

Federation Grant Provides Aid to Families at Jewish Montessori Preschool

By BARBARA DAB

The Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool has received a grant from The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee to provide scholarships to children whose families have been affected by the continuing pandemic. The \$5,600 grant comes from the Federation's COVID Emergency Response Fund and will enable seven families to continue sending their children to the school. Rabbi Yitchok Teichtel, of Chabad, says he is grateful for the Federation's support. "We're trying our best to help people during this difficult time, and it means a lot when the Federation invests in our local community." And Eric Stillman, CEO of The Jewish Federation, says he is pleased to be able to offer much needed assistance. "It is very important for the Federation to work collaboratively with our community partners to help indi-



Children participate in class at Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool

viduals and families suffering from the economic impact of the pandemic." A key component of the emergency grants

has been the focus on responding to the immediate need. "I was very impressed with the quick turnaround time," says

Rabbi Teichtel, "It was only two to three days from the time I made the request until I received the grant."

The families receiving the scholarships have faced financial hardships as a direct result of the pandemic, and Eric Stillman says continuing to meet the educational needs of the community's children is a top priority. He says, "Working with the Revere Montessori Preschool of Chabad of Nashville, the Federation is assisting families so that the children can receive a Jewish early childhood education even when their parents have lost jobs, closed businesses, or had reduced income/hours at work." Esther Teichtel, the Head of School, says the scholarships have been a real safety net for the families. "COVID really upended our world. Thanks to the scholarships, the children have maintained a sense of normalcy and equilibrium." She says developmentally,

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Pandemic Connections: A Look at How We're Doing

By BARBARA DAB

The calendar says it is April 2021, but for many it still feels like March 2020. Just as in the film, "Groundhog Day," each day can feel like waking up stuck in a vicious cycle of Zoom meetings, hand washing, quick trips to the grocery store and lots and lots of television. Searching for connection, folks have turned to new technology as a way to combat the loneliness, fear and anxiety that comes with being socially distant. In Nashville's Jewish community, congregations and agencies have created unique programming to help the pandemic weary cope. From virtual support sessions to educational programming and virtual minyans, leaders and professionals have worked to keep mind and spirit intact. The programming is something even mental health professionals say goes a long way toward helping people manage. Toni Jacobsen, Clinical Director of Jewish Family Service, says, "Virtual program opportunities help to break the isolation many people might experience.



Congregants at West End Synagogue have been participating in virtual evening Minyan during the Pandemic

It's not the same as being face to face and having opportunities for hugs but you can connect emotionally and intellectually."

At The Temple, Harriet Schiffman, MSW, President and CEO of Gilda's Club, has facilitated a weekly, "Let's

Connect," group. The 30-minute sessions are unstructured opportunities for congregants to meet and check in about their week. Harriet says the group was created several months ago for those who were not finding what they needed in

services or adult education programming. "About six months into the pandemic people were socially isolating and some unintended consequences were setting in: fear, uncertainty and missing contact with friends and family," she says. So each Sunday evening, the group of 25-30 people join the Zoom and, as Harriet says, "let their hair down." She stresses this is not group therapy, and yet the experience goes a long way toward helping people combat the loneliness and anxiety of the pandemic. "This is not an easy time," she says, "We have people who have been alone for a year. But through this group we've come to know amazing, intimate things about each other because we're not putting on our happy faces."

During the pandemic there has been ongoing concern for the community's seniors, many of whom suffer the most from the social isolation. Lack of mobility, fixed income and medical vulnerability are just a few of the challenges they face. And when regular activities, such

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Our Community. Our Future. Making Progress

By LESLIE SAX

Since we announced the Our Community. Our Future. Capital Campaign, we have been thrilled by the community's response. So many people are excited to think about the Lodge they remember being replaced, our current campers are anticipating something new at Camp Davis, and others are happy that we are making necessary improvements. Based on our early success, our Capital Campaign co-chairs, Billy Eskind, Frank Gordon, and Howard Safer have raised our goal to \$6.5 M. Construction costs in Nashville continue to rise and we want to be able to complete all the planned projects. We are also confident that the entire community will contribute to help us reach our goal and reinvigorate the JCC to be the fresh, welcoming living room of the community that we know it can be.

Fortunately, our early campaign pledge payments have allowed us to begin our projects. We have installed over 58,000 square feet of new roof membrane and are excited to weather any coming storms without leaks. The new HVAC and climate control system is almost complete

with nearly 50 new units installed. We look forward to more balanced comfort and lower utility bills with our increased efficiencies. We also have begun work on our parking lot; replacing broken curbs, making repairs, relining the lanes, and adding better directional markings.

Currently, we are gearing up for our Locker Room renovation, which is planned to take place this summer between Memorial Day and Labor Day. A while ago, we surveyed our members to ask specifically what they would like to see in new locker rooms. We're excited to share our plans that address many concerns. The Women's Locker Room will now have a direct entrance to the pool natatorium and will have a suit spinner for drying swimsuits. We are also adding privacy for dressing, and additional ADA showers. The Men's Locker Room will offer an expanded TV lounge area, more privacy for changing, and improved ventilation. Both Locker Rooms will be completely renovated with new layout, new lockers, and new flooring. We are eliminating the Boys and Girls areas to expand the locker rooms, and adding two Family Changing Rooms, which will



Rendering of the planned updated locker rooms at the Gordon JCC

provide a separate space for families with small children, older adults who might need assistance, or others needing more privacy to change without the distraction of, and or disruption to other members. The Family Changing Rooms will include a restroom and shower

These projects and more will bring

much needed comfort and a little bit of luxury to our community. We are excited to continue to share our progress as we move forward!

For more information on these and other projects, or to contribute, please visit our website. www.nashvillejcc.org/ourcommunityourfuture •

Perspectives

The Post-Covid Congregation: One Rabbi's Vision

By RABBI MARK SCHIFTAN, THE TEMPLE

The congregation of the future is here: We are on the eve of a new, golden age of the synagogue, massive in scope of potential, positive change, not only resilient in strength but in its accrual of newfound energy, creativity, innovation and inclusion.

We have the ability, despite consistent and continuing challenges regarding its alleged imminent decline, to enter a period of transformational growth, evolution, and substantial change. And the resounding truth is that we are already there, right at the front doorstep of an incredible moment of dramatic institutional pivoting to a new era of renewed and enhanced meaning and opportunity for the role of The American Synagogue.

Here are ten reasons why I believe this to be true, but only if we seize this extraordinary moment in time:

1) **The weather forecast will absolutely no longer make any difference in our program and service delivery.** Ever. Think about this: No more cancellations of events, no more questioning, neither from synagogue professionals, nor congregants, as to whether it is too unsafe to go out, too dark, too rainy, too stormy; too hot, too cold, too overbearing, too undesirable. Virtual program delivery and availability will make meteorological concerns a thing of the past.

2) **There will be no such thing as before, and after, the virus, no return to either/or as our only options. There will be both/and with regards to congregational offerings and organizational life.** There will always be those who choose and prefer gathering in person, within reach of the physical presence and proximity of other human beings; but there will also be increasing numbers of those with opposite needs, desires, and availabilities,

who prefer the access via virtual routes and options. I believe we can serve both and serve them well. The numbers who participate will increase, perhaps even increase dramatically.

3) **Religious Services will continue to grow in attendance, though that attendance may be measured in total viewership and engagement, both in-person and in virtual attendance.** In our congregation, the virtual numbers over this past year of isolation and quarantine, have been consistently equal to, and often larger, than our solely in-person offerings, which were already strong in number.

4) **Religious School education will expand its scope; in fact, it already has. This may be particularly true for mid-week Hebrew School, which may continue to be offered entirely on-line. Permanently.** Families, whether we prefer it or not, have more calendar-filled days than ever before, with competing schedules and commitments. Combined with a prioritization and valuation of those commitments and obligations. An honest assessment would place the Religious School as a lesser of these priorities, some place after academic and athletic choices, opportunities and options. We may not like this, nor prefer to accept it easily or readily, but with rare exception, it remains true. The virtual option, especially during the school week, may significantly assist us in recruitment and retention efforts to reach and retain these families and their children.

5) **The interest in, and opportunities, to invite new individuals into leadership roles may enjoy a substantial and sustainable increase through the reduction or entire elimination of evening meetings, which will no longer require our physical presence.** Think about this: We are now able to make these board and committee meetings accessible from the convenience of our offices or the

comfort of our homes. It is a tremendous new opportunity to reinvigorate the life blood of our religious institutions.

6) **Our next immediate, perhaps even urgent hires should be Information Technologists, Software Specialists, and Social Media Marketing professionals.** These individuals will be the next vital positions that synagogues will demand, deserve and require, as will the congregants they serve. Unfortunately, there already is a wide disparity between larger and smaller congregations regarding the financial ability to engage these professionals. Yet every congregation will need a rapid upgrade to their technology platforms if they expect to sustain and grow their memberships and reach out to meet the communication needs and desires of future potential congregants.

7) **The entire concept and definition of synagogue affiliation and membership will need to expand, evolve and encompass new understandings as to the meaning and purpose of relationships with synagogue community and congregational life.** And it will need to do so quickly, and with efficiency and collaboration between clergy and congregational leadership. This may include solely program-based, or religious service, religious school or life cycle only memberships; it more than likely may include exclusively virtual, or remote and distant geographic, as well as conventional memberships.

8) **As has already become evident, new innovative and effective ideas will be driven from the bottom up; that is, from lessons learned and honed at the local level.** These new and clearly successful concepts and offerings will subsequently only then be adopted and applied by the national denominational Jewish organizations, many of which have declined in importance and direct relevance and service to the synagogues that loyally have sent their affiliation dues

for generations, in exchange for the direct service they had come to expect in return. Those days are basically over and exist solely in the rear view mirror. This has already occurred over the past year. Best practices continue to begin organically, close to home. Congregations have been, and will mostly continue to be, left on their own to find the best ways forward.

9) **Of course these changes, evolutions and transformations will require a bold degree of both vision and courage.** They will need to be tempered and balanced with the need for calm and deliberate thought and vision, as to the reasons for the non-return to the status quo. They will require a compelling need for an optimistic and confident outlook and overview of the near and longer term future of the synagogue, coupled with the demonstrated need for continued and increased funding and investment.

10) **Finally, those congregations that are blessed with significant and successful endowments would be wise to seize the day and be willing to make a calculated risk on the rewards of the future:** The concept of limiting an institution to the use annually of only four or five percent of its interest should be viewed, perhaps, as overly cautious or protective of the corpus. This is the time to be far more aggressive in the use of those funds: not reckless, but courageous in scope and degree. We are at an incredibly rare and unique moment in Jewish history. It is time to give ample fuel to the engines of innovation, technological excellence and entrepreneurialism within the American synagogue.

We should be prepared and ready for this new chapter in congregational life. With calm, with confidence, with courage and commitment, our future is bright, and brilliant. May we greet the next chapter of the life of the synagogue with uplift, with excitement, with hope, and with joy. •

Community Relations Committee

JCRC Update: Working to Be Free From Antisemitism and Violence

By DEBORAH OLESHANSKY

It is hard to believe that as of this week, we have been conducting virtual programs for over a year. On March 27, 2020, after months of anticipation and planning, we were looking forward to hosting author and Holocaust scholar, Deborah Lipstadt. Within days, what was intended to be an in-person dinner and program on Vanderbilt campus became an online program in which Dr. Lipstadt educated us from the comfort of her kitchen table. The program, based on her book, *Antisemitism Here and Now*, addressed the ongoing and growing concern of antisemitism as manifested by Neo-Nazis and other far-right extremist groups, and from the other end of the spectrum, by far-left groups conflating progressive values and ideals with anti-Zionist rhetoric and retaliation.

In the year since, antisemitism, along with many other “isms”, continues to rise and we continue to plan and organize opportunities to hear from local and national experts in the virtual world. On Tuesday, May 4, working in partnership with Congregation Micah and three other congregations in different parts of the county we will pres-

ent, *Antisemitism Across America: An Evening with Bari Weiss*.

Bari Weiss is a journalist and the author of, “How to Fight Anti-Semitism,” which won a 2019 National Jewish Book Award and a Natan Notable Book Award. From 2017 to 2020, Ms. Weiss was an opinion writer and editor at The New York Times. Before that, she was an op-ed and book review editor at The Wall Street Journal and a senior editor at Tablet Magazine. Ms. Weiss grew up in Pittsburgh, and her family attended the Tree of Life Synagogue. The horrific shooting there in October 2018 was part of her motivation for this book.

As Deborah Lipstadt and other scholars report, antisemitism is not easy to map onto a standard material analysis of racism and its consequences. Antisemitism, as Weiss describes it, is an “ever-morphing conspiracy theory;” regardless of the cultural context, it is a story in which the Jew is, “whatever the antisemite needs him to be.” Rather than a simple prejudice, it is a, “grand unified theory of everything,” that serves as a crude substitute for an analysis of power and systemic injustice.

This, “ever-morphing,” theory leads to both the deadly violence perpetrated by far-

right groups and concurrently, the harassment and discrimination foisted on Jews in progressive spaces who stand, as Jews, in proud support of Israel. The anti-Zionist version has become increasingly common on some college campuses, including the recent cases of Rose Ritch at USC and Max Price at Tufts University. Both student leaders were targeted, bullied and intimidated simply for maintaining their support of Israel despite student government efforts to force them from their campus leadership roles. The pain of antisemitism continues to the next generation.

The pain suffered by members of the Jewish community is not uncommon and is not isolated. On March 16, 2021, yet another horrific shooting occurred in Atlanta, this time targeting against the AAPI community, primarily women. Immediately following, we in Nashville joined a vigil organized to mourn yet another senseless loss of wives, mothers, and daughters. In this year when we have already lost so many lives of family, friends and neighbors, the weight is almost too much to bear. This tragedy was quickly followed by yet another automatic weapon attack in a Boulder supermarket killing 10, including Police

Officer, Eric Talley.

This year, March 27, 2021 marked the first Passover Seder. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, of blessed memory, taught, “One of Judaism’s most powerful messages is that redemption is of this world, and every time we help the poor to escape from poverty, or give the homeless a home, or cause the unheeded to be heard, we bring God’s kingdom one step closer. The best way never to forget this message is every year to eat the bread of affliction and taste the bitter herbs so that we never forget what it is like to be unfree. ‘Do not oppress the stranger,’ says the Bible, ‘because you know what it feels like to be a stranger.’” May this teaching guide us as we continue to work in this world towards the fullness of mercy and justice not only for us as the Jewish community, but for all suffering from fear, insecurity, discrimination, and violence. Passover holds the potential for change in our lives and in the life of the world.

At the end of the Passover meal, when we say, “Next Year in Jerusalem,” let’s remember that “Jerusalem” is more than a place too. It is a vision of a world at peace, made so by our collective work of Tikkun Olam. •

Letter to Editor

An Open Letter in Support of Laurie Cardoza-Moore

Maria and I would like to congratulate Speaker Sexton on his appoint-

ment of Laurie Cardoza-Moore as a Commissioner to the Tennessee State Textbook Quality Commission.

For over a decade, Laurie and her organization Proclaiming Justice to the

Nations (PJTN) have valiantly fought to banish subversive content from our children’s textbooks after finding an excerpt in a Williamson County textbook that appeared to justify a Palestinian suicide bombing at a Jerusalem pizzeria. Laurie campaigned globally until the offensive passage was removed.

Together with her professional team of researchers, she has continued to expose and highlight how our children’s education had been overtaken by foreign interest groups, investors and publishers bent on spoon feeding a new woke anti-Judeo-Christian worldview.

As a media veteran with a large global following she has used all of her platforms to highlight this issue far beyond Tennessee:

- As a United Nations Special Envoy for the World Council of Independent Christian Churches, which represents 40 million Evangelical Christians worldwide.
- In her award winning documentary films broadcasted across the globe.
- As a board member of the National Religious Broadcasters Association.
- Through her award winning weekly syndicated television program: Focus on Israel which reaches a global audience of over a billion in over 200 countries worldwide.
- On top-tier national and international media outlets.

Now with the support of Speaker Sexton, Laurie Cardoza-Moore is bringing the struggle back home where she will personally review textbooks before they reach our children.

Like anyone who puts himself in the limelight for the greater good, Laurie has been met by public critics. Many wish to cancel and silence her. She and her family

have even received death threats, but she will never waver and bend to pressure.

Her organization was even wrongfully placed on the Southern Poverty Law Center’s list of hate groups to defame and malign her character. That was until SPLC were informed about the mistake. In reality, nothing could be further from the truth. Laurie Cardoza-Moore has dedicated her life to fight prejudice and anti-Semitism.

Like many public figures, much is said about Laurie by people that have never met her. Experts that know nothing about her accomplishments and achievements on behalf of people, irrespective of faith, creed or color.

Maria and I met Laurie Cardoza-Moore eighteen years ago, during a Jewish Federation Mission to Israel. Her passion and drive to combat global anti-Semitism and educate Christians about their Biblical responsibility to stand with Israel and the Jewish people was inspirational. Within hours we became lifelong friends and supporters of PJTN.

We later proudly joined Dennis Prager, Michael Medved and other prominent Jewish and Christian supporters of Israel on the International Advisory Board of PJTN and continue to support her vital work.

I call on all members of our community to stand behind Laurie Cardoza-Moore and show her a debt of gratitude for everything that she continues to achieve on our behalf.

Speaker Sexton has also proven his steadfast moral clarity in this appointment and he too deserves our praise.

– Maria & Bernard A. Pargh

NOTE: The printing of this letter reflects the views of the authors.

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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.

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Lana's architectural background is invaluable to clients, from helping them envision the best use of a space to estimating renovation costs. There is a growing trend in real estate of homebuyers bringing a designer to their showings to help them see potential in a home that might have otherwise been overlooked. When you hire The Pargh Team, you can leave your designer behind! You now have a team of real estate agents with an unparalleled understanding of how to reconfigure or remodel a home to make it perfect for you.

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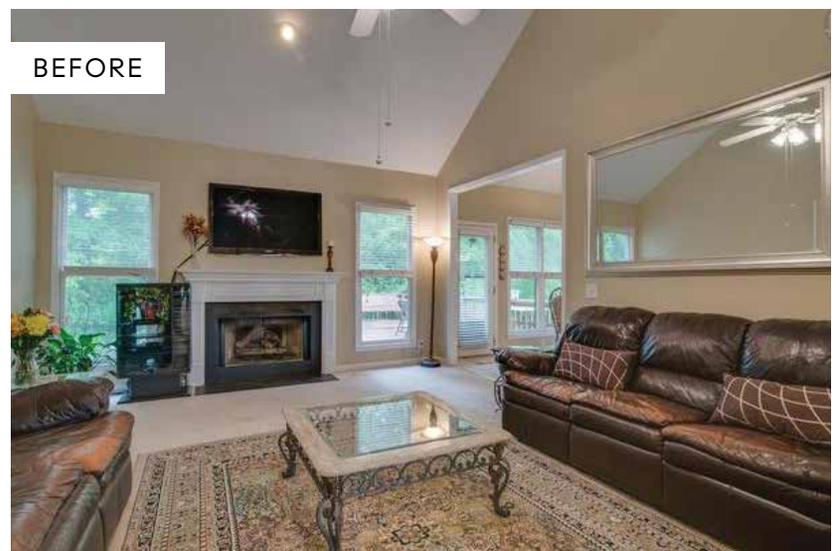
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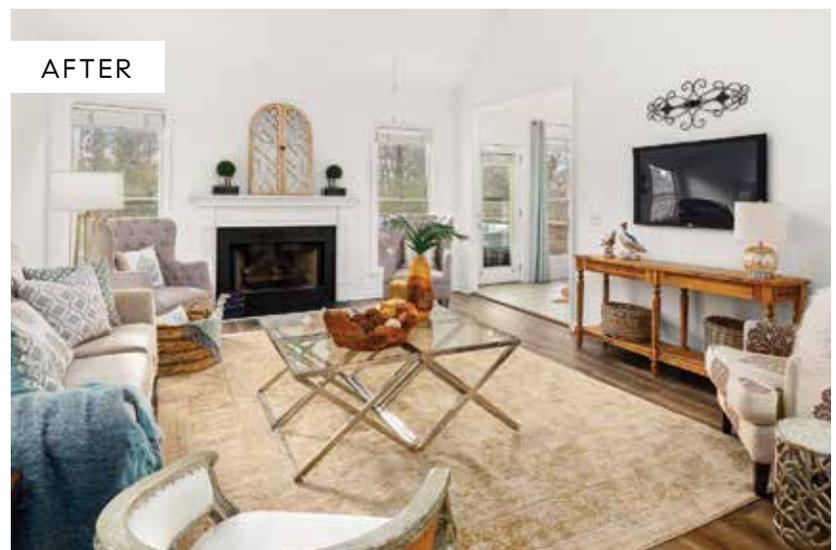
BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER

JCRC Seder Blends Old and New Traditions

By BARBARA DAB

Why is this year different? An obvious question, perhaps, but as the COVID pandemic continues to challenge traditions, it is also providing some new perspectives. This year's Jewish Community Relations Committee Justice Seder mixed the traditional retelling of the Jews' exodus from Egypt with innovative and thought provoking conversations.

The seder was presented virtually over Zoom and emceed by musician and educator Emily Groff, who wove music and songs into the time-honored story. Event chair, Hayley Levy, invited an engaging group of table hosts who served to facilitate the small group conversations.

In breakout rooms, the hosts guided participants in discussions on topics ranging from education to food



Meals provided by Shugga Hi Bakery were delivered to 1,000 MNPS families

insecurity. And, as in traditional seders, there were the ritual foods. And since this year's seder took place virtually, in lieu of the typical large sit-down dinner, the JCRC partnered with World Central Kitchen to provide meals to those in need in the Nashville area. The World Central Kitchen is a project conceived by Chef Jose Andres as a means to use

food to heal and empower communities. Since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, WCK has evolved into an organization that both provides food to those in need and supports local restaurants. The JCRC and WCK partnered with Shugga Hi Bakery to help deliver meals to Metro Nashville Public School families. •



This year's JCRC Justice Seder took place over Zoom and included some old and new traditions



The first meal distribution in partnership with World Central Kitchen and Shugga Hi Bakery took place at Robert Churchwell Elementary school. Pictured (l to r): Robert Churchwell Jr., Whitney Pastorek, Kathy Leslie, Landrace Austin, Deborah Oleshansky, Barbara Zander

Notes from Noam

Elections

By NOAM HARARI

ISRAELI SHLICHA (EMISSARY)

4 Israeli elections in two years
3 Israeli elections in one Shlichut
2 times I voted in Atlanta (2019, 2021)
1 time I voted in DC (2020)

This is my third election during my shlichut.

Politics is always a main topic amongst the Israeli citizens, especially when it comes to security, religion and state, Covid 19. After two years of uncertainty, the people in Israel are having a hard time trusting the government, particularly after 2020.

Personally, I just want stability in the Israeli government. When everything is uncertain, we need a strong, "Knesset." So far it has been confusing with all the rotations, changes of parties and disagreement between the candidates and more. In the last Elections, February 2020, 60 percent of the population went to vote. I hope with all my heart that as many people will go and vote this time. It is so important no matter the political opinion. I wish for all of us to have a government that can decide on the topics that matter and be stable enough so we can vote next time in 2025.

Carine Levi – UJIA community Shlichah in Leeds, England wrote a great article giving her opinion on why we are having four elections in such a short time.

Israel Heads toward Its Fourth Elections in Two Years

By Carine Levi

On March 23, 2021, the state of Israel will go to the polls for the fourth general election in less than two years. In this period, Israel is the democracy with the highest frequency of elections, reflecting alarming levels of instability and governance. How did Israel get here?

Following the elections in April 2019 and September 2019, the Knesset failed to form a government. The elections to the 23rd Knesset, in March 2020, like the two previous ones, were held in the shadow of the corruption cases surrounding Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Although the Likud won 36 seats, the bloc of parties that opposed sitting in the government headed by Netanyahu had a majority of more than 62 seats. The President Reuven Rivlin tasked Benny Gantz, the Leader of the Blue & White party, with forming a coalition. However, Gantz did not succeed, because of the imposition of a veto by some of his partners on relying on the Arab parties to form the government. In the end, and in order to avoid a fourth election in the midst of the Coronavirus crisis, the two candidates for Prime Minister - Netanyahu and Gantz - reached a compromise.

As part of this compromise, a coalition agreement was signed that led



to amendment of Israel's Basic Law, effectively creating a new institutional regime: "an exchange government." At the heart of the coalition agreement was cooperation between the Likud and Blue and White (which split following the move). It was agreed that the government and the 23rd Knesset would serve for three years, and that at the halfway point, Gantz would replace Netanyahu as prime

minister. It was further agreed that the government will pass a biennial budget for the years 2020-21.

The 35th government has from the very beginning been characterized by high levels of mutual mistrust between the Blue and White bloc and the Likud bloc. It soon became clear that Netanyahu did not intend to implement the agreement and sought to avoid passing the budget law in order to run for re-election when the timing was convenient for him. The Knesset faced dissolution at the end of August 2020, but a last-minute compromise stated that if the 2020 budget is not approved by December 23, the Knesset will be automatically dissolved. Attempts were made towards approaching this date to extend the budget further, but the lack of trust between the parties, combined with opposition positions of MKs from both the Likud and Blue and White blocked the move and led to the automatic dispersal of the Knesset due to non-transfer of budget. •

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

The Temple's Rabbi Michael Shulman Becomes 18Doors Rukin Rabbinic Fellow

The Temple's Rabbi Michael Shulman is now part of the second cohort of the 18Doors Rukin Rabbinic Fellowship Program, which launched with a virtual kick-off retreat earlier last month.

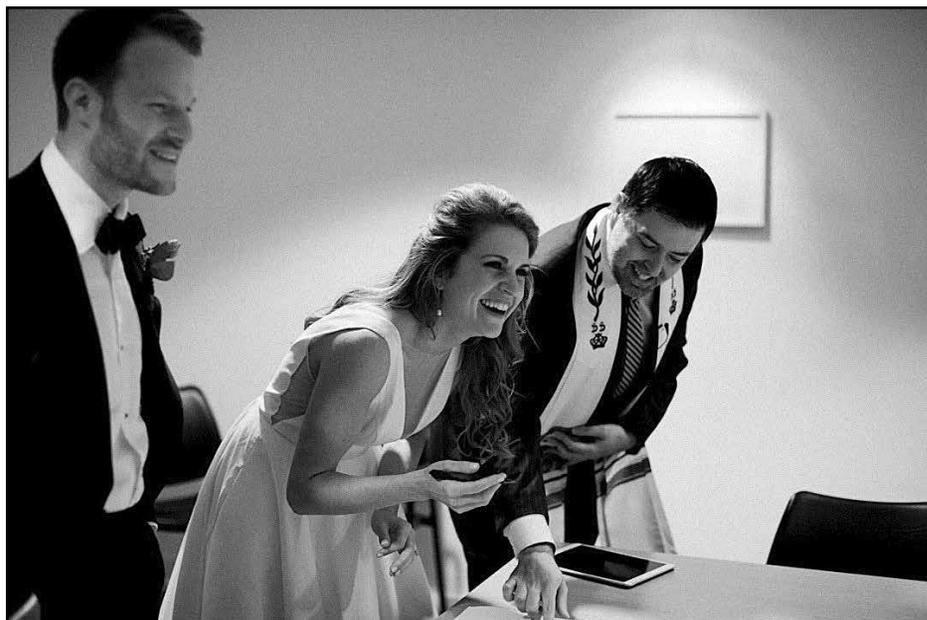
The Rukin Rabbinic Fellows are part of a unique community of practice which will help them hone their skills working with interfaith couples and families. Each will participate in professional development provided by 18Doors, including virtual retreats, regular webinars, small group learning and one-on-one mentoring. The Fellows will each offer programs and workshops for interfaith couples in their own communities and virtually for a national audience. They will also work individually with couples seeking Jewish clergy to officiate a lifecycle event through 18Doors' referral service, answer questions and connect couples to existing inclusive resources and organizations. "Working to include interfaith couples and families into our Jewish community has always been an essential value to me. This fellowship will allow our Nashville community to be even more welcoming as we not only serve but celebrate interfaith relationships and their vital part of the diversity of our Jewish future." Rabbi Shulman said.

Twenty-one communities across the United States and Canada have Rukin Fellows, where interfaith couples and families can receive services such as one-on-one consultations with a rabbi,



Rabbi Michael Shulman of The Temple

referrals to local organizations friendly to interfaith couples and families, programming for interfaith couples who are married, engaged or seriously dating and programs for parents with young children seeking to learn about bringing religious traditions into their lives. Rabbi Mark Schiftan, Senior Rabbi at The Temple, says Rabbi Shulman's involvement in the Rukin Fellowship will be a valuable resource for Nashville's Jewish community. "As a congregation, and as a Jewish community as a whole, we are attempting to be ever more inclusive, whether it be in regard to skin tone, race, ethnicity, birthplace, physical or emotional challenges, or religious orientation or preference. Rabbi



Rabbi Shulman officiates a ketubah signing at a recent wedding.

Shulman, through his intense training as a Rukin Fellow, will be able to lend his learned insights to the ongoing activities and future planning of the myriad of Jewish institutions, agencies and congregations of our greater Nashville Jewish community and communal life."

Rabbi Robyn Frisch, Director of the Rukin Rabbinic Fellowship, said she is thrilled with this year's cohort. "The fellows in our second cohort are coming in with a wide range of experience working with interfaith couples and families and an eagerness to learn best practices and

take their work to the next level. I am so excited for our new fellows to be able to learn with and from each other, and most importantly, for them to serve the interfaith couples and families in their communities." 18Doors helps couples and families with one Jewish spouse, and one spouse from a different religious or cultural background, connect, explore and navigate Jewish life. Through understanding Jewish interfaith relationships, and delivering knowledge and connection in a non-judgmental way, the goal is to help open the door to Jewish life. •

COMMUNITY YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION SERVICE

THURSDAY, APRIL 8
5:00 - 6:00 pm

Led by :
Rabbi Saul Strosberg,
Sherith Israel
Felicia Anchor,
Nashville Holocaust Memorial,
Chair



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Program will include a Tennessee Holocaust Educator and student.

Register for Virtual Event:
jewishnashville.org/yomhashoah2021



For questions contact:
barbara@jewishnashville.org








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Memorial service for Israel's fallen
soldiers and victims of terror

Songs of Memory

שרים וזכרים




Tuesday, April 13th, 7:30pm

Contact noam@jewishnashville.org
for more information
registration link -
<https://katzr.net/16fcc3>

A Survivor's Journey: A Rabbi's Story of Abuse and Recovery

Chabad of Nashville will host Rabbi Avremi Zippel, for a unique and inspiring evening, as he shares his story of a *Survivors Journey: A Gripping Story of SURVIVING & THRIVING*. Tuesday, April 6, 7:00 PM, CDT

Avremi Zippel had an idyllic, sheltered childhood in Salt Lake City, Utah, as the precious and prized eldest son of an Orthodox rabbi. His life changed when he was eight years old, and his nanny began sexually abusing him in the downstairs bathroom.

As the abuse continued over the next 10 years, Avremi didn't say a word. Shame made him swallow his secret: he was to blame, he was sinning against God, he was the personification of evil. Every day, he waited for God to smite him with a terminal illness or for a car to kill him as he crossed the street.

It wasn't until Avremi was 24 years old, and already ordained as a rabbi himself that he first learned that what had happened to him wasn't a sin. It wasn't his fault. It was a crime.

Nearly 20 years after the abuse began, he decided to press charges against his abuser and to become the first Orthodox rabbi to speak publicly about being sexually abused. His decision to come forward would catalyze a #MeToo movement in the insular observant Jewish world and inspire hundreds of other survivors to step out of the shadows.

Avremi's story is one of a male survivor of sexual abuse whose religious faith intensified his shame and salted the



Rabbi Avremi Zippel to share his story of surviving child sexual abuse

wounds of his suffering — and ultimately gave him the strength to seek justice. Avremi's story is one that will remind you that life is never about the size of the daunting obstacle, but rather about the ability to dig deep and rely on one's faith, family and belief in something larger than oneself to sustain and support you during even the most challenging of circumstances. Beyond that, it will remind you that at times, your mission and calling in life are in the very last place that you'd even think to look for them.

"A *Survivors Journey: A Gripping Story of Surviving & Thriving*," will take place via zoom, live on Tuesday, April 6, 7:00 PM, CDT. There is no cost to participate, however prior registration is required via chabadsnashville.com/surviving •

Akiva Students Learn Lessons of Gratitude and Chesed

By ELLY EBIN

Students at Akiva School, who have been dealing with the impact of COVID-19 for over a year, took some time out of their studies to express their gratitude to some of the many people working tirelessly to support the school during these unprecedented times. Over 100 letters, personally written by the students, were sent to board members, school support staff, COVID advisory committee members, and healthcare professionals, acknowledging and appreciating their dedication and work on behalf of the Akiva community.

Translated as, "recognizing the good," *hakarat-hatov* is a central part of the Akiva experience, and a major part of exploring this year's school theme: *chesed* (kindness). Students are learning that they belong to a community built on caring for others, as well as accepting the care of others. This letter-writing campaign was an opportunity for students to learn about the work that goes on behind the scenes at Akiva.

Before writing thank you notes to Akiva Board Members, second grade students asked teacher Annie Douthit to explain what exactly a Board is, and what its members do. Ms. Douthit suggested that, "This was a great opportunity for students to gain an understanding of all that goes into running a school. The second graders now have an idea of just how much our Board members do, and how hard they work." After

sending their letters, second grader Ravi Strosberg reflected on the experience saying, "It gave me a chance to thank people for what they do for Akiva. I didn't know how much they were actually doing, and it made me feel good to make them feel appreciated."

Third grader Meital Kullock wrote to healthcare workers, noting, "It makes me feel good to thank the people that take time out of their day to help us." Meital felt extremely grateful when her class received a reply from one nurse/educator responding to her healthcare worker husband receiving a thank you letter from an Akiva student. She applauded Akiva for its, "incredible goodness and mentoring," and noted that while so many in the world are focused on their own challenges, these letters were, "A good way to teach children to look beyond themselves, see goodness, and instill gratitude." She thanked Akiva for, "Making the world a better place and ensuring that our upcoming generations do the same."

Learning about the contributions of others, and expressing appreciation for those contributions, cultivates a deep sense of community and a culture of empathy. This campaign taught students about the magnitude of support Akiva receives from the greater community. They learned the importance of recognizing that hard work and dedication through writing thank you letters, and that words of gratitude can, and do, make a real impact. •

Grant

Continued from page 1

it is important for very young children to have hands-on learning. "We've been continuing to teach about our tradition and the children are not stuck at home," she says.

The families receiving the scholarships say they are very appreciative and without the help, they would not be able to continue their children's Jewish education. One mother of a four-year-old, says the progress her daughter has made, and the benefits of being able to continue in person school during this time have been instrumental in the family's ability to cope with her job loss. She says, "The scholarships my children receive are without a doubt the only way they

could receive a proper Jewish preschool education. Since the pandemic, it has been impossible for me to find a full-time job in my field that would also pay enough for their education." Rabbi Teichtel says he has received other letters from parents thanking The Federation for the support. And Federation's Eric Stillman says The Federation plans to continue the relief efforts. "The suffering in our community is real, and we are here to help address this need. As long as money remains in the COVID Emergency Response Fund, the Federation will continue to provide this urgent relief."

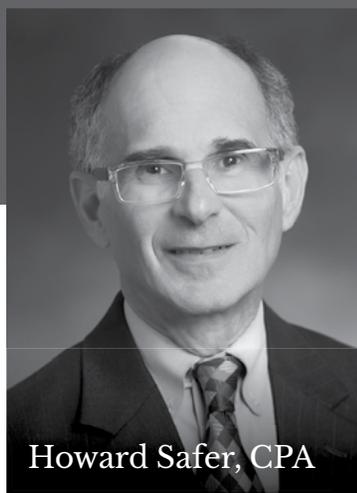
For more information about The Federation's COVID Emergency Response Fund, or to make a donation, contact Eric Stillman at eric@jewishnashville.org. •



Children at the Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool recreate with paint and bold strokes Brian Stauffer's painting of the Exodus, as they prepare with for the holiday of Passover.

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Congregation Micah Announces Cemetery Expansion

After years of discussion and planning, Congregation Micah, under the advisement of its Cemetery and Grounds Committees, is expanding its cemetery space to accommodate those who wish to be buried through the process of cremation. Rabbi Laurie Rice notes, "The original founders of our synagogue were wise to include a cemetery on the property, as it adds to the sanctity of our campus and allows us to serve a community from birth through death." Rabbi Rice says this is not the first time the congregation expanded the original cemetery. She says, "In 2007, after the tragic passing of Micah member Mara Millman, the congregation erected and dedicated a serene and meditative Memorial Garden just to the east of the cemetery's pedestrian entrance. That space is used for all kinds of personal and communal moments, and its beauty ebbs and flows with the natural changes of the seasons. Sometimes the grasses that surround it are tall and fragrant, and at other times, particularly in the winter, the greenery is less prevalent and the permanence and starkness of the stones in the riverbed stand out more."

Jewish cemeteries have not traditionally welcomed burial by means of cremation, but Executive Director, Celia Lerch, says the expansion represents the changing Nashville community. "Our cemetery is one that reflects the diversity of our Micah community, and the Nashville Jewish community at large," she says, "We have had more and more requests for cremation burial over the past ten years, both from our Jewish members and from their partners who may not always be of the Jewish faith. And we have members of the larger Jewish community calling to ask if they can be buried by means of cremation in our cemetery. This expansion not only responds to the needs of our community but allows us to pay attention to the environmental realities and sensitivities of our time."

Micah member and landscape designer Sari Barton designed the cemetery addition. The ground-breaking took place in early March with hopes for completion sometime later this spring. For more information, please contact Celia Lerch in the Congregation Micah office. •



Congregation Micah breaks ground on cemetery expansion to accommodate burial of cremated remains.

Let's Connect

Continued from page 1

as senior lunch programs, fitness classes and other in person programming were canceled and buildings closed, many connections were lost. Jewish Family Service began addressing the need to bring the seniors together with bi-weekly Zoom hangouts. Facilitated by Anna Sir, the program began with the basics. "At the beginning, we had to help people learn how to use Zoom technology," she says, "Since then, the group has evolved into discussions about what folks are reading and watching on television. Sometimes, the topics are heavier." She says in addition to the scheduled hangouts, participants have been checking on each other more regularly, just to make sure everyone is okay. "This has been a tremendous opportunity for people to realize they are way more resilient than they thought," she says.

In addition to the healing nature of informal groups, regular congregational services provide daily, predictable support for those seeking spiritual connection. Rabbi Joshua Kullock, of West End Synagogue, says the best programming his congregation has offered are regular evening virtual minyans. "The minyans have given members the chance to see each other and schmooze on a daily basis, and also has given families the chance to say Kaddish for their dear ones. I have seen how important it was for them, and for us as a congregation, to embrace everyone and to strengthen each other on a daily basis," he says. He adds that since the start of the virtual minyans, the attendance has grown, including among those who live outside of Nashville and often cannot make it to regular minyan who now can reconnect during the week. And while the virtual world is far from perfect, Rabbi Kullock sees it as an opportunity. "As much as we all hope to come back together under the same roof and hug each other as we used to do, there are silver linings that have allowed us to be there for those in need." At Chabad of Nashville, educational programming is also providing what Rabbi Yitzchok Teichtel says is, "mayim,



Participants enjoy bi-weekly Zoom hangouts, hosted by Jewish Family Service.

l'chaim, living waters for the soul." Torah study classes, women's Torah discussions and preparation for Passover are offered both in person and virtually. Rabbi Teichtel says, "At Chabad of Nashville, during the pandemic we have been offering many opportunities for emotional and psychological support." JFS' Toni Jacobsen agrees the availability of services and programs have gone a long way toward engaging those who are not regular participants. "The ease of attendance has made all the difference for some people. It is great to see the unique nature of the programming creating more involvement during this time, and hope that some of it continues even after the pandemic."

Another silver lining, according to Rabbi Laurie Rice at Congregation Micah, has been what she sees as a blending of communities. Together with Rabbi Kullock, she taught a six-week class on the Afterlife, available to anyone, regardless of affiliation, and attended by over 100 people. The two rabbis also hosted a lecture on the ethics of the COVID vaccine, featuring Dr. Ellen Clayton of Vanderbilt University and Rabbi Eliott Dorff, Professor of Ethics and Law at UCLA and American Jewish University,

which was very well attended by people throughout the local Jewish community and beyond. Still, Rabbi Rice says the virtual platforms do not resonate with everyone. "We have seen a category of folks who feel like they are at mile 24 of a marathon. The end is near, and they are not interested in more virtual connection," she says, "They are just waiting until sometime at the end of summer for things to open back up." So, too, at Sherith Israel, the notion of virtual programming was a slow build. Rabbi Saul Strosberg says, "Instead of doing a quick pivot to zoom and other online programming, we took some time to breathe, assess what the needs are in the community, and to really examine what the bonds are that unite us as a community." For his congregation, the connection took the form of a variety of Passover experiences, Shavuot gifts and high holiday services offered in person and over Zoom. He says the response has been tremendous. To help address emotional and psychological issues within the congregation, Rabbi Strosberg says people have relied on outside programs such as Jewish Family Service and Hospice, which offers support even for those not approaching the end of life. In the end, though, he says it has

been a challenge. "Finally, we do our best, though we could always do better, to reach out to some of our members who might not have others checking in on them - but honestly, we fall short, and I don't believe we could ever do enough to help people feel as connected as we would like. In the absence of social life, the role of the community has been elevated and we cannot underscore how crucial it is to let people know how much they are valued members of the community."

The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee is also eager to help provide needed resources. The Temple's, "Let's Connect," group recently received a \$2,600 grant from the Federation through the Human Services Relief Matching Fund program. The grant will help provide three months of funding for continued services. Harriet Schifftan says, "It is so uplifting for the Temple to receive Federation funding targeted at supporting emerging needs that have arisen during the pandemic. In good times connecting people and creating community is the Federation's mission. Right now connecting people and creating community forms a much needed lifeline in the face of so much isolation. We're grateful the Federation values creative and immediate responses to the pandemic." She adds that she is always happy to help others in the community create a similar type of supportive group.

The common thread through all of these efforts appears to be the notion that everyone is valued, and every experience is validated. But the challenge, according to Rabbi Mark Schifftan at The Temple, is creating safe spaces for people to connect. "In this community Jews are very reticent to be vulnerable and to express their feelings to others," he says, "But we are all sharing a human experience." He cites Harriet Schifftan's group as an example of a non-threatening program to normalize what everyone is going through. And Harriet echoes the sentiments of Anna Sir and other leaders, that the experience of facilitating has been healing for her, as well. "If I could have this group over for a Sunday potluck, I would, and they would all come." Here's hoping... •

Veronica Grady Returning for Third Year with Vanderbilt Hillel

Vanderbilt Hillel is proud to announce that Veronica Grady, Hillel's Springboard Innovation Fellow for the past two academic years, will be returning for a third year, in the 2021-2022 academic year, as the organization's new Coordinator of Engagement and Social Justice Programming.

The Springboard Fellowship is a prestigious, paid two-year fellowship that brings together the best, brightest and most diverse Jewish talent through a transformative early career experience in the Hillel movement. As an innovation fellow, Grady was trained in the, "design thinking methodology," and stood out amongst an impressive national cohort of talented young professionals. The position is made possible, in part, thanks to a generous grant provided by Hillel International.

Veronica has been a driving force behind Hillel's first-year engagement programming. Her work with First Year Students of Hillel (FYSH) during this COVID-affected year has shown outstanding flexibility and a deep commitment to helping first-year students make an extraordinarily challenging transition. "Over the last two years, Veronica has taken our first-year student pre orientation event to another level," said Ari Dubin, Vanderbilt Hillel's Executive Director. "The excitement, enthusiasm, and energy she brings to the program draws students of all stripes."

Veronica has also utilized her



Vanderbilt Hillel's Springboard Fellow, Veronica Grady (l), with Vanderbilt student Danielle Klinenberg (r)

undergraduate communications degree from Syracuse University to create wonderful virtual content and raise the bar for our Student Communications Committee. Grady's title and responsibilities have been expanded to engage a broader swath of our campus community. Additionally, Grady will now advise Hillel's Tikkun Olam committee and other social justice themed Hillel committees and groups.

"I am so thrilled to continue on as part of the Vanderbilt Hillel family this upcoming year," Grady said. "Working with the Jewish community on campus here has been challenging, gratifying, and inspiring, and I'm excited to continue building relationships with student leaders who are seeking to push outside the box to engage their community. Next year,



Vanderbilt Hillel's Springboard Fellow, Veronica Grady (l), hanging out with Vanderbilt student Noah Stanton(r)

as I look toward supervising additional student leaders and micro communities, I hope to nurture our Jewish community's connection with each other and to social justice causes that resonates with this generation's leaders."

Emily Kahn-Perry, Hillel's Coordinator of Jewish Life & Wellness Programming, will be finishing her third year at Hillel in June. She plans to depart Hillel in the summer of 2021 to attend graduate school and study Jewish non-profit management in Los Angeles,

CA. Emily, in the last three years built a popular Torah-study program called, "Ethics with Emily", advised Hillel's Jewish Life Committee, and coordinated content and logistics for Shabbat and holiday programming.

"We are all very proud of Emily," Dubin said of the departing Kahn-Perry. "Emily has left an indelible mark on our Hillel. She pioneered a wellness program for our Hillel that has put us at the cutting edge of an area of critical need and growing focus among Hillel's nationally." •



Zoom in on Israel with Tal Heinrich,
New York based, Israeli journalist and News Anchor

Tal will provide a briefing on:

- Covid-19 vaccine distribution in Israel
- The Biden Administration's Middle East foreign policy in 2021
- Israel's fourth election in two years

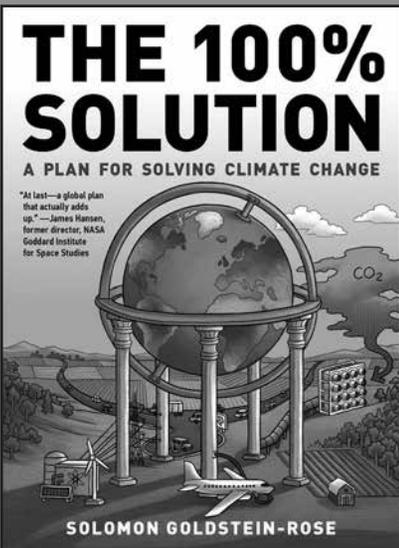
April 28th
7:00pm (CST)
Registration Required:
bit.ly/30YKxWJ




For more info, contact noam@jewishnashville.org.

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For more info, contact deborah@jewishnashville.org.

Jewish Federation Shares the Story of Purim With East Nashville School

By BARBARA DAB

A unique partnership is blossoming in East Nashville. The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee joined with students from Warner Elementary School to share the story and traditions surrounding the Jewish holiday of Purim. The virtual, “field trip,” is part of the school’s mission to expose the students to a diverse array of cultures.

Volunteers prepared kits in advance, filled with noisemakers, a Purim mask arts and craft project and Hamentaschen from Sweet 16th Bakery, an East Nashville institution. PJ Library’s Coordinator, Sharon Benus, provided a slide show of the Purim story, and students used their groggers, as is traditional, when Haman’s name was mentioned. The slide show was followed by an animated short video, as well.

This year’s event also coincided with International Women’s Day, which provided an opportunity to focus on the women at the center of the Book of Esther. Sharon Benus led a discussion about Esther’s challenge to speak up for herself in order to save her people from Haman’s noose. The conversation also explored Vashti’s experience of being removed as Queen because she refused to dance in front of King Achashverosh and his friends.

The happy noises from the students made clear the program was a successful



Warner Elementary School students learn about the story of Purim, create masks and enjoy freshly baked Hamentaschen.

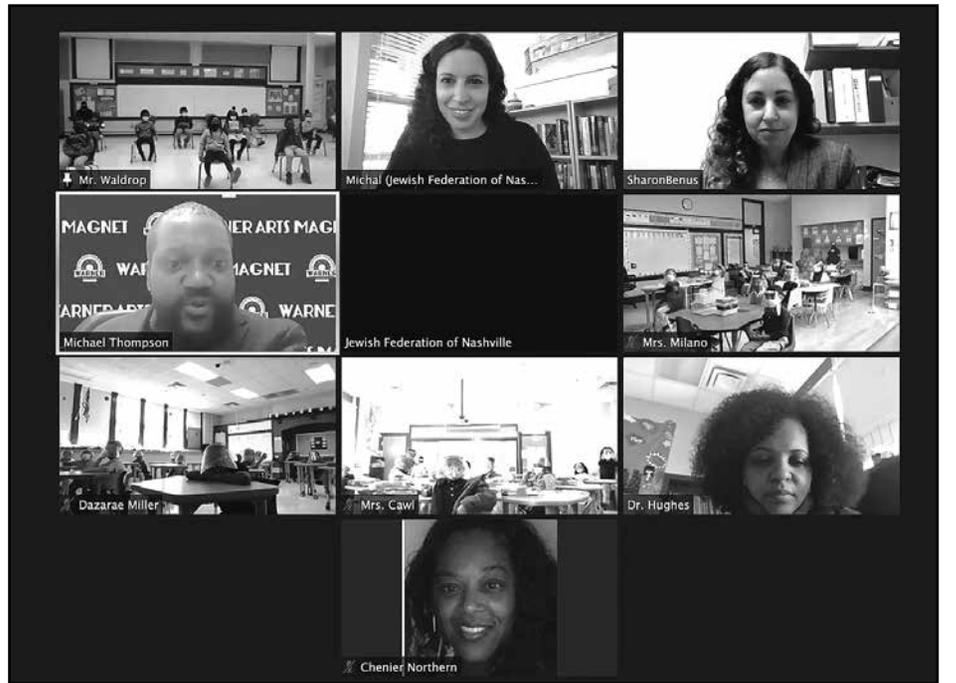
beginning to a new relationship between The Jewish Federation and Warner Elementary.

The following note was sent by Magnet Schools Assistant Jon Wren to The Jewish Federation and Gordon JCC’s Adult Outreach Coordinator, Michal Eskenazi Becker:

Michal –

Please give our thanks to the entire Jewish Federation of Nashville team for what was one of the best virtual field trips we’ve ever had! The story, the cookies, the noisemakers – it was a perfect way for students (virtual & in-person) to experience Purim and have fun!

I hope this is only the beginning of a great partnership between us! •



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Artist's Legacy Helps Disaster Victims Make a New House a Home

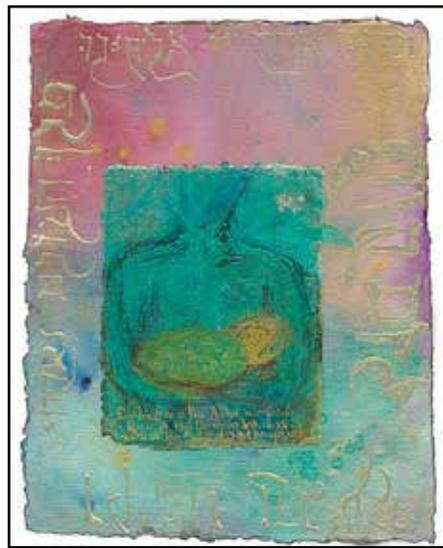
NOTE: The disaster and emergency services provided by Jewish Family Service to families and individuals following the 2010 flood, the 2020 tornadoes and the COVID pandemic in 2020 and 2021 are funded by The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. For information, contact Eric Stillman at eric@jewishnashville.org

By BARBARA DAB

The late Kaaren Engel was a woman who was able to make any space a comfortable home. When her own home and art studio were lost in the historic flood in 2010, according to her daughter Zoe, "She was devastated, and hope felt very far away." Of course she wasn't alone; thousands lost their homes and, on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the flood, tornadoes tore through Nashville once again leaving destruction in their wake. For Kaaren, the help she received from the local community and in particular, Jewish Family Service, was the lifeline she needed to rebuild her home and business. The same is true for many others who turned to JFS for help after these natural disasters. And when the rebuilding is complete and families begin to move forward, a special piece of art created by Kaaren becomes part of their new home and continues her legacy of gratitude.

When Dick Krebs returned home from a business trip the morning of May 2, 2010, he could already tell trouble was coming. The heavy rain that had been following since the day before was quickly filling the creeks, streets and underpasses and by the time he made it to his River Plantation home, the water had risen alarmingly. His then 86-year-old mother in law lived nearby, too. Dick managed to get her and his wife Janet to safety. Not only that, Dick's son, who lived in West Meade with his wife and baby, watched in horror as a large tree on his property crashed through the middle of his house. Thankfully no one in the Krebs family was injured. Dick's house was filled with six feet of water and his mother-in-law's house was completely destroyed by the flood waters. Dick says in the immediate aftermath, many in the community were there to help, from longtime friends, FEMA and Jewish Family Service, just to name a few. He says, "The Jewish community was very generous. We were helped by some wonderful lifelong friends and Jewish Family Service helped us replace some major household appliances."

Amy McCoy and her family spent most of Sunday, May 2nd hauling possessions up the stairs of their Bellevue home to the second floor. By the time they were finished, they found they were trapped, flood waters blocking their safe passage out the front door. Their next door neighbor was in the same situation and both families yelled through their windows as the rain poured down, trying to figure out their next move. Amy says it was an emergency whistle they kept in their master bedroom that finally alerted someone in a boat paddling through the neighborhood. Both families were rescued, but the McCoy's home was badly damaged. Amy says the help her family received from JFS made all the difference. "Jewish Family Service



This blessing is given by Jewish Family Service to adoptive families.

is a phenomenal part of the Jewish Community in Nashville. What they do goes above and beyond what I know happens in other communities," she says.

And Zoe Engel, Kaaren Engel's oldest child, remembers her own experience as a college student watching the news coverage of the flood. "I remember watching on TV and my mom's apartment was right there, on 2nd Ave.," says Zoe, "She lost everything." And for someone used to being strong, used being the caregiver, Kaaren was unaccustomed to asking for help. But Zoe says this time, she was the one who needed it and Jewish Family Service was there. And it was out of gratitude for what Zoe says was JFS' unconditional generosity, that Kaaren created a new style of art centered around Jewish blessings. According to JFS Clinical Director, Toni Jacobsen, the idea sprung out of a conversation she had with Kaaren during a JFS Chesed Dinner. "I wanted to do something for the families we helped after the flood, and Kaaren had the idea to create the, 'Birkat HaBayit,' piece." Zoe Engel says the experience creating this was cathartic for Kaaren, as well. "This was very different from the rest of her art. She said it was very meditative to put all her energy into this piece after all the destruction." And Pam Kelner, Executive Director of JFS, says, "If you ever met Kaaren, her spirit and positive energy flowed through every interaction that you had with her. This made her the perfect person to create a piece of art that conveyed the message that we at JFS wanted to send to the people whose homes were destroyed by the May 2010 floods and subsequently, the March 3rd tornadoes. That message includes one of our Jewish values that is part of JFS's mission, bringing Shalom Bayit, or peace to the home. The words of the Birkat Habayit "Let this home be filled with the blessing of joy and peace" serve as a reminder of the resilience of the human spirit, even in the face of destruction."

The painting was first given to families on the one-year anniversary of the flood to commemorate all they had survived, and to serve as a symbol of hope for the future. The families all say the piece is not only beautiful but also brings comfort and a reminder of the help they received. Amy McCoy knew Kaaren as another parent in her son's religious school class at West End Synagogue. She says, "I always felt a closeness with Kaaren. She had such a good spirit and



Zoe Engel and Kaaren Engel at the 2013 Jewish Family Service Adoption Journeys fundraiser.



Kaaren Engel presents the original Birkat Habayit painting to JFS Executive Director, Pam Kelner, at the 2011 Chesed dinner

a great smile. Being given a piece of her art is a tangible, thoughtful and forward thinking gift." Jeff Krebs agrees that it was a special reminder of the help they received from JFS, "They helped so much with the rebuilding. The painting hangs in our entry hallway and we look at it whenever we leave or come home." The artwork is also being given to families whose homes suffered catastrophic damage in last year's tornadoes.

Just as the, "Birkat Habayit," piece serves as a blessing for the home, there is another tradition Jewish Family Service has for those building a new family through adoption. Kaaren Engel created a special piece centered around the Shecheyanu blessing for adoptive families, each of whom works closely with JFS. Clinical Director Toni Jacobsen says, "The adoption process is a difficult and emotional venture. We have the privilege of working with families throughout the entire process, similar to a birth coach." Toni says the new families receive the artwork at the final home visit, "It's a proud moment for all of us and giving the artwork has become a ritual." Toni says Kaaren was a strong advocate of adoption and was proud of JFS' work with the LGBT community.

Kaaren Engel was diagnosed with cancer in 2015 and passed away in 2016. Her legacy lives on through her art and also through her children, Zoe, Simon and Iris. They are all proud of her contribution to the local community and are happy JFS has chosen to continue honoring her through these gifts. The three recently revised the Artist's



The, "Birkat Habayit," blessing is given by Jewish Family Service as a gift to families who suffered catastrophic damage to their homes following the 2010 flood and 2020 tornadoes. This one hangs in the home of Dick Krebs to commemorate the rebuilding of his home following the flood.

Statement that accompanies each piece. It reads in part:

"The profuse support shown during the March 2020 tornadoes continues the tradition of how the entire Nashville community and Jewish Family Service actively responds to tragedy and uplifts those most in need of help. We know our mother would be honored to share her prayer for the home with those who need a sign of better days to come." •

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Akiva students had a blast with themed dress-up days as part of Spirit Week, which culminated in a full day of activities and festivities in celebration of Purim.



Akiva students enjoy a special Megillah reading presented by Congregation Micah



Akiva 2nd graders show off their Purim costumes

Jewish Foundation Designated Fund Options

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- B'nai Tzedek Program
- Overseas missions (young leadership subsidies)
- LIFE & LEGACY™
- Yom Hashoah
- Yom Ha'Atzmaut
- Newcomer program
- Shaliach programs
- Professional Staff Development
- JCRC Community Relations Seder

For more information contact Shannon@jewishnashville.org.



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A donation to start or add to your Designated Fund can have significant tax benefits. A professional advisor should be consulted to discuss these benefits.



Akiva 3rd graders celebrate Purim



Akiva 2nd graders show off their Mad Scientist costumes



Akiva 6th graders spreading some joy around the school on Purim

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

West End Synagogue Purim in the Parking Lot

Revelers took to the parking lot of West End Synagogue to celebrate Purim pandemic-style. Folks came in costume and decked out cars to listen to the chanting of The Book of Esther and whirl their groggers, while others Zoomed in from the comfort of home. •



Emilia Yazdian, Lyla & Dylan Hyatt and Jonah Spielman



Iara Kullock, Esther & Greta Nissenson, Meital and Abi Kullock pose in costume.



The Lubovich family take first place as "a Fruit bowl!" in WES Purim Costume Contest.



Purim in the Parking Lot Megillah readers Michael Herman, Cheryl Lane, Sophie Rapoport, Cantor Sarah Levine



Purim Day Megillah readers and zoomers!

Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool Passover



It is never too early to start learning about Passover. Children at the Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool start learning about Passover from 12 months old, as they make their own Seder plates, design their Afikoman bags, act out the story of Baby Moses, and learn with their five senses about the Exodus. To register your child at the Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool call 615-646-5750.

GOING UP TO SINAI five scholars & a comedian

"The Bible With and Without Jesus:
How Jews and Christians Read the Same Scripture Differently"
Authors, Professors Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler
Sunday, April 18 at 10:00 am



"Why the Mitnagdim Opposed the Hasidim (and why they stopped)"
Rabbi Shai Cherry
Thursday, April 22 at 7:00 pm



"Biblical Bathing Beauties and the Manipulation of the Male Gaze"
Professor Caryn Tamber-Rosenau
Thursday, April 29 at 7:00 pm



"The Laws of Moses in their Ancient Near East Contexts"
Professor Jack Sasson
Thursday, May 6 at 7:00 pm



"Live from Israel: Standup Comedy with Comedian Benji Lovitt"
Thursday, May 13 at 7:00 pm



For the zoom link please RSVP to office@westendsyn.org
Funded by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee





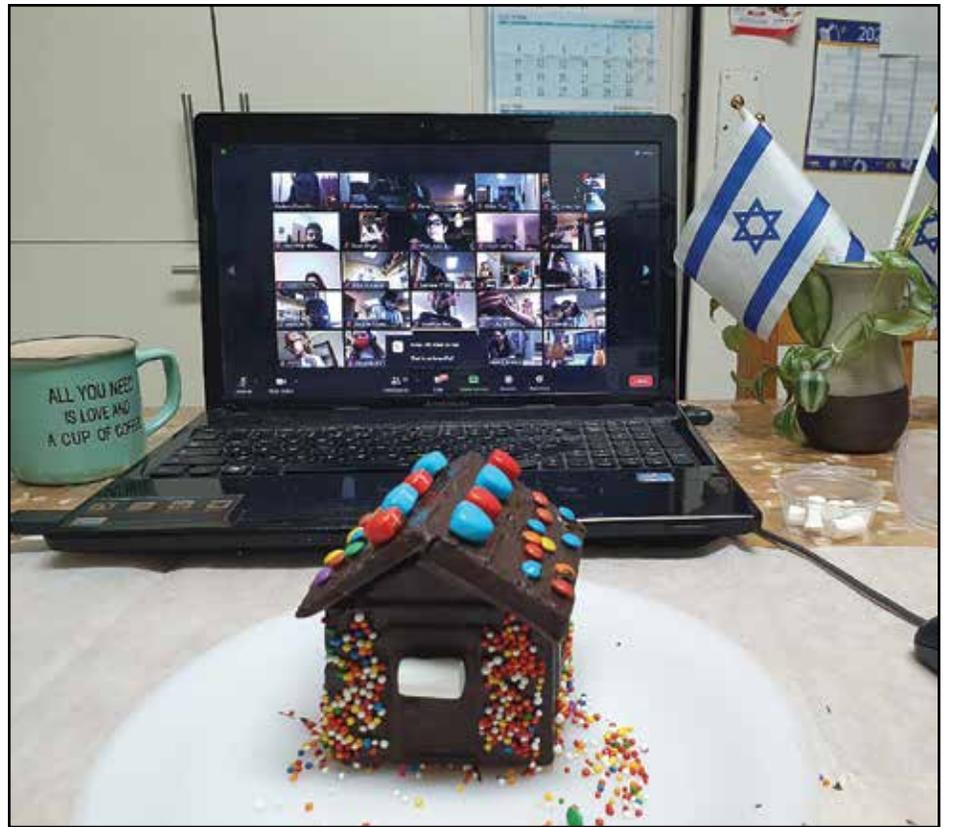
Partnership Youngsters Build Bridges With Chocolate

By ADAM BRONSTONE

Sunday, March 7th over 30 elementary school-aged children from Hadera-Eiron, Chattanooga and Nashville participated in a pre-Passover chocolate baking event as part of the P2G Hadera-Eiron Class2Class Program. Every child who registered for the program received a chocolate box, complete with chocolate to melt, molds to fill and decorations to use for the finished product, which was a chocolate house. The Magic Chocolate Box is part of the, "Shades of Sweet," project which is a social initiative designed to empower at-risk youth from children's homes in Pardes Hanna and the region, that allows the youth to participate in all stages of production, from preparation, through branding, marketing, and sales to end customers. The profit from the sale of the Chocolate boxes helps support at-risk youth in the region. This program is one of many that work to connect children from across the Hadera Eiron/Southeastern US Partnership, where language and distance is not a barrier, in what was a very fun Sunday morning -- late afternoon in Israel -- program.

The program was facilitated by 15 year-old Einav Orgal, from Pardes-Hanna. She led the children step-by-step, removing the chocolate from the box, into the microwave and then to the molds, and finally to the kitchen table after a few minutes in the freezer. At that point, the participants were able to decorate using sprinkles, hearts and other candy decorations and then show off their finished projects to everyone else who was participating.

Locally Akiva School partners with Alonim School in Pardes-Hanna to foster connections between students through the, "Le'Shituf," project. The project is another people-to-people aspect of the Israel Partnership in which the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee has been involved for 20 years. The Partnership encourages members of the Nashville community to develop lifelong friendships with Israelis and their counterparts from across the US Southeast. For information on how you and your family can connect with Israelis from the Hadera-Eiron region, please contact Adam Bronstone, Director of Israel Partnerships, at adam@jewishnashville.org. •



Students from Nashville's Akiva School and The Jewish Federation's partnership region in Israel participate in a pre-Passover chocolate baking program

Micahland's Purim CARnival - Driving Generously with Our God

By JULIE GREENBERG

While the pandemic has prevented Micah's Religious School from gathering for in-person classes this year, it has also underscored the stark social and economic needs of so many in our larger community. JLAB's online lessons have still focused on tzedakah and tikkun olam, and classes continue to welcome guests from local non-profits who need our help now more than ever.

Most recently, Micah's 7th and 8th grade students studied homelessness through a Jewish lens and reached out to the Oasis Center to learn how they could best help Nashville's growing number of homeless youth. The Oasis Center's volunteer coordinator joined the online class to teach about their Street Outreach program, and in turn the students taught her about Purim and the mitzvah of

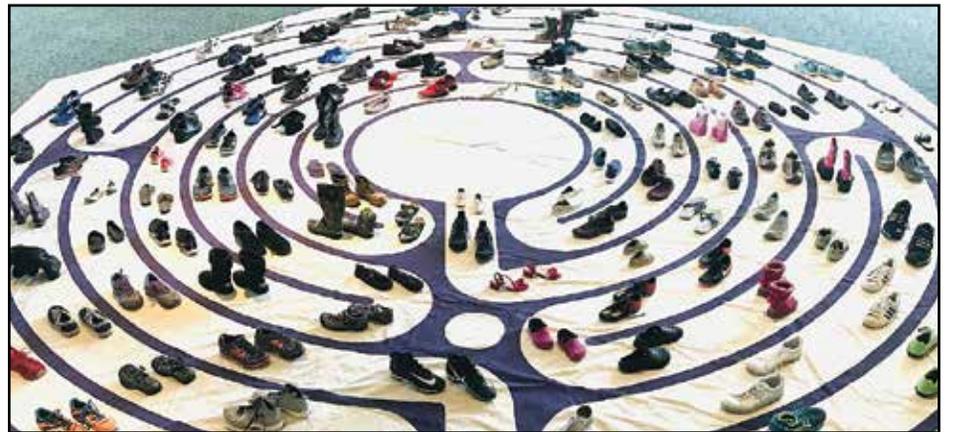
mishloach manot. Students and teachers Jason Shuster and Christie Wiemers then helped organize and promote the sweeping mitzvah component of the Micahland-themed CARnival.

Drive-through donations delivered by spirited students, parents and pets dressed as Alexander Hamilton, DJ Marshmello, Demeter, Harry Potter, Spiderman, Pikachu, and many more made for a most festive and fruitful morning. By morning's end, Micah's chapel was overflowing with aluminum pulltabs for the Ronald McDonald House, shoes for Soles 4 Souls, pasta box graggers for the Bellevue Food Bank, used markers for Crayola's environmental ColorCycle program, and two SUVs worth of bottled water, pre-packaged foods, hygiene products, socks and other winter accessories for the Oasis Center.

Congregants pulled out of the parking

lot with empty trunks, uplifted spirits and gifts of their own including tasty *mishloach manot* and parsley seed planting kits to help them prepare for Passover. As we have once again relived the Exodus and

exhorted, "Let all who are hungry come and eat," may we continue to find ways to invite the youngest among us to support our community and meet the needs of the most vulnerable among us. •



Walking humbly . . . some of the shoe donations for Soles 4 Souls displayed on Micah's Lech Lecha labyrinth



Oasis Center Volunteer Coordinator Dana True displays donations for the Street Outreach program

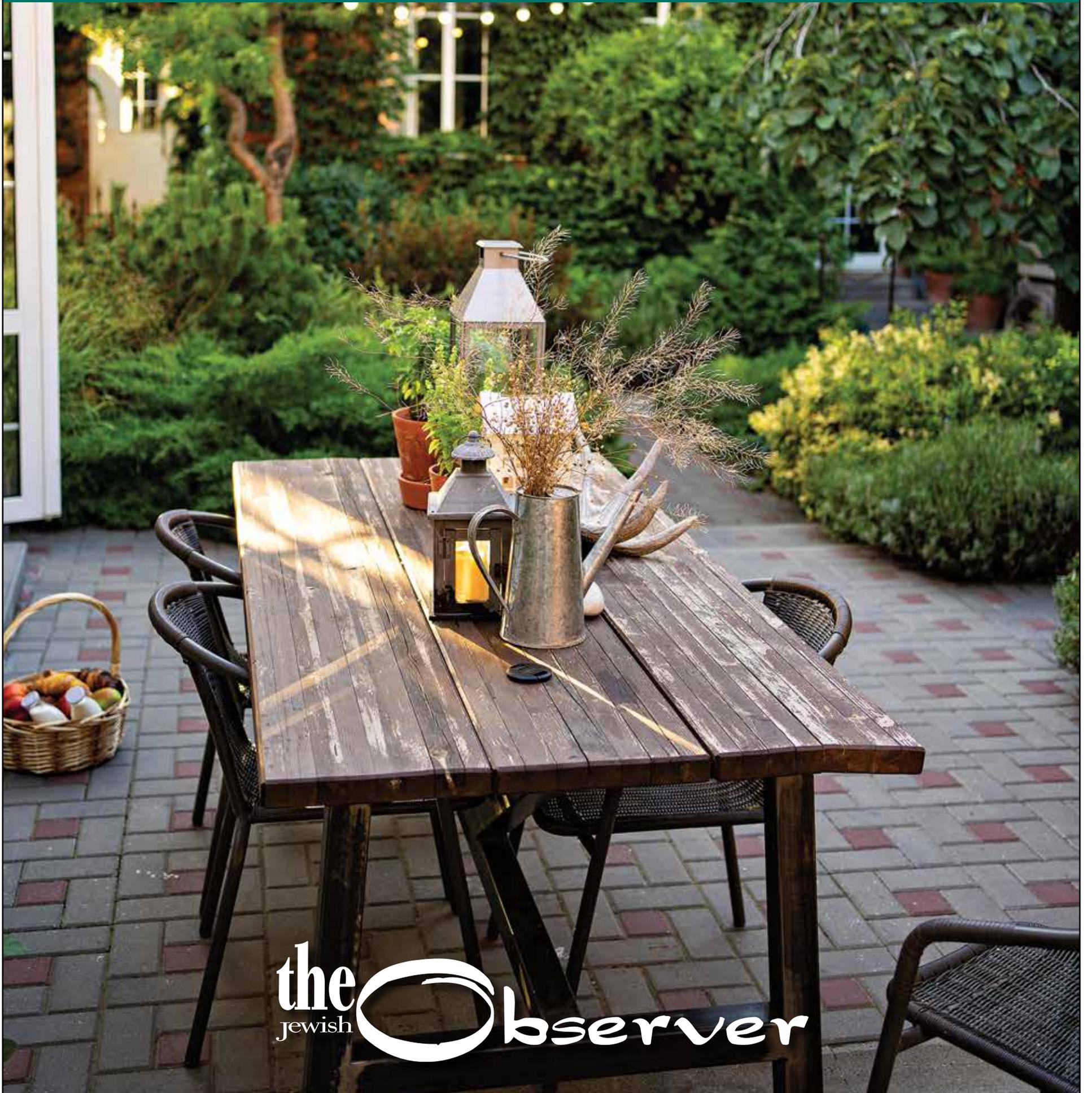
Revelers enjoy Micahland during this year's Purim CARnival

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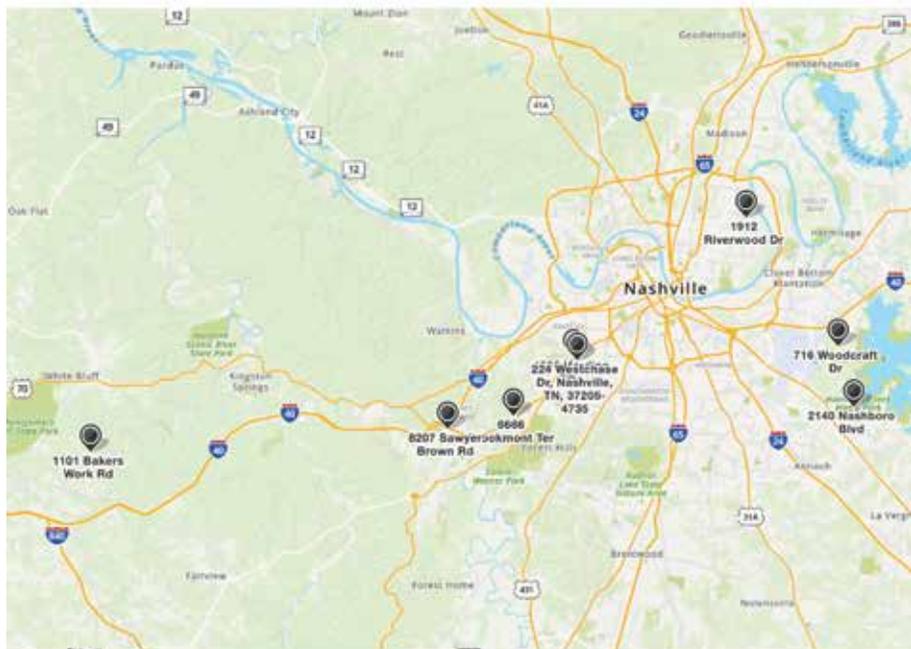
APRIL 2021



the Jewish **Observer**



2020 was a year we would like to forget, but there were many silver linings. Thank you for putting your trust in me. Looking forward to 2021 and more time together!



LET'S WORK TOGETHER IN 2021!

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Jackie is an experienced real estate agent poised to assist you with your relocation, whether it's across town or around the globe. A native Nashvillian, her local expertise combined with the global reach of RE/MAX Homes and Estates, Lipman Group network of offices provides clients with unmatched service and vast resources.

No one knows a home like Jackie Karr. Jackie knows finding a home is only the beginning. She's got an eye for detail that will help you see the potential in an empty house. When relocating to a new area, you'll need someone you can trust to help you find schools, activities, and even a grocery store! Jackie can help and HAS helped many others in your shoes.

Many of you may know Jackie from her lifetime of growing up in Nashville. Others may have met her during her professional career. It has now been over 30 years since Jackie's first sales debut. She enjoyed many good years at Harvey's Dept. Stores as a Buyer and later, marketing for REN Corporation, Realtor with both Zeitlin Realtors and Karr Realty, all along an active community volunteer and event coordinator.

Having raised 2 sons in Nashville who have now graduated college and are working in their chosen careers, Jackie transitioned her career to real estate to combine the three things she enjoys most: PEOPLE, MARKETING & HOUSES. Utilizing her vast years of sales and marketing experience, Jackie will provide you with the facts you need to know and the easiest way to owning your new home, offering a fun and memorable experience!

Jackie takes pride in her reputation as a trusted advisor and puts a lot of herself into the transaction. Jackie knows you are busy and won't waste your time. Put Jackie to work for you. She's a Realtor who cares about your needs. Call Jackie and visualize the possibilities! She'll make a house your home. Member of the Greater Nashville Association of Realtors, Accredited Buyer Representative certification.

Call Jackie at 615-463-3333 or email to jackiekarr@gmail.com

FLWR Shop

Great news for West siders that love flowers, the East Nashville favorite, FLWR Shop, has recently opened a second location in Belle Meade. After years working in the floral industry on both coasts Alex Vaughan and Quinn Kiesow opened their first Nashville shop five years ago. They quickly became a favorite of Nashville interior designers and wedding planners with a reputation built on beautiful floral work ranging from small arrangements to massive installations. Their signature style is easy to identify, you know when you've received a FLWR Shop arrangement. Each piece is meticulously designed to take the recipient's breath away and every flower variety is chosen to impress. FLWR Shop delivers six days a week in Nashville, making gorgeous arrangements to order in their design studio.

FLWR Shop's new location in the Belle Meade Galleria gives customers a peaceful and luxurious boutique shopping experience. There, customers can expect to find pre-made arrangements, individual stems of the most unique and gorgeous blooms, house plants, and an eclectic selection of planters, vases, home decor, and gifts. Among customer favorites are FLWR's signature candles and custom silk masks. FLWR Shop is open Monday through Saturday, 10am - 5pm and located at 5133 Harding Pike in the Belle Meade Galleria.

Cura for Care: It's All About Home and Family

Home means security, well-being, and peace, but what happens when that peace is threatened by age-related limitations?

That question spurred Moises Paz on a quest that would assist his family and friends, and ultimately, all of Nashville's aging population.

Watching both his parents suffer with memory loss, medical issues and decisions involved, revealed to Moises the need for quality home care in the most personal way. "Our family searched for ways to let our parents enjoy life at home surrounded by beloved family and friends, but limitations of distance and life's busy pace moved me to explore strategies that ultimately led to the creation of Cura for Care" stated Moises.

This local home care agency is the culmination of all his hopes regarding the proper care he believed his parents deserved. Cura for Care developed around the belief that conscientious, compassionate home care should be provided by professionals our aging loved ones would enjoy and trust; Skilled and capable hands at home to prevent falls, avoid needless hospitalizations and provide for healthy, active, and social lifestyles at home and with friends.

Cura for Care has over 60 professional caregivers on a career path with Cura. We assist families maneuver what can be a complex maze of medical services, acting as a go-between when families need an ally while coping with changing needs and increased dependency.

Visit us online for video stories and tips on living with the challenges posed by aging and post hospitalization. Better yet, give us a call and schedule a free, no-obligation in-home consultation. Be sure to ask about our other services including childcare, family support and personal assistants for busy individuals.

moises@curaforcure.com | www.curaforcure.com | 615-522-5265

Senior Living in Consultation With a Landscape Architect

When seniors and their families decide it is best to make a lifestyle change from their own homes, Clarendale at Bellevue Place is a great choice in making for a smooth transition.

Clarendale at Bellevue Place strives to make every senior feel at home. It is a unique senior living community, with a memory care courtyard designed and installed

Continued on page 18

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"Let us know how we can help."
 Moises Paz, CEO

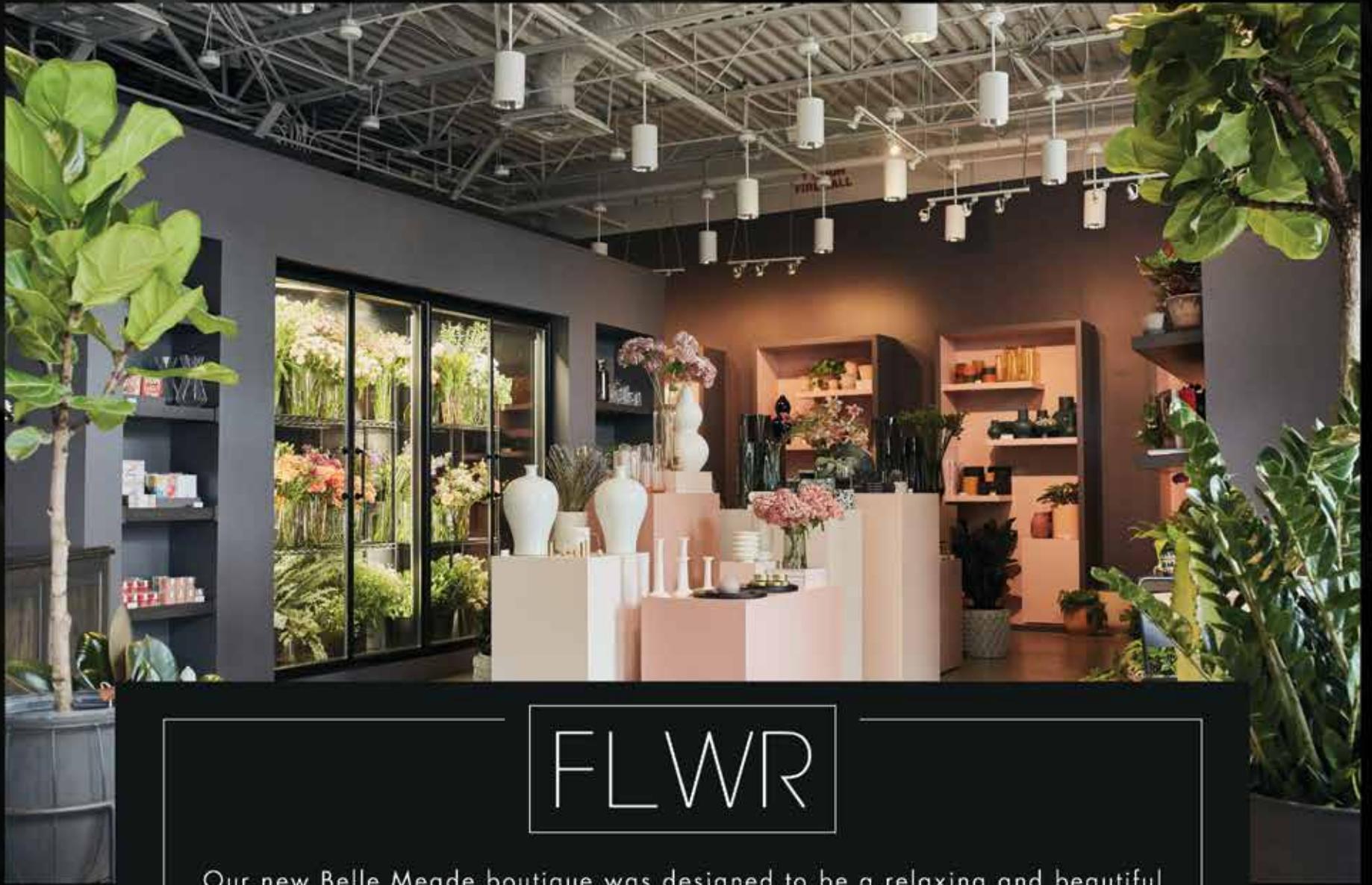
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Our new Belle Meade boutique was designed to be a relaxing and beautiful shopping experience with thoughtfully curated vases, ceramics, and gifts for the home. We always have a selection of unique and gorgeous blooms by the stem, hand tied bouquets and premade arrangements.

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by a nationally recognized landscape architect—Jack Carman. With more than 20 years of experience, Carman is best known for therapeutic gardens, and his talents are on full display at Clarendale.

Designed to appeal to all the senses, plant materials include everything from ornamental Japanese maple and Chinese redbud to catch the eye to English lavender, basil, parsley and pineapple sage for pops of fragrance. “Listening to birds, watching a sunset, feeling the breeze on our skin...being outside in nature has positive effects on our mood and outlook,” Carman explains.

There are cleverly designed hardscapes, too, including a room-size pergola with rocking chairs and gliders, providing a shady spot for rest and contemplation. Residents and their families also discover a relaxing fountain water feature, bird feeders to tempt feathered friends, and paved meandering paths to stroll and enjoy all the sights, sounds and scents of nature. According to Carman, “Gardens are an essential component of any residence. Outdoor rooms and spaces help individuals with dementia stay connected to the world around them.”

This Clarendale garden oasis is just 13 miles southwest of downtown Nashville at the intersection of I-40 and US 70 South in the exciting development of One Bellevue Place. But first, call 615-271-5511 or go to ClarendaleAtBellevuePlace.com to schedule a virtual visit to this independent living, assisted living and memory care community.

The Pargh Team

As Nashville natives with decades of experience in real estate, architecture, and design, Lana and Franklin Pargh are uniquely qualified to help you buy, sell, renovate or design your home. Together with their full-service team of experts, they sold more than \$85M in real estate last year and assisted 150 families.

As a fifth generation Nashvillian, Franklin has a firm grasp on area trends and strong relationships with other Realtors®. Lana’s architectural background is invaluable to clients, from helping them envision the best use of a space to estimating renovation costs. They have an unparalleled understanding of neighborhoods, real estate trends, commute patterns and lifestyles to ensure every purchase is the ideal fit for a client’s needs. Lana and Franklin are also active members of the thriving Jewish community in Nashville, in which they strive to create meaningful relationships with others and have a positive impact on Jewish organizations. Not only will they help you find your perfect home, they can also be a part of helping you forge a meaningful connection to the Nashville Jewish Community.

Lana and Franklin are dedicated to guiding you in your quest for finding the perfect place to call home. Their dedicated, hands-on approach to identifying needs and wants, allows each client to find the right home in the right area, whether you are relocating to Middle Tennessee or already a local.

Because of their intrinsic understanding of the Nashville market and their earnest desire to help their clients, Lana and Franklin stand out from the crowd and are sure to become lifelong business associates and friends. Don’t wait, contact them today at theparghteam@compass.com or 615.351.7333 or check out our website at pargh.com.

Sperry’s

Sperry’s is unique not only for its top rate dining experience and first-class menu; what takes them the extra mile is their specialty shop that allows you to bring a taste of Sperry’s into your home every day of the week.

Celebrating 47 years of incredible food, service and memories, Sperry’s Restaurant, founded in March of 1974, has become a Nashville tradition.

Both the Belle Meade and Cool Springs locations are open daily for dinner and weekdays for happy hour in the lounge. The Cool Springs location is also open for lunch and Sunday brunch, and can accommodate private parties up to 75 people. For quality meats, fresh seafood, and unique sundries shop local at Sperry’s Mercantile, located behind



carrie mills

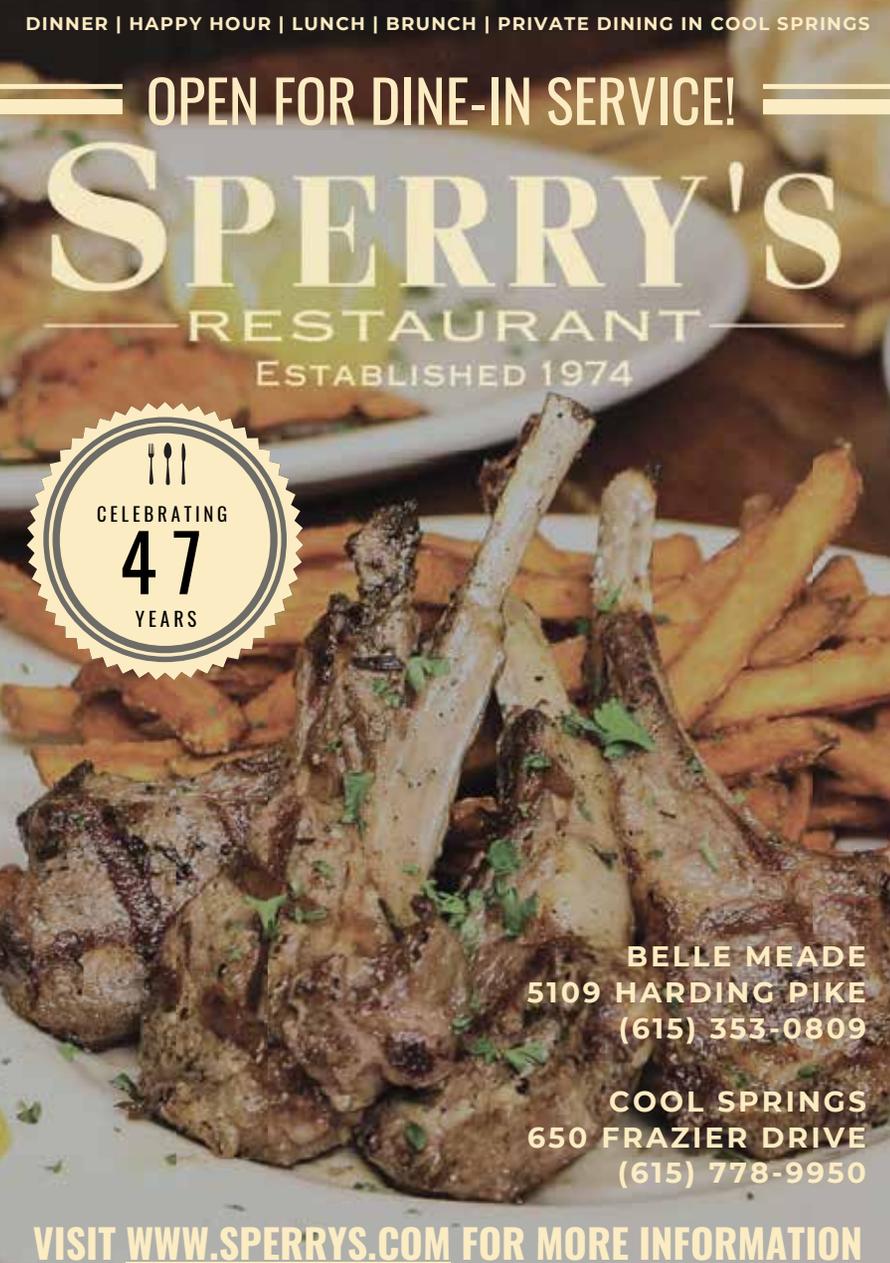
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Sperry's Restaurant in Belle Meade, open Monday - Saturday from 10 am - 6 pm. Thank you from our restaurant family for your business these many years, and allowing us to remain a staple in our community! It is our privilege and honor to feed you well, always!

Druid Tree Service

Springtime ushers in a time of rejuvenation; a new beginning. A wake up to the certainty that it's time to again enjoy nature's bountiful beauty of flowering trees, shrubs and flowers. Breathe in the scent of lilac and viburnum, allow the vibrant, pink cherry blossoms to transport you to, and take solace in the fact that spring, without fail, has sprung again.

At Druid Tree Service, we are specialists in preserving the natural beauty of your trees and shrubs. We believe your yard should be an oasis, deserving of the utmost care and attention. From specialty hand pruning of boxwoods, yews and ornamentals, to shade tree maintenance, our arborists offer professional care for landscapes of any size.

As you spend more time at home, you may observe that your landscape could use an expert eye on the beautiful space you envision. We can help you through our consulting arborist's stewardship plans. Alleviate the worry of hazards in your trees, by having our consulting arborist conduct a hazard tree assessment. Spring is an important time to identify pests and nutritional deficiencies in your plants. At Druid, our consulting arborist conducts a plant pathology assessment to identify concerns and make recommendations for pest and fertility issues. Druid has proven experience controlling specific pests and diseases, including the devastating Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), to insure the health and wellbeing of your trees and shrubs. Druid is family owned and has been caring for trees and shrubs in the Nashville area since 1977.

We look forward to caring for your trees. Give us a call at 615-373-4342 or email us at office@druidtree.com.

Aging in Place: Solving the Puzzle

Most seniors would prefer to enjoy their leisure years in their own homes and not have to move due to unexpected health issues. Aging in Place Transition Services (APS) understands this desire and is there to help.

APS recently completed an interior renovation project for a couple in their 80's who are now aging in place. They have experienced some health issues that necessitated renovating their home of 50+ years. Their daughter was referred to our company to help her plan for the future of her parent's home.

At first it was apparent they needed to upgrade their master bathroom to be wheelchair accessible. More important was accessing the bathroom and bedroom suite which was three steps down from the main floor. We proposed an interior ramp from the kitchen to the lower bedroom entry. The bathroom and closet area were remodeled to include accessible shower with a bench seat and hand-held shower. A new comfort height toilet was installed to allow for a wheelchair and new lighting improved visibility and safety and the door into the bath and closet widened for accessibility.

Often the most difficult part of renovating is vacating the space, but APS found an easy solution. We moved our clients back to the main floor bedroom and modified the bathroom. The investment continues to pay off because the main floor bath is used during the day since it is closer to the kitchen and living areas.

To learn more, contact APS at 629-999 2477.

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The Kupin Group

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Artist Carrie Mills

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Taste of Hillel Goes Virtual

By DEBBY WISTON

Vanderbilt Hillel is excited to announce that the 2021 fundraiser, Taste of Hillel, will take place virtually through Zoom on Sunday, April 11th at 6 pm. Over the last few years, this annual event has enabled members of the community to learn more about the students, programs, and events happening every day at Hillel. In the past, participants could literally taste the BBQ brisket made by the Hebro's group and sample the Challah made by Challah 4 Hunger participants, while hearing directly from students about a typical day in their Hillel lives. This year, the event is expanding to include parents, alums, and those who live outside the Nashville area, in addition to members of the local Nashville community. Executive Director, Ari Dubin says, "The zoom format not only makes it more accessible to our stakeholders all over the country, but also enables us to give participants a bird's eye view into the many daily programs, events, and religious services offered at Hillel."

A tax deductible \$50 Basic View will include a viewing pass and enable anyone within the household to login and enjoy the event. Sponsorship packages begin at \$100 and depending on the level include either a special snack pack, dinner for 2, or both, as well as a tax-deductible



Matzoh ball soup ready for pickup by Vanderbilt Hillel students

contribution. The to-go dinners are prepared with love by Hillel's beloved caterer, Goldie Shepard, and are the same meals served every week to students for Shabbat dinner. The pandemic has forced a reevaluation of how we offer programs, services, and meals. Shabbat To-Go meal options have been incredibly popular and so far, this year students have enjoyed over 2,000 takeout meals. When asked about this year at Hillel, Carly S. '23 shared, "I am thankful for Hillel because it provides me with a supportive



Vanderbilt students pick up their Shabbat to Go meals



Goldie Shepard hands out Shabbat to Go meals



Falafel at Midnight meals awaiting pickup

community that I know I can always turn to for help with anything! I am thankful to be surrounded by individuals who embrace Judaism. From escape rooms to holiday programming and always making sure we leave with plenty of food. Shabbat dinner is always a highlight of my week, and I am glad I can still pick one up to-go this year. Hillel has helped me create a home away from home." And Danny '23 when asked what aspect of Hillel he is most thankful for, answered, "Goldie's

Shabbat Dinners!" There is no doubt that Shabbat To-Go meals have been a highlight of the year for students and Vanderbilt Hillel is thrilled to share a taste of them with members of the Nashville Jewish community. The link to RSVP for the virtual Taste of Hillel or to reserve your To-Go meals is <https://tinyurl.com/VirtualTasteofHillel2021RSVP> For more information please visit our website at www.vuhillel.org or call Hillel at 615-322-5042 before April 7th. •

Yellow Takes the Gold in Gordon JCC's Big Night In Fundraiser

By DARA FREIBERG

Over 200 participants enjoyed some competitive Color War fun during the Gordon JCC's first ever virtual fundraiser, Big Night In, on March 6th. During the week leading up to the event and during the evening's Zoom festivities, teams competed in challenges including a scavenger hunt, Scattergories, a songwriting contest, and more. In addition, there was also a small live auction in between the Color War challenges. Team Captains Cindee Gold, Suzy Perlman, Scott Newman, Abbey and Bryan Benjamin, and Stephanie Kirschner led the Yellow Team to a win! Other team captains included Lori Fishel, Julie Galbierz, Mindy Hirt, Gail Gordon Jacobs, Meryl Kraft, Leeron Resnick, Marissa

Russ, Caroline Sprouse and Jennie Zagnoev. Participants also enjoyed cheese boards and dessert platters, courtesy of the JCC staff, and wine provided by Canvino, with an optional add-on of food from Butcher & Bee. The virtual event took the place of the JCC's typical annual fundraiser, Big Night Out, and raised much-needed funds to help address lost revenues and increased expenses during the past challenging year.

Sponsors included: Zander Insurance, American Paper & Twine, Argent Trust, Capstar Bank, Ghertner and Company, Gold Skin Care, Hermitage Lighting Gallery, KraftCPAs, The Pargh Team, Sprintz, and Zeitlin Sotheby's International Realty, as well as in-kind sponsors Canvino and Halo Branded Solutions/Mike Cooper. •



The Red Team competes for the top prize during the Gordon JCC's first ever virtual Big Night In fundraiser

Hillel Holds its First, "Purim Walk-Through Carnival," and Vanderbilt Students Enjoy Shabbat TO GO Meals

Vanderbilt Hillel hosted its first Purim Walk-Through Carnival on Friday, February 26, at the Schulman Center for Jewish Life. Over 120 students participated in the untraditional Purim Carnival as they lined up to pick up more than 130 Shabbat TO GO meals. The Purim Walk-Through featured a variety of COVID-safe station stops along a winding path across the Hillel building. Activities included a Purim mask-decorating table, a photo-booth, and Purim trivia for prizes. Student fundraisers also raised over \$300 to support winter weather relief efforts in Texas.

Shabbat Walk-Through programming was developed by the Hillel engagement team and Hillel student leaders this semester to innovate new ways to entertain, educate, and inform students as they queue for Hillel's weekly Shabbat TO GO Meals each Friday afternoon. The Purim Walk-Through was the highest attended Shabbat Walk-Through program this academic semester.

"Our community has been so creative throughout the COVID pandemic," said Brian Small, Vanderbilt Hillel's Assistant Director. "Our walk-through programming, like the Purim Carnival, is safe and engaging. We've utilized QR codes to keep stations hands-free, distributed imaginative giveaways, and have even safely created community art together. It stays fresh each week with changing themes."

Shabbat dinner for Purim included hamantaschen for dessert and a special side of latkes with one of four delicious kosher main-course options. Serving both hamantaschen and latkes was a huge draw for Vanderbilt students and an intentional nod to campus hamantaschen / latke debates of the past.

Hillel has served over 2100 TO GO Meals this academic year as of this article's submission (primarily for Shabbat and Jewish holidays). Students have shown significant appreciation for the meals that have been made and individually portioned and distributed by Goldie Shepard, Hillel's beloved kosher caterer, and her dedicated team.

"Hillel's walk-through programs and weekly dinner pick-ups provide the in-person interaction that college students are craving right now," said Alex Grace, Hillel's Student Vice President for First-Year Engagement. "After long weeks of online classes, walking into Hillel on a Friday afternoon completely shifts my state of mind and puts a big smile on my face behind my mask!"

TO GO Meals will be served to students for Shabbat for the remainder

Continued from page 25



Vanderbilt Hillel students enjoy the first, "Purim Walk-Through Carnival."

Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC) Presents

ANTISEMITISM ACROSS AMERICA AN EVENING WITH BARI WEISS

Moderated by Professor Shaul Kelner,
Vanderbilt University

Panel and Audience Q&A
Tuesday, May 4
at 7:00 PM Central/
8:00 PM Eastern on Zoom

Registration:

<https://bit.ly/2P18oTf>



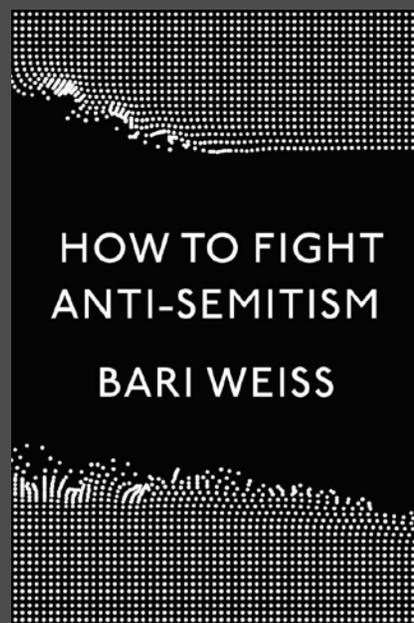
PANELISTS:

Rabbi Laurie Rice of Congregation Micah
(Nashville, TN)

Rabbi Adam Wright of Temple Emanuel
(Birmingham, AL)

Rabbi David Gelfand of Temple Israel
(New York, NY)

Rabbi David Locketz of Bet Shalom
(Minneapolis, MN)



HOW TO FIGHT
ANTI-SEMITISM

BARI WEISS

Please support the
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in the Observer and
help support our
community in all ways!
Make sure to
let them know...
you saw their ad here!



THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.



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

@ Chabad /Congregation Beit Tefilah

Are your Shabbat Mornings Meaningful?

As the city opens up, and we are getting closer to the New Normal, Chabad of Nashville invites you to the Shabbat morning Storah-Telling. Participants will learn the story of the weekly Torah reading, as Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel tells the story and shares relevant insights for day to day living.

The Storah-Telling is followed by a real authentic Kishka and Cholent, prepared in individually served dishes, and little L'Chaim to warm the Neshama. Participants will go home feeling with nourishments for their Mind, Body and Soul.

Join your friends on Shabbat morning at 10:30 AM, for warmth and companionship that emanate from the Chabad of Nashville community.

Monday Nights with Rabbi Chaim

Monday Night Football is out, but Monday Night Torah Study is in. Join Rabbi Chaim Weitman for his weekly Torah Study on Monday evening at 7:00 PM on Zoom.

Rabbi Chaim is a fascinating teacher and will share lessons from the Chassidic Masters on the Weekly Torah Portion. Participants will glean a weekly lesson that will enrich their daily living.

Chabadnashville.com/zoom

Chabad to offer a new course: Biblical Tales of Kings, Warriors and Prophets

During the winter of 2021 Chabad of Nashville offered a most successful course on the Biblical Book of Judges that was attended by many students from across the spectrum of the Nashville community. Due to the great success of this course and by great demand from many participants, Chabad will be presenting a new series of Biblical Tales of Kings, Warriors and Prophets, on the Book of Samuel, Part II. This will take place over eight Wednesday evenings, beginning April 14, at 7:00 PM.

The Book of Samuel II records a critical period in Israelite history, the transition from charismatic leadership, with leaders appointed at times of need, to an established, dynastic monarchy, politically uniting the Israelites. In this Biblical Book students will learn about the leadership and personality of the King David, who established Hebron and then Jerusalem as the eternal Capital of the Jewish people.

Participants will be immersed in the richness of the Jewish Scriptures and discover the hidden meanings that have been lost over centuries of translations and delve into the fascinating world of the ancient kings of Israel. This new learning opportunity explores the dramatic stories and powerful messages contained in the Book of Samuel II.

The lessons will take place on eight Wednesday evenings, starting April 14, in the Oak Library at Chabad of Nashville.

For more information or to register go to www.chabadnashville.com/biblical or call 615-646-5750

Chabad to host a Southern Style Lag B'Omer BBQ

As many have been COVID vaccinated, Chabad of Nashville is hosting a special outdoor Lag B'Omer BBQ for the Nashville community; a delightful evening of a Lag B'Omer Southern Style Kosher BBQ and an Israeli Bonfire on Thursday, April 29 at 6:00 PM on the outdoor patio of Chabad of Nashville.

Participants will also be celebrating the Jewish holiday of Lag B'Omer, and will learn about it, specifically by gathering around a bonfire together for a kumzitz of Israeli music, which is on the nine-acre property of the Genesis Campus for Jewish Life. Participants will also have the opportunity to take part in the planting of an organic herb garden which will be used in preparing Shabbat dinners throughout the summer months for the Nashville community.

There is no charge to attend the bonfire, but reservations are appreciated. The cost for the BBQ dinner is \$10 per person. For further information or to make reservations go to www.chabadnashville.com/lagbomer

The Kabbalah of Everything with Shimona

Chabad of Nashville presents a most inspiring presentation with Kabbalah Coach Mrs. Shimona Tzukernik, on Sunday, April 11, at 7:00 PM CDT, "THE KABBALAH OF EVERYTHING" via its Facebook page.

Have you ever asked yourself the following questions?

Do you think Judaism does not have what to offer you in terms of spirituality?

Are you spiritually inclined, but think spirituality can be achieved through other traditions?

Or perhaps, you are super practical and don't think Jewish spirituality has much to offer you because, "who has time for that stuff?"

Shimona's presentation will be insightful, no matter which of those camps you're in and will walk you through a program for self-mastery and transformation, which teaches you how to thrive in life.

Shimona is renowned motivational speaker, an expert in Kabbalah and Jewish mysticism and the creator of The Method.

What she's teaching becomes so practical... it is indeed transformational. You will hear about the four areas of our lives we should focus on to achieve true change. Shimona will discuss the concept of bittul, nullification, how it's a major difference between new age spirituality and Jewish spirituality, what is it exactly, and how do we achieve it. And finally, you will be surprised to hear the things she does to help keep her grounded, connected to herself and G-d in this hectic world... these are practical, timely and super relevant to all of us, no matter our level of religious observance.

This presentation will be featured on the Facebook page of Chabad of Nashville on Monday, January 18, 7:00 PM CDT.



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.

Monthly Online Programming

All programs are free and open to the public.

Micah Reads Book Club

Monday, April 5 @ 7:00 PM on Zoom

All are welcome for a Zoom discussion on the book *The Light in Hidden Places* by Sharon Cameron. Join Education Director Julie Greenberg in conversation with award-winning writer Sharon Cameron for this community event. The true story of the Podgórska sisters' courage is one miracle, and how Cameron came to tell it is quite another.

Gilda's Gang: 5K and 1 Mile Family Fun Run

Saturday, April 3 - Doors open at 7:30 AM, 5K starts at 8:00 AM, 1 Mile Family Fun Run starts at 9:00 AM

Join us for an untimed run/walk through Shelby Park in East Nashville or participate virtually from your own neighborhood! It's all for a great cause: Proceeds benefit Gilda's Club Middle Tennessee's free cancer support program. Together we're ensuring no one has to face cancer alone. Co-captains: Rabbi Laurie Rice and Rebekah Zeitlin

Music @ Micah House Concert 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. Check the Micah Events page for date, time and Zoom link!

"Are You Jewish Enough?"

Friday, April 9 @ 12:00 PM on Zoom

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

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

A Woman's Circle

Friday, April 16 at noon on Zoom

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

Next Month: May 21st

For the Sake of Repairing the World

Thursday, April 22 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.

@ Sherith Israel

Sherith Israel invites the community to a festive, outdoor, Yom HaAtzmaut barbecue dinner, followed by a musical tefillah, led by Nechemya and Batya Rosenfeld.

@ The Temple

April Programming

All programming can be accessed via thetemplehub.org

Jewish learning and community don't stop when we are stuck at home! We have planned a wide range of virtual learning opportunities for all ages. See what we have to offer and plan to join us to deepen your Jewish knowledge and understanding while strengthening your connections to our congregation and each other.

If you have questions about any of these learning experiences or need help connecting to our virtual platforms, please don't hesitate to contact Rabbi Michael Shulman at rabbishulman@templenashville.org

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

Bring your lunch and engage with Rabbi Schifman and guests in a discussion of currents and important issues from a Jewish perspective.

April 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd -For Zoom Information, go to thetemplehub.org

Women's Torah Study

Every Thursday from 12:00-1:00 PM

Every Thursday from 12:00-1:00 PM

Ongoing weekly women's Torah study led by Patty Marks.

Shabbat Schedule for February

Friday, April 2nd ~ 6:00 pm

Friday, April 9th ~ 6:00 pm

Friday, April 16th ~ 6:00 pm

Friday, April 23rd ~ 6:00 pm

Friday, April 30th ~ 6:00 pm

Access all Shabbat Services via Zoom at thetemplehub.org

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

Join us for our weekly Torah study on the portion of the week, led by the clergy. 9:30 am on Saturdays.

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

Tot Yom Ha'Atzmaut- celebrating Israel on April 17th with Rabbi Mackler & Cantor Fishbein at 10:00a.m. via thetemplehub.org. Fun for children up to 6 years old and the big people who love them!

Jewish Learning on Your Own Schedule

Look for podcasts and videos prepared by musicians, scholars and clergy especially for our Temple Community! 13 Attributes of God, Jewish Cooking Demos, Clergy Chats, Inside Israel and Jewish Music Sessions.

Sessions will be posted on thetemplehub.org

@ 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 (afternoon service)

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

Kabbalat Shabbat

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

Morning Shabbat services

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

Talmud on Tuesdays 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.

End of Passover services

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

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

April 21, 2021 at 12 p.m.

Featuring: Jean Roseman. Topic: "Jewish History on Second Avenue".

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

April 21 from 10-11.

Goldie Shepard will be catering the lunches.

Funded by
**Jewish Federation
 & Jewish Foundation**
 OF NASHVILLE AND MIDDLE TENNESSEE
 THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
 THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.



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

GOING UP TO SINAI five scholars & a comedian/Spring Series

Yom Hazikaron: A physician's personal account of the Yom Kippur War. April 13 at 6:30 pm

The presentation includes a description of the historical background of the Yom Kippur War and its effects on the Israeli society, as well as Dr Brook's personal experiences and challenges as a battalion physician in the Sinai. He will address the physical and psychological traumas his soldiers had to cope with, the effect of religion on them, the cost of war in human life and suffering, and the daily struggle for survival in the difficult war which threatened Israel's existence.

Itzhak Brook, M.D., M.Sc., is a Professor of Pediatrics at Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington DC. He was born and raised in Haifa, Israel and earned his medical degree from Hebrew University, Hadassah School of Medicine, in Jerusalem. He served in the Israeli army as a medic in the Six Day War in 1967 and as a battalion physician during the Yom Kippur war in 1973. Subsequently, he completed a fellowship in adult and pediatric infectious diseases at the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Medicine. He served in the medical corps of the US Navy for 27 years.

Dr. Brook has authored several hundred publications in scientific journals and ten textbooks. He authored the books: "In the Sands of Sinai- A physician's Account of the Yom Kippur War" and "My voice - a physician's personal experience with throat cancer."

Continued on page 24

AT OUR CONGREGATIONS...

Continued from page 23

Dr. Brook is a speaker for the Israeli Embassy in Washington DC and is a Board of Directors Friends of the Yom Kippur War Center.

“The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Scripture Differently” Authors, Professors Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler Sunday, April 18 at 10:00 am

“Why the Mitnagdim Opposed the Hasidim (and why they stopped)” Rabbi Shai Cherry Thursday, April 22 at 7:00 pm

“Biblical Bathing Beauties and the Manipulation of the Male Gaze” Professor Caryn Tambe-Rosenau Thursday, April 29 at 7:00 pm

“The Laws of Moses in their Ancient Near East Contexts” Professor Jack Sasson Thursday, May 6 at 7:00 pm

“Live from Israel: Standup Comedy with Comedian Benji Lovitt” Thursday, May 13 at 7:00 pm

For the zoom link please RSVP to office@westendsyn.org

Funded by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee

Wednesdays, April 21 and 28 at noon.

Is Judaism in favor of Capital Punishment?

Join Rabbi Joshua Kullock in conversation with Rabbi Laurie Rice (Micah) and Rabbi Shana Mackler (The Temple) as they discuss Jewish sources on the subject of Capital Punishment. Is Judaism in favor or against? What do we learn from the Torah? What does the Talmud have to say about death penalty? The two classes will occur over zoom.

For the Zoom link Please rsvp to office@westendsyn.org



Dear Esther,

My teenage daughter has been quarantined for the past year. She has anxiety about going anywhere in public and is concerned about returning to school in the fall. She has expressed concerns about her friends not taking COVID seriously. She worries they will take off their mask when the teacher is not around, wear them incorrectly, or not stay socially distanced. How can I help her feel more comfortable returning to normal activities once it is safe?

– A concerned parent

Dear Concerned Parent,

Let me start with applauding you for teaching your child and for being the example of taking the pandemic seriously. This is a tough situation for a child to be in. I would imagine that there may be an increase of children (and adults) who are going to be apprehensive of returning to a normal lifestyle.

Since your daughter is old enough to understand the risk, she should be able to understand how vaccines work. Spend some time together researching vaccines and the new guidelines for social distancing in public places. Help her to gain the knowledge to protect

herself in any given situation.

The most difficult part might be encountering uncomfortable situations with friends. Talk to her about moving back several feet if someone isn't using a mask correctly or at all. Help her to find ways to leave the situation without causing any hurt feelings. By empowering her to feel confident in her ability to keep herself safe, her anxiety might decrease.

I would also suggest that you help her to take baby steps in terms of going out in public. Use these short outings as a time to practice protecting herself through wearing a mask, using disinfectant wipes, using hand sanitizer and maintaining distance from others.

If your daughter still exhibits a high level of anxiety or shows any other symptoms such as refusal to leave the house, sleep disturbance, changes in eating habits or changes in mood, you might want to consult your pediatrician to rule out any medical causes. If no medical causes are found, a referral to a therapist might be helpful. Although returning to normal activities might be frightening or awkward at first, I am hoping it will not take much time for most people to reacclimate.

– Esther

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

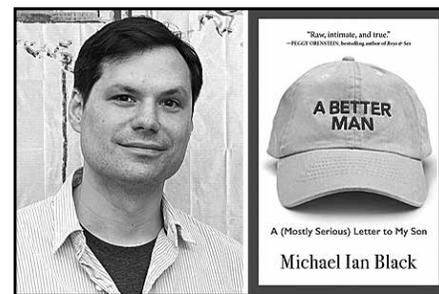
Please submit your questions to esther@jfsnashville.org on anything under the sun and watch for answers in her column. •

Jewish Book Series to Conclude in April With Two Big Names

By ALEX HELLER

The Gordon Jewish Community Center's 2020-2021 Nashville Jewish Book Series will conclude with two events in April. The Series, now in its fifth year, is a celebration of books, authors, and the power of the written word to educate, inspire and provoke thought. The annual events feature both secular work by Jewish authors as well as books featuring Jewish themes and topics. While this year's series has been fully virtual, attendance has continued to grow.

The series continues in April with Bess Kalb (April 13), an Emmy-nominated writer for Jimmy Kimmel Live, with her debut memoir *Nobody Will Tell You This But Me*, already a book club favorite. The memoir centers on Kalb's grandmother, Bobby Bell, who traveled alone from Belarus in the 1880's to escape the pogroms. Author Jodi Picoult is quoted on the cover saying, "I have not been as profoundly moved by a book in years." The event will be moderated by Freya Sachs, writer and chair of the High School English Department at the University School of Nashville. This event is a partnership with the Memphis and New Orleans JCCs.



Actor, comedian, and writer Michael Ian Black will discuss his book *A Better Man: A (Mostly Serious) Letter to my Son*, on April 22nd. Black is an actor, comedian, and writer who started his career with the sketch comedy show *The State*, on MTV, and has created and starred in many other television shows. Movie appearances include *Wet Hot American Summer*, *The Baxter*, and *Sextuplets*. The book is a departure from his typical comedy described as "part memoir, part advice book, and written as a heartfelt letter to his college-bound son...reveals Black's own complicated relationship with his father, explores the damage and rising violence caused by the expectations placed on boys to, 'man up,' and searches for the best way to help young men be part of the solution, not the problem." The program will be moderated by Gordon JCC board member and local attorney, Evan Nahmias.

For more information, or to register, please visit nashvillejcc.org/book, or contact Adult Programs Director, Alex Heller at alex@nashvillejcc.org, or 615.354.1623. •

Hadassah Happenings



SAVE THE DATE: Hadassah Medical Organization Fundraiser

Sunday, April 18 at 7 p.m. via Zoom
Ann Karty, the Chair of the Hadassah Medical Organization, will give an update

about Hadassah Medical Organization and Hadassah Hospitals, and Kacy Spivack, Chair of the new Hadassah Data Impact Center in the Executive Division, will speak about the importance of supporting Hadassah as an organization. Suggested donation of \$18 to support Hadassah Medical Organization. RSVP to Sarah Motis Ruden at spm5222@gmail.com.



AN UPDATE ON THE HADASSAH MEDICAL ORGANIZATION

with
Kacy Spivack and Ann Karty

APRIL 18TH AT 7 P.M. CT

via Zoom

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

April in The Gordon Jewish Community Center Galleries: Featured Work of Harry Whitver, Carolyn Bader and Commemorative Yom Hashoah Exhibit

The Janet Levine March Gallery will feature the work of Harry Whitver. After graduating from Nashville's Peabody College in the midst of the Vietnam War, Harry served in the US Navy as a combat artist in the Pacific. Following his discharge, Harry attended Art Center School in Los Angeles, then returned to Nashville, eventually opening a commercial art studio, where he created photo real illustrations, technical cutaways and the like for clientele including Smithsonian Air & Space Magazine, Mini Cooper and Nike. This career afforded him the opportunity to illustrate everything from the Space Shuttle and all types of aircraft to cars, buildings and sneakers, including a cut-away of a gigantic, garbage-fueled V16 engine for Waukesha. The work in this exhibit builds on the skills and insight developed over four decades of commercial work evolved and applied to an abstract aesthetic.

The JLMG2 Gallery will feature the work of Carolyn Bader. Carolyn was raised in Bucks County, PA and influenced by the strong impressionist New Hope Art Colony of that area. Her first career was as an RN working in Cardiac ICUs in large teaching hospitals in Philadelphia and Chicago. She began painting murals at her children's schools and in their bedrooms. It was at the age of 50, after some major life changes, that she had an artistic explosion and began studying glass blowing, copper smithing and pottery lessons and found her joy in oil painting. She is currently a member of the Chestnut Group and can be found painting in and around Nashville and Wellfleet MA.

The Sig Held Gallery will feature an exhibit commemorating Yom Hashanah



Stairway to Heaven by Harry Whitver

- a time of worldwide reflection on the Holocaust, which will include artwork by the Akiva students and work from the Gordon JCC archives. The J House Gallery features the ongoing exhibit, Under One Roof. This exhibit is a collaboration with other city organizations and focuses on social themes with the purpose of fostering understanding and healing societal injustices.

The exhibitions are free and open to the public. Any attendees will need to wear masks and sign in at the front desk. For more information, contact the GJCC at 615.356-7170, Curator Carrie Mills at carrie@nashvillejcc.org, or go to www.nashvillejcc.org.



Leaves by Carolyn Bader

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

Mitzvahs and Lifecycles

B'nai Mitzvah

Gavin Thier

Gavin Thier will become a bar mitzvah on April 10 at Congregation Micah. He is the son of Brett and Erika Thier and brother to Charlie and his dog, Buddy. He is the grandson of Bruce and Brigitte Himelstein and Doreen and Larry Schwartz from South Florida. A seventh grader at Page Middle School, he excels especially in math, reading, science, and social studies. He is seventh grade student body president and enjoys playing baseball, basketball and video games with his friends. For his Mitzvah project, Gavin will support ShowerUp.



Dylan Landa

Dylan Landa will become a bar mitzvah on April 17 at Congregation Micah. He is the son of Jeremy and Diana Landa and brother to Noah and Michael. He is the grandson of Roslyn and Steve McMahan, Arthur Landa, and Carlos and Susan DaCunha. At Brentwood Middle School, Dylan loves to play basketball, baseball (catcher), and to run cross country. For his Mitzvah project, Dylan will support ShowerUp.



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

The Tennessee Holocaust Commission would like to wish Helene Rothschild HAPPY 105th BIRTHDAY!!!



Helene Rothschild

"I hope no one will ever have to tell a story like this."

Helene was born April 5th, 1916 in Sagano, Czechoslovakia. On September 1, 1939, World War II broke out, the Nazis shut down emigrations and her mother, sisters, nieces and nephews were trapped behind Nazi lines. They all perished in the Buchenwald concentration camp. Helen's father died in the ghetto.



Hillel

Continued from page 21

of the academic year and throughout Passover. Shabbat Walk-Throughs are slated to continue, every Friday, between 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., for Vanderbilt students

that order Shabbat TO GO Meals. Shabbat programming and meals are made possible, in part, by the generous support of the National Council of Jewish Women and The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. •



Vanderbilt student Sam Sobkov picks up his Shabbat to Go meal from Goldie Shepard's staff

Kvetch in the City

By CARRIE MILLS

After a year living between a rock and a Covid hard place, I feel like I just crawled out vaccinated and squinting beneath clearing skies. Believe it or not, I did not feel like complaining about anything this month. Maybe it's because I'm a bit shell shocked in a good way from being vaccinated and feeling hopeful about life again. I'm just getting used to what the word hopeful feels like again and the fact that I made it through this year intact health wise, which was no small feat for myself or anyone else I know for that matter.



Carrie Mills

So as not to disappoint my readers with a kvetch-less column, I asked my co-worker and friend, Alex, (the person with the original idea for this column,) if she had any complaints...knowing fair well, she most certainly would. I don't feel bad in saying that she makes me look like a saint when it comes to kvetching. If I ever feel the need to go on hiatus, Alex would be a shoe in for this column. She eagerly replied (speaking for herself of course), "Now that I'm vaccinated, I have no excuse to get out of social engagements." If there was ever a one-in-a-hundred-year good reason to never leave your home, or have to see relatives you can't stand, a pandemic is it. It occurred to me then to ask the seniors we were on a Zoom meeting with at that moment if they had any complaints. Of course they did. They then started telling their terrible neighbor stories (I win that category hands down!) and we all started getting depressed and I thought, complaining is so hard to listen to. Ahhh... the irony of writing a kvetch column.

Back to another big reason I don't feel like complaining...well, the days are getting longer, and Spring is here. When I think of Spring, I think of three things.

My birthday, my birthday, and Oh Yay it's my birthday. I've pondered many times if I'm narcissistic, though to date I've never been diagnosed as such. I think it's more that I'm like a child at heart, and what kid does not like a good birthday party? Cake, fun hats, balloons, ice cream, presents, and hopefully, friends and family that love you, or at least for a day act like they do and if they are Jewish, are genetically programmed to feel guilty, so you get a good present in the end either way. I'm not sure that's how it works, that may be a reach. In my case though I suspect it may be true.

Usually, my birthday is a time I will reflect on the past year. Not this year. Nope. In no way do I want to reiterate or revisit this past terrorizing year by any means. Instead, I'm going to relish the fact that I can actually invite another vaccinated friend to be the first person to step foot in my house in twelve months, besides the exterminator's five minute monthly visit. (I have to say, besides getting Covid, living with the thought of bugs in my house, is right up there with feeling terrorized.)

So, this April 13, 2021, you will find me wearing a Scooby Doo party hat left over from my son's 6th birthday party from 18 years ago, while happily blowing out candles with a few vaccinated friends, while making a wish for herd immunity that can't come soon enough, on my homemade infamous Tofutti cutie vegan birthday cake I famously make every year, (except last year...oops, I looked back!) and knowing with all certainty this year the best gift is having happily made it to what is the best God given gift of all... the present. •

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.

Alfred Cohen

Condolences to the family of Alfred Cohen who died on March 10. He is survived by his daughter, son-in-law, and grandson, Rachel, Eric and Adam Miller, as well as his wife, Anne, and sons David Cohen (Jim Nine) and Sheldon Cohen. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Ruth Salomon Engel

Condolences to the family of Ruth Salomon Engel, who died on February 20 in Birmingham, Ala. Ruth, born October 25, 1921, was predeceased by her husband, Marvin R. Engel, and is survived by daughter, Zoli Althea Browne (Thom) of Missoula, Mont., son, William E. Engel of Nashville and Sewanee, Tenn., and three grandchildren, Zoe, Simon and Iris Engel.

Ruth was a member of the Honorary Advisory Board of The University of Alabama at Birmingham's Alys Stephens Center, the Advisory Board of the Birmingham Museum of Art, as well as serving as secretary to the Museum Board for over 20 years. The Engel Plaza at UAB and the Abroms-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts are just two of the legacies she and her family leave the Birmingham community. One of her final acts of kindness was the establishment of The Ruth Salomon Engel Scholarship Fund for first-generation college students from Appalachia to attend Sewanee, The University of the South. Donations can be sent to any of the causes she championed or any charity or religious institution of your choice.

Dr. Donald Goodman

Condolences to the family of Dr. Donald Goodman who died on February 18 at age 83. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Adrienne Goodman; his son, Greg Goodman and wife Valerie;

his daughter Julie Miller; his sister Linda Stolman; and nieces, Erica and Whitney Stolman. His gift of making people laugh or smile, think outside the box and adventurous spirit will carry on through his beloved grandchildren, Rachel Goodman and Erin Miller.

Meri Karmazina

Condolences to the family of Meri Karmazina who died on March 12. Meri Karmazina was a kind and gentle person. She was born in Odessa in 1929 and, as a young child at the beginning of World War II, was evacuated to Uzbekistan to escape the German invasion. There she endured great hunger and hardship, but there was a light at the end of the tunnel — while attending 9th grade at the Uzbek high school, she met her husband-to-be Naum. The couple was married in 1952 in Odessa and welcomed a beautiful daughter Serafima in 1956.

Meri worked as a registered nurse in the Odessa Jewish hospital for 47 years. Even off shift, she would rush out to help those in need and never accepted any money for her services. It was just the right thing to do.

In 1991, Meri emigrated to the United States and shortly after became a U.S. citizen, overcoming her language barrier to pass the citizenship exam. She loved this country and all the privileges it afforded her.

Meri touched the lives of everyone who knew her, including numerous friends and family in different corners of the world.

Meri had unconditional love for her family. She was a dedicated wife to Naum for 68 years, a caring mother, and a devoted grandmother to her two grandsons whom she helped raise. No matter her mood, her face would always light up when she talked about her grandsons and she took great pleasure in making sure they were never hungry when they came to visit. She loved making their favorite vareniki and chicken cutlets, and zebra cake for dessert. Meri adored her two young great-granddaughters and was never too tired to sing a song for them to dance to.

She will always remain in our memory as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

Rest in Peace.



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