

# the Jewish Observer

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19 Sh'vat - 16 Adar 5781

## The Temple Partners With The Jewish Federation to Help Feed those in Need

By BARBARA DAB

It all began with dessert. Just as Rosh Hashanah was approaching a dedicated group of people at The Temple were searching for ways to ease the burden of life during the pandemic and create connection and a bit of celebration to usher in the Jewish New Year. An idea was hatched to provide gift boxes filled with sweet desserts to those in the congregation who were alone, in need of human contact and perhaps without the resources to care for themselves. According to Rabbi Mark Schiftan, "We asked ourselves, what are we doing to help those in our congregation community deal with the loneliness and isolation." And so, with no budget for the project, the congregation's clergy dug into their discretionary funds to provide those boxes of holiday goodies. The congregation's Care and Concern committee gathered volunteers and they set off to deliver them to 60 households.

The project was a hit, and the volunteers were so excited by the response, the plan grew to include Thanksgiving and Hanukkah meals as well. The only real disappointment was the limited amount of households who could be served. Rabbi Schiftan estimated another 15 or so families would benefit. In the



Care and Concern Committee Co-Chairs Susan Zager and Alyssa Trachtman

span of a couple of days, Rabbi Schiftan applied for, and received, a \$9000 grant from The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee's COVID Response fund. He says, "I was stunned. The whole process probably took 48 hours. Typically things don't move that fast in the Jewish

world, but The Federation realized we can't wait forever, and this grant makes a big difference." Eric Stillman, CEO of The Jewish Federation, says he is pleased

to be able to make this grant happen so quickly. "Thanks to the generosity of donors to the Federation's COVID

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## Federation Grant To Subsidize Senior Lunches Through Pandemic

By ALEX HELLER

The Gordon Jewish Community Center of Nashville has been awarded an additional \$5,000 in funding from The Jewish Federation & Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee to subsidize the senior lunch program. Since the pandemic began in March 2020, with the support of the Federation, along with a grant from Tennessee Community CARES, the Gordon JCC has been able to send two meals each week to homebound seniors. Because the TN CARES grants expired at the end of 2020, the Federation has stepped in to help continue subsidizing the kosher meals each week to this vulnerable population. The funding from the Federation is provided through the COVID19 Emergency Relief Fund. Leslie Sax, JCC Executive Director,

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Volunteer Meryl Kraft delivers meals along with friendly conversation to Naomi Pritikin as part of the weekly Senior Lunch Program.

## Giving Others A Sense of Belonging

By ARON KARABEL

She was 5 when she had her first seizure. The doctors said that epileptic seizures were the result of scar tissue that was formed following the removal of a brain tumor a year earlier. There was no cure and there was no guarantee she would ever live a normal life. The only way to control her seizures was through medication, which she would be required to take the remainder of her life.

In elementary school, she was ostracized by her peers and her teachers. Nobody understood what epilepsy was and her seizures alarmed and scared the other children. In Middle and High School, her peers just assumed she was taking illicit drugs. She was constantly sent home because

teachers unnecessarily feared for her safety and that of others. She was considered a disruption and a distraction.

Being treated differently was not just limited to the secular community. It extended to the Jewish community as well. She wanted so desperately to be a Hebrew Day School teacher. Yet, when she would disclose her condition, jobs never materialized. She described it as her own Scarlett Letter.

In spite of the many socially-constructed obstacles and discriminatory treatment my mother faced, she instilled



Aron Karabel with his mother

in me and my brothers the importance of inclusion and belonging. She taught us the value of being welcoming no matter the what and no matter the who. She understood how painful it was to be ostracized and treated like the "other".

As a community, it is our responsibility to embrace differences and fight for those who may not be able to fight for themselves. As a community, we share the same passion and responsibility of Tikkun Olam. When the barriers of inclusion and access are removed and

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## Challenge Match Announced for Tzedakah Tzunday

The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee announces it has received a \$40,000 challenge match. The match is one-to-one and applies to all new gifts and increases received on this year's Tzedakah Tzunday, February 14th, and continues through Tzedakah Week. •



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# Inclusion Workshop Begins the Process of Making Local Jewish Community More Accessible

By BARBARA DAB

The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee is, at its core, dedicated to providing much needed services and funding to the local Jewish community and the community at large. Recent efforts have expanded The Federation's reach to include new and innovative programming for an increasingly diverse and growing population. A key component of those efforts is addressing the needs of people with disabilities. A recent Inclusion Workshop presented by The Federation and funded by the Lori Ann Fishel Special Needs Fund was a critical next step. Sandy Cohen, Co-Chair of The Federation's Inclusion Committee, says, "The purpose of this workshop is to hear the voices of our community, their families and professionals." Among the panelists, speakers and participants were people in Nashville's Jewish community who are living with disabilities, local and national leaders and disability professionals.

The workshop opened with national leaders offering some statistics illustrating the growing needs to address the disability population. Emily Grabelsky, Co-Chair of the Jewish Federations of North America's (JFNA) Disability Advocacy Committee, said one in four people now have a disability and one in 54 children is diagnosed with autism. And Dr. Matt Heller, Co-Chair of JFNA's Disability Advocacy Committee said people with disabilities are four times more likely to get COVID19 and ten times more likely to die from it. Through its lobbying efforts, the JFNA is continuing to pressure the Federal government to increase the matching funds it allocates for programs like Medicaid through 2021 until providers receive long awaited COVID19 support.



Iris Zinni shares her story about her daughter who has autism

To help provide some much needed perspective, members of Nashville's Jewish community who also have disabilities shared some of their thoughts and concerns. Heidi Amster, who is living with Rheumatoid Arthritis, explained that it is often simple things that create an accessible environment. "I rely on ADA-compliant lever doorhandles because I can't maneuver round doorknobs," she said. Accommodations like that help Heidi better navigate the various agencies, congregations and other buildings in the community. Iris Zinni is the mother of a 28-year-old daughter who has autism. Her daughter, Sami, is high functioning and craves social interaction with other people in her age group. Iris says, "Making friends is hard for her. It would be great to see some opportunities in the Jewish community where she could form some friendships. It would also be good to offer some classes just for the disabled Jewish population to learn social skills."

Breakout rooms offered an opportunity to share ideas and hear more from those with disabilities in a smaller group. The more intimate space



Marisa Mayhan explains the, "facilitator model," of assisting people with disabilities during The Jewish Federation's Inclusion Workshop

also allowed for brainstorming ways to make Nashville's Jewish community both more accessible and more inclusive. Marisa Mayhan, mother of a 37-year-old daughter with autism suggested what she calls the, "facilitator model." This model would pair someone with a disability with someone who would help advocate for them at various events and functions. And Avi Poster, one of the participants, stressed the need for the community to create a strategic plan to address disability and inclusion on a broad scale. He says, "We could be a real leader in this area. The Federation could be a real hub for people with disabilities. But we need a plan so organizations and congregations know what they can provide and how." And other participants agreed there is a need for developing programs and increased communication about what is being offered in terms of accommodations.

The Inclusion Workshop is just the beginning of what Jewish Federation CEO Eric Stillman says has been part of his long range plans. "Since arriving in Nashville



Heidi Amster discussed ways to create more accessible environments in the community

just over two years ago, my goal has been to expand The Federation's outreach to community members with special needs." And James Fishel, co-founder of the fund that bears his daughter's name, says he is delighted to see more emphasis on helping people with disabilities live fuller, more satisfying lives. "Lori Ann had a multitude of disabilities, but she always had a smile on her face," he says, "Our initial plan for the Lori Ann Fishel Fund was to reach individuals. When that wasn't happening, the Federation professionals helped us expand our vision and I know Lori Ann would be happy about it." •

February is Jewish Disability Advocacy Month. To learn more about how you can access disability services in Nashville's Jewish community, contact Adam Bronstone at [adam@jewishnashville.org](mailto:adam@jewishnashville.org). The Jewish Federations of North America is presenting a month long program of seminars and events to share information about the state of disability rights and how to support greater inclusion efforts. For more information, visit [www.jewishtogether.org/dam](http://www.jewishtogether.org/dam)

## Local Federation Vice-President Chosen as National Young Leadership Cabinet Co-Chair

By BARBARA DAB

The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee is proud to announce that 2021 Campaign Chair and Board Vice-President Aron Karabel has been selected as the 2021-22 National Young Leadership Cabinet Co-Chair of the Jewish Federations of North America. Aron's term, along with that of Co-Chair Lindsey Glantz of Florida, begins July 1, 2021. He says, "I am humbled to have the opportunity to lead, to carry out National Young Leadership Cabinet's mission and vision, and to represent Nashville and Middle Tennessee in this role. I truly believe in the power of philanthropy and the collective. With my co-chair, Lindsey Glantz (Broward), we will strive to not only grow Cabinet but also to do so in a way that expands and diversifies our reach by advancing a culture of welcome, inclusion, and belonging." Steven Hirsch, President of



The Jewish Federation, says the involvement of Aron and his wife Batia in the National Young Leadership Cabinet is a positive reflection on the local Jewish Community. "I am delighted to congratulate Aron. We wish him continued strength as he takes on this new challenge and continues Nashville's contribution to our North American Federation organization."

Fred Zimmerman is a Past President and current Board Member of The Jewish Federation and on the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel and he is also a former Co-Chair of the

National Young Leadership Cabinet. He says the organization is unique in the Jewish world and provides a rare opportunity for the members to not only commit to leadership by example, but to commit to leadership by capacity. "One of the really great things about Cabinet, especially going through and coming out of this pandemic, is the network effect of a group of like-minded people," he says.

Fred adds that his years on Cabinet were a high level education in Judaism and Jewish life which he never imagined. He says Aron will have a unique opportunity to capitalize on a hunger for reconnection after the challenges of the past year. "Aron is going to meet people and influence the Jewish world far and wide. There's no better group in the Jewish world and their choosing Aron to lead them is as high an honor as you'll find, both for Aron and the National Young Leadership Cabinet."

Aron is a partner at Waller Law firm in Nashville, specializing in employment litigation, and was recognized in 2019 with a Clients Choice Award. Among his professional affiliations, he is

a Fellow on the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, a member of the National Association of College and University Attorneys and President of the Tennessee Employment Relations Research Association. Aron's volunteer work extends throughout the Nashville Jewish community and the greater Nashville community. He is a Board Member and current Campaign Chair of The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, a Board Member of the Anti-Defamation League Southeast Region where he also sits on the National Civil Rights Committee, and a Board member of Pencil Nashville and has been a Board member at West End Synagogue. •

### Giving

Continued from page 1

every member of our community - not just those who already have a seat at the table - have a voice and are engaged we are a more enriched and vibrant community.

In recognition of Jewish Disabilities Awareness and Inclusion Month, please join us in celebrating the many similarities

and differences in our community and the many ways we make an impact and create a sense of belonging. One way is through your gift of time and voice on Tzedakah Tzunday. You will be helping us to continue to serve ongoing needs in own community as well as help us to expand our reach. Tzedakah Tzunday is the Jewish Community's largest fundraising endeavor of the year, and we need YOUR help! •

# Donor Spotlight: Adam and Valerie Landa Lay the Foundation for the Future

By BARBARA DAB

Adam and Valerie Landa are no strangers to Nashville's Jewish community. Valerie is a fourth generation native Nashvillian, who grew up attending religious school and becoming a Bat Mitzvah at The Temple. Adam moved to Nashville in 1979 from Montreal, with his father holding the position of Executive Director of The Jewish Federation, Jewish Family Service and Jewish Community Center at the former location on West End Avenue. More recently, his mother retired last year after serving as Controller of Jewish Family Service for over a decade. Adam attended Akiva School as a child and later, became a Bar Mitzvah at Sherith Israel. Fast forward years later and, while planning to be married, they decided to join West End Synagogue where they have been active members for the last two decades, serving as Board members and on various committees. Now the parents of two children, the Landas believe in teaching by example how to live a life of Jewish values. Valerie says they are involved in and support Jewish life in multiple ways, both as individuals and as a family and as both members and volunteers, "While we have professional and family commitments to prioritize, both of us feel a strong sense of obligation to participate in the Jewish organizations in which we are involved." She says they also believe in the importance of a vibrant Jewish Community Center and are members of the JCC, where both of their children attended pre-school

and summer camps. Valerie is also the accountant for Vanderbilt Hillel.

Valerie and Adam have given generously of their time and resources to The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. One defining experience for them was the 2007 General Assembly, which took place in Nashville. Adam says, "It was so wonderful to see Jewish people from all over descending upon Opryland." In 2008, they were recognized with the Young Leadership Award by The Jewish Federation and currently Adam serves in several capacities with The Federation. The Landas also established a Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment fund (PACE). The fund ensures a consistent level of support for The Federation's Annual Campaign as well as the ongoing work of Federation throughout the years. And as the assets of the PACE fund appreciate, their support for the annual campaign grows as well. While a PACE is often associated with after-life giving, the Landas decided to consider it now, which they did in connection with their joint commitments to Federation through the LIFE & LEGACY program. Valerie says, "Furthermore, we can continue to support Federation through supplemental giving. The LIFE & LEGACY program has also facilitated laying the foundation for our giving plans to several other local Jewish organizations." And they have established a family philanthropic donor advised fund as a tool to facilitate their support of both Jewish and non-Jewish charities.

Philanthropy is a core value for the Landas and something they are committed to passing on to their children. "Central to our giving strategy has been to contribute to our daughter's



B'nai Tzedek fund annually. We will do the same for our son," says Adam. Both also agree it is important to live a Jewish life both outwardly and inwardly. They send their two children to Camp Ramah Darom, where Adam has recently

joined the board. He says, "Sending our kids to Jewish summer camp has had a meaningful impact on our family and, more importantly, on our children and their friendships. Observing the high holidays, hosting seders and lighting Chanukah candles have been important components of our family's Jewish life. With COVID19 and spending more time at home, we have renewed our commitment to lighting Shabbat candles every week. To sum up, we hope we are setting an example for our children and sharing traditions that one day they can continue with their families."

If you are interested to learn more about creating a donor fund and participating in the Life & Legacy program, contact Shannon Small, Financial Resource Philanthropic Officer, at [shannon@jewishnashville.org](mailto:shannon@jewishnashville.org), 615-354-1651. •

## Perspectives A Prayer for Healing

By DAVID BARTON, M.D.

Over the past few years I have seen differences of opinion with accompanying dialog and mutual respect move toward divisiveness associated with contentious opposition. This takes us, in our relationships, in the direction of interpersonal separation and even isolation. This is not good for the preservation of a united community that desires a setting which promotes the maintenance of our world standing on "...justice, and on truth and on peace," (Perkei Avot – Ethics of the Fathers). Initially, my intention was to write a statement utilizing concepts from my field, psychiatry, to help address this problem, but instead I was moved toward writing this prayer in which I ask that we be helped to return to an attitude of, "love thy neighbor as thyself," (Leviticus). My hope is that this prayer may be read, perhaps on the Sabbath or at other times, to allow us to reflect on restoring and maintaining constructive approaches involving loving kindness to our relationships with one another.

### A Prayer for Healing

*Baruch ata Adonai*  
Praised are You  
Maker of light,  
Separator of light from darkness...  
We ask that You illuminate our paths to show us the way.  
Help us to encounter all persons with understanding,  
Kindness, and respect.

Each of us bears a secret sense of self;  
None of us can be totally known to the other.  
We are, as a condition of life, isolated each from the other;  
Each of us is in part a stranger.  
None of us can be completely known,  
Except by You.

We understand that regardless of how we show our beliefs and intentions,  
Or perceive what we believe to be another's beliefs and intentions,  
We may not reach complete knowledge of another person.  
Still, in our work of seeking connection and understanding,  
We know that we are all created in the image of God: Tsem Elohim.  
And so, as created, we share a sacred part  
That we must respect as holiness to be discovered.

We ask that You help us to reach a level of knowing and relating with others,  
That leads us to a place of respect and gracious bond,  
That we may live together with holiness and with our differences,  
That we may thrive as individuals and community,  
That we may live together in peace,  
Dwelling in the hyphen of Martin Buber's "I – You."

*David Barton, M.D. is a retired psychiatrist. He was also, along with a colleague, a Founder of Alive Hospice in Nashville.*

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### Editorial Submissions Policy and Deadlines

The Jewish Observer welcomes the submission of information, news items, feature stories and photos about events relevant to the Jewish community of Greater Nashville. We prefer e-mailed submissions, which should be sent as Word documents to Editor Barbara Dab at [barbaradab@jewishnashville.org](mailto:barbaradab@jewishnashville.org). Photos must be high resolution (at least 300 dpi) and should be attached as jpegs to the e-mail with the related news item or story. For material that cannot be e-mailed, submissions should be sent to Barbara Dab, The Jewish Observer, 801 Percy Warner Blvd., Suite 102, Nashville TN 37205. Photos and copy sent by regular mail will not be returned unless prior arrangement is made. Publication is at the discretion of The Observer, which reserves the right to edit submissions.

To ensure publication, submissions must arrive by the 15th of the month prior to the intended month of publication.

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THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

# Community Relations Committee

## Rights and Responsibilities

By DEBORAH OLESHANSKY

The attack on the US Capitol on January 6, resulting in death, desecration, and destruction, leaves a deep and painful wound in our collective national heart and soul. Like all wounds, it will take treatment, care, attention and time to heal. In the weeks following the attack, which included the savage, deadly beating of a police officer, much has been written and lamented on how this happened, who is responsible and how we must address this national trauma in a way that provides the paradoxical path forward, requiring both accountability and unity.

As with most things, the best way to begin is to try to be as clear and honest as

possible, taking a hard and unvarnished look at what happened. While some would say the road to the attack has been paved for many years, through the words and deeds unleashed by those who mean to do us harm by promoting the violent rhetoric and actions of white supremacy. Others say it began at the Stop the Steal rally immediately preceding the violent storming of the Capitol.

We must make certain distinctions here. Churches and other groups organized buses and transportation to bring interested church and community members to DC for the January 6 rally. Images from the early part of the day include families with children there in support of what they believed to be the urgent

need to protest loudly and clearly their concerns regarding the 2020 election. As US citizens they have every right to peaceful protest in this manner, and those attending the protest portion should not be painted with the same brush as those who stormed the capitol, broke windows and doors, and then terrorized lawmakers and desecrated our national treasures. The breaking and entering of the Capitol that resulted in the loss of life are crimes. Those who attended the rally and left when things went bad should not be compared with those who, wearing Camp Auschwitz hoodies and carrying confederate flags and other symbols of white supremacy, committed violent and criminal acts.

One of the first consequences after these actions was taken by social media companies to shut down accounts involved in disseminating some of the propaganda that fueled the violence. Experts who deal with addressing radicalized groups have found the shutting of such accounts to be an effective and efficient tool in halting these efforts. Others say this technique has other dangers, and that it amounts to a violation of free speech, which can also be damaging to the cause of democracy.

We are all taught as children that the right to free speech is not absolute, and that rights come with responsibilities. We all know we cannot shout FIRE in a crowded theater...remember the days of crowded theaters? Similarly, companies have a right and responsibility to establish content guides and to monitor their platforms for speech that violates their rules. No one has a right to a social media account, even if it is free to use. Social media companies can set terms of use and individuals have the responsibility to accept those parameters or move their conversations elsewhere.

Jonathan Tobin, in a JNS article on January 21, 2021, writes, "Sadly, the indications are...that tolerance of dissent is on the wane...This is something that ought to especially scare a Jewish community that has always depended on the American commitment to pluralism and democracy. Yet whether acting out of fear of right-wing anti-Semites that has become more acute in the weeks since the mob riot...many Jews seem to be cheering on those calling for more censorship on the Internet."

Mr. Tobin is entirely correct about the importance for pluralism and democracy for the security of the Jewish community, and we have and will continue to promote those values. But the effective pursuit of pluralism and democracy must include the pursuit of verifiable evidence and facts when making determinations, and a wariness of propaganda and conspiracy theories that can lead to violence.

On February 11, 2021, Jewish Community Relations Committee, Nashville Jewish Social Justice Roundtable, and an assembly of over 35 co-sponsor groups, will host an urgent and critical conversation with Integrity First for America's Amy Spitalnick, moderated by journalist John Seigenthaler. The conversation will focus on the IFA landmark Charlottesville lawsuit case, *Sines v. Kessler*, which takes on the leaders of the violent white supremacy movement and heads to trial this year.

Rights come with responsibilities. We must all, especially those of us in the Jewish community, take a critical, intentional, and educated look at how to balance First Amendment freedom of speech rights with First Amendment freedom of speech responsibilities. We must move thoughtfully and urgently to find the balance and collectively lay a path to a future that respects the need for safety and security coupled with the foundational democratic imperatives of free speech, free press, and free elections. Please join us February 11 for one piece of this important conversation. For more information, or to RSVP, contact Deborah Oleshansky at [deborah@jewishnashville.org](mailto:deborah@jewishnashville.org) •

## Fighting White Supremacy: From Charlottesville to Capitol Hill

Thursday, February 11 at 7pm CST

Join **Integrity First for America**  
Executive Director **Amy Spitalnick**,  
and moderator **John Seigenthaler**,  
for a pressing and critical virtual  
conversation about IFA's landmark  
lawsuit, ***Sines v. Kessler***, which takes  
on the leaders of this violent movement.

**Register:**  
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Contact [CarolynH@jewishnashville.org](mailto:CarolynH@jewishnashville.org) for more info.

**Co-Chairs: Jacob & Marci Kleinrock**



# Liberated But Not Free: 99-Year-Old Ben Stern to Share His Story of Survival and Resistance

By BARBARA DAB

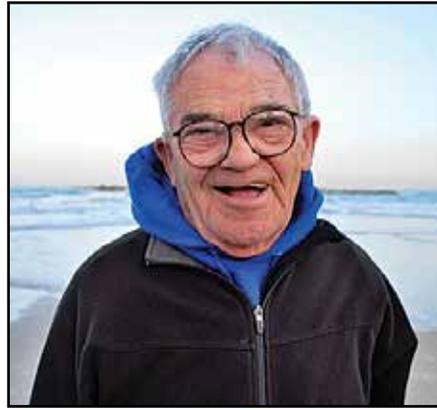
Ben Stern was 19 years old when the Nazis invaded his hometown, Warsaw, Poland. He survived two ghettos, nine concentration camps and two death marches before being liberated by American soldiers. He gradually rebuilt his health, met his future wife and together they emigrated to America, settling in Skokie, Illinois. He took another stand in 1977 against a planned Nazi rally in the streets of his adopted city. The American Civil Liberties Union defended the Nazi's First Amendment right to free speech, but Stern built a diverse following of 60,000 supporters who pledged a counterdemonstration. That movement led to cancellation of the Nazi's rally.

Now 99-years-old, Ben Stern is one of the remaining Holocaust survivors in a generation that is rapidly declining. Together with his daughter, Charlene, he believes it is imperative to share his story and preserve the memory of the Holocaust. He is partnering with Chabad of Nashville for a virtual event on February 9th at 7:00pm CST. The event will include a screening of the award winning documentary about his life, "Near Normal Man." The film,

directed by Stern's daughter, serves as a reminder of what happened and helps educate future generations. Charlene Stern says, "My father taught me what it was like to be enslaved. It's important for young people to see what it means to go through something like that."

Born into a religious family that was accustomed to welcoming the community into its home and sharing what little they had with others, Ben was sustained in his struggle by the hope that he would eventually reunite with his family. Sadly, Charlene says, he never found anyone after the war. His faith nearly gone, Ben says that while he was liberated physically, he was not free of the pain he endured. According to Charlene it was her birth, the first of his three children, that helped him let go of hatred. "He always said he never expected to have it this good," she says, "But also part of letting go, and in order to live the life he was given, was to table his argument with God."

Charlene Stern's drive to make the documentary led to an unexpected reconciliation for her father. As the film made the rounds to various experts for their endorsements, it eventually landed in the hands of Ira Glasser, the legendary head of the ACLU from 1978-



99-year-old Holocaust survivor, Ben Stern today

2001. While Glasser did not initiate the defense of the Illinois Nazis, the case became a defining one for his tenure with the organization. Apprehensive about his reaction to the film, Charlene reached out. "He thought it was incredible," she says, "He even agreed to write a positive review, and when it was screened at the University of California Berkeley, he stood onstage with my father."

Themes of courage, hope and kindness weave their way throughout Ben Stern's life. Now living in Berkeley, California, he is surrounded by his three adult children, seven grandchildren and



Ben rallied support in 1977 when the Nazi party planned to rally in Skokie, Illinois, home to a large community of Holocaust survivors

four great-grandchildren. He continues to share his story with audiences across the country. Rabbi Yitzhok Teichtel of Chabad of Nashville, says, "Stern is so much more than a survivor. He's an advocate, an inspiration and reminder to us all that remaining silent isn't an option."

Tickets to "An Evening with Holocaust Survivor Ben Stern" are available at [www.benstern.tennessee.com](http://www.benstern.tennessee.com). All ages are welcome. Proceeds benefit Chabad of Nashville. Early bird tickets are now available with general admission tickets starting at \$13.00 and student tickets at \$11.00. The zoom link will be provided to ticket holders the day before the event. •

## Those in Need

Continued from page 1

Emergency Response Fund, we are able to partner with The Temple to provide meals for seniors impacted by the pandemic, including those who are frail elderly, in convalescent and rehabilitation facilities, and the lonely who are shut-in and some recently widowed."

The grant will now allow The Temple to expand its reach and provide monthly meal packages to 75 households or roughly ten percent of the congregation. The packs include two meals per person and the food is being prepared by SOVA caterers. Alyssa Trachtman is Co-Chair of the Care and Concern Committee. She says this has been one of the most rewarding projects she's worked on. "There was such a void in the congregation when we all became home bound," she says, "And it has made a big difference for the volunteers, too." •

Along with her Co-Chair, Susan Zager, Alyssa reached out to Erin Zagnoev, The Temple's Director of Administration and Advancement, to get the ball rolling. She says it was actually easy to rally her fellow congregants, as many agreed they wanted to feel useful in some way and this was an opportunity for them to also experience some human contact. "It only took one phone call asking for help and we had all the volunteers we needed." •

The response from the recipients has been overwhelming. And Alyssa says The Temple is grateful for The Federation's grant. "The fact that The Federation believes in what we're doing means so much. Now we have so many more resources," she says. And Rabbi Schiffan is pleased the project has been beneficial for both the volunteers and those receiving the meals. He says, "The volunteers are now a significant force in the success of this program and the grant will allow them to continue and to expand their reach." •



Temple volunteers help ease the loneliness and isolation of needy congregants through meal deliveries thanks to a grant from The Jewish Federation's COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund

## Senior Lunches

Continued from page 1

said "we are grateful to the Federation for providing these funds to allow us to continue serving our seniors two meals each week. We are providing nourishment and a sense of community in a time when social distancing can make someone feel so isolated."

Friendly volunteers have brought these meals to the seniors' front doors and have enjoyed being able to safely, "visit," with them while also providing nutritious kosher meals. Naomi Pritikin, who has been receiving meals weekly is grateful for the meals and the chance to see a friendly face. She says, "I'm so glad to see my friend Meryl. It gives us a chance to catch up. The meals have been so helpful while I'm staying home." And Meryl Kraft who, along with her husband, has been delivering meals to Naomi, says, "Keith and I agree that delivering food with all the other

volunteers on Thursdays has been our honor and definitely a highlight of our week. Seeing Naomi and her adorable dog Abbey each week is just icing on the cake!"

Additionally, the Gordon JCC will pilot a new curbside pickup program which will allow more members of the community to take advantage of these lunches through advance ordering. For those seniors who drive, it will also provide an opportunity for some safe, friendly contact with others in the community. For seniors, lunches will cost \$4. Other community members will be able to pick up curbside meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays for \$10 dairy meals and \$15 meat meals. The meals will be provided by a kosher caterer under the supervision of Rabbi Saul Strosberg. The monthly menu and ordering instructions can be found at [Nashvillejcc.org/lunch](http://Nashvillejcc.org/lunch)

For more information, contact Alex Heller at 615-354-1623 or [alex@nashvillejcc.org](mailto:alex@nashvillejcc.org). •



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# JFS Social Worker Receives COVID Vaccine Clinical Trial Results

By BARBARA DAB

Jewish Family Service Social Worker, Toni Jacobsen, waits anxiously in Vanderbilt's clinical research wing to learn whether she received a vaccine or a placebo as a participant Moderna's COVID19 clinical trial. The blind study was conducted on over 30,000 people nationwide and 500 at Vanderbilt University. The vaccine has been gradually rolling out, and study participants are guaranteed to receive it, assuming they were not already vaccinated as part of the trial.

As in previous visits to Vanderbilt, Toni must answer a range of questions about her general health, have blood drawn, submit to a COVID swab test and have her vital signs taken. "I'm getting used to all of this," says Toni, "But it's still a bit nerve wracking." She is questioned again to make sure she is ready to hear the results. More nurses and research physician Dr. Shannon Walker file into the room. Dr. Walker confirms Toni received the placebo during her trial. "I had a feeling," she says, "I didn't have much in the way of symptoms after the first two shots." Still she says she is relieved to know as she must travel out of town soon to attend to some important family business.

Toni continues to wait while the research team prepare for the actual vaccine. The doctor reminds her she will need to return in a few weeks for the second dose of vaccine, and then one more visit after that as part of her continuing participating in the clinical trial. She will also continue to be tracked



Nurse April Hanlotxomphou prepares the Moderna COVID19 vaccine

for another two years. After the shot is administered, Toni is monitored another 30 minutes to ensure she does not have any adverse reactions. The entire process takes about one hour to complete.



Jewish Family Service Social Worker Toni Jacobsen receiving the vaccine

Some folks, including Nurse April Hanlotxomphou, who administered Toni's shot, report soreness for a couple of days. Toni experienced some discomfort in the days immediately



Toni Jacobsen is all smiles showing her vaccine record

afterwards, but overall, she says she is happy to have participated in the trial and looks forward to having the process completed when she returns for her second dose. •

## Where are You: A Jewish Communal Action on the Environment

By MICHAL ESKENAZI BECKER

"Where are you (*Ayecha*)?" God asked Adam when he was hiding after eating from the forbidden fruit.

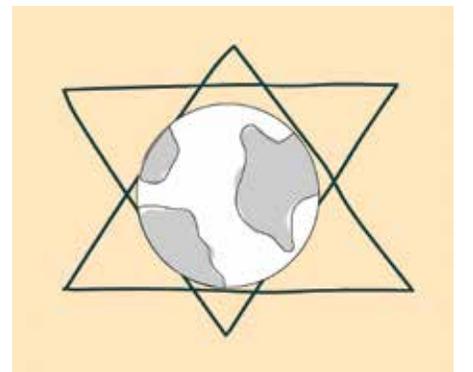
Didn't God know where Adam was? Most likely. But God is asking something else. God is asking about Adam's connection to the situation. How do you relate to that? What is your state of mind? In a way, it is the same question we ask people around us about where they were after big historical events: Where were you when JFK was shot? (or, in Israel, where were you when Rabin was assassinated?) Where were you on 9/11? Where were you on January 6th? We are not really asking whether someone was in bed or on the way to work. We are, in fact, asking: when did this catch you? What was your state of mind when this happened? How did you connect to this situation?

And here we are, facing one of the greatest threats and challenges the human race has ever faced. A threat that will affect our lives, our food, our cities, our loved ones.

Where are we?

Climate change and other environmental pollutions are not one event that changes everything in one day. It is slow and invisible. It is boring and easy to ignore. It feels like we can do nothing about it. But one day, our children, grandchildren, and their great-grandchildren will wonder: Where were you? How did you connect to it? What did you know? What did you do?

The first reaction I have to these questions is that maybe I cannot do much. I do not run an oil company, I am not a CEO of an airline, and I do not make government policies. But like many other big issues we are facing these days, we have to start with the



basics. We have to look at ourselves first, to learn more and to become aware. Information and knowledge are the first steps toward deciding whether to act and then, figuring out what to do. If many people decide to take action, there is a higher chance that something will happen. And if not, at least we know where we are.

The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee invites you to learn more, and to explore together how we, as Jewish people, as a community, can address this big issue of Climate Change and environmental pollutions. How we can address it in our lives and as a community, and what action we can take. Please join us at one of our **Eco-Jewish workshops** that will take place on February 3 and February 10.

You are also invited to join our **Eco-Jewish committee**, which is aimed at working together to improve our community's environmental practices and make our world even better.

Contact Michal at [michal@jewishnashville.org](mailto:michal@jewishnashville.org) •



### JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Meetings are held on the first and third Fridays of each month from 12-1:15pm over Zoom.

Join with others in this free support group to share feelings, thoughts, coping strategies, and to learn about the grief process.

**CONTACT FOR LINK:**

Ashley Franklin, LMSW 615-354-1662  
Toni Jacobsen, LCSW 615-354-1672



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Learn more about the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee at [www.jewishnashville.org](http://www.jewishnashville.org)

# Jewish Family Service Social Workers Are Now Certified Virtual Providers

The world of mental health is undergoing a major shift in the way social workers and other licensed counselors deliver services during the pandemic. While traditional in person therapy and counseling may still be preferred, in today's COVID19 world, it is often not the safest method. To address the need to reach more people, Jewish Family Service social workers recently received training and certification to provide tele-mental health treatment. Ashley Franklin, a LMSW social worker at JFS, says it was the increase in calls for assistance that triggered her desire for additional training. "Over the past several months we've become busier and received more requests for counseling," she says. So together with Toni Jacobsen, LCSW and Clinical Director of JFS, the two researched best practices and decided to embark on the new certification process. Toni Jacobsen says it was the most responsible way to make sure they could deliver quality service, "We had a lot to learn about things like creating and developing the right professional platform for interacting with patients, billing and most important, building relationships with people," she says.

Since becoming certified, both Toni Jacobsen and Ashley Franklin say they are happy they have been able to serve more people. According to Ashley, this past year has seen an increase in

things like anxiety and depression. She says, "People are dealing with a lot. There's everything from social isolation to financial struggles. The biggest issue seems to be fear of the unknown." Additionally, with families forced to stay home and children remaining out of school, there are some enhanced risks in other areas. Toni says, "In families dealing with domestic violence issues, the situations can become more dangerous." She also says the normal post-holiday season drop in calls never materialized and both she and Ashley are continuing to see sustained need for counseling services.

The new tele-mental health model has made it easier for people to access counseling services, but it is not without its challenges. Ashley Franklin says, "Since I am now seeing people virtually while they are at home and I am at home, we have to establish some different boundaries." And Toni Jacobsen agrees, "So much of what we do is build relationships and since we are on the computer, I can only see what the patient wants me to see of their surroundings." When it comes to working with children, both say they are working with children virtually where possible and seeing them in the office if virtual sessions are not the most effective option. Despite the new challenges and the added technical and administrative work, both social workers

are pleased they can reach people where they are, which is mostly at home. They look forward to the time they can return to seeing people in person, but Toni says there may still be lingering fears about being in close quarters, so virtual sessions could be around for a while.

Virtual mental health treatment also comes with increased costs. Jewish Family Service was able to provide for the social workers' trainings and other needs thanks to a grant from the Philip and Eva Kopald Berkell Professional Education Fund for Jewish Family Service housed at the Jewish Foundation of Nashville. The Berkell's were the grandparents of Jan Liff, who created the fund in 2006 to ensure JFS has funding for continuing education for the staff. Pam Kelner, Executive Director of JFS says, "I am so proud and impressed that this fund helped us find new and innovative ways to help people. We always strive to use best practices, even under extraordinary circumstances." She encourages people to think about their priorities and their legacies and consider helping local agencies in their missions to meet the needs of the community. The mental health services of JFS are available to anyone in the greater Nashville community and various forms of payment are accepted, including insurance and sliding scale. To learn more, contact JFS at 615-356-4234, or email info@

jfsnashville.org

In addition to individual counseling, Jewish Family Service offers the following three support groups:

Mask your Face, not your feelings. **Contact JFS at (615)356-4234 or info@jfsnashville.org to learn more or to join any of their support groups:**

## Anxiety Support Group

If you're experiencing anxiety or stress, this is the place to talk about it. We are in this together -- you do not have to feel isolated or alone.

Our secure Zoom video group takes place the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 1-2 pm.

## Caregiver Support Group

Join the Caregiver Support Group and meet with people who understand how necessary it is to share and learn from each other.

Our secure Zoom video group takes place the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month from 12:00-1:15 pm

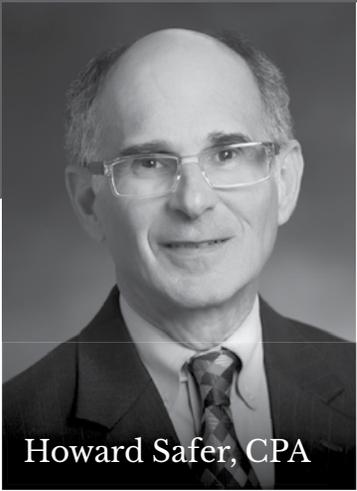
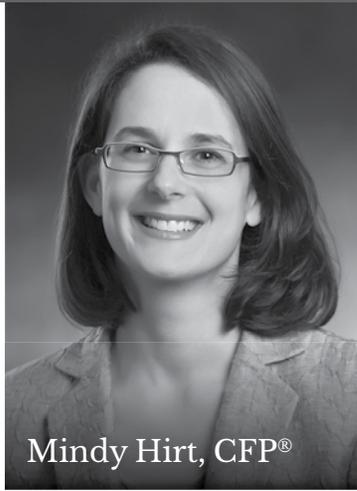
## \*\*NEW GRIEF GROUP Begins on Feb 5th\*\*

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# Stars Without a Heaven: Music City Duo Releases Song to Remember the Holocaust

By BARBARA DAB

Singer MaryBeth Zamer's knowledge of the Holocaust was mostly limited to her high school history class. Growing up in Maryland she never knew any survivors and had no idea about the children who were given up by their parents to be saved by nuns, priests and other kind strangers. It was a documentary a few years ago on Nashville's public television station about survivors that wedged itself into her mind and heart where it stayed for a few years. The film profiled a dozen survivors, each telling their harrowing story and each sharing the fear that after their deaths, the world would forget the atrocities they endured. MaryBeth and her husband, songwriter Mike Lewis eventually visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to learn more. It was there that an idea came to her in the form of two elderly survivors, volunteers, who tell their stories to visitors to the museum. MaryBeth says, "Here were these two people who had been through hell but were so happy. They felt a sense of purpose making sure people remember."

The duo, called The Twangtown Paramours, decided it was finally time to write the song that they had been thinking about. Their research began with the museum's website, where they learned that over half the population of the United States does not know about the Holocaust. They found articles outlining the stories of children who had survived, and one stood out. Contained



MaryBeth Zamer and Mike Lewis of The Twangtown Paramours

in the file was a photograph of a young girl, Lidia Kleinman Siciarz who was 10 years old and living in Poland when the Nazis invaded. They learned that Lidia's father, a physician, sent her to the Catholic hospital where he worked to be protected by the Nuns. She remained there until after the war when she was reunited with her father. Lidia's mother was murdered by the Nazis. MaryBeth and Mike decided this was the story they would tell in their song. MaryBeth says, "This was such a deep, horrible subject, I didn't know where to start, until I saw that photo of Lidia. Still, I wrestled with how to put this big story into a three or four minute song."

After listening to Lidia's story, Mike and MaryBeth read about an exhibit at the Yad Vashem Museum in Israel of children's belongings. The exhibit was

called, "Stars Without a Heaven," and now they had a title. MaryBeth wrote the chorus and a draft of the verses, and then Mike and MaryBeth went on to finish the song together. Mike says, "The song is a love story about a mother's love for her child and a child's love for her mother." It is that personal touch that the duo says makes the song universal and relatable. MaryBeth says, "When people hear about a catastrophe like this, they can't imagine the magnitude. But telling this one story of one person makes it something they can start to accept."

The current COVID19 pandemic provided the artists with the time to finally complete the song in their studio, but an early version has been playing

in rotation at Yad Vashem in Israel. Though the song is inspired by one specific story of love, courage, and survival, there were six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust. It is The Twangtown Paramours' hope that this song will serve not only as a reminder of all those who were lost, but as a cautionary tale for the present day of where bigotry and racism can lead.

The song is streaming now. Click on the QR code in this article to access it. •



## The Temple Welcomes Sheri Rosenberg, Our New Director of Membership & Inclusion

By BARBARA DAB

The Temple welcomes our new Director of Membership & Inclusion, Sheri Rosenberg. Sheri will help us expand our membership engagement, inclusion and outreach initiatives. She has spent the last 13 years of her professional career working at various Jewish non-profit organizations around the country.



After graduating from The Ohio State University in 2006, she spent a year in Israel volunteering in small development towns teaching English and immersing herself in the culture. Most recently, she worked for Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity as the Director of Hate Prevention and Jewish Enrichment, working with the 83 chapters nationally to enhance their heritage and philanthropy

events as well as facilitating programs on discrimination.

Sheri received her master's degree in Jewish Communal Services and Non-Profit management from Gratz College. In 2020, and she received a certificate in Jewish Leadership from the Spertus Institute. She serves as the president of the Alpha Epsilon Phi Nashville alumni group, is a member of the Inclusion Committee at the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee and is a current participant in the Anti-Defamation League's Glass Leadership Institute.

At The Temple, Sheri has the privilege of meeting and welcoming all new members to the congregation and helping them to make The Temple feel like home. She also works to ensure that The Temple is a welcoming and inclusive place for everyone. Feel free to reach out to Sheri at Sheri@templenashville.org •

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# Nashville's Felicia and Kenneth Anchor to Chair U.S. Holocaust Museum Annual Event

By BARBARA DAB

Felicia Anchor is on a mission to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and to combat modern-day antisemitism and hatred. Together with her husband, Kenneth, the duo is chairing the 2021 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Southeast Virtual event titled, "What You Do Matters." Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Felicia says it is more important than ever to keep focus on the lessons of the Holocaust. "Even in our worst of conditions, we still care about preserving the memory of the Holocaust and raising awareness," says Felicia, "Holocaust education is an extension of how we make decisions, how we treat others, and how we use our voices to make this world a better place than the terrible circumstances in which we were born."

Felicia's parents were both teenagers, living in Poland, when the Nazi invasion forced them from their homes. Her mother was taken to the Lodz ghetto and remained there until it was evacuated in 1944 and she and her parents were taken to Auschwitz. When they got off the cattle cars, her father gave her a comb and told her to take care of herself, and she never saw her father again. Felicia's mother and grandmother managed to survive and stay together. Felicia's father was from Czesochowa, Poland, and he was taken to the Hasag Munitions factory when he was 17 while the rest of his family was taken to Treblinka. By the time he was liberated near Shvreen, Germany, he had been through six different concentration camps. After the war, he went to Bergen-Belsen to do business in the black market and met Felicia's mother.

Felicia's parents were married at Bergen-Belsen in 1946 by a British rabbi, and the next year Felicia was born, one of 2,000 babies born from the end of the war until the displaced persons camp closed. In May 1949, Felicia and her parents came to the U.S. on the USS General R.L. Howze transport ship and settled in Toledo, Ohio, where they had relatives.

"When my family came to America,



Felicia Anchor and local clergy during a 2019 visit to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

they were told to put their past behind them," said Felicia Anchor. "I didn't even really understand what happened to my family until I was in my 30s. I just knew that a sad thing happened, and we didn't have any family. Finding out where I came from, seeing where I was born, and connecting with the Museum – all of those things were an affirmation to me of where I was and where I belong."

Felicia's work to keep the lessons of the Holocaust alive is well known in Nashville. She was a member of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission and served as the chair for many years. She was instrumental in the creation of the Nashville Holocaust Memorial, which is housed on the campus of the Gordon Jewish Community Center. Felicia has also played a key role in educating Tennessee's teachers through visits to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. She says, "After those trips, teachers told me it changed their lives. They were able to provide accurate, well planned education about the Holocaust throughout the state." She also worked with Rabbi Schifftan of The Temple to bring groups of local interfaith clergy to

the museum. "Felicia is the consummate resource for the education and edification of a wide and diverse group of learners about the tragic events of the Holocaust and the lessons that apply to all other current issues of hate, bigotry, bias and discrimination," says Rabbi Schifftan, "She is a fierce and consistent advocate of freedom and liberty, and a true force for the defense of social justice and civil rights and liberties." Locally Felicia has also worked with

police departments to help educate new recruits about the Holocaust. "The power of the uniform is incredible," she says, "It is important for them to understand where antisemitism and hatred can lead."

Felicia has been connected to the museum since it's earliest days. She served on the original Education Committee and, as Chair of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission, was present for the hard hat groundbreaking ceremony. She continues her involvement on both the local and national level because she believes it is a moral imperative. "What I strive to do with the heritage I was dealt is try to move the needle toward greater tolerance," she says.

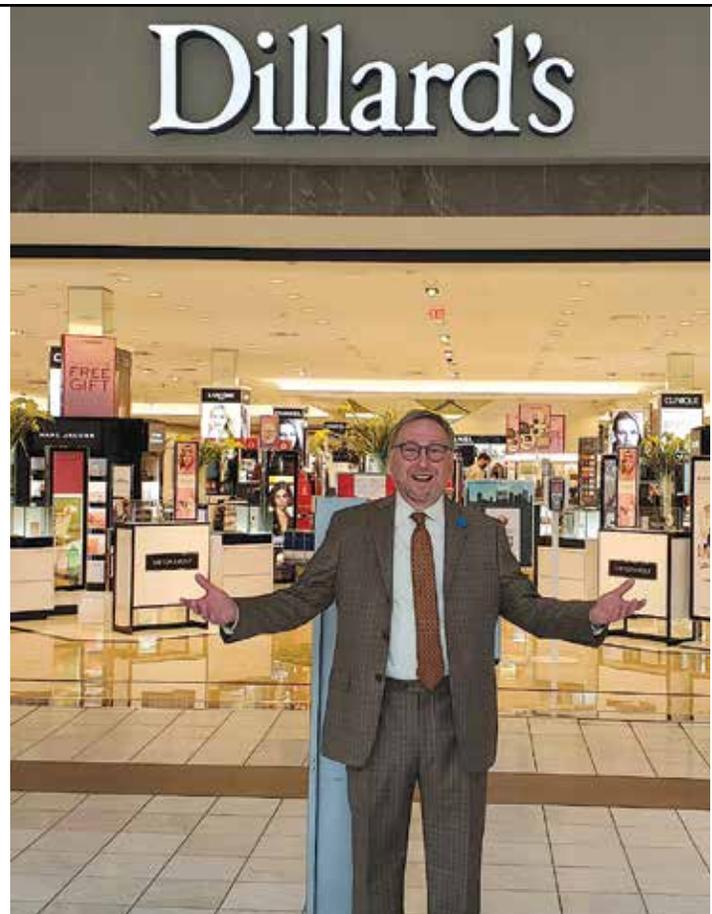
The virtual event will be held on February 11th at 7:00pm. Featured special guests include Morgan Freeman, Jamie Lee Curtis, Jason Alexander and Ray Allen. "Participants will see firsthand how the Museum has adjusted to these extraordinary times by bringing Holocaust education and awareness to audiences virtually, and how the critical lessons of the Holocaust—lessons about the fragility of societies, the nature of hate and the consequences of indifference—remain vital," says Robert Tanen, the Museum's Southeast regional director. For questions, please contact the Southeast Regional Office at 561-995-6773 or southeast@ushmm.org. To sign up for the event, visit: [www.ushmm.org/events/2021-SE-Event](http://www.ushmm.org/events/2021-SE-Event) •

## Hadassah Now Accepting Scholarship Applications

The Scholarship Loan Fund of the Nashville Section, National of Council of Jewish Women, is now accepting applications for interest free loans for the 2021-22 academic year. The loans are offered to undergraduate

and graduate students who need financial assistance for their education. To request a loan or if you have questions, please email [estherhcohn@gmail.com](mailto:estherhcohn@gmail.com). The deadline for submitting completed applications is May 30. •

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# The Death Penalty: Where do we stand as a community of faith? What is our moral obligation? A Virtual Forum from The Temple February 18th 7 PM

Since 1959, the Union for Reform Judaism has formally opposed the death penalty. The Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) resolved that, "both in concept and in practice, Jewish tradition found capital punishment repugnant." Yet, it is still legal in Tennessee, and currently there are 50 inmates on death row in the state. Join us as we discuss this important issue from four different perspectives. This is a public event and all are welcome to attend. To join, please visit virtual events on templehub.org.

Panelists:  
Reverend Stacy Rector:

Executive Director, Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. TADP seeks to honor life by abolishing the death penalty. Their mission is to educate citizens about the failures of the death penalty and to organize Tennesseans to advocate for policy change. TADP partners other organizations in this effort, including, Equal Justice USA, Witness to Innocence, Just City, NAACP, ACLU, and the Catholic Mobilizing Network. Reverend Rector is an ordained Presbyterian minister and served as spiritual advisor to Steve Henley, who was executed in Tennessee in February 2009.

Kelley Henry  
As Supervisory Assistant Federal Public Defender, Kelley Henry has represented several death row inmates facing execution dates. She has been a tireless advocate for those who did not receive adequate legal representation and for alternative sentencing. She is currently on the defense team for Pervis Payne, who has been on death row for 33 years. The Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators recently filed a bill to help prevent the execution of condemned prisoners with intellectual disabilities motivated in part by the case of Mr. Payne.

Rolanda Holman  
The sister of Pervis Payne will speak about the circumstances surrounding her brother's conviction as she has been fighting on his behalf for decades. As a Black man living with intellectual disability charged with the murder of a white woman in Memphis, Mr. Payne's case has the hallmarks of a wrongful conviction, which led the Innocence Project to become involved in his case. After the prosecution refused to test crime scene evidence for DNA, a Memphis court ordered the testing in September. The results are pending. Mr. Payne had a scheduled execution date of December 3, 2020, but received a reprieve from Governor Bill Lee through April 9, 2021.

Sabrina Butler-Smith  
Convicted when she was a teenager for the murder of her nine-month-old son, Walter, Ms. Butler-Smith served five years in prison and 33 months on death row. In 1995, her case went to retrial and she was exonerated of all wrong doing as the medical examiner changed his opinion on cause of death as being related to a kidney disorder. She now lives in Memphis with her three children and speaks about her experience with the goals of changing public opinion as well as state policy regarding the death penalty. She is active with TADP and with Witness to Innocence, the nation's only organization dedicated to empowering exonerated death row survivors to be the most powerful and effective voice in the struggle to end the death penalty in the United States. •

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Join noted historian **Lila Corwin Berman** (Temple University and current Katz Center fellow) and political scientist **Rob Reich** (Stanford University) for a wide-ranging conversation on these and other questions in light of Dr. Berman's book *The American Jewish Philanthropic Complex: the History of a Multi-Billion Dollar Institution* (Princeton University Press).

**THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC VIA ZOOM.**

*Presented in partnership with the Jewish Studies program at Vanderbilt University and the Jewish Philanthropy Research Initiative. With support from the Lippman-Kanfer Foundation for Living Torah.*



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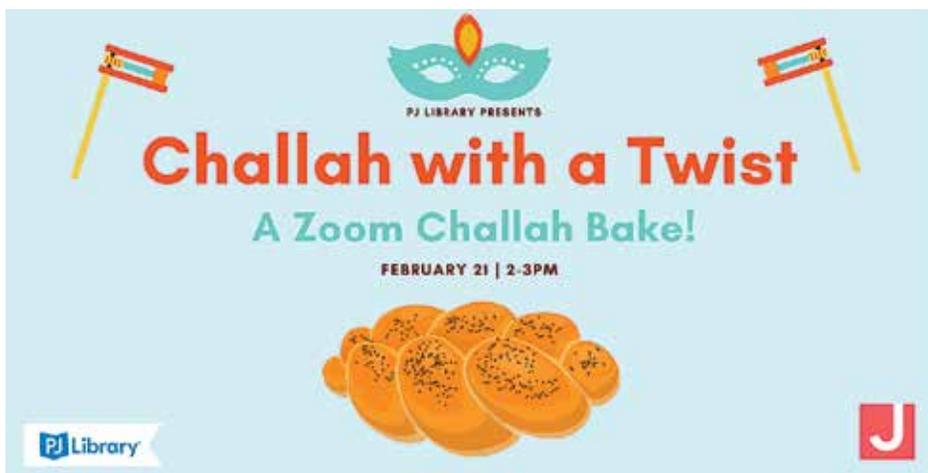
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To access the Community Calendar,  
go to [www.jewishnashville.org](http://www.jewishnashville.org)  
and click on "Calendar."



# Challah with a Twist

By SHARON BENUS, PJ LIBRARY COORDINATOR

Zoom Challah Bakes have become popular during the pandemic as a way to help bring people together through the grounding practice of baking while commiserating over current events. Leading off the traditional zoom challah bake, PJ Library is hosting our own event - Challah with a Twist! The idea began with creating a fun program during the midwinter lull that can engage families with an activity while creating memories by baking together.

The event will take place before Purim and the challah will not be your traditional braided challah, instead it will be a spin on the much-loved

hamantaschen. We will be reading a PJ Library book about the holiday and community member Melissa Sostrin will instruct the challah baking. Challah with a Twist is a free event with an option to purchase pre-made challah dough and fillings for both a savory and sweet challah-taschen. Roll up your sleeves, grab your apron, and join PJ Library on Sunday, February 21 from 2-3 for our Zoom Challah Bake- Challah with a Twist. We look forward to baking together!

Sunday, February 21 | 2-3pm  
Register at <https://purimchallahbake.eventbrite.com>

For more information contact Sharon Benus, PJ Library coordinator at [sharonb@nashvillejcc.org](mailto:sharonb@nashvillejcc.org)

# Hadassah Happenings

Please join us for a special zoom program on Sunday, February 21st at 4pm. Incorporating Your Heirlooms into an Updated Home Design.

Our guest will be Bohnne Jones from the Decorating Den.

A \$10 donation is suggested.

Please RSVP to Sarah Motis Ruden at [spm5222@gmail.com](mailto:spm5222@gmail.com)

Zoom Yoga with Robin Haynes.

March 7th at 11am.

Please RSVP to Sarah at [spm5222@gmail.com](mailto:spm5222@gmail.com)



Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Bookclub: The Sacred Art of Loving Kindness by Rabbi Rami Shapiro.

Please join us on Sunday March 21st at 4pm. Rabbi Rami will lead us in a discussion of how this book can help us to navigate through the events happening in today's world.

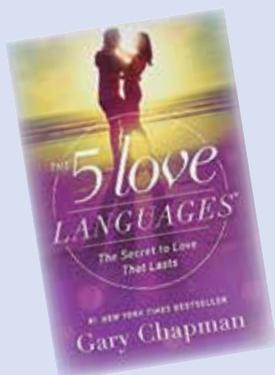
Rabbi Rami Shapiro is an award-winning author of over 36 books on religion and spirituality. He received his ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and holds a PhD in religion from Union Graduate School. He was professor of religious studies for 10 yrs@ MTSU. He currently co-directs the One River Foundation.

The book is available at Parnassus Books. Mention you are a Hadassah member to receive a 10% discount.

Please RSVP to Sarah at [spm5222@gmail.com](mailto:spm5222@gmail.com)

Hadassah Board meetings are on the third Monday of every month. Hadassah members are always welcome to attend. •

## The Five Love Languages: Making Your Relationships Better, Stronger and More Loving



**Dr. Gary Chapman**  
will open this program as our special guest speaker on  
**Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM**

*Dr. Gary Chapman is an experienced and well-respected family counselor, and a well-known author, having written more than 40 books. He hosts a nationally syndicated radio program, A Love Language Minute, and a Saturday morning program, Building Relationships with Dr. Gary Chapman, that air on more than 400 stations.*

### Rabbi Mark Schiftan

**WILL CONTINUE ON THE FOLLOWING TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 6:00 PM**

**MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup> - TAKING THE TEST: WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT YOU?**

**MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup> - COMPARING RESULTS WITH SOMEONE, ANYONE YOU LOVE**

**MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup> - ENHANCING, IMPROVING, BETTERING YOUR LOVING RELATIONSHIP(S)**

Please refer to [thetemplehub.com](http://thetemplehub.com) for zoom link



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Learn more about the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee at [www.jewishnashville.org](http://www.jewishnashville.org)

# February in the GJCC Galleries: Karen and Irving Coleman III, Garrett and Carrie Mills, and Cathy Bouchez

The Janet Levine March Gallery will feature the work of mother and son artists, Karen and Irving Coleman III. Karen is the head of HR at the Gordon Jewish Community Center and a painter, an author, a poet and an actress. Her paintings evolve from stories and her medium is acrylic on canvas and mixed media. This is her first exhibit at the Gordon JCC.

Irving Coleman III is a digital artist who is heavily influenced by Japanese Anime and Manga. His pieces reference famous tv shows or games that are currently popular such as Avatar the Last Airbender, famous MOBA, League of Legends, and the tabletop game Dungeons and Dragons. Each print utilizes reference drawings to clothing from Japanese and Chinese heritage. Several of his pieces also contain references to various anime, including older anime that people may have forgotten.

The JLMG2 Gallery will feature the work of Garrett and Carrie Mills. Garrett is a fashion photographer, photojournalist and painter. He is a Nashville native, attended the University School of Nashville and graduated from the George Washington University in 2018 with a BA degree in International Relations and a minor in Japanese Language and Literature. Garrett spent several months in Israel, working for the Flash 90 photojournalism agency. He lived in Tokyo, Japan for a year and studied at Waseda University, where he photographed for the fashion magazine, ENJI. This exhibit is a continuation of his exhibit from November 2020 which is a series of paintings inspired by the anime art form.

Nashville Woman magazine featured an article about Carrie Mills labeling her a, "Renaissance woman." Her creativity spans several creative fields, including fashion designer, stylist, musician, song-

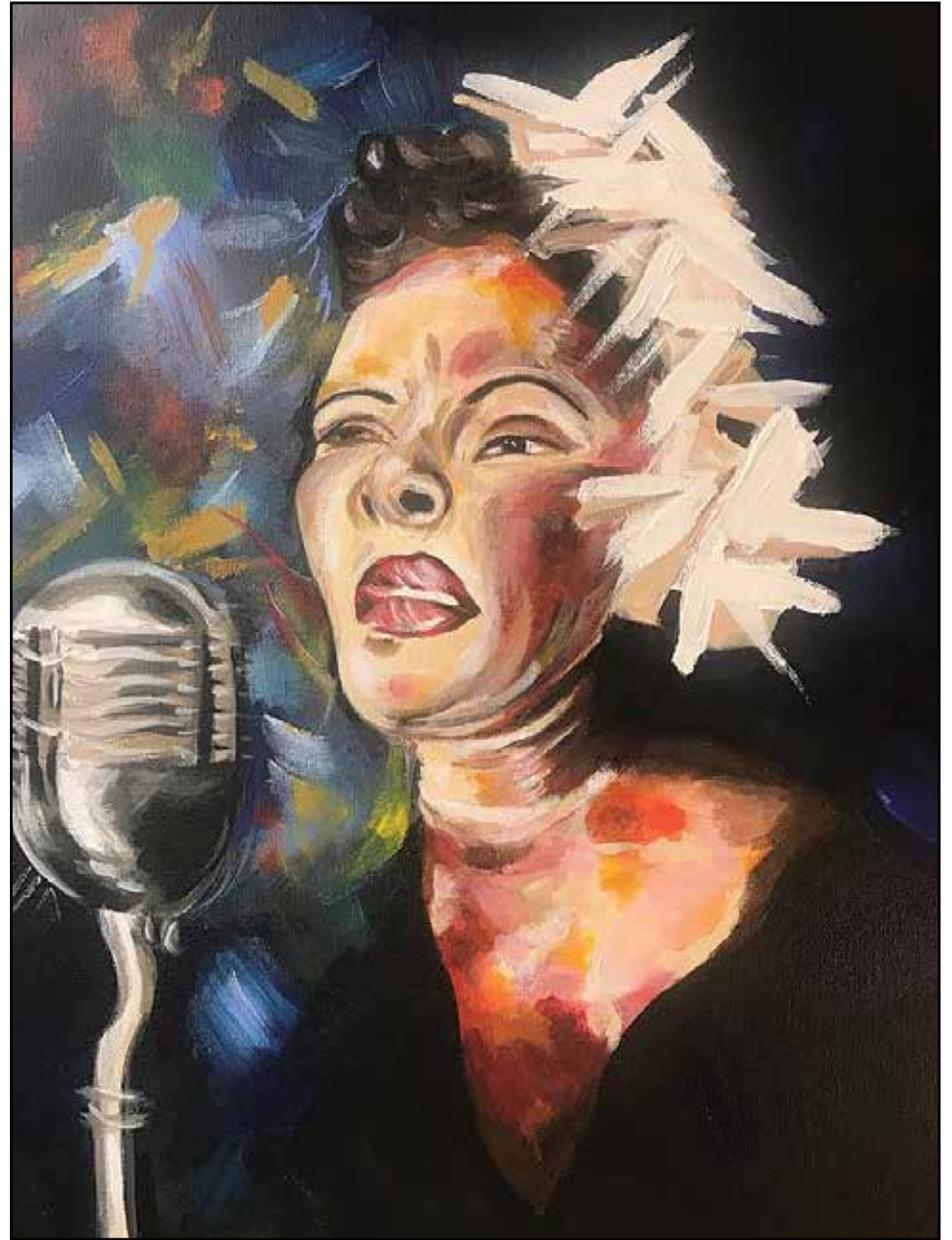
writer, photographer, painter, and illustrator. She has been the curator for the Gordon JCC galleries for over 13 years turning over three gallery exhibitions a month. For this show she will be exhibiting a few recent paintings and mixed media pieces.

The Sig Held Gallery will feature the photography of Cathy Bouchez. Cathy is a Belgian-born photographer and artist, now living in Nashville. Her passion for the arts began in the field of fashion retail. While living in the American South she turned her gaze to the iconic yet fading fixtures of the region through the lens of her camera. This is her first exhibit at the Gordon JCC.

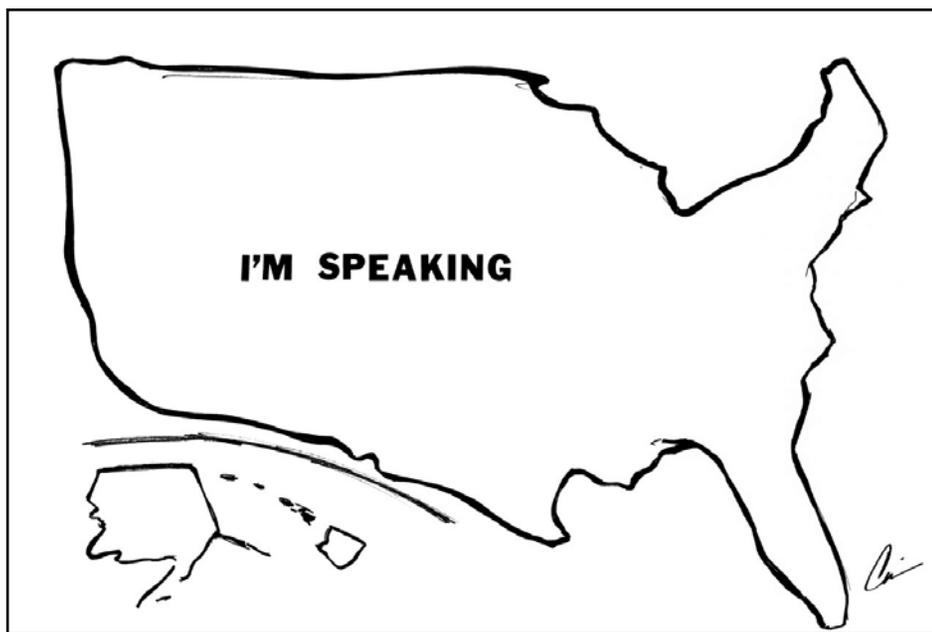
The House gallery will feature the Under One Roof collaborative exhibit. The Exhibition Dates are February 1st - February 27th. The exhibitions are free and open to the public. Any attendees will need to wear masks, sign in and have their temperature scanned at the front desk. For more information, contact the GJCC at 615.354-1699, Curator Carrie Mills at [carrie@nashvillejcc.org](mailto:carrie@nashvillejcc.org), or go to [www.nashvillejcc.org](http://www.nashvillejcc.org) •



"Sailor Moon," by Garrett Mills



Billie by Karen Coleman



I'm Speaking by Carrie Mills



Klaud and Zoren by Irving Coleman, III

To access the Community Calendar,  
go to [www.jewishnashville.org](http://www.jewishnashville.org)  
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## Nashville's congregations

Here are the websites for all five Nashville Jewish congregations, with information on services, upcoming events and more:

Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad, [www.chabadnashville.com](http://www.chabadnashville.com)

Congregation Micah, [www.congregationmicah.org](http://www.congregationmicah.org)

Congregation Sherith Israel, [www.sherithisrael.com](http://www.sherithisrael.com)

The Temple – Congregation Ohabai Sholom, [www.templenashville.org](http://www.templenashville.org)

West End Synagogue, [www.westendsyn.org](http://www.westendsyn.org)



## PURIM 2020 with Chabad of Nashville

Chabad of Nashville will be hosting a variety of Purim events that will be offered to the Jewish community for people of all ages, including study, ritual, cultural and spiritual. The following are the programs that will be offered at Chabad of Nashville for Purim 2021:

### “Gourmet Hamantashen available Now in Nashville”

Leave it to the Jews to have a cookie inspired by cultural annihilation!

Hamantashen are the triangle-shaped filled cookies most commonly associated with Purim, the most joyous of all Jewish holidays. They are versatile and can be made from a good sweet yeast dough, flaky dough or from a traditional cookie dough. The fillings can be mixed and matched.

The Hamantash cookie is eaten on Purim, when we read from the Book of Esther, the Megillah, and celebrate the Megillah, and celebrate the triumph of good (Esther) over evil (Haman, who planned to destroy the Jewish people.) Purim is the most joyous of all Jewish holidays.

Chabad of Nashville is offering Covid Safe, delicious Hamantashen to share with family and friends, while celebrating the joyous holiday of Purim!

These gourmet Hamantaschen will be baked by an authentic Hamantash bakery in Brooklyn New York, and will be offered in three different flavors, Raspberry, Poppy Seed and chocolate chip, and will all be dipped in chocolate, to give a rich smooth taste.

Orders can be placed at [chabadnashville.com/hamantashen](http://chabadnashville.com/hamantashen), and need to be placed by February 8th, for on time shipping before Purim.

For more information feel free to call 615-646-5750

### The Big Megillah Drive In

Thursday, February 25, 5:45 PM - Purim Eve

Chabad of Nashville will be celebrating Purim 2021 on Thursday, February 25, 5:45 PM, with the BIG MEGILLAH Reading. Festivities will take place in an outdoor setting on the Chabad of Nashville campus. The evening will include the screening of the story of Purim on a 26 foot screen, as participants will watch from their cars the story unfold in a comic strip setting. The event will also include Haman Boogie, Megillah Reading, and a Covid Safe Purim costume.

A special prepackaged Purim dinner of Drive-In Movie Cuisine, prepared with gLOVEs and masks, will be served to all celebrating in their cars. All participants will receive a special Pu-rim gift.

All are invited to attend. There is a nominal fee to cover the cost of the dinner.

RSVP is required by February 15, at [www.chabadnashville.com/purim](http://www.chabadnashville.com/purim)

### A Musical Purim Celebration

Saturday, February 27, 7:30 PM

On Saturday night Tuesday, February 27, at 7:30 PM, Chabad of Nashville will host a Musical Purim Celebration with a live Kumzitz Style concert with Tenor Cantor Aryeh Hurwitz via zoom.

Cantor Aryeh Hurwitz is a soloist and performer from Brooklyn, NY, whose voice has been featured all over the world. From the United States to France, England to South Africa, from the wild beauty of South America, his voice has shaken audiences and pierced hearts. His musical repertoire consists of many melodic genres and songs in a variety of languages, including traditional Hebrew liturgy, Yiddish folk songs, Opera, Broadway, modern Jewish music and more.

Aryeh is praised among his peers for his lyric tenor voice. He began his singing career as the cantor in Johannesburg, South Africa, leading high-holiday and special occasion services. He has studied music theory with legendary world renowned cantors including Joseph Malovany. He is currently serving as Cantor at The Chai Center in Dix Hills, Long Island. FORWARD has ranked Cantor Hurwitz as one of top 6 “Jewish Voices That Move Us.”

When Cantor Hurwitz was in Nashville several years back, he riveted the crowd with his masterful powerful operatic voice. He inspired and moved the crowd to tears of joy and happiness, and gave a great performance, we could not get enough of him said Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel, from Chabad of Nashville.

Cantor Hurwitz will lead a Purim Havdalah service, and then share a repertoire of songs Kumzitz style, together with a master pianist. The event will be broadcasted

live via zoom from a musical studio in New York, especially for the Nashville Jewish Community.

To receive the link for this event, please go to [chabadnashville.com/purim](http://chabadnashville.com/purim)

Or email [chabadnashvilleoffice@gmail.com](mailto:chabadnashvilleoffice@gmail.com)

### Is It Passover Yet?

Who can think of Passover today, when it is a couple of months away. Well, Passover begins on March 27, and will be here before you know it. Chabad of Nashville will be offering for purchase Shmurah Matzah hand made Matzah for your Passover Seder from the Holy Land of Isra-el. To place your order or for more information, go to [chabadnashville.com/matzah](http://chabadnashville.com/matzah)



As agile as ever, Judaism at Micah continues to evolve with courage, compassion and creativity. Stay updated! Go to [www.congregationmicah.org](http://www.congregationmicah.org), like us on our socials: Facebook and Instagram @MicahNashville, read our eblasts, learn with us on YouTube, chat with us on Zoom and pray with us on our Livestream. In our virtual tent, there is room for everyone! Access Micah's programs from our website - all are free and open to the public.

### Book Club

Monday, February 1 @ 7:00 PM on Zoom

A discussion of the book *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri

### The Afterlife Series: Jewish Views & Then Some

Wednesdays @ 12:00 PM on Zoom

Co-taught by Rabbi Laurie Rice and Rabbi Joshua Kullock

Feb 10: *After Death, Then What (part 2)? Immortality, Reincarnation*

Feb 24: *Is there Life After Death (part 1)?*

### “Are You Jewish Enough?”

Second Friday of each month @ 12:00 PM on Zoom

A discussion over lunch about all things Jewish. We'll explore prayer, spirituality, the nature of God, Israel, Jewish superstitions and so much more.

Led by Rabbis Laurie Rice and Jen Lader of Temple Israel in Bloomfield Hills, MI.

February 12, March 12, April 9

### Micah Red Cross Blood Drive

Sunday Feb 21 @ 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Save a life by giving blood. Visit our events page and sign up to donate.

### For the Sake of Repairing the World

Thursday, Feb 25 @ 12:00 PM

Study the texts and stories of our tradition and engage in the important dialogue of why we care about the world and what more we can do to repair it. Monthly on Zoom

### Purim

February 24th-28th

Remember when Jews only wore masks on Purim? We need a joyous Jewish celebration, so Micah plans on stretching out the merriment for days. Check our website for the latest details.

### A Woman's Circle

February 19th @ noon on Zoom

Grow your soul, meet with other women and engage with sacred text. Rabbi Laurie challenges your intellect through study and conversation on Jewish and other relevant topics. All are welcome. Bring a friend.

### Schmooze & Views

Thursdays @ 10:30 AM on Zoom

A discussion about politics conducted in a civil and humorous way. Led by Dr. Bob Smith and Rabbi Flip.

### Torah Study

Saturday Mornings @ 9:00 AM on Zoom

The sages and commentators - past and present - come alive. Led by one of the Rab-bis Rice.

### Shabbat Services

Friday Nights @ 6:00 PM on Livestream, Facebook and YouTube OR Zoom

Experience how the power of music, song, and the inspiration of sacred words can help you feel more connected and less anxious.

### Virtual Mah Jongg

February 9, February 23

Tuesday afternoons at 12:30 PM. Playing online on [realmahjongg.com](http://realmahjongg.com).

### Virtual Tai Chi Classes

Around the world, millions and millions of people are getting health benefits from learning this amazing art. Tai Chi teaches how to breathe and RELAX...and you don't have to get on the floor! Email [Info@TaiChiRiver.com](mailto:Info@TaiChiRiver.com) for more information.

# AT OUR CONGREGATIONS...

## @ Sherith Israel

February 25

### Purim Festivities in the Tent

6 pm Megillah Reading and Celebration  
Numbers limited due to COVID.

Register by email ([office@sherithisrael.com](mailto:office@sherithisrael.com)) or by phone (615 292 6614)

## @ The Temple

### February at The Temple

#### The Curb Lectures – 2021- The Sermon on the Mount

A 6-Week Judeo-Christian Perspective-You are invited to participate in this inaugural partnership between The Rev. Charlie Curb Center For Faith Leadership at Belmont & The Temple – Congregation Ohabai Sholom as they host this series to be held on

Tuesday Evenings at 6:00 p.m. ~ February 2nd, February 9th - February 16th

Leaders Include: Dr. Jon Roebuck, Executive Director of The Rev. Charlie Curb Center for Faith Leadership at Belmont University, Rabbi Mark Schiftan, Senior Rabbi, The Temple – Congregation Ohabai Sholom . Please join us each week as we learn together. Zoom Link: <https://belmontu.zoom.us/j/6154179356>

#### Lunch with the Rabbi takes place on Thursdays at Noon in February.

February 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th –For Zoom Information, go to [thetemplehub.org](http://thetemplehub.org)

#### Shabbat Schedule for February

Friday, February 5th ~ 6:00 pm (Inclusion Shabbat)  
Friday, February 12th ~ 6:00 pm (social Action Shabbat)  
Friday, February 19th ~ 6:00 pm  
Friday, February 26th ~ 6:00 pm (Purim service)

Access all Shabbat Services via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/320094033>

#### Chevrah Torah Study @ 9:30a.m. on Saturdays via [thetemplehub.org](http://thetemplehub.org)

#### Purim Celebration.

Join The Temple as we celebrate Purim. For more information on all of our Purim Pro-gramming, please visit [thetemplehub.org](http://thetemplehub.org).

#### Torah Tuesday with our Clergy

Purim Prep on Tuesday, February 16th and 23rd @ noon via [thetemplehub.org](http://thetemplehub.org)  
February 16th –Women in the Purim Story  
February 23rd- Purim 101

#### Purim Cooking Class on Wednesday, February 24th at 7:00pm

Temple Purim Service – Let's celebrate Purim at our Friday night service on Friday, February 26th at 6:00pm.

#### Purim Tot Shabbat on Saturday, February 27th at 10:00am

Drive Thru Purim Carnival on Sunday, February 28th at 10:00am  
Games, Treats, Costume Contest and so much more...all from your CAR!

#### Social Justice Panel on the Death Penalty on Thursday, February 18th at 7:00pm.

## @ West End

For links to the following services or programs, please email [office@westendsyn.org](mailto:office@westendsyn.org)

#### Shacharit

Join us Mondays & Thursdays for Shacharit service at 8:30 a.m. on Zoom.

#### Daily Mincha

Join us for daily Mincha on Zoom at 6:00 p.m.

#### Kabbalat Shabbat

You are invited to join. Join us for Kabbalat Shabbat on Fridays on Zoom at 6:00 p.m.

#### Morning Shabbat services

You are invited to join by zoom on Saturday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

#### Talmud on Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m.

#### Torah class on Thursdays

Nechemya Rosenfeld teaches a torah study class on Thursday mornings at 7:00 am. The link is the same as Shacharit on Thursdays.

#### Torah class for Women (Book of Leviticus):

First Wednesday of each month at 11am.

#### Torah class for Men (Second Book of Samuel):

Second Thursday of each month at 12pm.

#### WES Learn and Lunch

#### Wednesday, February 17 at NOON

Speaker: Mazalit Haim PHD, Assistant Professor of Hebrew Literature at Vanderbilt

Topic: Jewish culture & poetry

Anyone will be able to see the program, but the pickup lunch is limited to ages 60 plus.

A lunch catered by Goldie Shepard will be available for seniors ages 60 + to pick up at West End Synagogue from 10:00 am – 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday January 17 before program.

There is no charge for this event, but reservations are a MUST!

Rsvp to [linda@westendsyn.org](mailto:linda@westendsyn.org)

The link will be sent to you after we receive your reservation.

Hope to “see” you there.

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Also funded by: The Bernie Goldstein Family Trust in loving memory of Sandi Klein Goldstein, devoted Wife, Mother and Grandmother.

#### Honkey Tonk Purim at West End Synagogue

Mishenichnas Adar! When the month of Adar arrives, we increase our joy! Please join us for Purim festivities on February 25th at 6pm in the West End Synagogue parking lot. We will read Megillat Esther, enjoy hamantaschen and other treats hand delivered to your car, and enjoy a socially distant costume contest! Dress up yourselves and your car in costumes, bring your own gragger (we will have plenty for you as well), and make sure your car radio is working!

If you can, please arrive by 5:45 so we can begin with Maariv at 6, followed by Me-gillah Reading. We look forward to seeing you!



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ADVERTORIALS

# CAMPS

FEBRUARY 2021



the Jewish Observer

## Adventure Science Center

Adventure Science Center is excited to host another year full of action-packed and educational camps! Spring break camp from March 15th – 19th will focus on all things weather from twisting tornados to April showers. Summer camps begin on May 31st and run through August 13th. In these weekly camp programs, campers will learn all about the Earth from its deepest oceans to its highest mountains, get behind the scenes access to see what makes ASC the coolest place around, explore the hidden science in famous movies, and more! Capacity is limited to maintain a safe environment, so register today by visiting [adventuresci.org/camps](http://adventuresci.org/camps)

## Battle Ground Academy

Battle Ground Academy is Williamson County's No. 1 Private K-12 School, and in the summers, it's home to a robust camp program for children ages four and up. With half and full-day options available, our on-campus programming includes more than 40 camps, ranging from art and cheerleading to coding and soccer. Students can hone their skills in an athletic camp, enjoy a breadth of activities in Cannon Ball Camp, or explore new passions in our arts and enrichment programs – or DO IT ALL by participating in multiple sessions throughout the summer. Led by qualified faculty, staff, and coaches, we take pride in creating a friendly, welcoming environment at our camps, and our school's mission to ignite and nurture student curiosity, intellect, and character shines through our interaction with all campers, regardless of their, "home," school.

Learn more about our summer camp offerings and our flexible cancellation policy at [battlegroundacademy.org/camps](http://battlegroundacademy.org/camps). Registration opens on February 1, and families are encouraged to register early as camps are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested in additional information about BGA? Visit [battlegroundacademy.org/admissions](http://battlegroundacademy.org/admissions) to learn more about the elevated education experience we provide our students, review our application process and take a virtual tour of our Harpeth and Glen Echo campuses. Our Priority Application Deadline for Fall 2021 has passed, but we accept applications on a rolling basis and consider academically qualified applicants representing a diverse array of talents, interests, and backgrounds for admission as space is available.



**ADVENTURE SCIENCE CENTER**  
**CAMP**

**Come adventure this spring and summer!**  
register at [adventuresci.org/camps](http://adventuresci.org/camps)




**Fashion Camp 2021**

**Camp Davis**  
Gordon Jewish Community Center  
**July 19th - July 23rd**

[carrie@nashvillejcc.org](mailto:carrie@nashvillejcc.org)  
[www.carriemills.com](http://www.carriemills.com)

## Camp Davis

Summertime is the time of the year that we love to hear cheers, songs, and raucous from our campers. It's the time of year we wait for all year long at Camp Davis! We've been gettin' kids dirty since 1930 and we're ready for your kids to come get wild, crazy, and just be kids. This year we've added a whole new level of excitement with new staff, new specialty tracks, new games, and more. But don't worry... Camp is still rooted in our six Jewish Values: Love, Righteousness, Holy Community, Nature, Growth, and most importantly Fun. Camp Davis is more than a place for your kids to spend their summer – it is a place where your children will grow and push themselves to new levels of independence as they conquer their personal goals. At Camp Davis we are committed to providing our campers with positive and meaningful interactions with their peers, staff members, and the natural world.

To learn more- visit us at [www.campdavisnashville.com](http://www.campdavisnashville.com), or swing by the Gordon JCC and say hey!

## Fashion Camp

Fashion Camp 2021 is a full-blown dive into learning the art of fashion design from the bottom up taught by the camp creator, Carrie Mills, a Parsons school of design alumni. The week culminates with two professional fashion shows of original designs created and worn by the up and fashion camp participants. This exciting week covers everything from sketching, designing with fabric, repurposing, accessory design, modeling, fashion photos, styling, and as stated before...a full-blown fashion show. This is truly a one-of-a-kind unique and exciting camp that takes place July 19th- 23rd. Please see the Camp Davis brochure or online registration for enrollment.

## Jacob Kupin

My many years going to summer camp taught me the importance of friendship, integrity, service, and tenacity. At The Kupin Group, we lead with the same principles as we serve and care for our clients. Just like camp was a home for me, we would love to help find a home (or sell one) for you!

Jacob Kupin of The Kupin Group at Bradford Real Estate

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## One Happy Camper

“Jewish overnight camping provided my child a Jewish identity and a summer of fun that I did not expect him to have!”

This is the feeling that many campers and their families experience after their first-ever summer at Jewish overnight camp. Campers cannot wait to go back again to see their new friends, enjoy learning more about their Jewish identity, and of course, to have fun! To apply for a One Happy Camper (OHC) grant or to learn more, email Adam Bronstone at the Jewish Federation at [adam@jewishnashville.org](mailto:adam@jewishnashville.org) or visit [www.onehappycamper.org](http://www.onehappycamper.org).

## Sailing Camp

Nashville’s original sailing camp, hosted by Harbor Island Yacht Club (HIYC) on Old Hickory Lake, has been offered for youth every summer for more than 30 years. This year, it will be held for only four week-long sessions, beginning June 7, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

HIYC Sail Camp is intended for children and young people ages seven through 17. No experience is necessary. It is structured to build sailing skills in beginner to advanced sailors and to introduce children and teens to sailing and sailboat racing. Campers learn

*Continued on page 20*

← NASHVILLE’S ORIGINAL SAILING CAMP →



# HIYC SAIL CAMP

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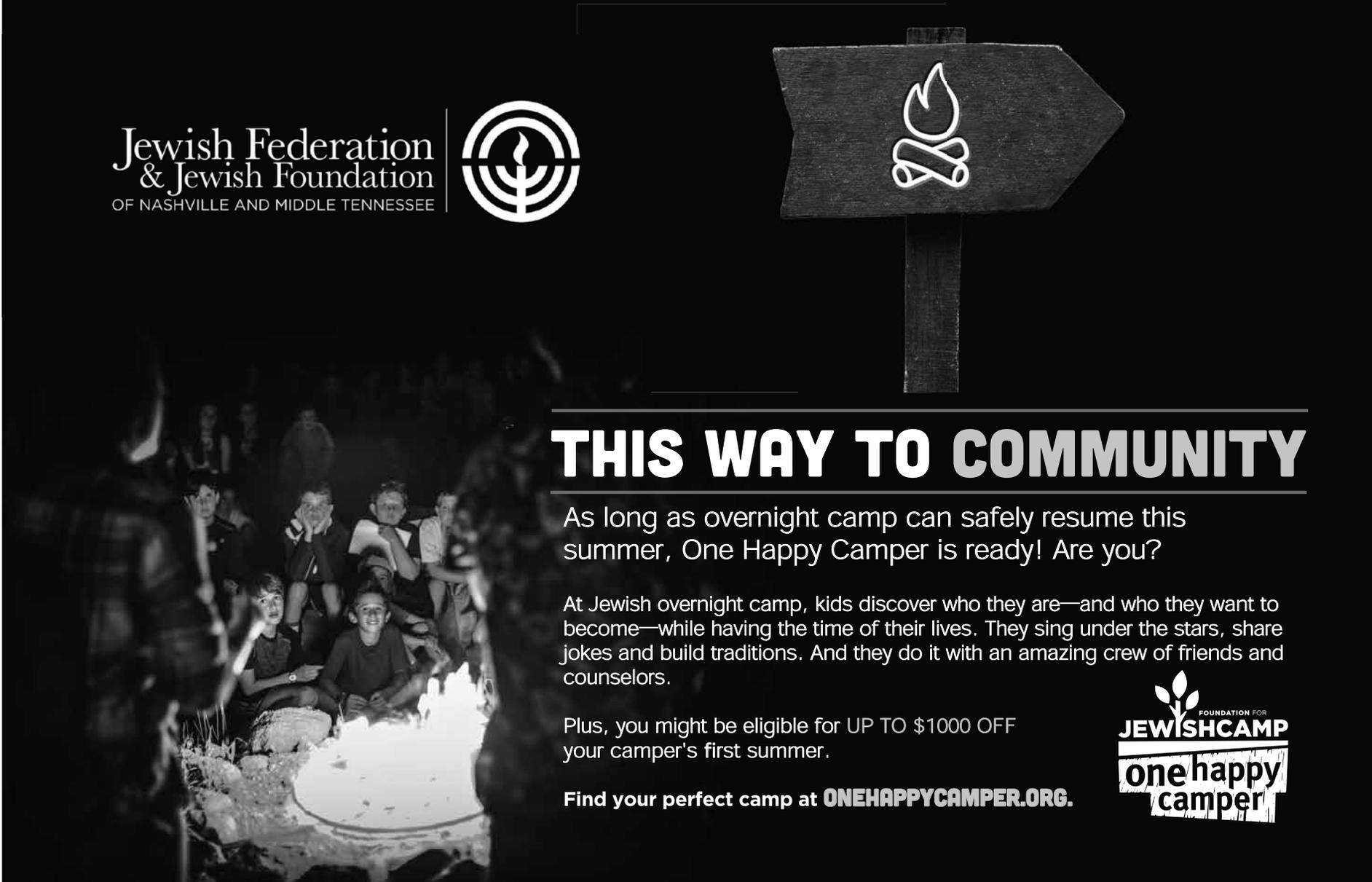
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Continued from page 19

on several different types of sailboats, including Optimist Prams (“Optis”), Lasers, and RS Zests and RS Fevas. Sailors are assigned to boats according to age and skill level. The program is taught by knowledgeable, trained young adults and caring counselors, all of whom are required to complete a full week of staff training. Instructors have US Sailing Instructor certification.

HIYC Sail Camp began as an all-volunteer effort in 1988, and since 2003 it is managed and supported by the Nashville Sailing Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to build life-long sailors. Donations are welcome at [nashvillesailing-foundation.org](http://nashvillesailing-foundation.org).

The number of spots available is limited. Some campers attend for just one week and others sign up for all sessions. For more information and to register your campers for this summer, visit <https://hiyc.org/sail-camp-2021>.

For questions please contact: Kelley Severns, Summer Director, [hiycsummer@gmail.com](mailto:hiycsummer@gmail.com), or call 859-433-9623.

### Watkins Camp

The Watkins Community Education Young Artist Programs at Belmont helps kids and teens develop creatively as they cultivate artistic skills. Led by outstanding artists, designers and educators, these programs explore the artistic process with emphasis on problem solving, designing, communicating and creating. Young artists will have the opportunity to work with real materials, in college studios, immersed in a full week of artistic inspiration.

The R.O.Y.G.B.I.V. Multi-arts Camp for ages 6 – 8 and 9 – 11 is inspired by weekly themes: Under the Sea, Play with your Food, Around the World, and The Mysteries of Space. Campers spend half of the day creating 2D art and the other half creating 3D art, and every kid leaves with a portfolio that expresses their creative exploration of the week’s theme.

The Studio Series Camp for ages 12-14 delves into a specific medium, project, or theme each week, introducing basic principles and elements while exploring advanced techniques for further practice. Themes could include comic illustration, drawing and painting, photography, printmaking, or digital media.

The Launch summer art program for teens helps high school students create portfolio ready work for college applications and scholarship consideration. Participants will engage in college-level instruction during 1- week sessions, reflecting the rigor and atmosphere of Belmont’s university programs. Participants can mix and match classes in fine art, digital media, photography, printmaking or fashion design.

All instructors are working professional artists and designers who are active in the field of study they instruct. For more information visit: <https://www.belmont.edu/watkins/community-education/youth-education.html>



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# Virtual Tu B'Shevat

By NOAM HARARI

Celebrate trees, a new year of nature, and environmental education during our special virtual Tots honoring Tu B'Shevat. Tu B'Shevat, the 15th day of the Jewish month of Shevat, is a holiday also known as the New Year for Trees. In partnership with the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee and PJ Library, our virtual event will feature hands on activities to help you celebrate this holiday at home. Click the QR code to learn more.



for experiencing something new. Get a taste of Tu B'Shevat by making the recipe below at home!

Recipe adapted from *The Baking Fairy*  
Total Time: 20 minutes  
Yield: about 20 date treats

## Date Treats

When celebrating Tu B'Shevat, it is tradition to eat fruits from Israel, like figs, dates, grapes, olives, or pomegranates, or to try fruits that you haven't eaten before and to say the "Shehechyanu," a prayer

## Ingredients

- 14 medjool dates
- 1 cup pecans
- 1 cup almonds
- A pinch of salt
- ¼ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon cocoa powder
- 2 teaspoons melted coconut oil
- Mini chocolate chips for mixing in, to taste
- Optional: Honey to taste to sweeten
- Toppings: shredded coconut, cocoa powder, chopped nuts, sprinkles

## Directions

1. Cut a slit into the dates lengthwise and remove the pits from each. Place the dates into a bowl and fill with enough warm water to cover them. Let them soak in the water for 5 minutes to help soften them.
2. In a blender, add the pecans and almonds and pulse until finely chopped.
3. Drain the dates and add them to the blender with the chopped nuts. Add in the salt, cinnamon, cocoa powder and coconut oil. Blend until mixture is smooth and sticky, stopping to scrape down the sides as needed. Add more cinnamon and cocoa powder to taste. If you would like to sweeten it, add in a little bit of honey.
4. Transfer mixture to a bowl and stir in chocolate chips if using. Place in fridge for about 5-10 minutes to help the mixture set.
5. Lay out a piece of wax paper on the table.
6. Form the mixture into heaping tablespoon sized balls. Wet your hands before rolling the mixture to prevent sticking.
7. Once the balls are formed, roll each ball through the topping of your choice.
8. Store in an airtight container for up to a week in the refrigerator.



## Dear Esther

Dear Esther,

I am a senior living in a high rise with concierge services. During the pandemic, a friend has been shopping for groceries and I have been leaving my credit card in a sealed envelope at the front desk for her to pick up. I feel very safe and confident in the security of the building and have never had an issue until now. An after-hour security officer has been using my credit card and has charged close to \$1,000. The strange part is that I learned about this after he called me and told me about it. I immediately cancelled the card and have since received notices from my bank that he has attempted to use it again. I was very fond of this person and had many delightful conversations with him. Now I meet my friend downstairs and hand her the credit card because I am not trusting of anyone. He resigned from the job, so he is no longer here, but I am left perplexed about the entire situation and distrustful of everyone.

– Wary Senior

Dear Wary Senior,

First let me applaud you for not going to the grocery store during the pandemic and taking good care of yourself. I am baffled by the audacity of the security officer who stole from you and then called you to tell you what he had done. His agenda on that is not clear to me. You might want to utilize a grocery delivery service. Your adult children and even older grandchildren can order groceries for you regardless of where they live. If

you do not have a family member who can do this, JFS has volunteers ready to teach you how to set up an account and will walk you through your first order. You may also want to sign up with The Council on Aging of Middle Tennessee to receive their regular emails about the latest scams and ways to protect yourself from becoming a victim again. You will reduce the chances of this happening again; you will feel empowered and help restore your sense of safety.

When someone you know steals from you, they steal more than your money. They steal your trust and your sense of safety. It is normal to feel upset, angry, sad, violated, confused, and irritated. Stay present with your thoughts and feelings and learn from this experience but don't let it sour your trust in everyone. Most people are trustworthy, but it is necessary to take precautions for the rare incident when someone is not. Let's talk a minute about regaining your sense of safety. You are likely to have a heightened sense of awareness for the next 6-8 weeks. This is normal and will get better with time. Talk to people in your support network about what happened and how you feel. It is likely that someone close to you has experienced a similar event. When we share with others, our burdens become lighter.

I am sorry that this happened to you. Please send me your address so I can drop off some of my famous Matzo Ball soup to soothe your soul. There is nothing better than enjoying hot soup in a warm home on a cold winter day.

– Esther

Esther recently migrated to Nashville from New York and will be partnering with JFS on an advice column for *The Observer* beginning in October. Esther is a retired Psychologist, veteran grandmother who brings a lifetime of experience including dysfunctional families, raising children, relationships, kosher cooking and even interfaith families. Esther is excited to be in Nashville and will soon be heard promoting her famous matzo ball soup that she believes heals just about anything.

Please submit your questions to [esther@jfsnashville.org](mailto:esther@jfsnashville.org) on anything under the sun and watch for answers in her column. •

# Kvetch in the City

By CARRIE MILLS

Now that Hallmark February is upon us, (and since this past December and January were quite literally terrorizing) I'd like to take a moment and turn my internal focus on love. Not necessarily the kind



Carrie Mills

of love between two people, family or pets. I'm thinking about love of place, of home, of the place one calls home.

I recently learned there is an actual word for love of a place: topophilia. The word was popularized by the geographer Yi-Fu Tuan in 1974 as, "the human being's affective ties with the material environment." I've been thinking a lot about this feeling of love and warmth for a place and about this city I call home.

To be honest, my first love of place was and always will be New York City. The place I was born. Fact is though...I up and left NYC. I moved. I moved to Nashville to pursue a dream that seemed only Nashville could fulfill (along with a bit of running away from dysfunctional family of origin thrown in for good measure). While there is much I have complained about living here (I mean, I am Kvetch in the City after all), for example, the lack of effective mass transit and connecting sidewalks... (please Nashville government...please do something about

that!) for twenty six years I have called Nashville home. And in that twenty six years I have created a lot of life here. A solid one at that, with roots that have taken hold in a loving Jewish community and a vibrant Nashville art community.

After the horrific and shocking suicide bombing on Christmas morning, (though it somehow feels like years ago with all the other dramatic horrifying unfolding news of the last few weeks) I naturally reflected on my feelings about this city I call home. In my early years of life in Nashville, besides going to Radnor lake daily, I used to love going downtown on a regular basis. I would take Garrett in his stroller to the amazing Red Groom's Fox Trot carousel for a ride and then walk the sleepy streets over to Sbarros, one of the few places where you could get a slice. There was a little barbecue sidewalk shack on Broadway, and Acme actually was a feed store for farmers. And believe it or not, you could actually find a parking spot, no problem. I could go on quite a bit about how cool Nashville was, and is, as a unique Southern city and how good it has been to me and for me on so many levels.

Suffice it to say, as February fills Kroger's middle aisle with chocolates, flowers and sentimental cards, I reflect on that new word, topophilia, and realize if I am to send a candy heart message of love this month, it would be to Nashville, and it would say...You stole my heart. •



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# Obituaries

## New information service

Observer readers who wish to receive email notification of obituaries as the newspaper receives the information may be placed on a new e-mail list being created for this purpose by the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. Please send your request via e-mail to [obits@jewishnashville.org](mailto:obits@jewishnashville.org).

### Richard I. Born

Condolences to the family of **Richard I. Born** who died on January 13. He is survived by his son, daughter-in-law and grandson, Mark and Robin Born and Jason Stroud, and his sons, Jon and Ryan. Memorials can be made in Richard's name to Congregation Micah.

### Rabbi Elijah Cohen

Condolences to the family of **Rabbi Elijah Cohen**, 79, the father of Mrs. Esther Tiechtel from Chabad of Nashville, who died on January 18 in Montreal. He was a prominent member of the Chabad community in Montreal, and professor of mathematics at Concordia University. He suffered from health complications following his long bout with COVID-19.

Born in Tunisia, he immigrated to Montreal in his youth. At the age of 16, he took notice of the notable Chabad chassidim in Montreal who survived the Second World War and built the Rabbinical College of Canada.

R' Elie, as he was later known in the community, began learning Chassidim and quickly grasped deep kabbalistic concepts along with learning Talmud and its many commentaries and halacha.

He did so while being enrolled in McGill University. When his professor noticed his frequent absence, they expelled him. R' Elie happily reported the development to the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, of blessed memory, noting that he could now devote all of his time to learning Torah. To his surprise, the Rebbe instructed him to return to college.

He received his Ph.D. from McGill in 1967, the same year he received his rabbinical ordination from the Rabbinical College of Canada. He took a position at Concordia University, a public comprehensive research university. R' Elie served there as an associate professor of mathe-

matics and statistics with research interest in homological algebra and category theory. As a bearded chassid and rabbi, his appearance was a rarity and an example of blending otherwise opposite worlds. It led to many meaningful interactions and conversations with students over the years.

But for all his expertise in mathematics, his children don't remember him ever discussing his work at home or bringing home any work related books or papers. "In the day he was in Concordia, in the evening he was in Torah," said his daughter Mrs. Esther Tiechtel.

He is survived by his wife Mrs. Rochel Cohen, and his children, Rabbi Mendel Cohen, Sacramento, Calif.; Rabbi Yosef Yitzchok Cohen, Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. Esther Tiechtel, Nashville; Rabbi Sholom Ber Cohen, Montreal; grandchildren and great-grandchildren in the USA and Canada.

### Margaret Mary Glynn

Condolences to the family of **Margaret Mary Glynn**, mother of Julia (Edmund) Lewis.

### Alden Kirshner

Condolences to the family of **Alden Kirshner**, 83, who died on January 10 in Nashville. A lifelong Nashvillian, he graduated from West End High School and Vanderbilt University and worked in his family business, Kirshner Realty Company for 45 years. He and his loving wife, Barrie, of 63 years, raised their family in Nashville and then retired to Venice, Fla., where they spent the next 20 years engaged in things they loved. Alden was actively involved in synagogue life in both Jewish communities of Nashville and Venice.

He is survived by his wife, Barrie Kirshner; three sons, Arthur (Annette) Kirshner, Neil (Susan) Kirshner, Michael (Bari Bettan) Kirshner; grandchildren, Erica (Peter DeBenedictus) Kirshner, Sara (Stephen) Helba, Leah (Daniel) Creighton, Marin Kirshner and Carson Kirshner; and four great grandchildren, Brody, Tia, Maya and Violet. His sisters-in-law, Charlotte Seloff and Ellen Dansk; brother and sister-in-law, Ned and Mickey Davis, and Aunt, also survive him: Marsha Brody and many nephews/nieces. Donations can be made to West End Synagogue or the Venice Jewish Center.

### Marvin Fish

Condolences to the family of **Marvin Fish**, who died on January 12. Survivors include his wife, Marsha Fish; son Howard (Amanda) Fish; and his grandchildren Gregory and Marissa Fish. Also condolences to Daniel (Kristine) Levin and their son Jaden.

### Jeffrey David Morris

Condolences to the family of **Jeffrey David Morris**, who died on December 28, 2020. The son of the late Fred and Charlotte Morris, Jeff was born on February 24, 1949, in Nashville. He was the oldest of three children. A graduate of Hillwood High School in 1967, he went on to study at the University of Chattanooga. After traveling in Europe, Jeff came back to Nashville to work with his father and brother at Nashville Business Form. He married Goldie Slomovic in 1973. Jeff loved comic books, riding horses and could talk all day about history and pro wrestling. He was a funny, sincere, and wonderful man. He is survived by his wife Goldie, son Max and granddaughter Ella, daughter Dvora Davidson, son-in-law Jeff Davidson and

granddaughter Charlotte, brother Edwin Morris and sister Henri Zeitlin.

### Bernie Schklar

Condolences to the family of **Bernie Schklar**, who died on January 9.

### Fran Shmerling

Condolences to the family of **Fran Shmerling**, who died January 19. She is survived by her children, Jim (Debbie) Shmerling, Michael (Lisa) Shmerling, Rob (Lisa) Shmerling and Judy (Gil) Given; grandchildren, Marc (Theresa) Shmerling, Phillip (Laura) Shmerling, Bryna Shmerling, Erin (Alex) Brock, Andy Shmerling, Mollie (Bobby) Perry, Katie (Adam) Wayne, Ali (Assaf) Bernstein, Molly Shmerling and Grant Given; and great-grandchildren, Dylan, Lydia, Alya and Ari Shmerling; Sam, Jake and Elizabeth Shmerling; Jack Brock, David, Jack and Max Perry; Abby and Alice Wayne; and Zoe and Leo Bernstein.

### Genadiy Simkin

Condolences to the family of **Genadiy Simkin**, 97, who died January 19. He immigrated to Nashville from the former Soviet Union. •

## Joyce Dubrov Fox

Joyce Dubrov Fox died peacefully on January 23, 2021 at the age of 73 surrounded by family at her home. Daughter of the late Harry and Ann Dubrov, Joyce was born in Louisville, KY



and grew up in Chattanooga, TN. As a child, she enjoyed playing softball, participating in Girl Scouts, riding bikes, dancing, acting, spending time with family, and being active in the Jewish community. She graduated with a BA in Psychology from Washington University in St. Louis and met the love of her life, Gilbert S. Fox III, her senior year of college. Over 51 years of marriage, she and Gil built an incredible life together filled with family, friends, community, wonderful travels to 64 countries, and many eating adventures.

With the loving support of Gil, Joyce pursued a master's degree in Psychology from Peabody College. She devoted her working years to a variety of local organiza-

tions including Second Harvest Food Bank, the ARC, Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, and most importantly her 22 years of dedicated service to the Jewish Federation.

In retirement, Joyce spent time with family and friends, traveled widely, and dedicated herself to volunteer efforts. Among those most important to her were Book'em, where she shared her love of reading with school-aged children and also served as the Secretary of the Board of Directors. She also contributed her time and talents to the Nashville Adult Literacy Council, where she tutored English language learners who had immigrated to this country much like her own mother, and to the Temple Ohabai Sholom's Social Action Committee.

When not working or volunteering, Joyce spent time with her family and large network of friends. She was known for welcoming newcomers to the Jewish community. To her family and friends, she will be remembered for her caring and compassionate nature, always giving more than she expected in return. She was a woman of valor, who exuded kindness and thoughtfulness.

She is survived by her husband Gilbert S. Fox III; her three daughters, Jenifer Fox Romps (Dennis) of Leesburg, Virginia; Dana Fox of Denver, Colorado; and Karen Fox Elwell (Ken) of Littleton, Colorado; her three grandchildren Jason Romps, Zac Romps, and Dominic Elwell; siblings Ronald Dubrov (Judy) and Cheryl Mason (John); nieces Annie Mason, Kate Mason, and Allyson Dubrov; nephew Andrew Dubrov (Li-Or); grandnephew Theo Dubrov; and a large extended family and many friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to Temple Ohabai Sholom's Joyce Fox Intergenerational Activities Fund or to Book'em, Nashville Adult Literacy Council, Jewish Federation, Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, Alive Hospice, or an organization most meaningful to you.

Funeral was Tuesday, January 27th at 2pm at the Temple. May her memory always be a blessing. •

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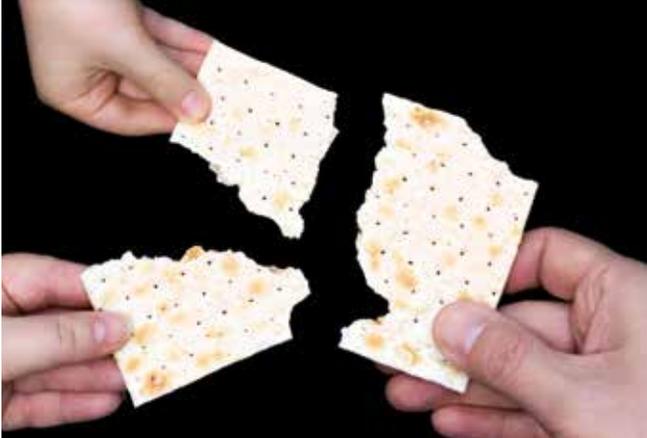
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# Jewish Community Relations Seder

Via Zoom, March 11 promptly at 6:30pm



All are invited to strengthen relationships with our neighbors and with those dedicated to justice, diversity and respect.

## Free to attend.

Optional traditional Seder meal available for purchase through the registration link.

## Registration required:

[www.jewishnashville.org/seder](http://www.jewishnashville.org/seder)

In lieu of the traditional in-person event, we have partnered with World Central Kitchen to serve 1000 meals to those in need.



THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.  
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

For more information, contact Deborah Oleshansky at [deborah@jewishnashville.org](mailto:deborah@jewishnashville.org).