

the Jewish Observer

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HAPPY PASSOVER



Temple preschoolers play in the new Outdoor Learning Environment space.

Jewish Federation's COVID Emergency Response Fund Helps Provide Preschool Tuition for The Temple's Essential Workers

By BARBARA DAB

Essential workers hit hard by the pandemic will receive some relief in the form of preschool scholarships, thanks to The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. Many of these workers were receiving assistance from the state, but those funds are due to run out at the end of the month. The Federation's COVID Emergency Response Fund will provide scholarships to those families most critically in need, most of whom are single income households. Rabbi Shana Mackler, of The Temple, says the grant will go a long way for those families. "We are trying to keep meeting the needs and to have this resource is a gift," she says. Rabbi Mackler also says she is thrilled with the fast response from The Federation. CEO Eric Stillman says he is grateful to the Federation's donors for making the funds available so quickly, "It is especially important during the pandemic to help families who are being hit the hardest economically, and I think this assistance demonstrates exactly how the Federation's COVID

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Annual Campaign's Tzedakah Week Sets New Volunteer Record

By BARBARA DAB

A record number of volunteers turned out for The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee's Tzedakah Week. Amid freezing temperatures, the hearty souls rolled through the Gordon JCC parking lot to pick up their tool kits for this year's remote campaign. Things do look a bit different this year, due to both extreme weather and the COVID19 pandemic, but Federation President Steven Hirsch says nevertheless, the show will go on. "Like many other things this year, we were not able to conduct Tzedakah Tzunday in the usual manner. But we had close to 60 volunteers making phone calls to the community over a two week period to ensure that our Annual Campaign goes forward." This year's campaign includes an ongoing dollar for dollar match for new gifts and increases over last year's gifts up to a maximum of \$40,000.

Tzedakah Week Chairs Marci and Jacob Kleinrock are excited by the outpouring of volunteers during this unprecedented year. Jacob says, "This



Tzedakah Tzunday Chairs Marci and Jacob Kleinrock welcome volunteers picking up their tool kits

year's event was already going to be different and even with the difficulties, we are glad to have helped recruit the most Tzedakah Tzunday callers in recent memory." Marci agrees and says, "These calls are vital to funding the annual campaign and ensuring we have the resources necessary to fully fund the needs of our local and international Jewish community." As in years past,



Federation Staff Carolyn Hyatt and Barbara Schwarcz deliver the goods to Sherry Rosenberg Jivens

Tzedakah Week relies not only on volunteers working the phones, but on behind-the-scenes staff, says President Steve Hirsch. "Special thanks to Jacob and Marci Kleinrock for chairing this year's community outreach efforts and to our staff members Carolyn Hyatt, Barbara Schwarcz and Jessica Banish for braving the elements to distribute our packets to volunteers on Tzedakah Tzunday." •

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What Does it Cost to Be Jewish?

By BARBARA DAB

It's a topic discussed over Shabbat dinners, gossiped about over coffee, whispered behind the closed doors of rabbinic offices. What, exactly, is the cost of being Jewish? In particular, the cost of living what some refer to as, "an involved Jewish life," meaning to be affiliated with a congregation, to send kids to Jewish schools and summer camps and to be active in local Jewish nonprofits and agencies. The financial burden of Jewish life is not new, and according to Shaul Kelner, Associate Professor of Sociology and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University, overall costs are not going down. "These concerns have been around a long time," he says,

"The worry for institutional Jewish life is that the rising cost will cause a drop off in participation and that only the very wealthy will be able to afford it and those in need will be able to receive help. It's the middle where we'll see the drop."

In fact, the challenges of this past year have highlighted both the growing need for assistance and the availability of resources. Aid that was typically only known to individuals and families facing a temporary financial crisis, is now receiving broader attention as people continue to be affected by the pandemic's economic slowdown. At Jewish Family Service of Nashville, social workers are hearing from many folks who now find themselves struggling to pay their bills and other expenses. Toni Jacobsen,

Clinical Director of JFS, is organizing a program to provide grocery store gift cards to assist people during Passover. She says, "This is really focused on helping people who normally don't reach out to us and are not on our radar. The idea is to help those in the middle, who have not needed us before and let them know we are there for everyone."

At the local congregations, rabbis and staff agree that Jewish communal life comes with a hefty price tag and can create tough choices, particularly for families. While anyone is welcome to attend services, adult education and other programming, some aspects of congregational life are out of reach. Rabbi Joshua Kullock, of West End Synagogue,

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March in the Gordon JCC Galleries: The Contemporary Collective, The Collage Collective, and Carolyn Elam, page 18

Federation Past President named to Partnership Consortium Chairmanship

By BARBARA DAB

Fred Zimmerman, a past President of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee has been named Volunteer Co-Chair of the Jewish Agency for Israel's Partnership2Gether (P2G) Consortium. Fred will serve a two-year term, alongside his Israeli counterpart, Tali Peri, who resides in the partnership region of Hadera-Eiron. In this role, Fred will work with communities throughout the partnership, which is comprised of communities in the Southeastern United States, the Jewish community of Prague (Czech Republic) and, of course, the people of the Hadera-Eiron region in Israel, where everyone has the goal of furthering connections with Israel. Jill Abel, P2G United States Hadera-Eiron Consortium



Coordinator, says Fred is the right choice because not only does he have deep roots and connections to the Southeast region, but he is also deeply connected to Israel. She says, "We are thrilled to have Fred Zimmerman as our incoming P2G Consortium Volunteer Co-Chair. His love and passion for Israel and his lifelong knowledge of Jewish life in the Southeast United States makes him the perfect choice for this position. We are looking forward to working with him in this role and we are excited to see how he will move our Hadera-Eiron Southeast Consortium forward in the upcoming years."

A Nashville native, Fred has been involved in the local Jewish community for most of his life. His commitment to the community and to Israel is something he attributes to his father. "I think it really rubbed off on me when my dad

was constantly flying to Israel on mission trips," he says, "He used to tell me that the secret was that in addition to being a lot of work, his involvement was a lot of fun and deeply rewarding." Fred followed in his father's footsteps, first serving as Co-Chair of the National Young Leadership Cabinet, a position he says was transitional for him. "It was absolutely at the right time for me. As I progressed through the Cabinet, I realized getting people to join me was really a lot of fun."

Fred's involvement goes further than just making a lot of friends. He is also someone who enjoys digging in and working hard. Steven Hirsch, President of The Jewish Federation, says it is no surprise Fred was chosen for this new role. "I'm not sure what more we can say about Fred Zimmerman. He has done just about everything a person can do within the Jewish Federation at a local, national and international level. Now he is stepping up again as co-chair of the P2G Consortium, a program that has been so successful

for Nashville. I know that he will add value and continue the success of this program as it expands internationally." Fred's initial plans include working with volunteers and professional staff to determine the communities' priorities for further engaging more people. He believes Federation should be a pathway for involvement in Jewish communal work. He also hopes to be able to travel again to his beloved Israel, once it is safe, to share his passion for the country and most important, for its people. "I believe when you are on a first name basis with people, good things happen," he says, "By spending time in Israel, you begin to see the depth that is there and to understand the needs and real life of the people."

In addition to his new role, Fred has been a member of the Jewish Federations of North America Board of Trustees and Executive Committee, past Chair of the intermediate Federations, past Vice Chair of United Israel Appeal and he is a current member of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel. •

JCRC Justice Seder Builds Community in the Virtual World

By DEBORAH OLESHANSKY

Looking out my window at several inches of snow and ice I am dreaming about spring and looking forward to warmer weather and sunshine. Spring means Passover, but before we get to the actual holiday, we get to celebrate the Jewish Community Relations Justice Seder with the Jewish and greater community on March 11, via Zoom. This annual event brings together community members, civic leaders, and elected officials to discuss issues related to justice, equity, and inclusion.

When the shutdown began on March 16, 2020, we were within days of the 2020 JCRC Justice Seder which had been designed as an in-person event. Rabbi Laurie Rice and Rabbi Flip Rice, along with wonderful, talented musicians, switched gears and conducted a live stream version from the Congregation Micah pulpit. Our gratitude to them for making that happen in a such a short time frame.

This year's virtual event will be conducted via Zoom and will include both large group celebration and small group conversation. The heart and soul of the JCRC Justice Seder has always been the opportunity for people from myriad backgrounds and groups to come together to learn, to celebrate and to build and strengthen relationships. Though virtual, our program this year will provide this opportunity for personal connections. JCRC member, Hayley Levy, has engaged a group of welcoming and enthusiastic table hosts who will facilitate two small group conversations during the event. These small group break out sessions will be assigned randomly with the hope that everyone will have the chance to meet at least one new acquaintance before the closing song.

In lieu of the usual in person meal, we partnered with World Central Kitchen to provide funding for 1000 meals for Metro Nashville Public Schools families in need. WCK, founded by Chef Jose Andres in 2010, uses the



Sisters Kathy and Sandra Leslie, founders of Shugga Hi Bakery, prepare and deliver meals locally to people in need

power of food to heal communities and strengthen economies through times of crisis and beyond. Coordinating with local restaurants, WCK provides meals to those in need throughout the world.

In 2020, the world changed profoundly, and our daily lives were overturned in a way none of us could have ever imagined. WCK began working in United States communities to help meet the needs of families for a warm plate of food, and supported thousands of local restaurants in the process.

Our local project connected us with Shugga Hi Bakery to help MNPS families. Owned and operated by sisters Kathy and Sandra Leslie, Shugga Hi has

been a Nashville original since 2017. These sisters have been preparing and delivering meals to those in need for over a year. During the Maggid portion of the Seder, we will learn more about our local project, and ways to address food insecurity in our city.

The last in person JCRC Justice Seder in March 2019, led by Rabbi Joshua Kullock, Cantor Tracy Fishbein, Cantor Sarah Levine, and cantorial soloist Lisa Silver, had over 300 people of all ages, representing 45 different community groups, enjoying food and music, learning, singing, and celebrating in the auditorium of the Gordon Jewish Community Center. We have faith that



World Central Kitchen provides meals to Metro Nashville Public Schools families in need and helps support local restaurants

in March 2022 we will once again be together in person. Until then, we hope you will join us virtually on Thursday, March 11 from 6:30-8pm. You must register for the event to participate. The registration link includes the option of purchasing a meal to enjoy. Meals must be preordered and will be available for drive through pick up at Sherith Israel on either Wednesday, March 10, or Thursday morning March 11.

Please plan to join us for this evening of connection, conversation, celebration, and community building. To register: www.jewishnashville/seder For details or questions contact Deborah Oleshansky, deborah@jewishnashville.org

Editor's Note

Looking back, Looking Forward

By BARBARA DAB

By the time this issue of The Observer is delivered to your mailboxes, it will be just about one year since tornadoes devastated neighborhoods in Nashville, leaving many without a roof over their heads. And, as we all know, just days later the COVID19 pandemic forced all of us to shelter at home. We now talk and think about things like clinical trials, virus testing, vaccines and face masks. "Testing positive," has taken on a whole new meaning. Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes now grace our counters and desks alongside family photos and other knickknacks. And while infection numbers are looking better, it is hard not to think about all we've lost and who we've lost.

Still, just as Ann Frank remained defiantly optimistic in the face of danger and tragedy, I remain uplifted and encouraged by the many ways our community has handled what initially seemed like insurmountable challenges. We have managed to not only stay connected, but we have grown closer and strengthened our bonds. And we have done it through the use of technology. Our days are filled with Zoom meetings, phone calls, Facetime and social media. We have managed to attend services, seders, lectures, dance lessons, school, book clubs, cocktail parties, weddings, funerals, B'nai Mitzvah and much more. Yes, amid the loss, anxiety, fear and sickness, life has continued on and much has been mourned and celebrated.

I have missed seeing you all in person and on those rare occasions when I can attend an in person event, it is hard to resist the urge to reach out and hug or shake hands. As we approach yet another Passover, facing another virtual seder, it is my hope and prayer that we are nearing an end to the isolation many of us feel. To help commemorate and maybe even celebrate all we have survived this year, I invited community members to share their stories and reflections on their year of COVID. Below are just a couple of those and I hope to share more in the coming months. I welcome your story, too. In the meantime, be well, wash your hands, wear a mask and enjoy a Happy and peaceful Passover.

From Lynn Fleischer

I spent many hours researching, designing, laying out, executing and planting a labyrinth in my backyard. By September I was able to place this special centerpiece which is a Peace Pole that I commissioned Betsy Greenbaum Hoffman to design and create. I love what she did! Her work is so whimsical. If you haven't seen it she designed all the frames of the children's artwork for the elevator lobby in the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital. It is a very memorable wall because she extracted a theme from each piece to design the frame around it.

My middle child, Jared, and his fiancée, Natalie Labovitz, had planned a 6-20-2020 wedding at 6:20 pm. Everything was postponed but they decided to have a civil ceremony on that day anyway



Lynn Fleischer shows off the garden and commissioned sculpture she designed during the pandemic summer of 2020.

at Richland Creek on The Temple grounds and Rabbi Mackler agreed. The second photo shows who was allowed to attend!!! Much to my dismay no parents or family members were invited!!! They each had an attendant and of course, Molly their 4-legged child was thought to be of no harm and could attend. The videographer and photographer were masked and distanced. The first photo was a gift from a friend who grabbed one of the photographer's shots and super imposed the magazine cover to give the kids as a gift. It is cool and captured them so well.



Lynn Fleischer's son, Jared, and his fiancée, Natalie, are married pandemic-style with Rabbi Shana Mackler officiating.

Jared and Natalie had to cancel Oct. 17th their postponement date so they are now hoping to do their religious ceremony this coming June. I also had a daughter who had planned a July wedding but they are up in the air about their new date. What's that old Yiddish proverb, "We plan, God laughs."



Marsha Jaffa gets in shape pandemic-style at the Gordon JCC

From Marsha Jaffa

I wanted to thank the JCC for keeping me occupied. I've been able to swim at the JCC and/or do water aerobics 3 days a week. On alternate days I've enjoyed working out in the fitness center. The JCC watches all areas to make sure they are cleaned regularly and have limitations on how many people may attend different activities. I've learned Yoga both at the JCC and on Zoom. I'm still doing Zumba online and enjoy seeing some of my friends there but look forward to seeing them in person as soon as possible. I've never been in such great physical shape.

I've read more books than usual as there are book reviews for WES Sisterhood and Hadassah. There's always a Zoom to keep me busy, from Torah study to minyan, Senior programs and Federation.



Marsha Jaffa and her pal Hopper participate in a Zoom class

Hopper is one of my best friends. He sits next to me on most zoom calls and receives belly rubs and occasionally sits up to tell everyone hello. He loves walking around The Cloisters and visiting with the neighbors. They always tell me he's such a gentleman. •

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The Jewish Observer is committed to making corrections and clarifications promptly. To request a correction or clarification, call Editor Barbara Dab at (615) 354-1653 or email her at barbaradab@jewishnashville.org

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. 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.

For advertising deadlines, contact Carrie Mills, advertising manager, at 615-354-1699, or by email at carrie@nashvillejcc.org.

CORRECTION:

In the February issue of The Observer, this announcement was mistakenly identified as a Hadassah program. It is a scholarship provided by the National Council of Jewish Women

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. The deadline for submitting completed applications is May 30.

Learn more about the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee at www.jewishnashville.org

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A Post Impeachment Political Fix – A View of the Upcoming Elections in Israel

By AVI POSTER

In the wake of the failed impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump, those addicted to cable news may now find themselves in withdrawal and in need of a new political fix. Fortunately, relief is in reach. Consider joining me in turning your attention to Israel's March 23rd national election, which, amazingly, is its fourth in the span of just two years. Israeli politics is not for the weak. A scorecard is needed to keep up with all of the players and the moves they make.

How Do Israeli Elections Work??

Here are a few basics to help you understand how elections in Israel work.

- Unlike American elections, Israelis do not vote for individual candidates, they vote for their preferred political party.
- There will be 39 political parties on the March 23rd ballot, each with its own, "ranked-ordered list," of candidates it recommends for prime minister and seats in the Knesset, the Israeli parliament. Larger political parties hold contested primaries to create their lists, with the person listed in the number one position their candidate for prime minister.
- There are 120 seats in the Knesset up for grabs, with 61 seats needed to gain governance control. Elections are for four-year terms, however as history has proven, coalitions frequently fall apart sooner.
- The number of seats a party secures is directly proportional to the number of votes it receives. Of the 39 parties on the March ballot only 10-12 will receive enough votes to secure a seat in the Knesset.
- Despite complaints about the frequency of elections, Israelis take voting very seriously; Election Day is a national holiday. Israelis do not enjoy the convenience of early or mail-in voting, except for the military, yet 75-80% of all eligible voters show up at the polls.
- In all of Israel's history no political party has won enough popular votes to win an election outright. Because small parties are needed to form coalitions they often have a disproportionate amount of influence and can literally play kingmaker. Coalitions are formed in exchange for promises of cabinet posts and agreements on legislative issues.

- Given the unlikelihood that a party will win outright, the Israeli President, currently Reuven Rivlin, will select the party he deems most likely able to form a coalition. This is usually, but not always, the party with the most seats. The party selected is given a deadline of several weeks to pull together a coalition. If it fails, President Rivlin can then ask another party to try its hand at forming a coalition or, heaven forbid, call for yet another election.

Who are some of the major players in March's election??

Since its birth in 1948, nearly 200 different parties have been on the national ballot – only 100 of which have actually won representation. More often than not, the voting public has been split evenly between the right and the left, with each representing approximately 40% of the popular vote. In recent years, however, the progressive movement has shrunk dramatically, resulting in a resurgence of the center. The March 23rd election will be a right-center shootout, with the left pretty much sitting on the sidelines, with a breakdown of the major parties on the ballot looking like this:

Right: Likud (Benjamin Netanyahu); New Hope (Gideon Saar); Shas (Aryeh Deri); Yamina (Naftali Bennett); United Torah (Moshe Gafni)

Center: Yesh Atid (Yair Lapid); Blue and White (Benny Gantz); Yisrael Beiteinu (Avigdor Lieberman)

Others: The Joint Arab List (five Arab parties led by Ayman Odeh); and a handful of small parties, including leftwing parties such as Labor, Meretz, and the Green Party securing an unpredictable number of seats.

According to the most recent polls, which are as fluid as American polls, if the election was held today Likud would win 28 seats, followed by Yesh Atid winning 19, New Hope 14, Yamina 12, combined Labor/Meretz winning 10, the Arab Joint List 10, and Yisrael Beiteinu 8. Clearly, Yesh Atid is on the rise and Saar has taken a bite out of Bibi's apple. It will be interesting to see who among these parties can reach agreement.

What does the political landscape look like going into the March 23rd election??

So, here's how the landscape is looking to me, at least as of this writing and knowing that what seems possible today may be impossible tomorrow. After all, this is Israeli politics we are talking about.

- Many in Israel believe the time has come for a leadership change. Netanyahu is the longest serving prime minister in Israeli history and even among his supporters an increasing number of voters are thinking enough is enough, especially given Bibi's questionable handling of the pandemic, the three very serious active criminal cases against him, the struggling economy, and his increasing reliance on the Haredi vote at a time when many Israelis hold the religious accountable for the growth and spread of Covid.
- Few would wager (me included) against Netanyahu winning. He has proven time and time again to be an incredibly skilled politician adept at winning elections and forming winning coalitions, often with promises he and most everyone else knows he will unlikely keep. This time around, however, Bibi's path seems to be narrower and fraught with new obstacles.
- Likud will earn the largest number of seats and Bibi will likely get the nod from President Rivlin to form yet another coalition. However, even if he hangs on to the religious right he will fall short of enough votes and will need additional votes, especially if Saar and Lapid, successfully recruit Likud members, wanting a leadership change, to their fold.
- Bibi has destroyed his relationship with centrist Benny Gantz and the Blue and White Party. In order to maintain power in the last election, he promised Gantz he would rotate serving as prime minister with him. When that time came however, he found a way to break his promise as most, except Gantz, expected he would.
- Bibi has reached out to Yesh Atid knowing that Lapid will find it difficult to sit in a coalition with the ultra-right. Lapid has been a critic of the exemptions from military service

granted to the religious, and may opt to turn to the left or work out a compromise with Saar given both are bent on sending Bibi packing. Lapid does not trust or even like Bibi and has already said he would "never" partner with him – but "never" has a flexible meaning in Israeli politics.

- In desperation, Bibi has turned to the Arab block hoping to pick off one or two of its five parties. Many found this move chutzpadik given Bibi's questionable past treatment of Israeli Arabs and his steadfast commitment to settlement expansion. To gain their favor, he has been touring Arab towns and making promises few expect he will keep.
- To further blur your vision, remember that there are a number of smaller parties capable of upsetting the balance of power. Naftali Bennett's right-of-center Yamina and Avigdor Lieberman's center-left Yisrael Beiteinu can indeed be gamechangers, as could a coalition of small progressive parties. Labor and Meretz seemingly have saved themselves from the guillotine – have surprisingly picked up steam - and may be needed if a centrist coalition is to succeed.

So, there is it in a nutshell. Buckle up and enjoy the ride. I have left out a bunch of details that I am happy to discuss with anyone interested. While no expert, each morning I read the news from Israel only to learn that assumptions I made the night before no longer have standing. I get a lot of information firsthand from my family and friends in Israel, who clearly lean left. I also rely on a variety of print sources, my go-to being The Times of Israel ([timesofisrael.com](https://www.timesofisrael.com)), the Jerusalem Post ([jpost.com](https://www.jpost.com)), and Haaretz (<https://www.haaretz.com>) and frequently listen to remarkably informative Israeli Policy Forum webinars (<https://israelpolicyforum.org>).

I love talking about Israeli politics. Given that, at best, I am only an observer from afar, I have a lot to learn from others who see things differently. Feel free to reach out to me to continue this conversation. For the next few weeks, at least, I am planning to get my political fix from Israel. •

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Reflections

By RABBI YITZCHOK TEICHTEL
CHABAD OF NASHVILLE

A tiny virus of 125 nanometers sent the entire world into chaos just about one year ago. All of our plans, the global markets, entire countries, cities and our own neighborhoods were all shut down, and no one thought we would be twelve months into this pandemic, and we have still no clue what the future holds.

Though it has been a challenging year, as we were all used to congregating, learning, laughing and having such a wonderful time together, we made this year a time when we rose above all the challenges, trials and tribulations, and came together as one united family, supporting each other, becoming closer than ever before, all the while being socially distanced.

Chabad of Nashville found ways to stay connected and keep each other's

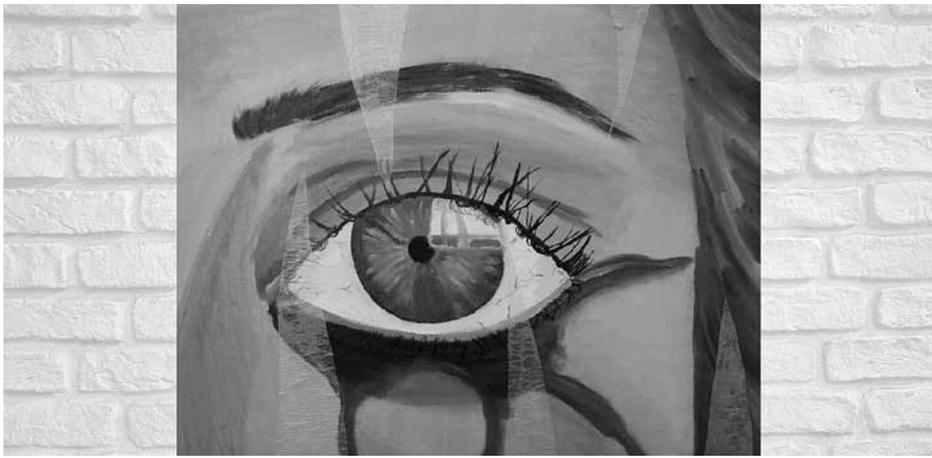
spirits up by offering classes, programs, and events via zoom, and occasional socially distant meetings, working diligently to keep the community together, as a close knit family. Our collective mood remains upbeat and positive, and despite the limitations and restrictions, we are ready to face the continuing challenge and live life Jewishly and joyously, with uncompromising optimism and positivity.

As we celebrate Passover at the end of March, we encourage you to gather

with your family in your home, sing and celebrate, and connect with your loved ones and the millions of Jews around the world who will be doing the same!

As always - and especially now - Chabad of Nashville is here for the Nashville Jewish community in whatever way one may need. Chabad will have a Passover gift of Shmurah Matzah for each family that calls upon us. Feel free to reach out to us via

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Jewish Community Relations Committee Seeking Submissions for Community-Wide Virtual Yom Hashoah Program

By BARBARA DAB

This year's community-wide virtual Yom Hashoah program will take place on Thursday, April 8th, 5:00-6:00pm CST. The annual Holocaust remembrance event will include a candle-lighting and slide presentation featuring relatives and loved ones from the Nashville Jewish community's survivor families. The event is a partnership between the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee and

the Tennessee Holocaust Commission. Families who did not receive a memorial candle last year and would like one this year and those who wish to remember their loved ones, and who were not included in last year's presentation, are invited to submit the name, a photo and short summary about their relative to be included in the community slide show. The deadline for submissions is Friday, March 26. Please contact Deborah Oleshansky for submissions and questions at deborah@jewishnashville.org. •

Cost to be Jewish

Continued from page 1

says, "Being able to send kids to day school, religious school and summer camp requires a lot of resources and prioritizing." And even when congregations remove, or lower, some of the barriers to participating, not everyone is willing to take advantage of the help. Erin Zagnoev, Director of Administration and Advancement at The Temple, says in some respects it is more expensive than ever to participate in congregational life, but if someone wants to be involved at The Temple, finances will not be a barrier. But involvement still takes commitment, she says, "I've had plenty of grandparents call because they want to help their grandchildren be able to afford religious school, but parents have to want to bring them." For those in the Orthodox community finances may be tight, but according to Rabbi Saul Strosberg of Sherith Israel, expectations are more realistic. He says, "We don't think being Jewish should break the bank. The community helps provide and you just make it work because that's what you have to do."

Rabbi Strosberg also flips the discussion around. He says, "Doesn't the Jewish community have an obligation to tip the scales to make Jewish life more affordable? And isn't there an obligation to teach the next generation to support institutions?" Shaul Kelner agrees, "There is an ethos among most committed Federation members to be custodians of the community. But there is concern the younger generation is not invested enough to step into the shoes of their parents." This concern, though, also speaks to the growing cost of living generally. Erin Zagnoev, herself a member of the younger generation, says her peers do not feel they are ready to get involved at the same age their parents did. "My friends won't make as much money, salaries aren't what they used to be, and everything is more expensive." She says many times the children lead the process when they are ready for preschool or religious school. Shaul Kelner agrees that there is a generational approach to prioritizing organized Jewish life. "The current synagogue model

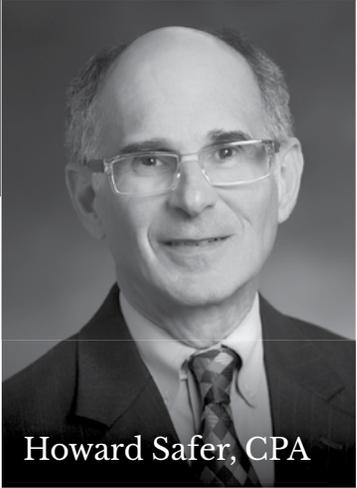
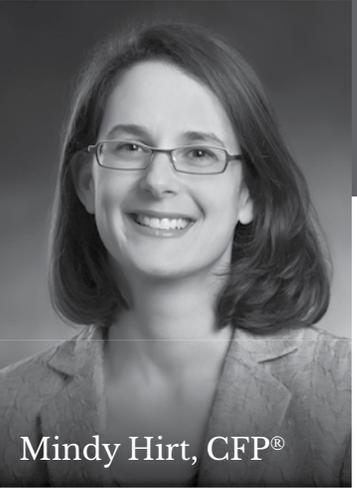
is built around religious school as the point of entry for families," he says, "This approach is mainly sustainable for families until B'nai Mitzvah. After that, it can be tough to keep people."

This debate over the cost of Jewish life may seem like a riddle with no punchline. But in Nashville's community there is one organization that does have a master plan. Eric Stillman, CEO of The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, takes a big tent approach to what he sees as real concerns about sustaining Jewish life. "I have heard it said in a variety of ways that the cost of living Jewishly is prohibitive and the reason many are not affiliated and involved," he says. In two years under Stillman's leadership, The Jewish Federation has worked to broaden its grants process to be more inclusive of those not typically on the radar. "When I hear people say it's expensive, I say most services and programs in organized Jewish life are either low cost or have funds available for assistance," he says. And things like the COVID Emergency Response Fund and Jewish Family Service are working with individuals and congregations to fill the gaps created by the economic downturn. Particularly during the current pandemic, Stillman says The Federation has worked very hard to streamline the process for agencies and congregations applying for grants, sometimes taking only a day or two to provide funds. Some might question The Federation's approach to reaching the unaffiliated and want to strike a balance to better help those who are already connected and want to be more involved. Stillman's answer is simple. "I hope people hear and take to heart the Jewish community wants and needs everyone's involvement. If people can only give a small amount, that helps. But if someone does not have the means to give, their participation is the most important thing."

For more information about the Covid Emergency Reponse Fund, contact Eric Stillman at eric@jewishnashville.org. To receive a gift card for Passover groceries or inquire about other financial assistance, email Toni Jacobsen at tonijacobsen@jfsnashville.org. •



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COVID

Continued from page 1

Emergency Response Fund allows for a rapid reply to meet urgent needs."

During the pandemic, schools and synagogues have also felt the pinch as they constantly pivot in order to continue providing instruction and programming. Jimmy Marks, Temple President, says The Federation has been supportive in a number of areas, including a security grant for fencing around the new Outdoor Learning Environment, funds to provide holiday meals and now the emergency funds for preschool. "Our goal is to keep the preschool available and functioning for our families," he says, "We are thankful to The Federation, once again, for its help." The grant amounts to \$15,500 and will provide continuity for the students and their families.

For more information about The Federation's COVID Emergency Response Fund, or to make a donation, contact Eric Stillman at eric@jewishnashville.org. •

Happy Passover

Learn more about the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee at www.jewishnashville.org

Gordon Jewish Community Center Announces Capital Campaign

The Gordon Jewish Community Center is excited to publicly announce that a new, revitalized JCC is on the way. In early 2019, JCC leadership and a dedicated Campaign Cabinet, led by past presidents Billy Eskind, Frank Gordon, and Howard Safer launched the quiet phase of the *Our Community. Our Future Capital Campaign* to invest \$6 million in much needed facility updates and improvements to meet the growing needs of our local community.

For 119 years, the Gordon JCC has been the center of Jewish life for generations of families across the Nashville area, continually evolving alongside members' needs to play a vital role as a gathering place for Nashville's Jewish community. The J is a vibrant space where people of all denominations and synagogue affiliations are welcome, but it had begun to look a little worn. "I've always thought of the JCC as our collective Jewish communal living room. As such, it is the responsibility of the community to maintain and enhance our home, as we would our personal homes. I'm pleased to play a role in these efforts, and we are tremendously gratified to have widespread community support," remarked Frank Gordon.

Looking ahead, membership and engagement are expected to grow substantially over the next two decades. To ensure that the JCC continues to be the hub of the Jewish community, an investment must be made. As Howard Safer asserts, "In the spirit of *l'dor v'dor*, we're excited to make the JCC better for future generations like others in the past have done for us. Our family has benefitted by having the JCC in our lives, and we want others to have those meaningful experiences."

Renovation plans will touch nearly every area of the JCC over the next five years with several exciting projects at the top of the list. With input from members, staff, consultants and architects, plans have been developed to build a new Camp Lodge and Arts Center, renovate the Locker Rooms and add two separate Family Changing Rooms, and a new Mind-Body Studio featuring Pilates, Yoga and TaiChi.

Our new Camp Lodge will give our 200 Camp Davis campers and counselors



Artist's rendering of the proposed Camp Davis Lodge and Arts Center

a place to call home each summer and will serve as a casual event space the remainder of the year. The Arts Center will provide opportunities to explore different art media, such as pottery and jewelry making, and supplement our ongoing painting classes, filling a need on the west side of Nashville.

And that is just the beginning – overall plans will:

- **Enhance the member experience and expand programming by building capacity**
- **Increase safety and security by investing in infrastructure**
- **Beautify our space through enhancements and efficiencies**

With the steady work of the Campaign Cabinet - Gil Fox III, Scott

Ghertner, Cindee Gold, Robert Gordon, Raymond Jacobs, Howard Kirshner and Bernie Pargh, and the leadership of the Campaign Chairs, the *Our Community. Our Future.* campaign has raised over \$5.2 million.

As Billy Eskind summarized, "I have always considered the J to be a place for all to come together in pursuit of educational, social and physical enhancement. It is my pleasure to help this vital communal home raise the needed funds to maintain and improve. We have been most fortunate to receive excellent support from those solicited in the early phase of the campaign. Now, as we continue and ask the community for support, I am hopeful that people will see the needs and the physical improvements

we will be making to the campus and be as supportive as they are able."

In anticipation of the public phase of the *Our Community. Our Future.* campaign, Joel Abramson, Frank Boehm, Jeremy and Jamie Brook, Beth Easter, Dan Eisenstein, Lori Fishel, Julie Galbierz, Amy Goldstein, John Hassenfeld, Mindy Hirt, Kim Lapidus, Dan and Sara Melamed, Laurel Orley, Franklin and Lana Pargh, Stephen Riven, Kelly Unger and Afshin Yazdian have joined the Campaign Cabinet and look forward to sharing the JCC's plans. And Leslie Sax and Dara Freiberg are always happy to share the vision of what's to come. To learn more about the plans, see our complete list of donors and make a contribution, visit www.nashvillejcc.org •

Reflections

Continued from page 5

phone at 615-646-5750, or email at chabادنashville@gmail.com.

As we all take extra precautions to avoid contagion, it is also important to strengthen those areas of our 'spiritual' health that have a direct effect on our physical health. What will happen next? We don't know. Our experts don't know. Our leaders don't know. Only G d knows. And that is the point. Only G d knows. Close your eyes and feel the uncertainty, make peace with it, let yourself be taken by it. Embrace your cluelessness. Because in all the confusion there is one thing you know for sure. You are in G d's hands.

May G-d grant our world complete healing to all mankind. May we merit the ultimate healing — a time of Redemption, when all illness will be eradicated, and we will experience a world of Goodness and Kindness for all mankind. •

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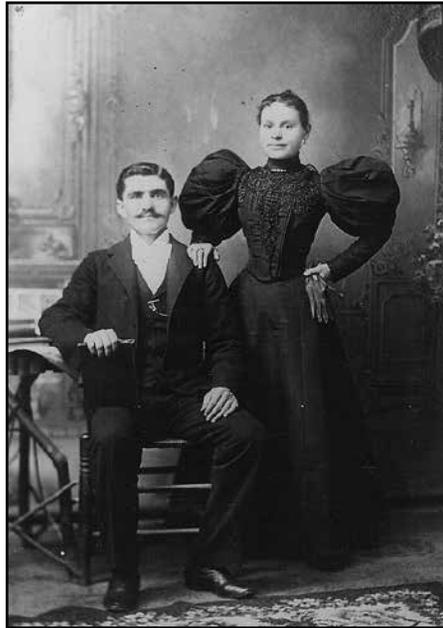
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Fundraising Effort Underway to Digitize Nashville Jewish Archives

By ELIZABETH FLIER

The Annette Levy Ratkin Jewish Community Archives are getting a second home in the Cloud. The collections are currently maintained by the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee and housed at the Gordon JCC campus. Materials are available for viewing by appointment to researchers under the supervision of the Archive Associate, Lynn Fleischer, but fundraising is now underway to digitize the entire collection to both index and preserve its priceless collection and make it accessible from anywhere and by anyone. As Librarian of the Jewish Community in the early 2000s, Fleischer spent several years digitizing three of the five libraries, a monumental task that gave her a deep appreciation for and understanding of the urgency for this project, “The importance to preserve our community history is vital because if we do not know from where we came it is hard to know where we are going. The history of the Jewish settlement in the South is rich and varied.”

“There’s an unbelievable amount of material,” explained Manny Doyne, who initiated the idea of digitization. The collection includes the history of all the congregations and organizations as well as individual families who settled in Nashville since 1851, with immigration papers, oral histories, photographs, and more. Doyne’s family originated in



A Doochin family portrait, circa 1895

Nashville but he no longer resides there. Recent involvement in the Nashville Chapter of the Jewish Genealogical Society, however, made him aware of the existence of the Nashville Archives, and he wished that he could view its contents. Doyne realized that with the growing interest in genealogy among younger generations (many of whom don’t live in the same place as their families), there would be great value in making the archive collections easily accessible to anyone who wanted to view them.

David Levy, son of the previous



The Frank family store, circa 1909, Nashville, TN

archivist Annette Levy Ratkin, for whom the collection was named in memoriam, agrees with the importance of this digitization effort and is helping to spearhead the cause. “The advantage of having these records digitized assists in safeguarding them in perpetuity. It also allows the future generations of families that contributed documents to access that personal history and for the continuity of organizational records within our community.”

The Archives were founded in 1979 with the help of a one-year grant from the National Historical Publications and Record Commission and are now funded through the Jewish Federation & Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. Digitization of these files, whose numbers grow exponentially each year as many baby boomers downsize and donate their family documents to the

collection, will be an additional expense. Even after a second archive associate is hired, it is estimated to be a five to seven year project. The campaign aims to raise funds to provide \$16,000 per year for the first five years and will include funding for an additional archive associate, most likely a student intern. Lynn Fleischer says the campaign to digitize the archives will continue the work of the founders, “We are deeply indebted to Fedora Frank for her research and to Annette Levy Ratkin for her organized preservation of our community’s history. They have given us a priceless collection worthy of digital preservation for future generations.”

For more information on the Archives, contact Lynn Fleischer at archives@jewishnashville.org, and for information on donating, contact Shannon Small at shannon@jewishnashville.org.



The Hirsch Store, owned by Gil Fox’s family, 1800s

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B'nai Tzedek Event Helps Teens Develop Advocacy Skills and a Plan for Giving

By BARBARA DAB

Igniting a passion for advocacy, exploring values, sharing interests; these are the issues Nashville teens will focus on at B'nai Tzedek's Spring event. At the virtual gathering, scheduled for March 7th 4:00-6:00pm via Zoom, teens will participate in brainstorming, games, small group discussions, text study and chats all aimed at creating a plan for giving throughout the years. Beginning at age 13, B'nai Tzedek members each create their own fund into which they can make annual donations with the goal of reaching a full donor advised fund of \$5,000 by age 33. Initial donations are matched by gifts from the Feldman/Hassenfeld Fund for the B'nai Tzedek Program and the Al Feldman Memorial Fund housed at the Jewish Foundation of Nashville. The premier event is led by teen Board members who also choose two organizations for an annual group gift using money gathered from individual funds. This year, the Board chose Stand With Us and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

A key component of the B'nai Tzedek program is focused on developing advocacy skills. By looking into subjects like Jewish education, hunger and homelessness, women's issues, antisemitism and Holocaust studies, the teens are encouraged to think about where their passions lie and how they can best advocate for those issues through action plans. The interactive and peer led activities provide each teen a plan for developing their individual B'nai Tzedek fund. Board member Dustin Averbuch is excited to help teens through the process. He says, "I first joined the Board because I thought it would be a unique opportunity to help

educate Jewish teens and encourage them to give back to the community." And Max Lapidus, also on the Board, sees his involvement as a way to connect and inspire. He says, "I'm really excited for this upcoming event. I believe it will be really interesting for everyone who joins." And he expects to find some inspiration for himself as well, "I'm not sure to which charity I want to donate yet, but I know I'll find something meaningful. I also think it's good to help everyone around you."

The B'nai Tzedek program is open to any teen who is 13 years old or over. Dustin Averbuch says the program offers a way for Jewish teens to give back to the Jewish community both locally and beyond. "Now more than ever, it's our responsibility to look out for those who are struggling, and as Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, Jewish teenagers are gifted with the special opportunity to do so through their B'nai Tzedek funds. There is a lot of change that needs to be made in this world, and the B'nai Tzedek program helps to guide participants in choosing which organization based on what they are passionate about, which is a really cool experience to be a part of." Dustin also reflects on the values that led to his involvement, "To me, philanthropy is about community; it's about realizing that it is my duty as someone who was born into privilege to look out for my fellow community members who weren't."

The B'nai Tzedek program is sponsored by the Al Feldman Memorial Fund and the Feldman/Hassenfeld Fund for the B'nai Tzedek Program. For more information about the program, contact Financial Resource Philanthropic Officer Shannon Small at shannon@jewishnashville.org •



2019 B'nai Tzedek participants made Kosher food boxes



2018 B'nai Tzedek participants express their feelings about Israel through art

Judaism & the Environment

Exploring the Values of Caring For and Maintaining the Earth

By RABBI JESSICA SHIMBERG

When we think of what it means to be Jewish, to DO Jewish, individually and communally, we likely think of celebrating Shabbat and other holidays, studying Torah, praying together in shul (or on zoom), eating Jewish foods, traveling to Israel, participating in Jewish communal events and pursuing justice. For many of us, environmentalism may be something we consider more in a secular context — recycling at home or in our offices, considering appliances or home improvements that are more energy efficient, investing in green energy or a hybrid or electric car, buying fruits and vegetables from a farmers' market, or participating in food justice initiatives or pollution reduction efforts.

Yet environmental values and Jewish values are inextricably linked from the very opening chapters of B'reishit/Genesis, through TaNaKH, tractates of Talmud, our sages and mystics, and all the way forward to the modern Jewish farm movement. Long before we were known as, "the People of the Book," we were a People of the Land. Torah

begins with God's creation of all life, culminating with God's creation of ha-adam b'tzalmo, "the man in [God's] image," on the sixth day (Gen. 1:27). However, this verse continues zakhar u'nikivah bara o-tam, "male and female [God] created them." Our sages read this story of the first human as being a single creature with gender fluidity (to borrow from 21st century parlance). So although we often think of Adam as the male name of the first human, and read this verse as translated above, a translation of, "adam," as, "earthling," is more appropriate and congruent with the shared Hebrew root of adam with adamah/earth. This translation fits beautifully with the second creation story, in which God forms the Earthling from the Earth and breathes life into it (Gen. 2:7).

Recognizing this deep-seeded and sacred connection between us and the Earth (or humans and humus) in our primary texts, and throughout the ages, can assist us in seeing environmentalism as a fundamental Jewish value. Throughout Torah, we are taught to respect the natural rhythms of the Earth, observing and valuing the cycle of the seasons.

Torah teaches us to express gratitude for the land and to share its bounty with those in need and those who work in service to the community. We learn from Torah to take great care in how and when we harvest the fruits of the Earth, that environmental abundance is dependent on our behavior, and that even in war, great care is to be taken with the vegetation. Knowing that our ways of living — as individuals, communities, countries — are dramatically impacting the quality of planetary life can be overwhelming and our ability to make a real difference can feel remote. However, we are not a people that shrinks from awesome responsibility. Jewish values and communal learning can lead us to cultivate practices and policies that encourage sustainable individual and communal behaviors. There are many ways in which Jewish environmental organizations, spiritual teachers, and environmentalists are working collaboratively to promote green initiatives that feel abundantly connected to ancient words.

Just like planting parsley for Tu b'Shvat that, if mindfully tended, yields karpas for Pesach, planting seeds

of behavioral changes in our Jewish communal activities and institutions will yield a sustainable harvesting and replanting of Jewish values that will make a meaningful contribution to our collective Earth care. As the sweet Talmudic story of Honi ha'me-agel, the circle-maker, teaches: When Honi saw a man planting a carob tree beside the road, he asked, "How long does it take for this tree to bear fruit?" The man replied: "Seventy years." Honi then asked: "Are you certain that you will live another seventy years?" To which the man replied: "I found already grown carob trees in the world; as my forefathers planted those for me, so too I plant these for my children." In addition to planting trees, a well-known Jewish behavior we have cultivated, let us work together to reduce waste, repurpose and recycle, reduce our carbon footprints by purchasing local products, and consider greening our Oneg Shabbat and Kiddush tables, bring our own plates and cutlery to potlucks rather than paper and plasticware. Who knows, we may even begin a Jewish community compost program or CSA? The (clean) sky is the limit!

From Darkness to Light: Vanderbilt University Chabad Commissions New Torah

By BARBARA DAB

The winter of 2020 marked the beginning of some dark times for Rabbi Shlomo Rothstein, Director of Vanderbilt University's Chabad. He was recovering from a serious health challenge and faced a long road ahead, just as the COVID19 pandemic arrived in Nashville. And as it became clear the university would be sending students to remote learning, he worried about the future. "There was so much fear and confusion. No one knew what was going to happen," he says. But true to his naturally optimistic nature, he began to think of ways to bring some light to his school community. He landed on the idea to commission a Torah, a first for Vanderbilt. "I wanted to have a tangible goal that could unite our community," he says, "We were presented with a challenge and this is what we created because of it."

Rabbi Rothstein enlisted the help of two key people involved with Chabad. Zack Freeling, a former Vanderbilt student, stepped up with funds to get the project going. Zack first became connected with Chabad and Rothstein during a particularly difficult time in his life. He says, "When I was a freshman my older brother sadly took his own life. While I was never super religious, I felt an immediate need to talk to a Rabbi. Shlomo was there to comfort me." Indeed, Rabbi Rothstein did more than comfort a grieving student. Zack reports that the rabbi supported both him and his father through their pain and encouraged Freeling in the development of a new business endeavor, a kosher food truck he dubbed Aryeh's Kitchen. The business thrived for a while, but as Zack's dad struggled, so did the food truck. Eventually Zack's dad gave into his grief and he, too, took his own life. Still Rabbi Rothstein was there to help him pick up the pieces. After graduation, Zack moved back home to help care for his ailing mother, stricken with cancer. Once again, after her death, the rabbi was there. When he mentioned to Zack about the



Scribe Rabbi Yitzchok Raskin begins to write a new Torah for Vanderbilt University's Chabad

Torah project, a light went on. Zack says, "I was struck by how the Torah paralleled my own story. How I have had all this darkness, but I can bring light through the Torah project." And so he jumped in with funding for the Torah, which will be named The Freeling Family Torah.

Once the initial funding was secured, Rabbi Rothstein reached out to Nancy Hart, whose daughter became involved with Chabad during her freshman year. Nancy says, "I was so moved by how Rabbi Shlomo reached out to my daughter and welcomed her. She is very invested in the Chabad community and in Shlomo and Nechama." In fact it was Nancy's daughter who insisted the students be involved in the fundraising effort. "It all goes back to the kids," says Nancy, "Shlomo made sure the kids felt involved. He knows how to rally all the right people to get things done." At a kickoff event at the Hart's home in New York, there were nearly as many students as adults, all ready to participate.

To date, close to \$100,000 has been raised for the Torah. Rabbi Rothstein says in addition to creating the scroll, the funds will help make sure Chabad can sustain itself during the COVID19 pandemic and on into the future. He says, "The effort brought crucial funding and it really became a tree of life." A recent Zoom event launched the writing of the Torah with a scribe in New York. The goal is to complete the Torah on



Celebrating the writing of the new Torah

campus when everyone can safely return. The Zoom event brought some much needed catharsis, says Rabbi Rothstein. "During the event, something special happened," he says, "While the letters were being written, people told stories about loved ones they'd lost, recited blessings and shared memories and

wishes." And for Zack Freeling, his involvement is a sign of healing. "What better way to honor my family than to put our name on the Torah while I am alive to see it. I have this tragic story, but I want to do something positive. I am living the message of moving from darkness to light." •

Support the Gordon JCC's Virtual Fundraiser, Big Night IN: Color War, on March 6!

Due to the pandemic, we decided to forego our traditional annual fundraiser, Big Night Out, this year and instead hold a virtual fundraiser, Big Night IN! This interactive online event starts with color war team challenges the week of March 1st, culminating in final virtual team competition on Saturday night, March 6. Choose to compete or sit back and cheer on your team! Ticket price includes a curated box of goodies to add to the spirit of the evening.

Tickets per household cost \$100 with an optional add-on of \$36 per household for a meal for 2 from Butcher & Bee. The menu from Butcher & Bee includes Whipped Feta with fermented honey;

served with pita, Turnip Noodles with summer peppers, harissa, and parmesan, and Roasted Cauliflower, "Steak," with date and tamarind sauce, potato puree and herb salad.

Special thanks to the following sponsors of the event: American Paper & Twine, Argent Trust, Capstar Bank, Gertner & Company, Gold Skin Care, Hermitage Lighting Gallery, Kraft CPAs PLLC, Lana and Franklin Pargh of The Pargh Group, Sprintz Furniture, Zander Insurance, and Zeitlin Sotheby's International Realty. Please contact dara@nashvillejcc.org with questions. To purchase tickets, visit nashvillejcc.org/bignightin or call 615-354-1679. •

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Mission Possible Takes Off With a Full Flight!

There were no open seats left when The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee's 2021 Mission Possible took off on a whirlwind global tour. More than 100 passengers remained comfortably at home as the virtual trip highlighted the work of The Federation in Former Soviet Union, Cuba, Argentina and Israel. The tour kicked off with an introduction to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) to learn about the organization's lifesaving services and aid to Jews in vulnerable communities for over a century.

The tour continued to breakout rooms where guides from each of the featured countries shared information and perspectives on how The Federation's services are helping people navigate during the current COVID19 pandemic. In the Former Soviet Union, for example, there are currently one million Jews and 83,000 receiving some type of care services, most of them elderly. These services range from food deliveries to medical support and relief during the cold winter months. In Cuba, Jews face challenges observing Shabbat and holidays, so the JDC assists with procuring food from official suppliers and helps the community organize meal deliveries. Wifi connectivity is also difficult, so Zoom is often not a workable option, meaning folks must figure out creative ways to conduct and participate in worship services, learning and other types of events. Federation Board Member Janet Weismark visited Argentina. She found the visit really

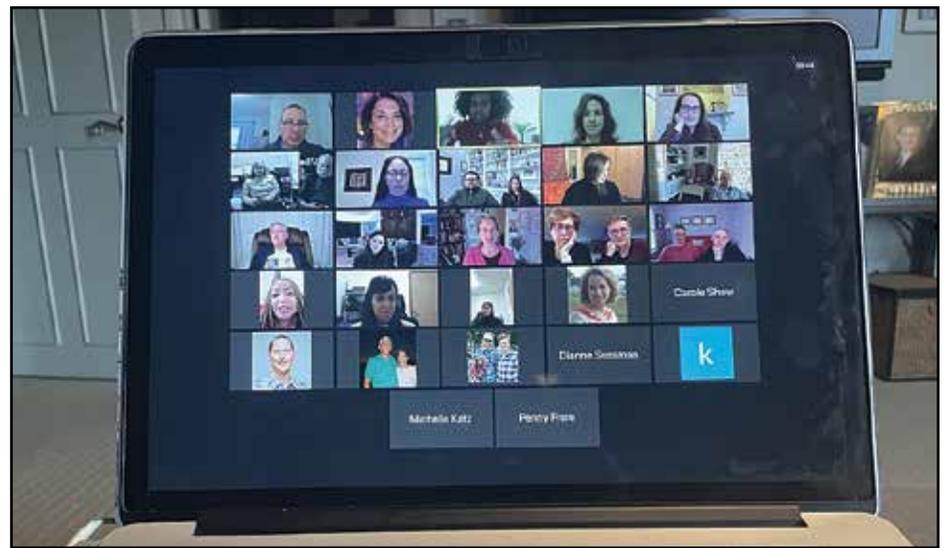


Passenger Jackie Karr takes off on her Mission Possible voyage from the comfort of her own home computer

opened her eyes to the hardships there. "What's going on there is so sad. People have lost jobs and there is so much abject poverty. We have to step up and do our part."

The final stop on the Mission Possible tour was Israel. There, passengers met with representatives from Federation-supported programs who are helping people across a wide spectrum of need. At the Jewish Agency for Israel's Amigour Senior Housing development, 7,500 Israelis, many of whom are Holocaust survivors, live independently yet remain connected thanks to unique cultural and social services.

Continued on page 13



In breakout rooms, Mission Possible participants visit the global programs provided by The Jewish Federation to communities around the world.



Mission Possible visits the Hadera Young Adult Center to learn about the development of young people in the region

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Jewish Federation
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Mission Possible

Continued from page 11

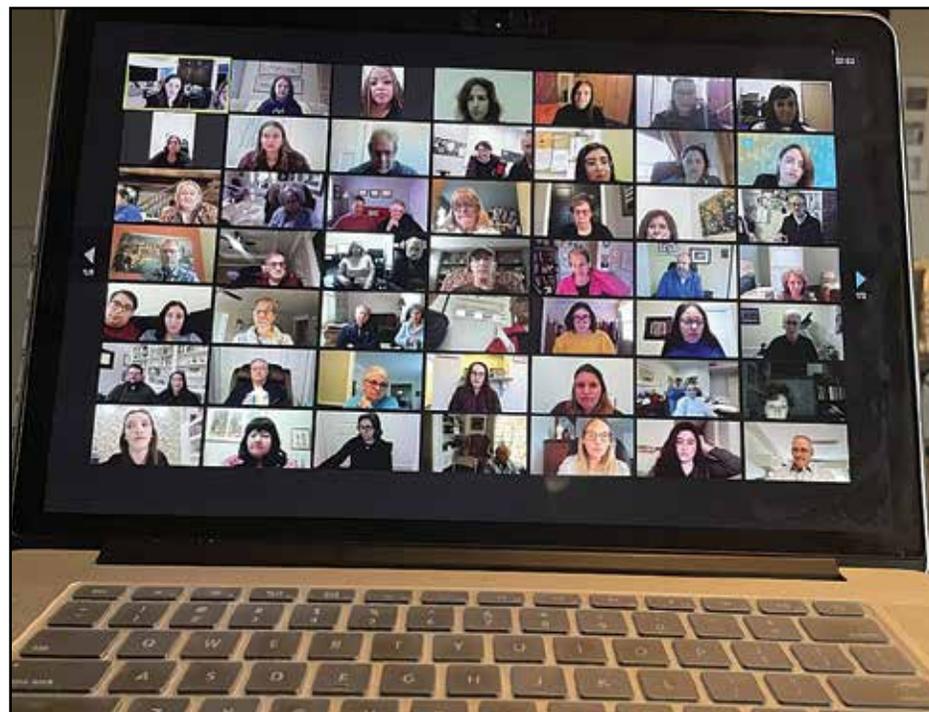
The Ethiopian National Project's SPACE Program mentors Ethiopian-Israeli teens after school. The mission group heard from some of the program's current and former participants, including Oshrit Marsha, now 30-year-old, who has been living in Hadera since she was a year old. Her parents emigrated to Israel as part of the Operation Moses airlift of Ethiopian Jews. She said the SPACE program helped her to realize her true capabilities. "The program really helped me overcome some of my social problems and to believe in myself." She completed her army service in the intelligence unit and is now in medical school. For Janet Weismark, the program highlighted the need for integrating Ethiopian immigrants into Israeli society to insure their success. She says, "The late Rabbi Abraham Twerski talked about diamonds in the rough and the importance of helping people shine. That is what we do with our gift to Federation for this program."

Other program highlights were the Hadera Young Adult Center, focusing on the personal development of the region's young adult population which includes entrepreneurship and cultural development for this age group. And the Partnership2Gether program in Hadera-Eiron is a joint program that creates people-to-people relationships between Israelis in the region, Nashville and ten other communities in the Southeastern United States, along with the Jewish community of Prague in the Czech Republic. Participant Lorna Graff said she gained a better understanding of how funds are spent around the world. She says, "The program introduced us to Professionals and volunteers who provide psychological, sociological and financial support for members of their Jewish Communities. They also opened



John Dab visits Cuba during his Mission Possible

our eyes to the history and needs of so many people." And participant Brian Bernstein agreed, "It was great to learn a bit more about Judaism around the world. All too often, we American Jews forget to broaden our scope of Judaism beyond just American and Israeli Jewry. Mission Possible was an excellent opportunity to do just that." •



Over 100 passengers and presenters took part in the 2021 virtual Mission.

Tzedakah Tzunday

Continued from page 1



An unprecedented number of volunteers brave the cold on Tzedakah Tzunday



Joel Abramson making his calls from home and ringing his own bell when he gets a pledge

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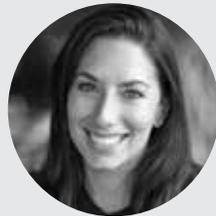
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We Can Never Be “TU” Grateful for the Beauty of Nature

By **THERESA LEPORE**

Holiday gatherings might look different during the Covid-19 pandemic, of course, but the joy and the symbols remain and remind us of why we celebrate. In the past, Micah Children’s Academy (MCA) celebrated Tu B’Shevat with a school wide seder at tables decorated with upcycled centerpieces and trees. This year each classroom had its own seder, and in a year

of looking for silver linings, perhaps for Tu B’Shevat it was that each seder was more interactive and specially tailored for the students. Our two year-olds might just be tasting barley for the first time; our Pre-K students were reminded of the pomegranate trees in our garden grown from seeds from Tu’B’Shevat three years ago.

As in years past we discussed how the Torah talks about the importance of trees and that the first commandment G-d

gave was telling Adam to take care of the earth. Our Pre-K students could process the prohibition in the Torah of cutting down all the trees during a war, and what that might have meant during the Civil War when every tree in Franklin was cut down to build fortifications. All classrooms, except for the infants, chose and planted seeds to nurture until spring. One class made vases out of soda cans for cotton puff shkediya, or almond trees. One made apple cores out of toilet paper rolls, and one recycled and created

fabulous creatures. Another traced their hand to make a trunk for a family tree, and another used the PJ Library, “Abba Tree,” book to try and identify trees.

While there was no joy lost for our new year of the trees, we look forward to an even happier one next year when we can celebrate all the holidays together.

Micah Children’s Academy is located at 2001 Old Hickory Blvd in Brentwood. For more information, please reach to Theresa LePore at either 615 942-5162 or tlepore@micahchildrensacademy.org •



Micah Children’s Academy students learn and celebrate Tu B’Shevat



Passover at The Temple

Join The Temple as we celebrate Passover virtually.

Tuesday, March 16 at Noon
Passover Prep Class

Saturday, March 20 at 10:00AM
Tot Shabbat Passover with Rabbi Mackler and Cantor Fishbein

Monday, March 22 at 7:00PM
Women’s Passover Experience with Congregation Micah

Saturday, March 27 at 5:00PM
Temple Seder – 1st night

Sunday, March 28 at 5:00PM
Family Seder – 2nd night

Tuesday, March 30 at 6:00PM
Community LGBTQ+ & Allies Seder

Friday, April 2 at 5:00PM
Passover Yizkor Service



For more information on all of our Passover Programming & our updated Seder schedule, please visit thetemplehub.org. or www.templenashville.org





Matt Leff of Rhizome Productions

Gordon JCC's Tu B'Shevat Beer Experience

By SHARON BENUS, JEWISH PROGRAM AND PJ LIBRARY COORDINATOR

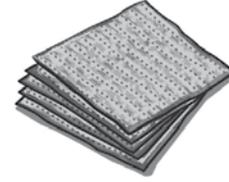
The Gordon JCC's Tu B'shevat Beer Experience was a huge success. Matt Leff of Rhizome productions took us on a flavor trip while 50 participants tasted six different local beers, graciously donated by Best Brands. The beers were curated with snacks that we would eat at a traditional Tu B'shevat seder, though this event was anything but traditional. Cara Suvall said, "This Tu B'shevat event was pure fun. The beautifully curated holiday snacks and local beers made this event a real treat--and that was even before we began!"

The event brought together members of the Jewish community from different settings who wouldn't usually connect. Parents joined in after their children were in bed, young adults and area newcomers met new faces via screen, connecting over their shared interest in beer and Jewish holidays.

"Getting to spend time together learning from Matt about local brewing and the connections of different beers to the more-traditional glasses of wine in a Tu B'shevat seder brought this to a whole other level," said Suvall, "We joked about how tough it can be to get our kids to bed, laughed at each other's attempts at beer puns, and left with a new appreciation of Nashville's breweries and of the creative ways we can connect with each other and with the Jewish calendar."

Many thanks to Matt Leff, Rhizome, and Best Brands for their support of this event. We look forward to hosting more events that can bring people together over shared interests. •

Chag Sameach from Nashville Hadassah!



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Facebook: [Hadassah Nashville](https://www.facebook.com/HadassahNashville)
Web: www.Hadassah.org

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In lieu of the traditional in-person event, we
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Keeping your Child's Bookshelf Current

By SHARON BENUS

PJ Library made its first debut into Jewish homes in 2005. The idea is based on Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, where PJ Library provides free books each month for families raising Jewish children. Since its launch, PJ Library has continued to evaluate and reassess their content and programs that are delivered to children and families to fit with the times, as well as align with Jewish concepts and values.

The winter/spring edition of PROOF, a PJ Library Magazine, featured an interesting article titled, "How to Do a Bookshelf Audit." The article, written by Naomi Shulman, Content and Engagement Officer of PJ Library, touched on the importance of continuous review of your children's book collection.

A, "bookshelf audit," is not only important to go through books that your children have aged out of and to clear the shelf for more books, but it is beneficial to see what perspectives your children are receiving. The article states several questions to think about when reviewing your children's books: Who is being characterized in the book? How are nonwhite people represented? What are the narratives that are being offered? Are there implicit biases showing up in the story? How are families represented in the book? The article goes on to suggest questioning, "Do the characters in the books hew to sexist stereotypes, or do they offer narratives to children that help them imagine broad futures for themselves, regardless of gender?"

It dawned on me while reading through these questions, how often do I critique my child's books? I try to have a variety of books that represent our diverse culture and strong female leads but I believe I need to make this a constant practice. This will help me understand what point of view my child is getting and how they may reflect on their own surroundings and experiences.

Along with the fact that the PJ Library content team provides details on helpful practices such as a, "bookshelf audit," I truly love working with PJ Library because they continue to offer new and diverse subject matter while exploring Jewish values that our children can relate to in our everyday lives.

PJ Library also invites children and families to have input on what books are being delivered. Specifically, PJ Our Way invites children ages 9-12 to join the advisory committee where they read manuscripts that are being considered for inclusion into the program. Kids and their families have a real impact on what books are being shared. Highlighted in, "How to Do a Bookshelf Audit," are books that were delivered recently to our

PJ Our Way subscribers: *I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark*, *Pearl Moscowitz's Last Stand*, and one of my favorites, *A Poem for Peter*. These books are all thoughtfully written and touch on age appropriate and diverse content that your children will understand and enjoy.

If you or a Jewish family you know are not involved with PJ Library, contact Sharonb@nashvillejcc.org or PJLibrary@nashvillejcc.org for more information. •



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Learn more about the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee at www.jewishnashville.org

March in the Gordon JCC Galleries: The Contemporary Collective, The Collage Collective, and Carolyn Elam

By CARRIE MILLS

For the month of March, the Gordon Jewish Community Center Galleries will feature the work of The Contemporary Collective, The Collage Collective, and Carolyn Elam.

The Janet Levine March Gallery will feature the work of The Contemporary Collective. The Contemporary Collective is an established group of Nashville area abstract artists who have been working together since 2012. They represent a variety of ages, styles, approaches and motivation for painting. Alone, each piece is an independent work of art. Displayed together, their collection of paintings invigorates the viewer with an excitement for difference. The Contemporary Collective offers an expanse of original experiences rooted in creative, personal expression. In this March exhibit the group has created a collective painting, the proceeds from which will be donated to Second Harvest Food Bank.

JLMG2 Gallery will feature the work of Carolyn Elam. Her exhibit will feature a collection of mixed media 3-D pieces. Carolyn's love for the placement and the balancing of the colors of objects goes back many years. She owned White Way Antique Mall in Nashville for 24 years, followed by 10 years conducting estate sales. The assemblage art that she now creates is a miniature version of the world of antiques and collectibles where she spent so many years.

The Sig Held Gallery will feature



By Carolyn Elam



By Lisa Haddad of The Collage Collective

the work of The Nashville Collage Collective, a vibrant forum where local artists support each other in the exploration of collage. The Collective includes a large group of local artists who experi-

ment with mixed media materials, much of which is found, reused, recycled and hand-made, to create a fascinating range of work. Members come from various artistic backgrounds both professional and amateur - instructors, gallery directors, eco-conscious reuse artists, published writers and students - all with a willingness to push the limits of their work and share what they've learned. In the past year, members who had usually gathered in person for the exchange of ideas and art materials, have instead posted work on social media, exchanged postcards through the mail and collab-

orated via face time and zoom. The exhibit features stunning mixed-media works, 2-D and 3-D, which showcase the inventive variety of materials and concepts that defines the art of collage. The show celebrates the resourcefulness of the NCC artists while they reflect on this past challenging year.

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, or go to www.nashvillejcc.org •



By Karen Johnston of The Contemporary Collective

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National Council of Jewish Women Welcomes New Executive Director: Jennifer Goldstein

NCJW, Nashville Section is pleased to announce that Jennifer Goldstein (she/her) has joined our Section as Executive Director. Most recently, Jennifer worked for the Union for Reform Judaism's Audacious Hospitality department where she managed programs with the goal of increasing engagement of Jews of Color, LGBTQ+ Jews and Jews with disabilities within the Reform Movement's congregations and camps. With over 10 years' experience as a Jewish communal professional, Jennifer brings a passion for building inclusive and meaningful engagement opportunities. Jennifer's additional past experience includes fundraising, leadership development, volunteer management, program evaluation, and community engagement.



Born and raised in Nashville, Jennifer currently resides in Atlanta. She received a BS in Business from Indiana University and a Master of Social Work and a certificate in Human Services Management from the University of Southern California where she was a Fellow in Social Innovation. Since 2017, Jennifer has served on the JDC Entwine Advisory Council. In her free time, Jennifer loves hiking, traveling, doing yoga, and spending time with her family and friends. Jennifer looks forward to meeting and reconnecting with members of the Nashville Jewish community. Please connect with her at nashvillencjw@gmail.com.

Hadassah Happenings



Zoom Yoga

Join us for a morning stretch. Relax and regenerate through the practice of yoga with Robin Haynes.

Saturday March 7th at 11am. RSVP to Sarah at spm5222@gmail.com

Bookclub

The Sacred Art of Loving Kindness by Rabbi Rami Shapiro

How can acts of kindness help us through the challenges in our daily lives? A conversation led by Rabbi Shapiro.

Sunday March 21st at 4pm. RSVP to Sarah at spm5222@gmail.com

Hadassah HMO Fundraiser

Hadassah Needs You! Why is your support of Hadassah so important?

Hadassah HMO chair Ann Karty and Executive Director Kacy Spivack will speak to Nashville Hadassah about Hadassah hospitals and the importance of our continued assistance.

We hope you will join us for this informative event. A minimum donation of \$18 is suggested. Together we can make a difference.

Sunday April 18th at 7pm. RSVP to sarah at spm5222@gmail.com

Micah Reads Book Club Partners with Tennessee Holocaust Commission

Micah Reads
The Light in Hidden Places
by Sharon Cameron

Monday, April 5 at 7:00 PM on Zoom
Register: www.congregationmicah.org/events

Join Education Director Julie Greenberg in conversation with award-winning writer Sharon Cameron for this community event. The true story of the Podgorska sisters' courage is one miracle, and how Cameron came to tell it is quite another.

The, "Micah Reads," monthly book club, in partnership with the Tennessee Holocaust Commission, will host award-winning author Sharon Cameron to discuss her recent book, *The Light in Hidden Places*, on April 5th at 7:00 PM. All community members from high school through adults are invited to join the online discussion of this courageous, true story of the Podgorska sisters who saved Jewish lives at the risk of their own. Cameron will share photos and the backstory of how she came to first discover, fully research and finally tell the tale of these remarkable young women. Register at www.congregationmicah.org/events

Learn more about the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee at www.jewishnashville.org



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AT OUR CONGREGATIONS...

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

Congregation Micah, www.congregationmicah.org

Congregation Sherith Israel, www.sherithisrael.com

The Temple – Congregation Ohabai Sholom, www.templenashville.org

West End Synagogue, www.westendsyn.org



Rabbi Tiechtel to complete Tractate of Talmud

There is an ancient and widespread custom for the firstborn to fast on the day before Passover. This fast commemorates G-d's kindness towards the Israelite firstborn; when G-d slew all the Egyptian firstborn males He spared their Jewish counterparts.

This fast is treated leniently. Thus, if there is a festive meal held that is connected with a mitzvah, for example, the celebration of a circumcision or of a siyum (the completion of a tractate of the Talmud) the firstborn son participates in the meal rather than fasting.

It is therefore customary to arrange for a Siyum, which is the completion of the study of a tractate of the Talmud to take place in the synagogue after morning prayers on the fourteenth of Nissan. The firstborn sons who are present (and anyone else who is interested in enjoying some refreshments...) participate in this festive meal and, having broken their fast, are free to eat for the rest of the day.

Since one is prohibited to fast on Shabbat (this year, the day before Passover), Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel will make the Siyum, the conclusion on the tractate of Talmudial tractate of Shabbat, on Thursday, March 25, at 10:00 AM via zoom. The Siyum will be followed by a virtual break the fast, giving the firstborns the opportunity to partake in a meal of a Mitzvah and permitting them to break the fast of the first born.

For more information go to www.chabadnashville.com

Sell your Chametz with Chabad for Passover 2021

According to Jewish Law during Passover all types of Chametz (leavened foods) are prohibited to be owned any one of the Jewish faith.

So what is one to do with all of the leavened food in their home during Passover? The rabbis in ancient biblical days have come up with a solution. One can authorize their rabbi before Passover to sell their Chametz to a non-Jew, who is permitted to own it during Passover. After the holiday is over, the Chametz is sold back to the rabbi, and one is permitted then to benefit from it.

Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel at Chabad of Nashville is offering to sell the Chametz of anyone wishing to fulfill this special tradition for Passover, thus taking Passover 2021 to the next level.

Go to chabadnashville.com/chametz to fill out the online form to do this. All forms are to be submitted by Wednesday, March 24, 2021 via chabadnashville.com

Is Chabad of Nashville hosting a Communal Passover Seder?

Many have asked, will Chabad of Nashville be holding a socially distanced community Passover Seder? It is now six weeks to Passover, and with the ever-changing situation of the pandemic, it is difficult to make that decision today. Chabad of Nashville will be monitoring the status of Covid-19 and make a decision closer to Passover. Please check out chabadnashville.com for a most up to date status on Passover with Chabad of Nashville.

Get your own personal Shmurah Matzah for your Seder

Chabad of Nashville is giving out a free Passover Shmurah Matzah for your Seder. All you need to do is email your name and contact information chabdnashville@gmail.com and you will receive your free Matzah gift box for your Seder.

Shmurah Matzah from Israel can also be purchased in one pound boxes from the Chabad office at \$28 per pound. For more information call Chabad at 615-646-5750.

Chabad to host A Cliff Note Model Seder

Join Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel for a rehearsal Passover Seder as he will walk participants through the 15 steps of the Seder via zoom prior to the onset of the Festival of Passover. This will be a cliff note version of HOW TO run your own Seder in your own home in forty five minutes. To RSVP visit www.chabadnashville.com

Ever partake in the Moshiaich Seudah?

Passover begins with a meal and now ends with a meal called, "the Moshiaich's Seudah – the Meal of Mashiach." Usually held on the last night of Passover, this year will be held on the sixth night of Passover.

On the sixth night of Passover, Thursday, April 1 at 7:30 PM, Chabad will host the Moshiaich Seudah. All are invited to participate virtually for the traditional feast, inspirational stories, songs, matzah & four cups of wine. In anticipation of the future redemption with Moshiaich.

Instituted by the Baal Shem Tov 300 years ago, the traditional Moshiaich's meal includes the eating matzah and the consumption of four glasses of wine, toasting to a futuristic era of redemption. The Baal Shemtov would make a festive meal at the close of the holiday, dedicated to the coming of Moshiaich. Since then Jews throughout the world come together on the last day of Pesach to celebrate this unique custom.

For more information go to www.chabadnashville.com



Jump on the digital bandwagon. As agile as ever, Judaism at Micah continues to evolve with courage, compassion and creativity. Stay updated! Go to 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 the front page of our website - all are free and open to the public.

Passover 2021 at Micah

Micah Minis - Saturday, March 20 at 9:30 AM on Zoom

Save some sacred space for your child's spiritual side with the sounds and stories of this special time of year. Music Director Lisa Silver and Education Director Julie Greenberg lead this short, sweet, sometimes sassy and always super fun kid-friendly Passover themed Shabbat experience.

Don't Touch My Matzah!: A Women's Celebration of Passover in Story and Song* *Men welcome! - Monday, March 22 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

The biblical tale of slavery and redemption is replete with stories of magnificently courageous women playing key roles in the liberation of the Jewish people. Eat the orange. Drink from Miriam's Cup. And don't let HStory off the hook from including HERstory. Battle the notion that one group of people should ever be subservient to another by attending this virtual event featuring the music of special guest Chava Mirel, Lisa Silver, Rabbi Laurie Rice and many more.

Pre-Passover Shabbat - Friday, March 26 at 6:00 PM on Micah Livestream

Prepare for Pesach with a service full of the subjects, songs and stories of the season. Learn why you cannot just Pass-over a service @ Micah without finding meaning, feeling motivated and fully tapping into your soulful side.

1st Night Seder - Saturday, March 27 on Zoom

In need of a redemption tale? At the Micah Seder we will practice the rituals, relive the story, drink four cups of wine, recline in celebration of freedom and rediscover hope! Observe the most commonly celebrated Jewish event in the most uncommon of ways. Next year in person, this year on Zoom! Expect good music, meaningful conversation and more joy than can fit in one hour.

Monthly Online Programming

All programs are free and open to the public.

Book Club

Monday, March 1 @ 7:00 PM on Zoom

All are welcome for a Zoom discussion on the book *The Cooking Gene* by Michael Twitty.

Next Month: Monday, April 5 at 7:00 PM

The Light in Hidden Places by Sharon Cameron, with the Tennessee Holocaust Commission

The Afterlife Series: Jewish Views & Then Some

Co-taught by Rabbi Laurie Rice and Rabbi Joshua Kullock - Wednesdays at noon on o Zoom

Mar 10: *Is There Life After Death (part 2)?*

Mar 31: *What Happens When I Die? True confessions of personal experiences*

"Are You Jewish Enough?"

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

A discussion over lunch about all thing 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.
March 12, April 9

A Woman's Circle

Friday, March 5 at noon on Zoom

This Month's Session:

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.

For the Sake of Repairing the World

Thursday, March 25 at 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

Schmooze & Views

Thursdays at 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 at 9:00 AM on Zoom

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

Shabbat Services

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

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.

Virtual Tai Chi Classes

Learn Tai Chi for free with Tai Chi River! Around the world, millions and millions of people are getting health benefits from learning this amazing art. Most importantly, during these times of stress, Tai Chi teaches how to breathe and RELAX. Email Info@TaiChiRiver.com for more information.

Music @ Micah House Concert - April 1 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

with Lisa Silver and Musician's Hall of Fame pianist Clayton Ivey, performing songs of Jewish American composers of the 20th Century from Irving Berlin to Bob Dylan.

@ Sherith Israel

Pesach 2021 at Sherith Israel

HOW is this night different from all other nights?

This year, our community seders will be held outside in the Sherith Israel tent; each party or family will have its own seder table and buffet, distanced safely from other tables, and we will still enjoy the warmth and joy of our community.

Additionally, there will be 4 private rooms available inside the Shul, for families to reserve, along with their own server. (for extra charge)

March 27, at 7:45 pm and March 28, at 7:30 pm.

Adults \$40, Children \$25.

If this cost presents a hardship, please let us know.

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@ The Temple

March Programming

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 2nd 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 Schifftan will continue the conversation on the following Tuesday evenings at 6:00 PM

March 9th - Taking the Test: What Does It Say About You?

March 16th - Comparing Results With Someone, Anyone You Love

March 23rd - Enhancing, Improving, Bettering Your Loving Relationship(s)

Zoom Room: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83413545576>

Meeting ID: 834 1354 5576 • Dial in- Audio Only: +1 312 626 6799

The Virtual Spring 2021 Temple Scholar Series

Coming March 3rd, 10th, and 17th at Noon via thetemplehub.org

Joseph Gitler • Michael Bassin • Aryeh Green

Joseph Gitler

Wednesday, March 3

Founded in 2003 by Joseph Gitler, Leket Israel distributes over 40 million pounds of produce and perishable goods to Israel's socio-economic periphery through its partnerships with 200 nonprofit organizations, reaching more than 175,000 people in need each week.

Michael Bassin

Wednesday, March 10

A high-tech executive and author specializing in Arab-Israeli business development, Michael is the author of "I Am Not a Spy: An American Jew Goes Deep in the Arab World & Israeli Army." Openly Jewish while studying in Egypt and the UAE, Michael served as de facto ambassador for Israel and the Jewish people to Arab students who had never met a Jew before. Michael later served as a combat Arabic translator in the IDF.

Aryeh Green

Wednesday, March 17

Author of "My Israel Trail: Finding Peace in the Promised Land," Aryeh is the Chief Strategy Officer at Gigawatt Global renewable energy company. He has an extensive background in public and private sectors, having served as a former advisor to Natan Sharansky and as an executive/consultant for leading Israeli companies.

Let's Connect - March 7th, 14th and 21st from 5:00-5:30PM via thetemplehub.org. Join us for a weekly check-in as we all find our way through this very long pandemic. We are all managing so many additional layers to our lives. Some of us have found silver linings, and some are weary and tired - many of us are both at the same time! One thing we've all learned through this is we are truly all in this together. So join your temple friends to say hello and touch base. Facilitated by Harriet Schifftan, MSW, President and CEO, Gilda's Club Middle TN. Hosted by the Temple's Care and Concern Committee, Alyssa Trachtman and Susan Zager, Co-Chairs

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

March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th - For Zoom Information, go to thetemplehub.org

Shabbat Schedule for February

Friday, March 5th ~ 6:00 PM

Friday, March 12th ~ 6:00 PM

Friday, March 19th ~ 6:00 PM

Friday, March 26th ~ 6:00 PM

Access all Shabbat Services via Zoom at thetemplehub.org

Chevrah Torah Study @ 9:30a.m. on Saturdays via thetemplehub.org

Passover @ The Temple via thetemplehub.org

Join The Temple as we celebrate Passover. For more information on all of our Passover Programming & our updated Seder schedule, please visit thetemplehub.org.

Tuesday, March 16 - **Passover Prep Class @ noon**

Saturday, March 20 at 10:00am - **Tot Shabbat Passover** with Rabbi Mackler and Cantor Fishbein

Monday, March 22 at 7:00pm - **Women's Passover Experience** with Congregation Micah

Saturday, March 27 - **Temple Seder** - 1st night - @5 PM

Sunday, March 28 - **Family Seder** - 2nd night - @5 PM

Tuesday, March 30 - **Community LGBTQ+ & Allies Seder @ 6:00 PM**

Friday, April 2 - **Passover Yizkor** at 5:00 PM

@ West End

For links to the following services or programs, please email 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.

Continued on page 22

AT OUR CONGREGATIONS...

Talmud on Tuesdays with Rabbi Joshua on zoom 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.

“The Afterlife”

Rabbi Joshua Kullock and Rabbi Laurie Rice are teaching classes on “The Afterlife”. It is a virtual class with no lunch. The next classes will be March 10 and March 31 at 12:00 p.m.

For all zoom information email office@westendsyn.org

WES Learn and Lunch

The Sandi Goldstein Learn & Lunch Program for ages 60+. Also sponsored by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Middle Tennessee

March 17, 2021 at 12 p.m.

Featuring Richard (Dick) Cohen. Topic: “The life and times of a ventri- loquial figure”.

RSVP to linda@westendsyn.org Reservations a MUST! The link will be sent to you once you’ve registered

Pick up meals will be available for seniors ages 60 and above, on March 17 from 10-11. Goldie Shepard will be catering the lunches.

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

Passover for West End Synagogue:

Passover meal! Order your delicious Passover meal prepared by Goldie Shepard. The meals are \$35/each. Pick up your Passover meal on Friday, March 26 at WES from 10AM to 2 PM. When you register online, we will send you a more specific time. There will be a choice among brisket, chicken, salmon or vegetarian for your entree. All meals will come with matzo ball soup and gefilte fish. For Dinner you must have reservations. Select your main entrée and pay online at www.westendsyn.org/Passover2021

Saturday, March 27, 2021
9:30 AM Virtual service
6:46 PM Ma’ariv, followed by a virtual Passover service with Rabbi and his family

Sunday, March 28, 2021
9:30 AM Virtual service
Family Seder grades 2 – 6 5:30-6:30
6:30 PM – special Mincha – virtual

Monday, March 29, 2021
9:30 AM – Virtual service
6:00 PM – Virtual service

Friday, April 2, 2021
6:00 PM – Virtual service

Saturday, April 3, 2021
9:30 AM – Virtual service
6:00 PM – Virtual service

Sunday, April 4, 2021
9:30 AM – Virtual service
6:00 PM – Virtual service

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Happy Passover

Learn more about the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee at www.jewishnashville.org

The Tennessee Holocaust Commission would like to wish Stephanie Freudenthal & Frances Cutler Hahn **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!**



Stephanie Freudenthal
92 on Feb. 2nd
Refugee: Mannheim, Germany

"... it makes a difference in your emotional health and growth to have this trauma happen when you are young. The stability of your home disrupted and having to make an adjustment in a new country, with new friends, new school experiences, I think it must somehow make an impact. I'm not saying that it's necessarily a negative impact, but I'm sure that's what has molded me."



Frances Cutler Hahn
83 on March 16th
Hidden Child

Frances has had two religions, five names, seven homes, and eight families—all tools for survival for a hidden child during the Holocaust. The children (and their hosts) lived in constant danger. Many never saw their birth families again.

Kvetch in the City

By **CARRIE MILLS**

There's an expression I grew up with in Brooklyn. Whenever something happened that seemed like a surprise, my mom or grandmother, or any Jewish person I knew of a certain age would shrug, and say, "Oy, Who knew?"



Carrie Mills

Recently, I stopped into a local jeweler to have a guard put on a ring I had gifted my son during the holidays. While I patiently waited as the jeweler adjusted the ring in the back, I sat and looked around the shop. It was an eclectic decor, similar to some other older shops I've noticed in town. The decor seemed to me to be of a particularly Southern sort of style I could only best describe as a seventies, "bless your heart," kind of vibe. It definitely reminded me of when I went to my now ex in-laws' home in Tuscaloosa, Alabama to meet my soon to be new family for the first time. The similarity of the decor in the jewelry shop and in their Alabama home was a wall of quirky somewhat witty or humorous sayings on wooden plaques. One might say they were quotes, though without the authors names written on them.

I walked over to the wall in the jewelry shop and I had a laugh. One sign on the wall caught my eye right away. It read, "The more you complain, the longer God makes you live." Has that been the secret of our Jewish tribe's survival which is soon to be retold once again this Passover? Can the Haggadah (the telling of the Jews exodus from Egypt for all our non-Jewish readers) be summed up in that one little quip?

Less I digress...let me take you back to the in-law trip. I was not laughing or

smiling that day, and it was way beyond a good kvetch when I first met my soon to be in-laws. I was crying.

Why was I crying you may ask? Because the first horrific, racist thing my soon to be Confederate loving, gun hoarding father-in-law said out loud as I walked in the house, to nobody in particular, "Well, she's not black."

I remember looking up at my soon to be mother-in-law's downstairs decor through tear stained eyes and the only sign among many on her wall of plaques that jumped out to me that day was, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." Maybe I was crying because deep down inside I knew I was going to be making a lot of lemonade.

Well, I'll tell you what, sitting in that downstairs bedroom in Tuscaloosa, Alabama that day, I heard the ancestral cry of, "Who knew?" I'll tell you who knew. For one, my mother knew. She didn't think my ex was a good match for me. And truth be told, I knew. I knew I was walking right into a world I was not sure could ever accommodate my Brooklyn Jewish liberal self. I also knew, regardless of whether or not I would ever have a close relationship with my in-laws, I was stretching myself too far on many levels with the man I was about to marry.

All this came flooding back to me the other day as I sat in the jewelry shop looking down at the cases full of diamond rings and an eclectic wall of quotes and a decor of jokes and southern style sayings on cut out wooden plaques.

So as Passover comes around this year, and memories unexpectedly flood my mind as they are apt to do at any given moment, I will pour a glass of lemonade, rethink my promise to never complain again (lest my life gets cut short) while making a toast to the ancestors who knew. •



Dear Esther,
My husband and I are middle-class hard-working people who provide for our family's needs. We don't need help with the basic necessities, but we often feel second class to other families at our synagogue. We cannot afford to send our children to private schools or to send them off for a college experience away from home. Our home is just outside Nashville and is nice but not fancy. We are happy and have all our needs met. The problem comes in when we try to interact with people at a synagogue function. We don't feel that we fit in well with the community and it weighs heavy on our hearts. We feel uncomfortable when we hear other parents talking about sending their children to private schools and preparing to fund out of state college experiences. Our children will have a Bar and Bat Mitzvah with a small family gathering afterwards instead of a huge celebration with lots of friends. It's the lifestyle differences caused by economic differences that make us uncomfortable. We feel judged and not comfortable sharing. If the event has a mutual topic, we feel connected and accepted. We are not sure what to do about this, if anything.
— Parent of Two

Dear Parent of Two,
Thank you for bringing up this topic. Having a family and raising children these days is a tough job and should be free from judgement.

Unless someone is overtly criticizing your parenting choices or looking down upon you, the problem may lie within you. You might want to look at what might be causing you to feel judged and uncomfortable. Are you satisfied with your lifestyle and parenting choices? If so, then what keeps you from not caring what others might think?

I see you have two choices when faced with uncomfortable conversations like what you mentioned. You can avoid it by making an excuse to leave or try to change the conversation. The second option is to stay in the conversation and take the opportunity to talk about how the public schools work for you and your plans to take advantage of the many local colleges. You might be surprised at the responses you get. You might have some preconceived notions about the other persons circumstances. As a psychologist, I have come across many families who live in big houses and send their children to private school, but they still struggle to pay the bills. It's not always how much money you have but what you do with it.

I encourage you to reach out to the Rabbi or Membership Director at your synagogue and share your concerns. Perhaps they can direct you to small group activities that have a diverse population or connect you with families with similar socio-economic status. The idea that all Jews are wealthy is false. And I would venture to say that most wealthy people are not looking down upon you because of having a different lifestyle. Have a conversation if you feel comfortable. I hope that by having a conversation with others, you will weed out the ones that might be judgmental and create better relationships with others. Try not to assume that others are judging you until you have evidence that this may be the case. Everyone is doing the best they can, so I encourage you to set your feelings aside and get to know your peers a little better. You may find that your next best friend is in another socio-economic class than you.

And when nothing else seems to work, have a bowl of Bubbe's matzo ball soup.

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 on anything under the sun and watch for answers in her column. •



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Mitzvahs and Lifecycles

B'nai Mitzvah

Micah Isaac Rosenbloom

Micah Isaac Rosenbloom was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah at West End Synagogue on February 6. Micah is the son of Ellie and Trent Rosenbloom and the younger brother of Shayna and Adena. Micah's grandparents are Susan and Peter Weiss of Nashville and Ellen and Philip Rosenbloom of Louisville.

Micah, like his sisters before him, is a graduate of Akiva School. He is in seventh grade at Templeton Academy. He loves attending Camp Nebagamon in Wisconsin each summer, enjoys playing computer games with friends, riding his



bicycle, ice skating and spending time with his family, friends and pets.

Micah will join the Jewish Federation's B'nai Tzedek program. He and school friends raised more than \$700 on Go Fund Me to sponsor the Christmas dinner for the men at Room at the Inn. He will also contribute a portion of his Bar Mitzvah gifts to Jewish Family Service and to the Camp Nebagamon Charities.

Madeline Morgan

Madeline Morgan will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, March 6, at 10:30 a.m. at Congregation Micah. Madeline is the daughter of Sarah and Jason Morgan and is a seventh grader at Spring Station Middle School. She enjoys art and ani-



mation as well as science class. For her mitzvah project, Madeline will be volunteering and continuing to collect items for the area's animal shelter.

Madeline Krakauer

Madeline Krakauer will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, March 13, at 10:30 a.m. at Congregation Micah. Madeline is the daughter of Mark and Maria Krakauer and sister to Alex. She is a seventh grader at Brentwood Middle. Madeline loves reading and plays the piano and violin. Her hobbies include art, creative writing and video editing. She is passionate about caring for animals and our world and enjoys baking homemade dog treats and donating them to the local animal shelter.



Leah Fremont

Leah Fremont will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, March 27, at 11 a.m. at The Temple. Born on January 28, 2008, in Nashville, she is the daughter of Richard and Sarah Fremont. Her grandparents are Kenneth and Joan Fremont of Loudon, Tenn., and Melzar and Jane Richards of Ithaca, N.Y. Leah is in the seventh grade at Harding Academy and enjoys sports, art, piano, reading, baking and going on vacation with her family.



Learn more about the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee at www.jewishnashville.org

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.

Monroe Malow

Condolences to the family of Monroe Malow, who died on February 10. He is survived by his daughter, Beth Ann Malow (Stephen Pert) and grandsons, Daniel and Austin Malow Pert; his son, Bradley (Andrea). He was pre-deceased by his son and daughter-in-law Robert and Michele, and his granddaughters, Jennifer, Jessica and Nicole. A virtual memorial service will be scheduled in the future. For more information, please contact Beth Malow at bethmalow@gmail.com. Memorials can be made in

Monroe's name to Congregation Micah or the K-25 History Center where he served his country during World War II. It is part of the American Museum of Science and Energy. Earmark the donation for the K-25 Center by emailing a copy of your receipt to Cynthia Lemons at clemons@asme.org.

Ronald L. Schreiber

Condolences to the family of Ronald L. Schreiber of Wilmington, N.C., who died on January 30. Ronald is the brother of WES member Ruth Alexander. He was predeceased by his parents, Miriam Kraselsky and Abe Schreiber. Ronald was a specialty retailer, operating Schreibers, Inc., a business featuring ladies' shoes, sportswear and fine jewelry. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Arlene Zimmer Schreiber; his sons, Dr. Andrew M. Schreiber and wife, Jessica; Mark H. Schreiber and wife, Julia, all of Wilmington; his grandchildren Hailey and Lilyanna; his sister, Ruth Alexander, of Nashville; broth-

ers-in-law, Herbert Zimmer and wife, Ronna; Jeffrey Zimmer, Alan Zimmer and wife, Rose; his nieces and nephews, Marci, William, Benjamin and Zachery Rudolph and his cousins, Cindee and Michael Gold. Donations be made to the Zimmer Cancer Center, 2131 S 17th St, Wilmington, NC 28401 named in memory of his in-laws, the late William R. and Roberta Zimmer.

Molly Stein

Condolences to the family of Molly Stein who died on February 14. The wife of the late Melvin Herbert Stein, Molly is survived by her son, Dr. Richard S. Stein (Dr. Adele Stein), daughter, Debra Brodsky (Steven - deceased), and grandsons, Adam B. Stein (Monica), Glenn S. Stein and Joshua A. Brodsky (Kassandra). Memorials can be made in Molly's name to Congregation Micah.

Rabbi Moshe Ulmer

Condolences to the family of Rabbi Moshe Ulmer, interim rabbi at West

End Synagogue from 2007-2008. He died Shabbat, January 30, at age 75 after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease and multiple sclerosis. A lawyer, he was encouraged by Eli Weisel to become a rabbi. He served several congregations, published a book on tzedakah and taught at Bucknell University. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Rivka Ulmer of Lewisberg, Penn., his stepson, Miki, and family in California and Germany.

Peggy J. West

Condolences to the family of Peggy J. West, who died February 2. She is survived by her spouse, Susan Lewis. Memorials can be made in her name to PPFLAG-Franklin, Inheritance Project, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, INC Belmont United Methodist Church-ESL Program or Congregation Micah.

Leo Zheylinin

Condolences to the Sorin and Pargh families upon the death of Leo Zheylinin on January 29.

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Jerome Allen Gold - February 19, 2021

Jerry, born on February 8, 1928, passed away peacefully on February 19, 2021 in Nashville, TN where he moved to be with his wife of 70 years, Anne, before she passed away on July, 10, 2020, after a long battle with dementia. Jerry is survived by his sons, Dr. Robert (Gail) Gold of Longwood, FL and Dr. Michael (Cindee) Gold of Nashville, TN. He is also survived by his wonderful grandchildren Lisa (Jason and great grandson Scott), Peter (Chelsea), Ilissa (Gus), and Benjamin (Brittanie and great grandchildren Belle and Lennox), and brother Richard Gold.

Jerry lived an amazing 93 years. He was born in Brooklyn, NY to Anna and Peter Gold and attended Lafayette High School and Long Island University. He received his M.D. degree from the Chicago Medical School in 1953 and did his internship and residency at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn followed by service as an Active Duty Lieutenant and head of the Chest and Infectious Disease Service

at the US Naval Hospital in Bethesda, MD. His career then shifted to clinical research and development with Smith Klein and French (1962-1973) and Wyeth Laboratories (1973-1986) in Philadelphia where he was instrumental in the release of specific cephalosporin antibiotics (Ancef) as well as was one of the founders of the rubella vaccine. In fact, one of the greatest honors of his life was to be called in April, 1970, to consult before the Apollo 13 flight when one of the astronauts was exposed to German measles. His Apollo 13 flight patch and later photo with Jim Lovell is a momento that he leaves behind as one of his greatest legacies.

In 1986, Jerry returned to Chicago Medical School to become the President and Chief Executive Officer, where he served until 1987 when he and Anne retired to life in Boca Raton, FL and The Polo Club where they lived until the last 4 years when due to Anne's illness, they moved to Nashville, TN, where Michael

and Cindee kept a close eye on their wellbeing until their passing.

Jerry will be truly missed by all of his family and friends. The family is grateful to the incredible caregivers in Nashville that loved Jerry (and Anne) just like their own family: Hannah Page, Amber Darby, Melanie Perkins, Lakeshia Whitlow, Andrew George, John Diffenderfer, Oneka Harris, and Josh Page. The family would also like to thank the Brookdale Green Hills Cumberland for their graciousness over the years.

Contributions can be made to:

1. Gordon Jewish Community Center/ Capital Campaign, Nashville, TN (Cindee and Michael Gold)
2. Strong City (Jerry's grandson Peter's foundation, mystrongcity.org)
3. Temple Beth El of Boca Raton, FL
4. Jewish Federation of Palm Beach, FL

A private funeral service will be broadcast via Zoom, as well as a celebration of his life in the future. •

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Chag Sameach.

Wishing you and yours a healthy and joyous Passover.

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Happy Passover

On behalf of The Board of Directors and Staff at Jewish Federation & Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, we wish you and your loved ones a *Chag Pesach Samae*ach.

Next year in Jerusalem
(or at the least just together
in person)!



Steven Hirsch,
President

Eric Stillman,
CEO

