library has a spacious look and is used for reading and meeting. Arrangements to use the room for a meeting are made through Marilyn Rubin, (615) 354-1679, in the JCC office. If you use the room for reading purposes, you can find children's/ juvenile books, fiction, biographies, history or cookbooks, along with books about Jewish practice and holidays, the Holocaust, Israel, and many other topics related to Jewish life and religion. The library has special collections of large-print books and yizkor books compiled by survivors of East European shtetls. The collections can be located by using the patron computer station in the library.

Materials may be borrowed for two weeks and renewed by phone. A video or DVD checkout must be arranged in advance by contacting the staff. The library is usually open whenever the JCC main building is open. •

Middle Tennessee Jewish and Holocaust Studies: An interdisciplinary minor

College of Liberal Arts,
Middle Tennessee State University

Advisor: Dr Elyce Rae Helford
elyce.helford@mtsu.edu

The MTSU Jewish and Holocaust Studies minor offers undergraduate students an opportunity to study the diasporic culture and religion of the Jewish people alongside the Holocaust within an interdisciplinary minor program housed in the College of Liberal Arts and affiliated with the department of Global Studies. Studies include courses in history and culture, the humanities and social sciences, and the methodologies of Jewish studies and genocide studies disciplines. The 15-hour minor provides opportunity for rich and enlightening intellectual development that complements many majors, from History and World Languages and Literatures to Sociology and Religious Studies. Students are encouraged to develop greater understanding of the relationship of the past to the present and to embrace tolerance and respect for diversity as they confront hate and reject violence.

Recent courses offered include Jewish Writers in Translation, Holocaust Memory and Justice, Jewish Culture and Civilization, and Holocaust Survivor Literature.

For more information, visit www.mtsu.edu/jhstudies. •

To access the Jewish Federation Community Calendar,
go to www.jewishnashville.org
and click on "Calendar."

Tennessee Holocaust Commission

P.O. Box 59252
Nashville, TN 37205
(615) 527-8114
www.tnholcom.org
 www.facebook.com/tnholcom/
tnholcom@tnholcom.org

Larry Leibowitz, Commission Chair
Alyssa Trachtman, Director of Operations

One of the oldest and most recognized organizations of its kind in the United States, the Tennessee Holocaust Commission was formed in 1984 to commemorate the Holocaust and educate the public. We provide seminars, educational resources, workshops, traveling exhibits and commemorations to school systems and communities statewide.

The commission creates awareness of the Holocaust to fight prejudice and to encourage tolerance and understanding among all people.

Our efforts include:

- Educator programs
- Teacher workshops and fellowships
- Customized classroom resources
- Loaned literature
- Educational outreach
- Trips to the U.S. Holocaust Museum
- Trips to primary Holocaust sites in Europe
- Belz-Lipman Holocaust Educator of the Year Award
- Adult workshops
- Speakers' bureau
- Annual Days of Remembrance commemorations
- "Living On" multimedia exhibition featuring Tennessee survivors and liberators
- Traveling exhibits •

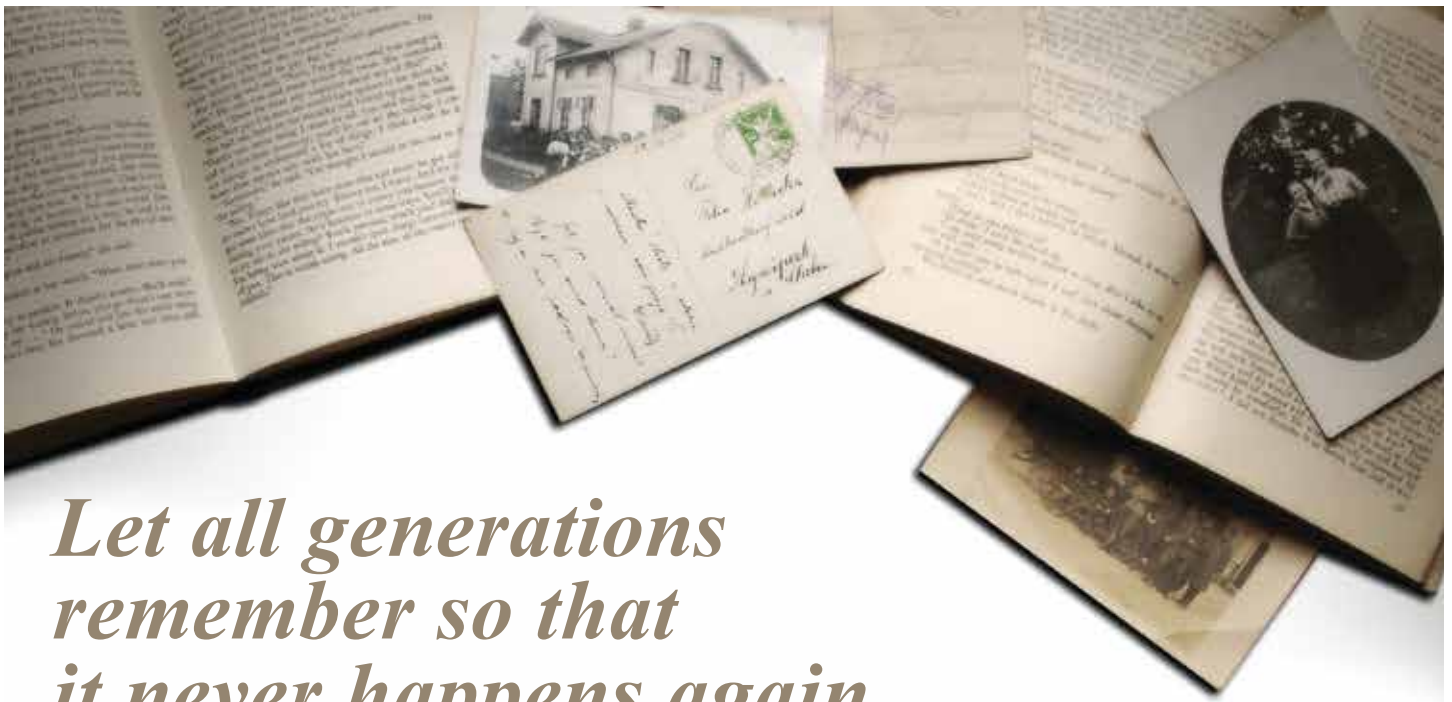
Vanderbilt University Judaica Collection

Vanderbilt University Divinity Library
419 21st Ave. S.
Nashville, TN 37240-0007
(615) 343-2865
Fax: (615) 343-2918
divlib@library.vanderbilt.edu

Not for scholars only!

Vanderbilt's renowned Harry and Mary Zimmerman Judaica Collection is not limited to university students and faculty. The librarians want Nashville's Jewish community to know that anyone who wishes to use this extensive collection of religious books, research material and Yiddish and Hebrew literature is welcome to do so. The Judaica collection, the largest in the South, includes works by Franz Rosenzweig, Gershom Scholem and Martin Buber. There are also 1,600 Yiddish and Hebrew

Continued on page 65



Let all generations remember so that it never happens again.

The Tennessee Holocaust Commission (THC) provides education and promotes remembrance of the Holocaust to the state of Tennessee. THC provides teachers, students and individuals with seminars, resources, workshops, traveling exhibits and commemorations to create awareness of the Holocaust; to fight prejudice and to encourage tolerance and understanding among all people.

Tennessee Holocaust Commission Programs:

- Annual Educator Outreach Programs
- Living On exhibition and newly published book featuring portraits of Tennessee Holocaust survivors and liberators
- Customized Teacher Resources
- Belz-Lipman Holocaust Educator of the Year
- Teacher Workshops & Fellowships
- Annual Day of Remembrance Commemoration
- Mira Kimmelman Essay Contest
- Law Enforcement Training
- Workforce Diversity Workshops
- Ethics in Leadership Program
- Understanding and Treating Trauma through study of Holocaust Survivor



Tennessee Holocaust Commission

P.O. Box 59252
Nashville, TN 37205
Phone: 615-527-8114
E-mail: tnholcom@tnholcom.org
Web: www.tnholcom.org



Kosher in Nashville

Grocery Stores

Kroger - Green Hills

Publix - Various locations in Nashville

Sprouts - Bellevue and Franklin/Cool Springs

Walmart - 7044 Charlotte Pike, Nashville 37209, (615) 352-4129

Kosher meat and food services

Griller's Pride

www.grillerspride.com

Based in Atlanta, Griller's Pride has an extensive array of frozen kosher meat, chicken, and prepared foods and delivers to Nashville approximately every five to six weeks. Overnight special delivery can also be arranged. Griller's Pride also offers extensive Kosher-for-Passover items in season.

Grow and Behold

www.growandbehold.com

This New Jersey-based service offers premium kosher beef, veal, lamb, poultry and cheeses. There is a Buying Club in Nashville that receives delivery approximately every six weeks.

Restaurants

Grins Vegetarian Café

Schulman Center for Jewish Life on Vanderbilt Campus

2421 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville 37212

(615) 322-8571

www.bongojava.com/grins/

Grins is the Kosher vegetarian (both vegan and dairy) cafe located at Vanderbilt Hillel, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. It is open during Vanderbilt's academic year and free parking is available. Grins is regularly recognized as one of the best vegetarian restaurants in Nashville. Certified by Nashville Kashrut Commission.

AVO

3 City Blvd., #200

Nashville 37209

(615) 329-2377

www.eatavo.com

AVO is a kosher vegan restaurant located in midtown. Open weekdays and Sundays for brunch. Many items available for delivery via the Door Dash app. NKC. Parve.

Aryeh's Kitchen

213 24th Avenue South

Nashville 37212

(615) 455-0542

<http://aryehs.com/>

Kosher fleishig food truck on the Vanderbilt campus featuring a variety of sandwiches. Open Mondays through Thursdays; closed during Vanderbilt school breaks; hours posted on the web site above. Managed by Rabbi Gavriel Isenberg, assistant rabbi and director of graduate student programming at Chabad Vanderbilt. Aryeh's is now on the Vanderbilt meal plan.

Baked Goods

Panima Bakery offers pareve and Pas Yisrael challahs and muffins prepared under Rabbi Saul Strosberg's supervision at the Akiva School and are available at Akiva, the Jewish Community Center, Produce Place and, of course, Sherith Israel. Twenty percent of Panima's revenues are donated to Akiva School. For more information, contact Erika Shuman, erikashuman@comcast.net.

Nothing Bundt Cakes

21 White Bridge Rd., Suite 111B

Nashville 37205

(615) 354-6300

www.nothingbundtcakes.com

Kosher dairy bundt cakes. NKC.

Krispy Kreme Doughnuts

408 Thompson Lane

Nashville 37211

(615) 254-5966

<https://www.krispykreme.com/location/nashville-thompson-ln>

This particular shop is certified Kosher by NKC each year from Dec. 1 to Jan. 1.

Kosher Wines & Liquors

Kosher wines are available at many local liquor stores, most notably:

Belle Meade Wine & Spirits (Belle Meade, next to Kroger)

The Wine Chap (Belle Meade, next to Publix)

Red (Bellevue)

Grand Cru (Sylvan Park)

The Wine Shoppe at Green Hills (Grace's Plaza)

Grocery store sources include Trader Joe's, Green Hills; and the Belle Meade Kroger.

Vendors/Manufacturers

Short Mountain Distillery

Under supervision of NKC.

Nashville Toffee Company

All products certified kosher dairy by NKC.

The Pasta Shoppe

Fun Pastas packaged by themselves are certified kosher by NKC. The nests, meringues, meals and sauce are not under supervision, nor are pastas packaged with a seasoning package.

Leon's Candy

Leonscandy.com

Certified by NKC.

Franklin Juice Company

www.franklinjuice.com

Certified by NKC.

Venues and Caterers

Sova/Take-Away Caterers

www.sovafood.com

Regularly caters events out of the Sherith Israel kitchens under Rabbi Strosberg's supervision.

Bobbie Limor
(615) 479-2934

Regularly caters events out of the Sherith Israel kitchens under Rabbi Strosberg's supervision.

Goldie Shepard
(615) 305-9438

Caters Shabbat dinners and Passover meals for Vanderbilt Hillel, and caters events out of the Sherith Israel kitchens under Rabbi Strosberg's supervision.

Ess & Fress

Kosher and kosher-style catering company with over 30 years of professional restaurant experience focusing on simchas of all types. They also are a distributor of kosher groceries including meats, cheeses, fish and specialty items that are nearly impossible to find in Nashville. If you are having trouble finding items through your local grocery store, give them a call! For orders and pickup arrangements, or any special or-

ders, email Dvora at essandfress-catering@gmail.com.

Nashville Kosher Take Out
Chabad of Nashville
95 Bellevue Rd.
(615) 646-5750

Nashvillekosherstakeout.com

Provides kosher meals, packaged with the kosher traveler in mind. Prepared under the supervision of Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel at Chabad of Nashville. Entrees are prepared using ingredients that are Glatt kosher, Chalav Yisrael and Bishul Yisrael. Meals are double-wrapped in foil so they can be reheated in any hotel oven, and are designed for freezing and reheating. Menus include breakfast/brunch and lunch/dinner. Orders should be made at least 48 hours in advance, and can be picked up at Chabad or sent by Uber or Lyft to a local hotel. With a week's notice, menus of \$750 or more can be personalized. •

JFS offers assistance with kosher food boxes

Since 2009, Jewish Family Services has been providing supplemental kosher food to Jewish families and individuals who are struggling financially on a monthly basis. Kosher food boxes are given on a confidential basis, and contain items that have been approved by a rabbi and a dietician. The boxes can feed an individual or couple for one week, or a family of four for five days. In addition to the non-perishable items in the box,

recipients also receive a voucher for fresh fruits and vegetables, which can be redeemed at the vegetable stand located on the corner of Highway 70 and Percy Warner Blvd. Giving each family an opportunity to enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables is just another example of how JFS strives to care for the community. To apply for the Kosher Food Box Program please contact Toni Jacobsen at (615) 354-1672 or email tljlcsw@aol.com •

A few points about Kosher food in Nashville

- Kosher products in the supermarkets preceded by (D) contain milk. They are not Chalav Israel.
- ALWAYS check the product each time you purchase it as the certification may change or discontinue.
- If a certain product is kosher, it does not mean that other products of the same company are kosher.
- If a certain product has a kosher symbol or rabbinical supervision, it does not mean that the same product without the symbol or supervision is kosher. Some ingredients may vary.
- If a product is kosher, it does not mean that the same product made elsewhere is kosher. Some ingredients may vary.
- Many products are kosher for the whole year but not for Passover, unless it has a (P) after the symbol or otherwise mentioned.

Source:
www.chabadnashville.com/templates/articlecco_cdo/aid/509717/jewish/Kosher-Food.htm

Kosher Takeout Comes to Nashville

On any typical day, several calls come into the office at Chabad of Nashville, all with the same question. "Hi, I am going to be in Nashville next week-end and I have no idea where I can get kosher food." "I am coming for a conference and I need kosher meals."

"My family is visiting Nashville, can you guide me on where can get food for Shabbat? Can you help me out?"

Chabad realized there were very limited answers to that question, especially to those that were seeking kosher meals of seafood, poultry and beef. As the phones at the Chabad of Nashville kept on ringing, with many people seeking Glatt Kosher meals, we knew we needed to come up with another alternative for people to get high-quality delicious Kosher takeout food, and the brainstorming began! All types of ideas were generated, and the outcome was the creation of the website Nashvillekosherstakeout.com

The mission is a simple one. To provide visitors to Nashville with delicious mouth-watering kosher meals! Whether one is a traveler visiting Nashville, or if one calls Nashville home and desired a delicious kosher meal delivered to their home via Uber, we now have them covered!

Nashville Kosher Take Out provides high quality, chef driven, fresh frozen meals, with an ever expanding menu, adding new items to the varied menu regularly. The menu includes various

chicken dishes, beef dishes including brisket, pot roast, meatballs, salmon, and vegetarian options.

In addition Nashville Kosher Takeout offers breakfast, salads, and desserts. All meals are packaged with the kosher traveler in mind, double wrapped so that they can be warmed up in a hotel oven, created using kosher ingredients of the highest standard and prepared in the kosher banquet kitchen at Chabad of Nashville.

Ordering of meals is easy and simple. Visit Nashvillekosherstakeout.com, click on the link "order here" and the meal options currently available to order. The ordering process is quite easy. We do ask that orders be made 48 hours in advance of when you need your meals. Delivery is available via Uber and Lyft to local hotels and to other local addresses in the Nashville area.

For more information or to speak to a NKTO representative, please call Chabad at 615-646-5750, who will be happy to assist you.

Nashville Kosher Take Out is under the supervision of Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel of Chabad of Nashville. All entrees are prepared using ingredients that are Glatt kosher, Chalav Yisrael and Bishul Yisrael. Enjoy and Bon Appetit.

Nashvillekosherstakeout.com looks forward to the opportunity to serve the Nashville community with all their Kosher meal take out needs. •



Vanderbilt University Judaica Collection

Continued from page 62

books, many of them poetry and literature. Much of the collection was acquired in 1991 when Vanderbilt purchased Nahum Glatzer's library of 7,000 items, thanks to a substantial donation from Raymond Zimmerman.

The Judaica collection is located in the Divinity Library, on the bottom level of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library. To use the Judaica material, anyone in the Jewish community may apply for a library card at the circulation desk of the Divinity Library. Books may be borrowed for three weeks.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to Vanderbilt's current COVID-19 measures, all campus libraries will be only be open to current staff, as well as students and faculty who will participate in on-site instruction. Please contact the library directly to confirm availability of in-person resources. •

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