

the Jewish Observer

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Hayley Levy to Receive 2021 Sandy Averbuch Young Leader Award

By BARBARA DAB

It didn't take long for Hayley Levy to decide that Nashville would be her forever home. What was supposed to be a three month assignment in 2016 assisting The Temple with a fund-raising project, turned into a two year position. And after a brief stint in frosty Minnesota, Hayley packed back up and returned to Nashville where she quickly began laying the foundation for what looks to be a very long and very meaningful connection to her new hometown. She says, "At first people really took me under their wing, introduced me to groups like NowGen and helped me meet other young people." And when she returned, this time for good, she says, "People could not have been more excited to welcome me a second time."



Hayley's passion for community involvement was instilled in her by her parents, both of whom are dedicated volunteers and professionals in her native St. Louis. As a youngster she and her father were always on the lookout for ways to give back to the community, beginning with The Federation. She says, "I used to go with my dad when he helped out on Tzedakah Tzunday and I was the runner. When someone made a pledge, I'd run to the front of the room to ring the bell." For many years, Hayley's mother was director of the St. Louis Jewish Book Festival, a position that gave Hayley a bird's eye view of the nonprofit world and the importance of volunteering. And during her teen years, Hayley was an active member of United Synagogue Youth (USY), an experience that solidified her own drive to create a community of like-minded people. She says, "I loved my time in USY and when I came to Nashville, I wanted to build that

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THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

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BY STEVEN HIRSCH

When you work for an organization, even as a volunteer, for a long time you begin to take for granted how the world perceives this organization. After more than ten years of involvement with the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, I have a great appreciation for our mission, how we operate a volunteer-driven organization, and of all the good work that we do in the greater Nashville Jewish community and extending to Israel and other parts of the world where Jewish people need help.

In recent months, the Federation leadership has received letters from members of our community expressing concern about the direction of the Federation, particularly as it relates to programs/speakers that we organize or co-sponsor with other organizations. Among other things, some of these members feel that we should stay away from political or controversial subjects, especially as it relates to Israel. We have also heard from another group suggesting that our direction as an organization

is correct and that we should resist the pressure to change our programming. I welcome both letters. They tell me that we have people in our Jewish community who are passionate about these issues and care enough to speak up to make something happen.

Our Federation leadership has met with the writers of both letters as well as members who have held leadership positions in the Federation that share common concerns. We seek to continue the discussion, to listen to the respective positions, and to ultimately seek common ground where possible. Since it will be impossible to have everyone in the community be a part of the discussion, I believe that it is important for us to clearly and publicly state what we believe the Jewish Federation stands for.

Mission

Our mission statement explains that the Federation "works to promote the general welfare, viability, and cohesiveness of the Jewish community and to ensure continuity of the Jewish people locally, in Israel and around the



Steven Hirsch, President of The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee

world." Our key functions are defined as fundraising, planning, and community relations. Some would argue that we should be strictly limited to raising funds

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Jewish Community Inclusion Survey Shows Promise And That More Services are Needed

BY BARBARA DAB

Response to the Jewish community's first ever Inclusion Survey finds that while local awareness is building, there is still a need for more and expanded services for those with disabilities and special needs. The comprehensive survey, conducted by the Inclusion Committee of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, looked into issues around mental health, young adult needs, emergency services and more. The resulting work plan will be a guide to deepening and improving what is working and an expansion of available services. The Inclusion Committee also developed a menu of services to add to the Lori Ann Fishel Special Needs Fund, to better guide organizations' grant applicants. Sandy Cohen is Co-Chair of the Committee. She says the survey was a necessary step to help local institutions up a big learning curve. "The concept of inclu-

sion services is new. There is a balance between people's needs and the organized Jewish community's resources, and it takes everyone working together to really raise awareness and make connections."

Ronnie Shuster is a retired New York City Special Education Principal. As a volunteer she led the survey efforts and wrote the summary. She says that while more responses would have been helpful, those who did respond had some common needs. "To say, 'All are welcome,' is not enough. Who is, 'all?'" We asked people what was missing and what was needed. Overall, the answer was that people do not feel seen and do not know where to get help."

The survey found that the biggest barrier to inclusion was accessibility. That includes hearing assistance for services and events, transportation to events, large print prayer books and other visual materials, and a facilitator to accompany people to events. Heidi

Amster is on the Inclusion Committee, and she also lives with rheumatoid arthritis, a condition that can impact her mobility. But she says the concept of accessibility is universal. "If we live long enough, we're all going to have some sort of disability," she says, "The idea is to try to make Jewish organizations as inclusive as possible and to want people to feel welcome and able to participate." She says congregations should be leading the effort and suggests each should have a point person to handle any needs that arise. Currently, both the Gordon JCC and West End Synagogue are undergoing renovations, and Sandy Cohen says now is the time to assess how to be more inclusive. "The need has been ignored for so long. As these buildings are being renovated, architects should be cognizant of accessibility."

Another of the key areas identified as needing improvement was training

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NASHir Together Outdoor Concert is Highlight of Israel's Independence Day Celebration, *page 13*



Health & Beauty

Special Section, *page 17*



Slate of Officers and Meeting Announcement

85th Annual Meeting
Wednesday, June 9, 2020
7:00 pm
Online via Zoom

Slate of Nominees for Officers and Board Members 2021-2022:

Officers (One Year Term)

Andy May, President
Leslie Kirby, Vice President
Christie Wiemers, Secretary
Gary Fradkin, Treasurer

Board of Directors Members

Completing current terms as members of the Board
and agreeing to serve new 3-year terms are:
Sam Averbuch
Cara Suvall

Submitted by the 2021 Federation Nominating Committee
Lisa Perlen, Chair, Ben Doochin, Amy Goldstein, Frank Gordon, Lorna Graff,
Jacob Kleinrock, Fred Zimmerman

Steven Hirsch

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and distributing grants to our beneficiary agencies. This ignores the critical element of community relations. Am I referring to relations in the Jewish community or relations with the broader Nashville community? I would suggest that both are important. While there are certainly other voices in the Jewish community including our congregations, Hadassah, B'nai B'rith and others, our Federation has traditionally acted as a convener in the community (for example, last year's community-wide security initiative resulted in \$533,000 in grants to upgrade physical security at our Nashville Jewish facilities), as well as a voice for Jewish Nashville (for example, the recent letter to the editor in the Tennessean condemning the recent actions of the ICC against Israel).

CRC

Our Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) has a mission "to advocate for Jewish values, dedicate ourselves to the safety and security of Israel, and foster constructive relationships within the Jewish community and among people of all faiths and cultures in order to promote a just, democratic, and pluralistic society."

The CRC works to accomplish this mission through a variety of educational events, programming and celebrations

that promote Israel advocacy and greater awareness of our values, our customs, and our holidays. While an important part of the CRC programming is directed towards Israel (Yom Hashoah, Yom Hazikaron, Yom Ha'Atzmaut) and Jewish traditions (CRC Seder, Sukkot), we also participate in the challenging discussions that influence the broader community in which we live. This may involve conversations on Anti-Semitism, on racism or other social justice issues such as education, affordable housing, or homelessness. Sometimes these discussions will include speakers with whom we do not agree on all subjects. But if we choose not to participate in discussions around racism of any kind, anti-Islam rhetoric, or LGBTQ rights, then we lose our legitimacy in asking for support in condemning Anti-Semitism, BDS, and anti-Israel bias. Perhaps the best way to fight Anti-Semitism in our own community is to build bridges with non-Jewish groups to de-mystify perceived differences in religious practices and customs.

Israel Advocacy

The Jewish Federation is a strong advocate for the State of Israel and for its recognition as a Jewish state. We are firmly against all forms of Anti-Semitism, Anti-Zionism, the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, and the open bias against Israel of international organizations, including the United

Federation's Covid Emergency Response Fund Continues to Help Those in Need

By BARBARA DAB

The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee approved an additional grant to help families in need at the Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool. The grant is from the Covid Emergency Response Fund, aimed at quickly assisting those impacted by the pandemic. This latest grant, in the amount of \$3,622, will provide continuing tuition assistance for children at the preschool. Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel of Chabad of Nashville, says, "It is important that the students can continue coming to school and we are grateful to The Federation for the quick response." Rabbi Tiechtel says there are still families dealing with layoffs, furloughs and loss of business. Eric Stillman, CEO of The Federation, says while the pandemic continues, the plan is to keep providing as much support as possible. "As long as there continues to be money available in the Federation's Covid Emergency Response Fund, I hope that our partner agencies



Children at the Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool whose families are impacted by the Covid pandemic, will be able to continue attending school, thanks to a Grant from The Federation.

and congregations will reach out to us when there are community members in need because of the economic impact of the pandemic." For more information, contact Eric Stillman at eric@jewishnashville.org. •

Nations and the UNRWA.

This does not, however, mean that we perceive Israel to be perfect and beyond criticism of any kind. As with any country, Israel faces challenges, both internal and external, and has a variety of voices trying to address them from different points of view. If Israel is strong enough to allow different opinions on issues such as settlements, security, and religious pluralism, surely, we can tolerate opinions that do not align with our own view of the world.

Politics

The Jewish Federation is not a political organization. We do not support with money or endorsements candidates of any political party, either here in Nashville, at the state or federal level or in Israel. We do, however, support the democratic processes of our country, including, for example, voting rights and free expression.

The Nashville Jewish community is growing and diverse. We are boomers and millennials and everything in between. We are Democrats, Republicans, and Independents; progressive and conservative, straight and gay, Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and unaffiliated. Because of this diversity, no single political party or policy position defines Jewish Nashville. This is precisely why the Federation does not position itself as a left-leaning or right-leaning organization. We seek to occupy a

middle ground where there is room for all opinions to be heard.

Going Forward

In his book *Catch-67*, Israeli author Micah Goodman examines the evolution of the positions of the right and left in Israel that resulted from the aftermath of the 1967 war. His conclusion is that both sides are right in their arguments. But he proposes that also, both sides are wrong. The interminable peace process between Israel and the Palestinian people has been viewed as a problem that needs to be solved. Instead, he says, we should look at it as something that cannot be solved and that the parties should work around the margins to find aspects of the situation that can be addressed to the benefit of all.

In a similar way, we should not expect that our Federation will be able to eliminate differences of opinion between all the members of the Jewish community. Rather, we should acknowledge that complete consensus is not a realistic goal and work to find those areas of common ground that can result in healthy, respectful debate, always recognizing our shared love for Israel, our own Jewish community, and our desire for the continuity of that community in Nashville.

As I step down as President in June, I am confident that the new officers and Board will carry on the mission on behalf of all Jewish Nashville and that the Federation will continue to be a force for good for years to come. •

Hayley Levy

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for myself here."

The Young Leadership Award recognizes distinguished service to the community and was first given in 1971 to Sandy Averbuch. After her passing in 2016, the award was named in her memory. Steven Hirsch, President of The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, says he is pleased to be recognizing Hayley this year. "When Hayley arrived in Nashville, she immediately immersed herself in Jewish

community activities, first as an active participant and then as a leader. She has been an, "influencer," in the NowGen program and has willingly stepped up to make things happen. As a member of the Federation Board, she has been a vocal participant and a strong representative of her generation in the community. We are fortunate to have Hayley's ideas and energy on our Board."

In addition to her term on The Jewish Federation's Board, Hayley is involved in many other community organizations. Eric Stillman, CEO of The Federation, says it is her deep commitment to the community that

makes her so deserving of this Award. He says, "In addition to her service on the Federation Board, Hayley just chaired the virtual JCRC Seder, has been a solicitor for the Federation Annual Campaign, and serves on the NowGen Board as co-chair of the Engagement Committee where she is making a real impact." Hayley graduated from Washington University St. Louis and professionally, she is the Director of Development for the Tennessee Innocence Project and is a member of Nashville Young Leaders Class number 71, and the Williamson Leadership Young Professionals Class of 2020. She

is recently engaged to last year's Young Leadership Award recipient, Jacob Kupin.

The Sandy Averbuch Young Leadership Award will be presented at the 85th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, on Wednesday, June 9th, at 7:00pm, via Zoom with details announced at a later date. Recent winners of this award include Jacob Kupin, Christie Wiemers, Jacob Ruden, and Ellie Flier. In prior year, winners also included Tara Axelroth, Batia and Aron Karabel, and Ben Russ. •

Letters to Editor

In last month's letter to the editor, I Bernie and Maria Pargh wrote, "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."

In response, I'm asking members of our community to read up on Ms. Cardoza-Moore, before doing so.

Her interest in rooting out antisemitism is admirable, but I've also watched her condemn those who fall outside the boundaries of what she refers to as "family values" and "Judeo-Christian values", and I'm concerned about what else we're embracing when we welcome her help.

I keep hoping Ms. Cardoza-Moore will be mindful of one of our core Jewish values, Kavod...honor and respect. Instead, she often employs guilt by association, to level caustic judgment on public figures, private citizens, organizations and entire religions. I would caution Ms. Cardoza-Moore about the use of guilt by association, as she appears regularly on the Mike Huckabee Show, once presenting him with an award. Huckabee endorsed accused child molester Roy Moore, during his bid for the US Senate, and publicly supports former Sheriff and convicted felon, Joe Arpaio, who openly promotes racial profiling.

Ms. Cardoza-Moore has said that her personal statements should be taken separately from the statements she makes as founder and president of her organization, Proclaiming Justice to the Nations. Still, she is a public figure, and it is impossible to ignore her personal posts on social media, asking Trump supporters to travel from TN to DC, to attend the Jan.

□ □ STAFF □ □

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The Jewish Observer
Founded in 1934 by
JACQUES BACK

6th Insurrection. Here is just one example..."Will you join me in DC to defend our Constitutional Republic? This is it! If we can't defend our Constitutional Republic, we WILL LOSE IT!" She also posted about busses being available for transportation and a \$120.00 payment to each participant.

She has questioned the validity of covid vaccines on her personal social media, while on her organization's social media, commended Israel for its work with those same vaccines. This is both confusing and concerning.

Currently, there is great controversy over Ms. Cardoza-Moore's appointment to the TN Textbook Commission. In a video she states "30% of Muslims are terrorists" and "Islam is a system of global domination." As Math textbooks (her first assigned area) often include verbal problems with real life examples of people and situations, will she seek changes in order to align the content she reviews, with her "values"? For years she's sought to make changes to textbooks in Williamson County.

Ms. Cardoza-Moore has shined a light on some acts of antisemitism, yes, but I feel her net is cast far too wide, using her platform as a vehicle for rampant condemnation, whipping up of hate and fear, and making conflicting public statements about vital issues. All of this is in direct contradiction to the significant work she could be doing.

From a book Ms Cardoza-Moore respects:

The New Testament. 1 John 4:20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother - he is a liar; for he - who does not love his brother whom he has seen - cannot love God - whom he has not seen.

- Stacy Beyer

Corrections Policy

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

Editorial Submissions Policy and Deadlines

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

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

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

While the Observer's desire to represent multiple points of view is understandable, there are limits. Printing the long letter praising the recent appointment of Laurie Cardoza-Moore to the Tennessee State Textbook Commission was beyond the pale. It was dangerous and irresponsible, especially for a Jewish publication.

Laurie Cardoza-Moore is known to be an anti-Muslim activist. The organization she founded and leads was previously designated a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. Dozens of Tennessee organizations, faith leaders, and community members have asked that her appointment be rescinded because of her fear-mongering and bigotry.

As a Jew and as an educator, I am hurt and humiliated to see praise for such a person in a Jewish publication. Do we as Jews have no respect for our neighbors of different faiths? Do we as Jews and teachers not want our children's textbooks to teach respect and understanding instead of spewing hatred and fear? Do we as Jews not know our own vulnerability when hate groups spread their evil messages about ANY group?

Of course I know that you know the answers to these questions. That's why we don't have to 'tolerate' harmful people. And we certainly don't have to help them spread their dangerous ideas.

- Benita Kaimowitz

As the saying goes, "the more things change, the more they remain the same". When I first moved to Nashville nearly 60 years ago, I was happy to discover the Jewish Community Center and all it had to offer. The physical location of "the J" has since changed but the idea of being the community's central living room has remained the same. It's in this central living room where you can see toddlers learning and swimming. It's in this central living room where you can see teens playing basketball or completing community service through J Serve. It's in this central living room where you can see adults breaking into sweat or breaking open a tube of paint. It's in this central living room where you can see seniors watching a play or enjoying a warm meal.

Little did I know when I was a teen that I would come to do almost all of these things either myself or with my children and grandchildren. I am forever grateful for those that came before me to create this living room. It is why I agreed to Co-Chair the "Our Community, Our Future" Campaign with Frank Gordon and Billy Eskin so that future generations may continue to have a vibrant living room to enter. Now in the public phase of the campaign, we are reaching out to everyone in the community to help us reach our goal.

A special THANK YOU goes to the 50+ leadership donors who have enabled our Campaign to exceed 80% of our community goal. We're excited to know that with Nashville's generosity, we expect to be able to expand programming and individual's experience, increase safety/security and beautify our space. Every great city needs a great JCC. Please let me know if you would like to meet personally to discuss the importance of "Our Community, Our Future".

L'dor V'dor,
Howard Safer

As new, young members of the Nashville Jewish community, we were extremely disappointed to see a letter in the Jewish Observer in support of Laurie Cardoza Moore. Giving

Cardoza Moore's hateful activism a platform stands in direct opposition to the ultimate Jewish value: *pikuah nefesh*, saving lives.

The empowerment of Laurie Cardoza Moore inside and outside of our Jewish community **threatens our and our neighbors' safety**. Not only has Cardoza Moore discouraged the use of covid-19 vaccinations, but she stands for the particular violent brand of white supremacy that evokes civil war. In a video about the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, Cardoza Moore said, "A civil war is getting ready to happen... we are patriots and we will not allow our country to be overrun by a bunch of communist thugs." It is unsurprising, then, that Cardoza Moore invited her followers to the January 6th insurrection. No Jewish publication should promote this far-right threat.

Laurie Cardoza Moore's particular victimization of religious minorities makes us less safe. She has echoed the claims of the QAnon anti-Semitic conspiracy theory and defended President Trump's support for Nazis in Charlottesville.

Of course, her main claim to fame is her attack on Muslim communities, having led the movement against the mosque in Murfreesboro that resulted in hate crimes, harassment, and even arson against our neighbors. Beyond our local community, she spread hate nationally by claiming that 30% of American Muslims are terrorists and that Islam is a system of "global domination." She gave one of "the most vile and hate-filled speeches" at a far-right rally to shut down a mosque and Muslim community center in New York. Are we, as Jews, really willing to promote a society where it is not safe to build minority religious houses of worship?

Cardoza Moore's appointment to the textbook commission threatens another key Jewish value: a free, fair, and fact-based education. Her appointment is part of a larger far-right strategy to obscure truth and decontextualize history (think President Trump's 1776 Commission, decried by historians). Cardoza Moore's hateful views and opposition to science and democracy will surely impact the education of Tennessee's children.

While diversity of opinions is important, a publication that aims to foster an inclusive and supportive Jewish community should never dedicate space to a person who has made a career of spewing Islamophobic, xenophobic, and white-supremacist hate.

We, as a Jewish community, are deceiving ourselves if we think that we can simultaneously empower white supremacists and protect ourselves.

Sincerely,
Shayna Solomon and Nina Gurak

Do Your Research Before Supporting Laurie Cardoza-Moore.

Tennessee Public School Districts are required to adopt textbooks and instructional material from the list compiled by the Tennessee Textbook Commission. Our students will get the best education only if the most qualified and unbiased candidates are chosen to serve. So, is a public figure with a limited agenda a good fit to pick instructional material for an entire diverse student population?

While Laurie Cardoza-Moore has gained favor with some in the Jewish community because of her support for Israel and her fight against antisemitism, what will her appointment to the textbook commission mean for other minority groups? Her fight to stop the

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Community Relations Committee

The Floor, Not the Ceiling

By DEBORAH OLESHANSKY

On May 25, 2020, Darnella Frazier began her day as a normal 17-year-old Black girl. By the day's end, she had recorded an interaction between a police officer and a citizen that she could not walk away from, because she believed she was witnessing a murder.

Almost a full year later in the trial against the police officer she filmed, the jury confirmed her gut reaction and found the defendant guilty on all counts, including second degree and third-degree murder.

Frazier's video showed eight minutes and 46 seconds of a nine minute and 29 second view of how Black citizens in our country experience neighborhood policing. This firsthand, unedited, real time recording became known as the, "bystander video," and made everyone willing to watch it witness to the relentless pain and assault our Black neighbors

endure daily in interactions with police. As the video was shared, this reality crashed into suburban homes via the evening news, destroying any delusion that the country had defeated its problem of systemic racism. As the reality of the video set in, protests erupted across the county, born of the pain of generations of injustice, dehumanization, and violation of the most basic civil rights we as citizens should all be able to expect; that when we call the police, they will arrive prepared to help us, not kill us.

Throughout the trial, the word "reasonable" was foundational for how the jury should approach their work. Reasonable doubt, reasonable policing, reasonable actions, all require a view of what should be considered in making life and death determinations and promoting safety and security. Ultimately, the action of the officer involved was deemed unreasonable beyond a reasonable doubt. The Minneapolis Police Chief, under

oath, confirmed that in this case, the actions were not according to training, not according to policy and not according to the value and ethics that should be the basis for law enforcement in our neighborhoods.

In the press conference after the verdict, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz called the conviction, "the floor, not the ceiling," for achieving racial justice. The verdict brings a modicum of relief, and a measure of accountability, but this one verdict in this one case does not solve the vexing problem. In the two-week duration of the trial itself, more such cases occurred in which unarmed Blacks were killed during traffic stops and other nonviolent offenses. The relentless images continue almost daily, and not all such videos bring justice.

In her comments addressing the nation, Vice President Harris stated plainly, "Here's the truth about racial injustice: It is not just a Black America problem or a people-of-color problem. It is a problem

for everyone American. It is keeping us from fulfilling the promise of liberty and justice for all. And it is holding our nation back from realizing our full potential."

The Community Relations Committee, with leadership of Chair, Leslie Kirby, has provided, and will continue to, provide opportunities to hear and learn from local leaders on the front line working tirelessly to address these injustices and bring viable solutions to creating just, secure, and supportive communities for everyone. We in the Jewish community cannot address the injustice of antisemitism in isolation. If we demand the end of antisemitism, we must also demand the end of racial injustice in all forms. Just as we as the Jewish community cannot solve antisemitism alone, the Black community cannot solve racial injustice alone. Only by partnering together with other reasonable people can we bring to reality the promise and potential of liberty and justice for all. •

JCRC: Recruiting Courageous Voices for complicated\conversations about Israel

Working with facilitation from Resetting the Table, we have planned a series to support courageous discussions and learning across diverse views on Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel can be a charged topic, and many find it hard to know where to go to find their own voice and perspective. This series will offer a welcoming space for honest and open exploration and skill-building for difficult conversations. Resetting the Table's educational classes are uniquely multi-vocal, empowering participants to try on multiple perspectives and relate to the material on their own terms. All sessions

will be virtual, and the expectation is for participants to commit to the full series:

Sessions 1 & 2: Speaking Across Conflict Workshop

Tuesday, June 1, 7:30-9:30pm

Sunday, June 6, 10:00am-12:00pm

These sessions will build a foundation of constructive communication and relationship-building for the full series.

Session 3: Dual Narratives – Roots of the Israeli & Palestinian Conflict

Tuesday, June 15, 7:30-9:30pm

Participants will explore the birth of

both Jewish and Palestinian national aspirations and their divergent experiences of Israel's founding.

Session 3: Where Do We Go from Here in Israeli-Palestinian Relations? Five Jewish-Israeli Views

Sunday, June 27, 10:00am-1:00pm

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is in large part a conflict over who may exercise rights and sovereignty over the same strip of land, resources, and holy sites. This session introduces participants to how different conceptions of land, security, and justice inform five divergent Jewish-

Israeli visions for management of or resolutions to the conflict.

Session 4: Town Square Conversations

Tuesday, June 29, 7:30pm-9:30pm

This session will provide a forum for the cohort to engage in open conversation on issues that matter most to the group in facilitated, small group discussion.

We need to confirm participation by May 14. To express interest in participation or for additional information please contact Deborah Oleshansky, Deborah@jewishnashville.org •

Inclusion Survey

Continued from page 1

for religious school teachers, most of whom are not trained educators. Julie Greenberg is the Education Director at Congregation Micah, and a member of the Inclusion Committee. She had planned staff trainings for synagogue religious schools, but the pandemic postponed that effort. Still, she says school cultures need to evolve. "Every institution has struggled with a unified understanding of our community and who is included. We can't just look at learning deficits, we have to look at the whole person." Ronnie Shuster says parents, too, are tired of working hard to advocate for their children and don't know where to go.

The Inclusion Survey was the first step in determining people's awareness and need. Next was creating a plan with specific steps people can take to access services. One of those is a more streamlined process for organizations requesting grants from The Lori Ann Fishel Special Needs Fund. The Fund is designed to help people with special needs receive resources to help them fully engage in the community. Thanks to the addition of a menu of services, organizations can request up to \$500

annually for things like large print prayer books, closed caption services for events, transportation to events, a care partner to assist at events and individual aids for religious school students. Shannon Small, Financial Resource Philanthropic Officer for the Jewish Federation, is also a member of the Inclusion Committee. She helped develop the menu to keep the focus on the appropriate services. "The goal is that inclusion is always considered. This menu is a checklist organizations can use for various events." She says the Federation is the right agency to lead the effort. "Change cannot happen in a bubble. If we are a community wide organization, we should be at the forefront," she says.

Nashville's Jewish community is not the only one grappling with the issue of inclusion and accessibility. The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) has inclusion specialists working to support efforts around the country. Aaron Kaufman is the Senior Manager of Legislative Affairs for JFNA, lobbying for support for those with disabilities. He says the American Rescue Plan, supported by Congressman Jim Cooper (D-TN), was a big win for people with disabilities. "The inclusion of these funds is a significant victory for older adults, people with disabilities and the providers

in our network that support them and was a key advocacy priority for JFNA over the last year." He adds that this is the largest investment in disability services in over a decade. And on a more local level, he says the JFNA works with Federations around the county to help them become more welcoming for people with disabilities. That effort includes quarterly meetings with folks throughout the Federation system and the implementation of Jewish Disability Awareness Month, which provides seminars and other resources for communities. The Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee's Adam Bronstone, Director of Planning and Israel Partnerships, is the local representative on those calls. He says, "These calls are a great time to connect with colleagues from across the country, where resources and best practices are shared. We in Nashville have benefited greatly from the ability to interact with

these Federation professionals."

From a bigger picture perspective, the Inclusion Survey made clear greater awareness is needed in the local community around the issue. Ronni Shuster says the response rate was low, due in part she thinks, to the Covid pandemic leaving people feeling overwhelmed and disconnected. She also says surveys in general, can be intimidating and hopes in the future to create small focus groups where participants can speak openly. She says it is time for organizations and agencies to step up their efforts. "As a Jewish community that prides itself as being welcoming and inclusive, we have to be more visible about helping people with special needs."

For more information about the Lori Ann Fishel Special Needs Fund, or other disability and inclusion services, contact Adam Bronstone at adam@jewishnashville.org •

Learn more about the Jewish Federation
of Nashville
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www.jewishnashville.org

Judeo-Christian Studies Initiative: Building Bridges and Breaking Down Barriers

BY BARBARA DAB

Two local but disparate faith based communities are embarking on a partnership aimed at studying their differences and learning more about what unites them. The Temple and Belmont University's Rev. Charlie Curb Center for Faith Leadership's Judeo-Christian Studies Initiative will offer students, and eventually the greater community, the opportunity to gain a more comprehensive understanding of each other's traditions and practices and look deeper into the origins of both. The endowed program will feature lectures, classes and conversations that will help to provide dialogue, perspective and understanding. A six-member advisory board, comprised equally of both Jewish and Christian members, will collaborate with the executive director of The Rev. Charlie Curb Center to plan topics, lecture guests and annual events.

The program is an outgrowth of the evolving relationship between The Temple's Senior Rabbi Mark Schiftan and leaders at Belmont University. It was over a decade ago when Rabbi Schiftan first invited Belmont's President Bob Fisher and his wife to speak at a Yom Kippur study session. Rabbi Schiftan says, "It was a bold move, but people were willing to go with it and they were moved." That event opened the door to further exploration between the two institutions, something President Fisher agrees is important. "Anything that we can do to build opportunities for dialogue and mutual learning with those of other faiths is a wonderful thing for everyone," he says in a press release.

The other spark that ignited interest in the initiative is the relationship between Rabbi Schiftan and The Curb Center's Pastor Jon Roebuck. The two developed a friendship nearly a decade ago that deepened during a more recent

clergy visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the National Museum of African American History and Culture. And last year, at the start of the pandemic, they developed what Rabbi Schiftan calls a, "theological think tank," bringing together two dozen people for weekly talks about spirituality, religion and the social/political landscape as seen through the lens of the two faith communities. Pastor Roebuck believes it is the responsibility of those communities to take a leadership role in guiding people to greater understanding. "There are certain relationships that will never develop without intentionality. We all talk about it, but until you make space for these conversations, it won't happen," he says.

The historical relationship between the Jewish community in Nashville and its Christian neighbors can best be described as collegial. Dating back to the mid-1800s, Jews gradually settled in the area and quickly established businesses and put down roots. According to Janette Silverman in her article, *Three More than a Minyan: The First 150 Years of the Jewish Community in Nashville, Tennessee*, what began as a tiny community of just 13 people, grew within 10 years to over 300, leading to the creation of organized Jewish congregations, one of which is known today as Congregation Ohabei Shalom, The Temple. By the 1950s, Nashville's Jewish community numbered in the thousands. Through the years, Jews and Christians largely co-existed peacefully, weathering threats of antisemitic influence from Europe and two different attempts to bomb local Jewish institutions. Today, Jews are actively involved in all areas of Nashville's social, civic and business life.

As the years passed there were some who believed that there was a need to bring Christianity and Judaism closer together and to better understand

each other's history and faith. Dr. Frank Boehm, a Nashville native, is one of the benefactors of the Judeo-Christian Studies Initiative. The Dr. Frank & Julie Boehm Lecture Endowment Fund will focus on the history of Judaism, beginning with the introduction of biblical Abraham and extending to the present day. He says the timing is right for this partnership. "Belmont University is growing exponentially and is becoming a world-class university. It is fitting to include the study of Judaism, and this initiative is opening a door to even more collaboration with the Jewish community." The University is matching each endowment dollar for dollar, something Dr. Boehm says shows real commitment to this program. Dr. Perry Moulds, Vice President for Development and External Relations at Belmont, says the program aligns perfectly with the values of the University. "We deeply value the building of relationships at Belmont. Our student body represents faiths and beliefs of all kinds. This initiative will serve as a valuable catalyst for the building of relationships within our own student body and certainly with our Nashville neighbors of the Jewish faith," he says.

There are three other areas of focus in the program. The Shelly and Trish Krizelman Social Ethics Endowment Fund will highlight shared faith traditions and literature regarding a variety of topics, including the protection of the biblically honored vulnerable populations such as the widow, the orphan, the poor and the stranger. This includes a focus on the civil rights and liberties of all people as engrained in the country's Constitution and other sacred documents. The Rabbi Mark & Harriet Schiftan Holocaust Endowment Fund will focus attention on Holocaust studies, awareness and remembrance, and will seek to educate Belmont students,

as well as the greater Nashville community, concerning issues related to the Holocaust. A key component of the Holocaust study is an opportunity for students to travel, for class credit, to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the National Museum of African American History and Culture. And the Riven Family Endowment Fund will offer students a comprehensive study of Israel, from history to the current political landscape. This program will also include organized travel to Israel for both students and faculty. Steve Riven is thrilled to be part of the Judeo-Christian Studies Initiative. "When I first heard about this program, I was very excited by it," he says, "Belmont University has built an infrastructure in its core study with amazing potential. The leadership of Pastor Jon Roebuck and Rabbi Mark Schiftan is dynamic, and Bob Fisher is just an amazing, forward thinker." He says partnerships like this will go a long way toward deepening relationships between the Christian and Jewish communities in Nashville.

Both Rabbi Schiftan and Pastor Roebuck believe this program can serve as a model for fostering communication and understanding between and beyond faith communities. And Rabbi Schiftan says Nashville is the right place to begin the conversation. "Where else should it happen, but in the buckle of the Bible belt," he says, "We are welcoming the Christian community to gain a better, deeper understanding of Jesus the rabbi, Jesus the Jew. And we are offering the Jewish community the ability to de-mystify the Christian theology and tradition." He says faith is not created in a vacuum, and Pastor Roebuck agrees. "We didn't realize how silo'd we were in our Baptist world and there is a broader community of faith out there. And Mark has a remarkable history building bridges with faith groups." •

More J on the Way – Mind Body Studio

By LESLIE SAX, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GORDON JCC

This month we are excited to share that More J is on the Way with our plans to add a new Mind-Body Studio at the Gordon JCC. By inserting a second floor into the racquetball court that, pre-COVID, was used for Indoor Cycling, we will create a space for Pilates, Yoga, and Tai Chi upstairs, and a renovated Indoor Cycling Studio below. The lower ceiling height downstairs in the Indoor Cycling Studio will allow for better sound management and a new split HVAC system will provide improved air flow and climate control.

The Mind-Body Studio will give us the space for growing interest in our expanded offering for activities that improve flexibility and balance, increase core muscle strength, and improve posture. By integrating the mind and body, activities such as Pilates, Yoga, and Tai Chi can help handle stress, alleviate pain, and improve overall health. These activities are good for everyone but are especially beneficial as we age.

The pandemic has certainly brought challenges, but it also presented us with a few amazing opportunities. Luci Crow and Mary Ann Stuart, co-founders of Align Wellness Studio, made the difficult decision to close their studio after 10 years in the Belle Meade location. The Gordon JCC was fortunate to be able to purchase this equipment and we have carefully stored it until the space is able to be renovated and the pandemic eased. We are excited to announce that this studio will open in late summer and we will begin offering Pilates Tower classes and Private and Duet Reformer Sessions. And Luci and Mary Ann may even come teach a class or two! Mat Pilates classes will continue as well.

Kristen Bendheim, who taught yoga at the J and another studio, faced a similar COVID related predicament. The yoga studio where she primarily taught also closed. She is moving her Yin and Power Yoga classes to the J and will be offering private yoga sessions as well. These classes will supplement classes currently offered by our other wonderful instructors – Cynthia, Gail, and Regina.



Rendering of the new and updated Pilates studio at the Gordon JCC

Tai Chi River with Peter Hodes has continued virtually during the pandemic and we look forward to welcoming the Tai Chi group back to the J in-person soon.

Improving and expanding our offerings has been made possible by the generous support of you, our members,

through the Our Community. Our Future. Capital Campaign. We are grateful for your generosity and look forward to bringing more projects to light over the course of the campaign. Visit nashvillejcc.org/ourcommunityourfuture to donate and learn more. •

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Congregation Micah to Unveil New Outdoor Space

BY RABBI LAURIE RICE

When Debbie and Stephen Linn joined Congregation Micah back in 2001, they had no idea that they would soon become the parents of twins, Cam and Rachel. Micah not only welcomed their children as the Linn family expanded, but warmly welcomed Debbie's sister and her husband (god-parents to Cam and Rachel), Phran and Joe Galante. Over the years, the Linn family would observe the holy days together and celebrate in the numerous holidays and lifecycle events that involved the kids. When Phran died in 2019 at the age of 64, Joe knew that Phran would want to leave a generous gift to Micah, one that reflected her values and heart in a place that she found so important to her family.

This summer, Congregation Micah will unveil a new outdoor pavilion generously created as a legacy gift from Joe in honor of Phran. Rabbi Laurie Rice says, "This outdoor space, conceived of and designed by Micah member and renowned architect, Michael Goorevich, incorporates so many details that reflect the nature of who Phran was, her spirit." Rabbi Rice adds that the design reflects Phran's love of horses and her commitment to preserving the natural environment. "The open-air walls of the pavilion are crafted from melded horseshoes that magically create a 5-pointed star in the middle. Phran loved the outdoors and greenspace, so

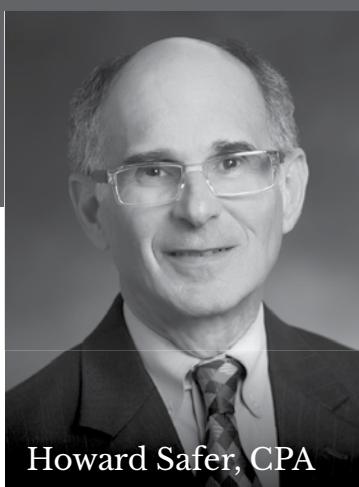


creating an outdoor space that can serve as a classroom, a gathering space, a sacred prayer space, a pavilion for the arts, and so much more, really honors all the things that Phran cared about." Debbie, Phran's sister, remembers how much she loved quiet spaces to just read and reflect, something folks could surely do in this pavilion space.

Congregation Micah looks forward to a ribbon-cutting event upon the completion of the pavilion this summer and invites the entire community to participate and share in this exciting new space. •



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Reflections

It's Déjà Vu All Over Again

By RABBI YITZCHOK TEICHTEL
CHABAD OF NASHVILLE

Well, it's déjà vu all over again, as Yogi Berra would say.

It's been over 3300 years, but it seems the experience is happening again.

For perhaps the second time in Jewish history, our reenactment of receiving the Torah may be more similar – in a certain sense – to the event itself than to its reenactment throughout history.

Each year at Shavuot, we commemorate the Giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. Under normal circumstances, we gather in the synagogue, hear the Ten Commandments read from the Torah and partake of the Rebbetzin's delicious cheesecake. This is, more or less, what Jews have done ever since that miraculous moment when Almighty G-d revealed His glory and chose the Jewish people to be ambassadors to the world. This year however, many synagogues will not be open for Shavuot. Many will remain home due to the coronavirus pandemic. Even in locales where meetings may be permitted, people will not shake hands and share food. We will, "social distance," in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

But Shavuot is not only a time to remember the Giving of the Torah. Rather, Shavuot is a time when G-d gives us the Torah anew every single year. Most years, we are focused on our own personal

experience of listening to the Torah being read, studying Torah and enjoying the food and camaraderie. This year however, we will need to dig deeper. We will need to ignore the body and focus on the soul. Because at a soul level, we cannot be separated from one another.

The Talmud teaches that every Jewish soul – from all generations – was present at Sinai. My body has a hard time remembering that experience. But to my soul, it is the apex of its existence. Under normal circumstances, I am caught up on my body's experience, which inhibits my soul. Certainly, my soul guides my body and my body does its best to channel holy energy. But the reality is that my body also serves as a façade and roadblock. It likes to see life – even spiritual endeavors – through the physical lens.

This is the silver lining and golden opportunity we will have this year. Indeed, our bodies will be apart. But, as in the first Shavuot, our souls will be together – without our bodies clouding the souls' vision. Our bodies might be social distancing, but our souls will be in the most intimate embrace – with our G-d, our Torah and our people.

May we experience a truly soulful Shavuot. May Almighty G-d bring healing and health to all. May Almighty G-d bring Moshiach very soon. Then, body and soul will dance and delight together in the spirit of G-d.

Happy Shavuot! •

Letters

Continued from page 3

building of the Mosque in Murfreesboro and divisive language towards those of the Islamic faith is public record. How well will she serve Muslim students?

In a video address to the supporters of her organization, Proclaiming Justice to the Nations, titled *The REAL Agenda Behind Black Lives Matter EXPOSED*, she does not once mention the effects or causes of racism in our country, but rather uses her time to warn of an attack by

Marxist, Leninist and Communist thugs and a potential civil war in our country. How well will she serve Tennessee's African American students?

Further, as a recent guest at the Temple, she was asked if she would support including the history of the LGBTQ community in textbooks. She did not answer the question. Unfortunately this is not a hypothetical issue because HB800, currently being discussed in our state legislature, would ban any language in instructional material in Tennessee public schools that would, "normalize, support,

promote or address lesbian, gay, bi-sexual or transgender issues or lifestyles." How well would she serve LGBT students and families? What does it say about us as a community of faith if we support a candidate based only on our own self-interest and not how it will affect others? As Jews, this is a question we have been asked throughout our history. "If I am not for myself who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?"

Do I wish to silence Ms. Cardoza-Moore? No. She is free to speak her mind and voice her opinions in this country.

We are appreciative of those who take a stand against antisemitism wherever it exists. Instead I would encourage members of our community to take the time to listen and watch her large collection of unedited statements. Examine her opinions on topics ranging from election fraud to COVID, and to God protecting specific political candidates, before deciding if she has the judgement to serve on a textbook commission that will determine what all Tennessee students will read and learn.

– Submitted by Renee Kasman

Camp Davis is Coming!

BY MARISA BYARD,
CAMP DAVIS DIRECTOR

Summertime is coming, which means it is almost Camp Davis time! We are so excited to be back for the 2021 summer. For the Camp Davis staff, the best part of the summer is watching all of our campers' smiling faces as they run around our beautiful 40+ acres of nature. We can't wait to start our mornings in Tent City where we can spread out and celebrate our ruach (spirit). We have an amazing combination of returning staff and brand-new staff at camp this year and we are so happy to have Wes Baker back in his new role of Assistant Director, as well as Abby Pierron as our Inclusion Director.

We will be following the best practices of the American Camping Association and CDC for our COVID-19 mitigation efforts and will be announcing the steps we will be putting in place, once the final guidelines for camps are publicized. We will still use the pod system that we instituted last year so we can maintain bubbles of our campers, as well as our handwashing stations with our campers singing the Camp Davis Handwashing Song written by our music specialist, Emily Groff. We are particularly proud of our ability to make all our mitigation efforts feel fun and normal for our campers.

This summer will be one to be remembered as we know our campers are extremely ready to have an experience of a lifetime. As always, we can't wait to be getting kids dirty just like we have since 1930!

Registration is still open. View our full camp lineup and register at campdavishashville.com or contact marisa@nashvillejcc.org for more information. •

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

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Rabbi Adam Wright of Temple Emanuel (Birmingham, AL)

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

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Nashville's Jewish Entrepreneurs Find Connection and Support in New Forum

BY BARBARA DAB

While Nashville's reputation as "It city," for tourists continues to grow, it is also evolving into a top destination for businesses, both large and small, with new residents continuing to stream in. According to recent data released by U-Haul, 2020 marked its top growth state with more of the company's trucks crossing the border than any other, and most of those arriving in the mid-state region. And United Van Lines 44th Annual Migration Study also pegged Nashville as one of its top destinations. The report also found most of those moving to town are coming for work. Such is the case in the Jewish community as well and small business owners seeking support and connection are finding it in a newly created Jewish Entrepreneur's Forum. The Forum was first envisioned by Brian Bauer, President and Founder of Bauer Entertainment and Marketing, and modeled after a similar group in Chicago that has been meeting for 15 years. Together with his father, he approached The Federation for support and input on finding a meeting place. Carolyn Hyatt, Financial Resource Development Officer with The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of

Nashville and Middle Tennessee, says, "I was happy to hear there was a group focused around both being Jewish and looking to enhance their businesses. It is a great way to engage people with The Federation in a meaningful way."

The Forum aims to both create connection between small business owners, while providing a safe, supportive space for problem solving and sharing best practices. The monthly four hour meetings are intense and focused, with members engaging in serious but lively exercises and discussions, followed by a group dinner that is more causal and social. Jeff Licherman, owner of Aussie Pet Mobile for the past four years, says it can be hard as a solopreneur without professional outlets. "To be good at what I do, I can't think I have all the answers. I'm a synergy guy and working with people who have some answers is helpful," he says. And Rachel Schaffer, of Schaffer Law Firm, says the meetings help her look at the bigger picture. "When you're in this growth phase, you get focused on the day to day and don't often stop and take a look around," she says, "Also, some of the things that come up can be emotionally sensitive and we have a lot of trust and candor with each other. It's like a board of advisors." And even when a member is not working on a problem,

there is value in helping each other. Jeff Licherman says, "As an entrepreneur, the value of giving to somebody is just as valuable as gaining someone's knowledge for my challenge."

The group is completely focused on business growth and development, but for the members there is a clear connection to Jewish values and the Jewish community. Brian Bauer says, "This group is a good way to marry our two worlds as Jews and as business owners." In fact, the group collects dues which are direct donations to The Federation. Ben Papa, owner of Enneagram Solutions, says he joined specifically for the community of like-minded business owners. "The way we run our meetings, and the way we are with each other is informed by our Jewish values," he says. And for Jeff Licherman, newly arrived in town, the group helped him become involved in the Jewish community. "I wanted to be part of something, so I immediately called The Federation."

As the group developed, it became clear there was a difference between those with more established businesses, and startup entrepreneurs who wanted to join. So, a second group was born focused around the needs of those with newer businesses. Amy Goldstein, co-owner with her husband Dr. Dan

Goldstein of Nashville Psych, says the group was a natural fit for her. "I joined the Entrepreneur Forum to connect with other community-minded small business owners to share effective strategies, success stories, and lessons learned. I say, 'community-minded,' because the program requires that participants donate to Federation, which for us feels like an important thing to do, given how much the Federation and the incredibly welcoming Nashville Jewish Community have enriched our lives since we moved here six years ago."

Both groups plan to keep their numbers small, but are still looking to add a few new members, particularly among local veteran business owners. Jeff Licherman says, "Someone more established in business here can help us better understand the landscape." And even for those who have been engaged in the local community for a long time, Brian Bauer says the benefits of the Jewish Entrepreneurs Forum are invaluable, "As an entrepreneur, you can't have the conversations like other professional peer groups with different types of expectations. This group has a high level of dedication to each other." For more information on the Jewish Entrepreneurs Forum, contact Brian Bauer at brian@bauerem.com •

Vanderbilt Hillel Students Fill Hearts and Tummies Through Cookbook Fundraiser

By BARBARA DAB

For nearly a decade, Vanderbilt Hillel has participated in the national Challah for Hunger initiative, aimed at feeding the hungry, both locally and internationally. Challah for Hunger began in 2004 when Scripps College student Eli Winkelman, missing her family challah baking sessions, created a club to connect and mobilize her fellow Jewish students. They began selling challah and donating the proceeds to social justice organizations, and as word spread to other campuses, the organization was born.

At Vanderbilt, students began baking twice a month and donating to the Nashville Food Project. But the COVID pandemic meant they had to figure out alternative ways to continue their fundraising efforts. According to Natali Lanfir, Vanderbilt Hillel's Challah for Hunger President, class of '23, "When we signed up to be on the Vanderbilt Challah for Hunger Leadership Team last year, none of us knew what leading a baking club during a pandemic would look like. So, way back in August 2020, we put all our heads together to figure out how to maintain the fun, casual atmosphere that each challah bake held, as well as the tight-knit community that Challah for Hunger has always provided for students on campus." The result is a joint Challah for Hunger/Vanderbilt Hillel cookbook, filled with the students' favorite family recipes. Natali adds, "The cookbook became a year-long project that each one of us has worked so hard to make special for students, parents, alumni, and all



From left to right: Mardi Caminer '18, Serena Deutch '18, Olivia Solow-Niederman '18, Carly Berger '18, Josie Roth '19, Sydney Hanan '19

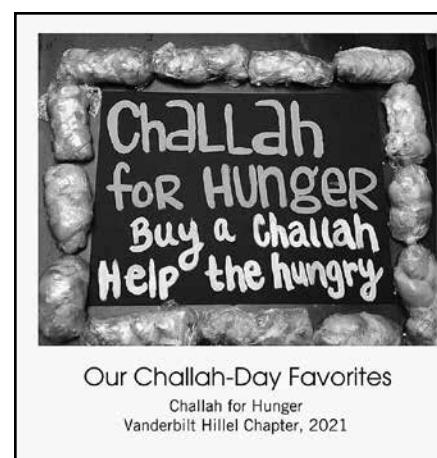


Left to right: Danielle Klinenberg ('21), Rebecca Newman ('21), Hailey Koretz ('21), Rose Capin ('20)

members of the Vanderbilt community. With this cookbook, we're able to fill everyone's hearts and tummies."

The cookbook is titled, Our Challah-Day Favorites, and includes recipes by current students, alumni, Hillel staff and beloved Hillel kosher caterer, Goldie Shepard. The book also includes full-color photos of Challah for Hunger bakers and alumni. Hillel is accepting orders for the book, which sells for \$35. To order, or for more information, scan the QR code or visit www.vanderbilt-hillel-online-store.square.site/challah-for-hunger-virtual-store.

Challah for Hunger leaders wish to thank, "our wonderful students and their families who submitted recipes. Thank you to all our new FYSH (first-year students of Hillel): Emily Char, Ariana Ravitch, Ashley Brook - y'all



Our Challah-Day Favorites

Challah for Hunger

Vanderbilt Hillel Chapter, 2021

Challah for Hunger cookbooks on sale now

are the future of Challah for Hunger! Thank you to Brian Small, Assistant Director of Vanderbilt Hillel, for all your encouragement, support, and

for always pushing us to do more and be more. And finally, thank you to Emily Kahn-Perry, Vanderbilt Hillel's Coordinator of Jewish Life & Wellness Programming, who was there for us during every meeting, every challenge, and every success! The creation of this cookbook would not have been possible without every single one of you." •



Micah Children's Academy Celebrates Israel Independence

BY THERESA LEPORE

The weather was beautiful, and Micah Children's Academy (MCA) students were ready to celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day. With flags held high and Lisa Silver playing guitar, the children paraded outside to the back patio. MCA stood in front of the flag of Israel to sing Hatikvah, Im Tirtzu, and Kachol V'Lavan.

The classes visited different stations to learn and get a literal taste of Israel. When asked what their favorite part of

the day was all of Minis 2 agreed it was the Kadorei Shokolad, or chocolate balls rolled in blue and white sprinkles. "I LOVED the chocolate!" said Adele. Pre-K 2 liked the falafel the best, and Vivi and Leo agreed that it was, "Very good!"

Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee's Shlucha Noam Harari played Israeli children's music and games. With the older children she played "Yam V'Yabasha" (Sea and Land) in which the children had to jump back and forth in response to her commands. The younger children had to wake up or

go to sleep depending on whether Noam said, "Boker Tov," or, "Laila Tov."

Morah Yafa read Maaseh B'Chamisha Balonim, the classic children's story about five different colored balloons. In the book all the balloons pop except the red one which flies away calling, "Shalom, Shalom!"

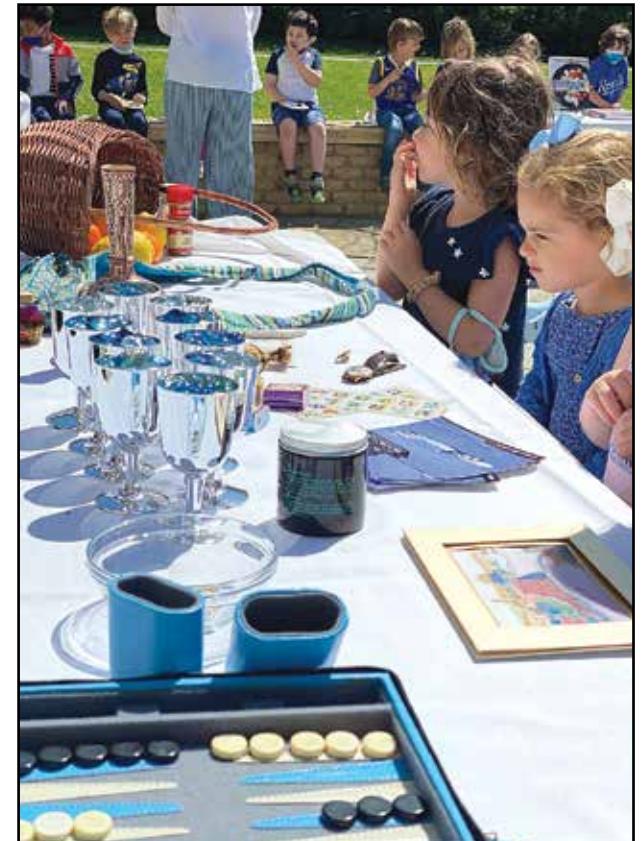
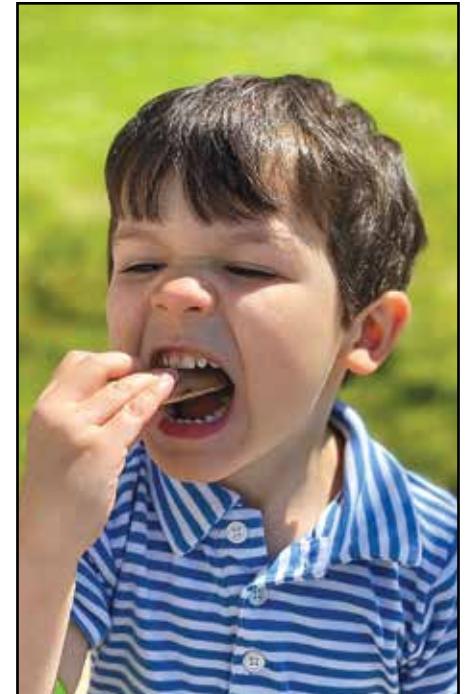
The children visited a shuk, perused books about Israel, looked at a salt map of Israel made by Tiny Tots 2, and went on an archaeological dig which Bo thought was "awesome." The Toddlers had a fun time "fishing" in the Kinneret.

There was something especially poignant when the children put their notes in the Kotel and of all the events of the day, Ellis and many others thought that was the best part. Everyone stayed outside for a picnic while classic and modern-day songs rang out from speakers. We are so grateful for our team of teachers that go over and beyond to bring these wonderful experiences to our students. A special thank you goes to Melissa Sostrin for organizing this event for MCA!

Happy Birthday, Israel-73 years young and thousands. •



Micah Children's Academy celebrates Yom Ha'Atzmaut



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THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

Akiva Students Learn About Trials and Triumphs of the Jewish People

BY ELLY EBIN

Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Yom HaZikaron (Israel's Memorial Day,) and Yom HaAtzmaut (Israel's Independence Day) fall on the heels of one another in quick succession on the calendar. These holy days give Akiva students a collective opportunity to reflect on both the trials and triumphs of the Jewish people.

Through lessons and programming, Akiva students are given the space to remember those who perished during the Holocaust, mourn the Israeli soldiers who have given their lives to enable a Jewish homeland, and celebrate the independence and freedom Israel has today.

Akiva's sixth grade class led a moving Yom HaShoah service for students, families, and community members. The ceremony began with sixth grader Iara Kullock sharing, "Yom HaShoah is a day when we think about all of the people who we lost because of hatred, but we also think about the heroes who stood out and were not afraid to stand up for what was right. Today, we think about the profound impact of our choices on this world." Students recited *El Maleh Rachamin* (Prayer for the Departed), read poems written by children during the Holocaust, and learned some information about what took place during the Holocaust. This service was a unique opportunity for the sixth graders because, as Iara pointed out, "We did not have many of the typical leadership opportunities this year that Sixth Grade usually gets. This was special because my class was able to make it a serious and meaningful experience for the whole school." Iara and her classmates believe strongly in commemorating the Holocaust, recognizing that, "Remembering it helps makes sure it will never happen again. We need to remember those who came before us and the pride they had for being Jewish and the sacrifice they made for the Jewish people."

On Yom HaZikaron the fifth grade class led the school community in a moment of silence for fallen Israeli soldiers. Students recited the Yizkor prayer, sang Hatikvah, and learned about the sacrifice these men and women made for the sake of Israel and our freedom. Moreh Nechemya Rosenfeld, a Hebrew and



Akiva's 6th grade class lights Yartzheit candles in memory of those who perished in the Holocaust



Gila Friedman, '22 helps lead a Yom Hazikaron commemoration

Judaic Studies teacher at Akiva, reflected on his own experiences in the Israeli Army. When asked about what it's like to be in Israel on Yom HaZikaron, Moreh Nechemya shared the communal feeling of mourning he experienced, and explained that in Israel the sorrow felt on this day is personal. "Everyone knows someone who has given their life for Israel." He is grateful that Akiva gives students the opportunity to experience this shared grief and understand the nuance and significance of Yom HaZikaron.

Immediately following this day of somber reflection, Akiva transitioned to a day of festivities and celebration in honor of Israel's Independence. Yom HaAtzmaut at Akiva began with an assembly for students and families, jointly led by the fifth and sixth grades. Students hosted mock interviews with founding leaders of the State of Israel: David ben Gurion, Theodore Herzl, and Golda Meir. Infused with humor, the interviews taught students about the motivations of these leaders, and their commitment to establishing and sustaining a Jewish homeland. Through activities and trivia games during the celebration, students learned about Israel as both the historical and cultural homeland of the Jewish People. When teachers recorded a series of short videos throughout the day asking students *Why is Israel important to you?* Third



Harper Finley, '22 shares about her connection to Israel during a Yom HaAtzmaut Assembly



Joey Fried and Batya Coleman, '21 welcome students on Yom HaAtzmaut with singing and waving Israeli flags



Liana Wolf, '26 waves her flags in celebration on Yom HaAtzmaut

custodians of our future, students are encouraged to learn and understand our shared history. Students continually study and reflect on the sacrifices so many have made to give us the freedoms we live with today. Students learn to celebrate collective and individual achievements and victories with pride. These lessons teach Akiva students to stand up for their values and become positive leaders in the world. As Akiva parent Rachel Hedges expresses, "Akiva's approach to observing Yom HaZikaron, Yom HaShoah and Yom HaAtzmaut reflect the creativity, deep reflection, meaningful connection and encouragement of student ownership that permeates all aspects of school curricula and culture. We are so grateful to be a part of a school that models Jewish values in everyday instruction and interaction with students, as well as on special occasions." •

Congressional Gold Medal Awarded to Master Sergeant Rodrick "Roddie" Edmonds

U.S. Representative Tim Burchett (TN-02) introduced the Master Sergeant Roddie Edmonds Congressional Gold Medal Act. The entire Tennessee U.S. House delegation are signed on as original cosponsors. U.S. Senators Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) and Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn) introduced a companion bill in the U.S. Senate.

"The heroism of Master Sergeant Edmonds is well-known across Tennessee and in the international Jewish community," Rep. Burchett said. "He fearlessly faced down Nazi soldiers at a German POW camp during World War II, refusing to identify his fellow Jewish servicemen when held at gunpoint.

Master Sergeant Edmonds's selfless courage saved lives and the Congressional Gold Medal is a fitting way to honor his legacy."

Senator Blackburn says Master Sergeant Roddie Edmonds is a true American hero. "Edmonds' resiliency, courage, and leadership saved over 200 Jewish lives. There is no one more deserving of the Congressional Gold Medal than Master Sergeant Edmonds." And Sen. Hagerty said Master Sergeant Edmonds is an inspiration to all Americans. "He embodied all the



Master Sergeant Roddie Edmonds will receive Congressional Gold Medal

characteristics of a courageous soldier and carried the tremendous spirit of a true Tennessee volunteer. I am proud to join this legislation to award Master Sergeant Edmonds the high honor of a Congressional Gold Medal."

Master Sergeant Edmonds was a lifelong East Tennessean. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge where Nazi forces captured and detained him at a prisoner of war camp. MSG Edmonds was one of 1,200 American soldiers captured by the Germans. He was a prisoner of war for 100 days. During his

detainment, German soldiers ordered Jewish POWs to identify themselves so they could be separately sent to labor and concentration camps. When MSG Edmonds was held at gunpoint to surrender the identity of the Jewish soldiers in his company, he refused and stated, "We are all Jews here." Their identities were never given, and the German soldiers eventually ceased their interrogation, saving 200 Jewish soldiers' lives.

Since Edmonds death in 1985, Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem, has recognized him, one of only five Americans, for his actions. •

NASHir Together Outdoor Concert is Highlight of Israel's Independence Day Celebration

BY BARBARA DAB

Nashville's Jewish Community joined together in person, socially distanced, to enjoy this year's NASHir Together concert in celebration of Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel Independence Day. Concertgoers arrived and enjoyed the music from the comfort of their cars, tailgates and portable chairs. The event was emceed by Jack Simon and featured performances by Ellie Flier and Julia Motis, Nechemya Rosenfeld and headliner Camden West and band. Akiva School students raised money through their Lemonade Stand, and falafel boxes, created by Sova Catering were available for sale. There were activities and goodie bags for the children, too!

This year's event offered a rare opportunity during the pandemic to hear live music and enjoy, in person, the company of friends. Ur Barzel and Rachel Goodrich watched from their tailgate along with their daughters Noam

and Orly, who turned six the same day Israel turned 73. Rachel says, "This was a great opportunity to get out and enjoy some live music and see friends." Sarah and Jacob Ruden sat carside in folding chairs munching on falafel and waiting for Sarah's sister, Julia Motis, to perform. She says, "We've come to the festival every year since we moved here, and we wouldn't miss it." And Bill Kimball bubbled with enthusiasm at the chance to see people in person. "Seeing faces live is like going to Disneyland!" Bill's wife, Erica, said she also came to support the hard work of Nashville's Community Shlucha, Noam Harari, who organized the concert for the second year. Noam, who is in her second year as Shlucha, was happy to be able to present this event in person. "Ever since I arrived in Nashville, I have looked forward to planning the Yom Ha'azmaut event. After a challenging year working on the concert, it was very rewarding to see people enjoying it." •





ANNOUNCING NEW GRANTS FOR FIRST-TIME NASHVILLE CAMPERS

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The Legacy Heritage Fund has established an incentive program offering grants of \$1,500 per year, per child to enrich children's Jewish learning and identity by giving them the opportunity to attend camps with strong Jewish content and programming. These incentives are for campers in grades 4-10 who attend for a full 26 day session.



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Hayley Levy, 2021 Sandy Averbuch Young Leadership Award recipient

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Jewish Federation Board of Directors 2021 Slate of Nominees

Andy May, President
Leslie Kirby, Vice President
Christie Wiemers, Secretary
Gary Fradkin, Treasurer

The Jewish Federation will recognize and honor outgoing officers, board members and committee chairs, including:

Steven Hirsch, President | Aron Karabel, Vice President
Tara Axelroth, Mark Kaplan, Rabbi Mark Schiftan

Board Members for a three-year term:
Sam Averbuch and Cara Suval

Submitted by the 2021 Federation Nominating Committee:
Lisa Perlen (Chair), Ben Doochin, Amy Goldstein, Frank Gordon,
Lorna Graff, Jacob Kleinrock, and Fred Zimmerman

(Note: Any 25 members of the Jewish Federation may nominate additional people in accordance with the Federation Constitution by submitting the names to Steven Hirsch, Federation President, or to Eric Stillman, CEO, at least 20 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Persons nominated for officer positions must be or have been members of the Board of Directors).

For more info contact Barbara@jewishnashville.org

May in Galleries: The Work of Martha Case Nemer, Rita J. Maggart and Sarah Stob

BY CARRIE MILLS

During the month of May, the Janet Levine March Gallery will feature the art of Martha Case Nemer. Martha has a passion for texture and color. Her work ranges from figurative, florals to fashion illustrations. She is a lifelong lover of beautiful things, spending over 25 years in luxury fashion and high design and calls her works, "contemporary whimsy," and very much Picasso inspired. Every piece is created with a special intent in mind because a portion of all sales proceeds go to The Melvin Case Christmas for Kids Foundation.

The JLMG2 Gallery will feature the work of Rita J. Maggart. The last year

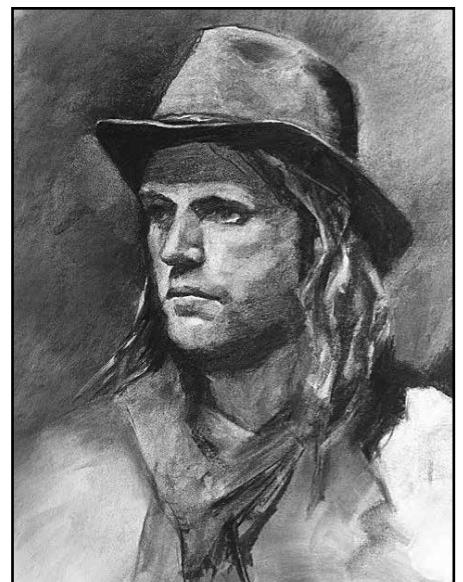
of COVID pandemic gave Rita the gift of time and the enthusiasm for a new vision with her art and writing. For several years she focused her artistic study on drawing figures with charcoal. The isolation of the pandemic gave her the opportunity to devote time developing her charcoal drawings and journal writing. The result is a new book of figurative art and journaling titled *Life*



Girl in Green by Sarah Stob

and Art, Portraits, Poems and Praise. Her interest in drawing the figure has always been an attempt to capture the human condition. It is through observation of the human body and the search for the light that shines from within, and on the model, that Rita tries to describe with her art. This will be the second exhibit of her charcoal drawings at the J Galleries.

The Sig Held Gallery will feature the paintings of Sarah Stob. Sarah's modern Impressionistic style, whether in landscapes, mementos of childhood, dancers, or her intensely personal portraits, invites the viewer into a hidden secret world of emotion and insight. Always subtle, her work has depth and nuance that lets us peek behind the curtain and see deeper



Man in Hat by Rita J. Maggart

than we had expected. Sarah's portraits are infused with an awareness of a deeper longing, there is something in the eyes that betrays a knowledge of both joy and pain, past and future all rolled into a single moment, a captured glance. Sarah's landscapes, and particularly her dancers are an abstraction of emotions capturing the transcendent moment, movement happening.

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. •



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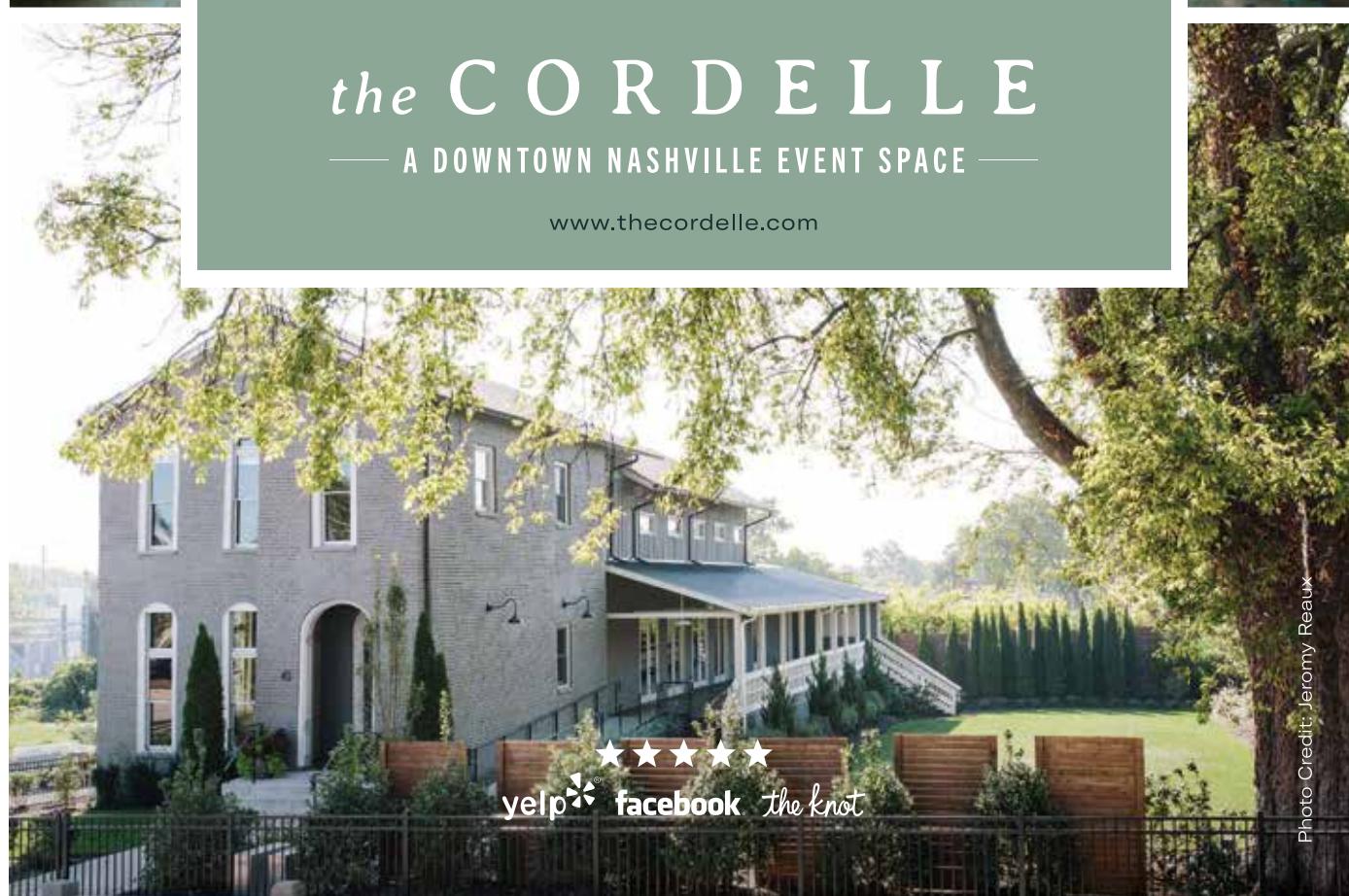
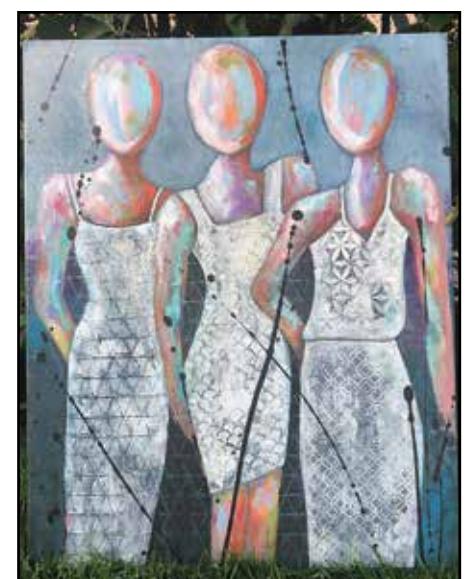


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Three Figures in White by Martha Case Nemer

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Health & Beauty ISSUE

MAY 2021



the
jewish Observer

Druid Tree Service, Inc. Preserving the Natural Beauty of Trees and Shrubs

Keeping your home's landscape healthy not only adds to the beauty of your home, it also has positive and lasting effects on your personal health. Spending time outdoors in the fresh air does wonders for your health. Springtime ushers in a sense of hope and excitement; a new beginning as gardens come alive once again and our trees and plants begin to bloom. This is an important time for finding joy in our outdoor surroundings. Breathe in the scent of lilac and viburnum, allow the vibrant, pink cherry blossoms to transport you, 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 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, improving plant and soil health, and planting new trees and shrubs, our arborists offer professional care for landscapes of any size.

Spring's emergence presents the ideal time to assess trees and plants for their overall

health, vigor, and to observe any safety hazards lingering over from previous wind or storm events. Druid's consulting arborist provides hazard risk evaluations for tree safety as well as assessments of plant health with recommendations for pest and fertility issues. Druid has proven experience controlling specific pests and diseases, including the devastating Emerald Ash Borer, and proudly offers annual maintenance programs. Druid Tree Service is family owned and has been caring for trees and shrubs in Nashville 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. www.druidtree.com.

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Carrie and Garrett Mills are a mother and son, stylist and photography team that strive to capture the essence and beauty inherent in all people. Their combined creativity, experience, and expertise produce exquisite photographs that capture individuals, groups and families in all their individuality and uniqueness. Their ability to make people feel at ease in a fun and relaxing environment are testament to their professionalism combined with their warm personalities. Call now for your individual or family portrait.

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As an independent consultant (and full-time Realtor), Jackie Roth Karr is proud to offer inside access to two of the greatest minds in skincare today – Drs. Katie Rodan & Kathy Fields, both active supporters of AIPAC - The American Israel Public Affairs Committee. You may know them as the creators of Proactiv Solution. Jackie has partnered with the doctors in their newest business venture with a mission of changing skin and changing lives, all while staying on top of the Nashville rapidly growing real estate market!

What the doctors did for acne with Proactiv they are now doing for aging skin, sun damaged and sensitive skin with Rodan + Fields Dermatologists. The new products were previously featured in leading department stores including Nordstrom, Bloomingdales, and Henri Bendel in New York. The doctors realized that they were only reaching one person at a time behind the cosmetic counter when they saw the huge wave of social media coming. They moved into the direct sales market and are able to reach more people in a month than a single store did in a year...all virtually.

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Jackie looks forward to introducing her Rodan + Fields business to you. All you need is the internet and a phone to shop or be in business (full time or part time!). Take the time to go to Jackie's personal website (like a virtual office) at www.JackieKarr.net and have your quick private consultation with these doctors to see what regimen is right for your skin. No copay or appointment needed, and there's a 60 day money back guarantee on results.

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Our team of experts, the APS Team, works with our clients and their families to find the right place for the next stage of a good life. We deliver a creative and individually tailored mix of experience to offer personal customer service. We help you with your next step with teams of individuals who are trained in the emotional and physical dynamics of transitions.

The APS Team is taking the COVID pandemic seriously and we are doing everything required to stay abreast of this situation. We also understand there are circumstances where you need to move or move someone you love. This is our area of expertise. We have professional protocols in place to ensure our clients will be safely moved from one location to another.

We offer healthy solutions to decluttering, downsizing and moving. The APS Team is on the move and here to help you. Learn more about us and our projects at www.aginginplaceservices.net or call 629-999-2477.

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NAMI: It's Time to Prioritize Mental Health

As headlines and conversations continue to be focused on threats to our physical health, an equally alarming yet less frequently discussed health crisis is unfolding right under our noses. The impact of COVID-19 on mental health and well-being has been massive, with huge increases in prevalence because of stress, isolation, fear, and trauma. According to the latest data from the CDC, one in every three Tennesseans is experiencing major symptoms of anxiety or depression. Younger age groups are disproportionately impacted, with two in three young adults reporting clinical anxiety or depression and one in four "seriously considering suicide in the last 30 days." These are alarming numbers that demand our community's urgent attention, as suicide and overdose deaths continue to rise in Tennessee.

Learning more about mental health and how to help yourself or a loved one is well worth the time. Check out [mentalhealth.gov](https://www.mentalhealth.gov) or [namitn.org](https://www.namitn.org), for example. With recent changes in state law, virtual therapy and other services are now more widely available without leaving your home.

With fewer social obligations away from home, what better time than now to prioritize your mental health!

Senior Living With a Clear Focus on Health and Beauty

Senior health is so important at Clarendale at Bellevue Place. Naturally, a healthy lifestyle starts with a well-designed, safe and secure apartment, but it's the beauty of experiences and amenities that help residents stay active and involved in life.

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Between the skilled professionals and on-site amenities, health and wellness are practically guaranteed. There's an on-site fitness center with professionally-led exercise classes and the latest strength and cardio equipment, as well as a full-service salon. Plus, residents enjoy an ever-changing menu of dining options, including nutritious meals to suit any taste and diet requirements. Even with strict safety protocols in place, the Clarendale at Bellevue Place staff finds ways to keep residents entertained, enlightened and engaged.

Your senior health and beauty lifestyle option is nearby at Clarendale at Bellevue Place—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. Call 615-271-5511 or go to ClarendaleAtBellevuePlace.com to learn more about this independent living, assisted living and memory care community.

Cordelle & Saint Elle

Looking for a stress-free event experience? The Cordelle & Saint Elle offer the service and style that makes each event a sophisticated and seamless experience. Locally owned and operated, our luxury venues offer *event concierge* service designed to make your event enjoyable from planning to party!

The Cordelle & Saint Elle are both located in the heart of Nashville yet tucked away from the hustle of Broadway, each creating its very own “hidden oasis” in Music City. Our focus is hospitality and creating unforgettable events that allow you and your guests to feel taken care from “First Drink to Last Dance.”

Saint Elle is 8,000 sq ft of open venue space. The 1950’s industrial architecture is beautifully restored and absolutely unique, offering endless options for event type and design. Amenities include: furnished suites, large catering kitchen, parking, feature bar, elegantly appointed restrooms and an elevated, singular design. The Saint Elle offers a truly incomparable experience.

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The Pargh Team

When you decide you want to seek out a place to call home, where we hope you will find years of health and happiness, we hope you will think of the Pargh Team to guide you on your quest. We are all different, and we all want and need different things in our home environment, which is directly linked to our health and wellbeing. Some people want wide open spaces, and some want to live in the middle of the action. Some people want busy sidewalks and walkable neighborhoods, and some want peace and quiet in the country.

Luckily, Nashville natives Lana and Franklin Pargh know the ins and outs of Nashville and the surrounding areas, and they are skilled at finding what you’re looking for in a home. While they look to find properties that check your boxes, they take so many things into consideration that impact your health and the health of your family.

Some healthy neighborhood characteristics might include amenities such as a neighborhood pool or gym. Some planned communities even have things like schools or post offices. Or, if a gated or planned community doesn’t appeal to you, perhaps you’re looking for an area with nearby parks and tennis courts. This can encourage a healthy lifestyle with outdoor activities and fresh air.

The Pargh Team’s full-service team of experts sold more than \$85M in real estate last year alone. In 2020, they assisted 150 families with transactions, many of which were long-distance relocations as Middle Tennessee continues to be one of the most sought-after places to live. If you’re looking to buy or sell and you want an agent who will prioritize your health and well-being, get in touch with us today!

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The Mira Kimmelman Learning from the Holocaust Contest

The Mira Kimmelman Learning from the Holocaust Contest is open to both middle school and high school students. It is based on Mira's work with students to teach them about the Holocaust so that it cannot be denied. Only by remembering and learning from it can we prevent it from being repeated.

The essay/visual arts contest asks Tennessee students to create projects that reflect on the lessons of the Holocaust and how they are relevant to current events, and to their own lives. The winner of the high school contest receives a prize of \$750, and the winner of the middle school contest receives a prize of \$500.

For more information go to the <https://tnholcom.org/kimmelman-contest/>



Mira Kimmelman

Kvetch in the City

By CARRIE MILLS

Now that Spring has sprung and April showers have brought us May flowers, I've been thinking a lot more about the birds and the bees. Gee, get your mind out of the gutter folks! I'm talking about the migrating birds that are drinking all the water out of my outdoor fountain every day and gigantic bees hovering on my balcony while I'm trying to relax.

Actually, to tell you the truth, the thought of conscious coupling (as in dating eligible men) has been on my mind again lately, now that I am fully vaccinated and somewhat comfortable again in mask-less encounters with other vaccinated people.

So, as I sit here with a bleaching tray in my mouth to brighten up those coffee stained not-so-pearly whites and spending way too much money highlighting my hair, botox-ing my forehead and visiting the nail salon once again, I'd have to say I'm pretty much back in fighting shape (notwithstanding a few pounds) to head back into the dating world, wherever that might be.

However, since I'm still somewhat terrorized from my past record, I thought it might be a good idea to take advantage of my Observer next door neighbor columnist, Dear Esther!

Here are a few questions I'm thinking of writing her that maybe she can help me out with...

Dear Esther,



Carrie Mills

Do you think the fact that I write a column that hinges on kvetching will be a problem for my meeting a decent man, the kind, if my mother, may she rest in peace, were still alive, I could bring home to meet, or at least not make her turn over in her grave?

Dear Esther,

More to the point, would a Jewish man even notice I'm kvetching since it's sort of a Jewish way of communicating anyway, that I'm pretty sure they grew up with?

Dear Esther,

A little bit more to the point, do you think all my kvetching might remind a Jewish man too much of his mother and would start things off way too Freudian?

Dear Esther,

Do you think the fact that I write a monthly column where I have no shame baring my soul for all to read, is a hindrance to my dating possibilities?

Dear Esther,

Do you think dating a non-Jewish man who doesn't understand what a kvetch is may work in my favor?

Dear Esther,

Do I need to explain to non-Jewish men that when a Jewish woman uses expressions like..."I'm going to jump out the window, if you say that one more time!" they should realize she is definitely not going to jump, though she may be inclined to push!

Dear Esther,

Do you happen to have a single brother?

I'm hoping that by June I may not need to write Dear Esther. Until then, I'll get my zaftig tush on my bike and hit the green way. •

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Save the Date for the annual Nashville Jewish Food Fest!

The Nashville Jewish Food Festival is back on May 16th! After a year hiatus due to COVID-19, the Gordon JCC is excited to welcome you back to celebrate the dairy holiday of Shavuot with your favorite Jewish foods. Stop by our outdoor popup for the pickles and knishes and stay for the cheesecake. We'll have

local vendors, authentic deli, and much more Jewish food and family-friendly fun! More information coming soon at nashvillejcc.org/jewishfood. Contact alex@nashvillejcc.org if you would like to be a vendor or for more information

Jewish Food Festival | May 16 | 1-4pm at the Gordon •



Dear Esther

Dear Esther,

My 80-year-old father lives independently in a condo. He has always been self-sufficient and capable, but I am beginning to worry about his ability to drive. I have noticed that his reflexes are not as sharp, he drives slowly, and he hesitates when he goes through a traffic light. When is the right time to look at whether driving is safe and how do I bring this up with my father? I am afraid he will become defensive and angry. Any tips are greatly appreciated.

– Concerned Son

Dear Concerned Son,

You have brought up a sticky subject and a question that is frequently asked of our JFS social workers. Unfortunately, it does not have a standard answer because everyone's situation is unique. First let me applaud you for being observant of the changes in your father's driving. I always encourage adult children to ride in the car with their parent on a regular basis so they will know when a change has occurred. You do not want to wait for an accident to start paying attention. In fact, it is a good idea to discreetly glance at the car for new scratches or dents on a regular basis as this is often one of the first signs of trouble.

It may be awkward, but it is important to talk to your father about any concerns you might have. If he gets defensive, go slower, be patient but persistent. You might be surprised to find

that he may have some concerns of his own. If you find yourself in a situation where it is apparent that it is not safe for him to drive and he is resistant, there are a few helpful options. Speaking with his physician about his medical conditions and medications and how they might impact his ability to drive can be helpful. AARP offers a driver safety program that informs seniors about normal age-related changes that can affect driving and helps seniors improve their skills. There is even a discount on collision insurance available for seniors who complete the course. Pi Beta Phi Rehabilitation Institute at Vanderbilt's Bill Wilkerson Center provides comprehensive assessments that look at cognitive, vision and on the road evaluations to determine if an individual is safe to drive. All these options can be very helpful to seniors and their families and it takes the weight off the adult children to make the decision about when to stop driving.

There are many options for transportation these days (which is a column for another day) so when your father no longer drives, rest be assured that he will be able to continue to be active in his community. But until that day comes, keep being attentive to his driving and watching for changes. As a loving adult child, this is a difficult situation but with compassion and understanding, your family will make the best decision possible for your father.

– 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. •

Learn more about the
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AT OUR CONGREGATIONS...

Nashville's congregations

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

Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad, www.chabdnashville.com

Congregation Micah, www.congregationmicah.org

Congregation Sherith Israel, www.sherithisrael.com

The Temple – Congregation Ohabei Shalom, www.templenashville.org

West End Synagogue, www.westendsyn.org

@ Chabad /Congregation Beit Tefilah

Kabbalist Laibl Wolf to speak on Living Courageously in a Stressful World

Has Covid-19 impacted your emotional wellbeing? Are you feeling stressed? Are you feeling internally happy? Chabad of Nashville presents an evening "Be Happy - Don't Be a Victim, Living Courageously in a Stressful World," with Rabbi Dr. Laibl Wolf

Monday, May 10, 7:00 PM via Zoom for the Nashville Jewish community. Often described as the Jewish synthesis of Deepak Chopra and Anthony Robbins, Rabbi Dr. Laibl Wolf of Australia, has been a spiritual mentor and a worldwide teacher of spirituality for a generation. His expertise blends contemporary positive psychology with ancient Kabbalah to facilitate a 'behavioral' approach to life training.

Rabbi Dr. Laibl Wolf is an internationally renowned lecturer in the fields of mind and emotion mastery and personal growth. Laibl, who is university trained in law and psychology, is an unusual blend of Hassidic Rabbi and universal teacher and is as much at home in a Buddhist ashram as he is in a synagogue.

Laibl's teachings utilize meditation and consciousness training techniques to enable personal growth and emotional mastery, says Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel, with Chabad of Nashville. Laibl has adapted the deep Kabbalistic insights providing an insightful training program with practical application to the minutiae of everyday life.

Laibl has produced a much sought after series of meditation and self-mastery audio-visual training programs materials, including his comprehensive life-training model, LifePlan7, which are sold internationally. He is also the author of the best-selling book, Practical Kabbalah (Three Rivers Press™ of Random House, Inc.) and contributed to numerous magazines and anthologies. He has lectured in over 450 cities across the globe. Through his original MindYoga™ approach, Laibl's audiences are able to master their emotions and empower their lives.

To register for the zoom presentation "Be Happy - Don't Be a Victim, Living Courageously in a Stressful World," with Rabbi Dr. Laibl Wolf

Monday, on May 10, at 7:00 PM please go to www.chabdnashville.com/wolf

Chabad to Host Welcome Back Party and Celebrate the 3333 birthday of the Ten Commandments

As many have received their Covid-19 vaccinations, Chabad of Nashville will be hosting a welcome back party, inviting the Nashville Jewish community to celebrate the birthday of the Jewish nation on Shavuot 2021.

The Holiday of Shavuot celebrating the Giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai 3333 years ago, has become a celebration of fine dairy cuisine as well. Exquisite cheesecakes, pesto pastas, lasagna, soufflés and of course cheese blintzes all take center stage during this ancient celebration. Some suggest that this has contributed to the renewed popularity this holiday has seen.

On Shavuot, in the year 2448, the Jewish nation gathered at the foot of Mount Sinai to receive the Torah from G-d, men women and children. Also present were the souls of all Jews of all generations to come. Every year on the Holiday of Shavuot this revelation is re-experienced during the reading of the Ten Commandments in the Synagogue. "It is a de ja vu experience for the soul, to hear the reading of the Ten Commandments, on the anniversary that it was given to our ancestors at Mt. Sinai," said Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel, of Chabad of Nashville.

It is of great importance for every family to attend Synagogue on Shavuot together with their children, to listen to the reading of the Ten Commandments, as the children played a critical role in our receiving the Torah. When G-d gave the Torah to the Jewish people, He gave it on the condition that the young boys and girls will be the guarantors.

Shavuot will be celebrated this year, from the evening of May 16 through May 18. The Ten Commandments will be read at Chabad of Nashville, at 95 Bellevue Road, on Monday, May 17, at 5:30 PM

Following the reading of the Ten Commandments, a delicious dairy buffet dinner will be served, including blintzes, pastas, pizzas, and a special Ten Commandments Ice Cream Party. All are welcome to come and celebrate as a community, and there is no charge to attend. For more information about Shavuot at Chabad please visit www.chabdnashville.com or call 615-646-5750.

Yizkor Memorial Service on Shavuot

The Yizkor memorial prayer for the dearly departed, is recited in the synagogue four times a year: On the last day of Passover, on the second day of Shavuot, Yom Kippur and on Shmini Atzeret.

Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad will hold the Shavuot Yizkor Memorial Service, on Tuesday, May 18, at 11:15 AM in the Doochin Sanctuary at the Genesis Campus for Jewish Life.

Yizkor, in Hebrew, means "remember." In this prayer, we implore G-d to remember the souls of our loved ones who have passed on. When we recite Yizkor, we renew and strengthen the connection between us and our loved ones, bringing merit to the departed souls.

The recitation of Yizkor is also linked with the mitzvah of a pledge to charity (prior or following the holiday) in memory of the deceased. By giving charity, we are performing a positive physical deed on their behalf in this world, something that the departed can no longer do. The soul gains additional merit through the good deeds impacted through their memory.

YIZKOR is observed in three ways:

1) Light a Yahrtzeit (24-hour) candle in memory of your relatives who have passed away. Candles are available at Chabad if you need.

2) Give charity in memory of the person(s). How much should you give? As a general rule, think of an amount that you are comfortable giving, and then add \$18. (In Jewish tradition, the number 18 symbolizes life.)

3) Remember your loved ones by mentioning their name(s) at the YIZKOR service.

If, for whatever reason, you cannot attend the Yizkor Memorial Service, you may e-mail the names of your loved ones

@ Micah

As agile as ever, Judaism at Micah continues to evolve with courage, compassion and creativity. Best to read and see what you like here in print and then head over to our website www.congregationmicah.org to access Micah's programs – almost all of which are free and open to the public. And don't forget to like us on our socials: Facebook, Instagram, @MicahNashville; read our eblasts; learn with us on YouTube; study and connect with us on Zoom; and pray with us on Livestream. Micah welcomes people of all races, religions, beliefs, gender expressions, sexual orientations, countries of origin, ages, abilities, families, and flavors with open hearts. In our virtual tent, there is room for everyone!

Monthly Online Programming

Micah Reads Book Club - Monday, May 3 @ 7:00 PM on Zoom

All are welcome for a Zoom discussion on the book The Signature of All Things by Elizabeth Gilbert.

Antisemitism Across American: An Evening with Bari Weiss Tuesday, May 4 @ 7:00 PM

Moderated by Dr. Shaul Kelner of Vanderbilt University, this event will feature audience Q&A and a panel of rabbis including: Rabbi Laurie Rice of Congregation Micah; Adam Wright of Temple Emanuel in Birmingham, AL; David Gelfand of Temple Israel in New York; and David Locketz of Beth Shalom in Minneapolis.

Standing @ Sinai: The Mixed Multitude. Friday, May 7 at 6:00 PM

In partnership with the World Union of Progressive Judaism, Congregation Micah will collaborate with The Ark Synagogue in London, England to celebrate Shavuot. Rabbi Aaron Goldstein will introduce us to his community and share insights about what it means to be a Jew in England. Topics will include the Royal Family, institutional prejudice, and what studying Torah means.

Graduation Shabbat Friday, May 14 @ 6:00 PM on Zoom

Come honor our High School Seniors and their families during this spirited and spiritual Micah-style celebration.

Last Day of Religious School Sunday, May 16

It's a Wrap! JLAB families honor our teachers, create a community campus art project and participate in the annual Torah Wrap ritual, followed by a picnic with special dairy treats to welcome Shavuot! RSVP to jgreenberg@congregationmicah.org

Micah Minis: Torah

Saturday, May 22 at 10:30 AM

Sing and dance in this family-friendly Shabbat experience.

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.

Continued on page 24

AT OUR CONGREGATIONS...

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.

Mah Jongg

May 4, May 18, June 1, June 15, June 29, July 13, July 27

Tuesday afternoons at 12:30 PM

Tai Chi Classes

Around the world, millions of people are getting health benefits from learning this amazing art. Most importantly, during these times of stress, learn how to breathe and RELAX without having to get on the floor.

@ Sherith Israel

Sherith Israel Schedule of weekly programs and services (in person, unless indicated otherwise)

6:30 am Morning Minyan
7:00 pm Evening Minyan

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Davening
9:30 am Babysitting
11:00 am Kiddush Lunch in the Tent

8:30 pm Sunday Evening Zoom Chaburah

To get on the Shul's email list, visit www.sherithisrael.com

@ The Temple

May 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 May.

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

May 6th, 13th & 20th -For Zoom Information, go to thetemplehub.org

Women's Torah Study

Every Thursday from 12:00-1:00 PM

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

Shabbat Schedule for May

Friday, May 7th ~ 6:00 PM
Friday, May 14th ~ 6:00 PM
Friday, May 21st ~ 6:00 PM
Friday, May 28th ~ 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.

Temple Annual Meeting on May 7th at 5:00pm

prior to our 6:00pm Shabbat Service.

Please Join Us for 3 Special Evenings with Dr. Richard Elliot Friedman

Author of "Who Wrote the Bible"

Virtually via Zoom

Wednesday, May 12th ~ 6:00-7:00 pm
Wednesday, May 19th ~ 6:00-7:00 pm
Wednesday, May 26th ~ 6:00-7:00 pm

Dr. Friedman is the Ann and Jay Davis Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Georgia and is the Katzin Professor of Jewish Civilization Emeritus of the University of California, San Diego. He is the author of numerous bestselling books including "Who Wrote the Bible" and The Exodus.

Graciously funded by the Marks Family in honor of Patty Marks' Special Birthday

The Temple is hosting a Young Adults Night at Arrington Vineyards!

Saturday, May 15

4:30- 7:00 pm

Temple will provide the wine and light snacks!

Please bring chairs or a blanket to sit on. Sheri will have a balloon at a picnic table for easy recognition!

If need more assistance, please call Sheri at 908-208-3599.

Community Shavuot Programming and Yizkor Service

Sunday, May 16th in the early evening. See the templehub.org for more details and continued updates.

@ 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 7:30 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.

Shavuot at WES

May 16 Maariv at 7:30 p.m.

May 17 at 9:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

May 18 at 9:30 a.m. (Yizkor will be recited) and 6 p.m.

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

West End Synagogue in collaboration with Congregation Sherith Israel Presents: The Sandi Goldstein Learn & Lunch Program for ages 60+

May 26, 2021 at 12 p.m., Guest: Jean Roseman, Topic: "Jewish on 2nd Ave Lunch catered by Goldie Shepard will be available to pick up at West End Synagogue for

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

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

Rsvp to linda@westendsyn.org. The link will be sent to you after we receive your reservation. Hope to "see" you there.

GOING UP TO SINAI Spring Series (Last two events):

"The Laws of Moses in their Ancient Near East Contexts" with 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

Continued on page 25

AT OUR CONGREGATIONS...

Continued from page 24

Beit Miriam Graduation Class of 2021

Graduation Ceremony, Saturday Night, May 15 @8:30 pm

BEIT MIRIAM GRADUATION CLASS OF 2021

Samuel Abraham Barocas
Son of Daniel and Adina Barocas

Ethan David Bengelsdorf
Son of Steven and Sarah Bengelsdorf

Abigail Riva Cohen
Daughter of Jonathan and Renee Cohen

Sydney Rebekkah Emeson
Daughter of Ronald and Martha Emeson

Lindsay Haily Hornick
Daughter of Chad and Sarah Hornick

Abigail Claire Landa
Daughter of Adam and Valerie Landa

Joseph Noah Potash
Son of Jacob and Gwen Potash

Maia Beth Prichard
Daughter of Jonathan and Deena Prichard

Leo Marshall Wiston
Son of Stuart and Debby Wiston

The Tennessee Holocaust Commission Wishes a Happy 100th Birthday to Sally Wolkoff



Sally Wolkoff

Sally's birthday is May 20, 2021. She is a survivor of Pabianice and Lódz Ghettos; Auschwitz, Freiburg, and Mauthausen Concentration Camps.

Sally remembers the last time she saw her family together: "It was in line awaiting separation at Auschwitz. Two of my sisters were sent to the airplane factory and my other sister and I were sent for office work." Her father's instructions were, "Whoever survives must return to Poland to find each other." •



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

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

Mitzvahs and Lifecycles

B'nai Mitzvah

Carson Brittain Pounds

Carson Brittain Pounds will become a Bar Mitzvah on Sat., May 1, at 11 a.m. at The Temple. Carson was born May 20, 2008, in Nashville. He is the son of Bridget and Zachary Pounds. His grandparents are Linda Pounds and the late Britt Pounds of Nashville, and Joseph and Sissy Lawson of Carthage, Tenn.



For his mitzvah project, Carson worked to collect items and donations for the Humane Society of Dickson, Tenn.

A seventh grader at Jewish Middle School of Nashville, he and enjoys gaming, reading, biking, swimming and comedy.

Adrien Gabrielle and Joshua Aaron Lndl

Adrien Gabrielle and Joshua Aaron Lndl will become B'nai Mitzvah on Sat., May 8, at 10:30 a.m. at The Temple.



Adrien and Joshua were born on May 20, 2008, in Hendersonville, Tenn. They are the children of Joe and Lauren Lndl.

For their mitzvah projects, they are partnering with Hands on Nashville to write and deliver letters and artwork to homebound seniors.



Adrien is in the seventh grade at Merrol Hyde Magnet School. Joshua is in the seventh grade at Knox Doss Middle-Drake's Creek.

Adrien enjoys jazz, ballet, and contemporary dance, tuba, baking and reading. Joshua enjoys ice and in-line roller hockey, drums, and writing.

Jake Tyler and Justin Blake Dorfman

Jake Tyler and Justin Blake Dorfman will become B'nai Mitzvah on Sat., May 8, at 4 p.m. at The Temple.

Jake was born on July 24, 2007, in Birmingham, Ala. Justin was born on March 8, 2009, also in Birmingham.



They are the sons of Todd and Sara Dorfman and the grandchildren of Stephen and Anne Music, the late Janis Music, and Steven and Anita Dorfman, all of Dallas, Tex.



For their mitzvah project, Jake and Justin are working together to raise awareness and money for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Nashville by creating, designing and selling trucker hats to benefit the organization.

Jake is an eighth grader at Montgomery Bell Academy. Justin is in the sixth grade at Ensworth School.

Jake enjoys playing tennis, basketball, working out, school and hanging out with friends and family. Justin enjoys playing sports, family vacations, cooking, visiting family and hanging out with friends.

Lucia and Marina Cintado-Scokin

Lucia and Marina Cintado-Scokin will become B'nai Mitzvah on Sat., May 15, at 10:30 a.m. at The Temple.



Lucia and Marina were born on May 19, 2008, in Tennessee. They are the children of Daniel and Monica Scokin. Their grandparents are the late Mauricio and Dina Scokin of Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Luis and Carmen Cintado of Spain.



For Lucia's mitzvah project, she is baking cookies and selling lemonade for the Nashville Zoo as well as taking donations in lieu of gifts. For Marina's mitzvah project, she is raising funds for Equal Change for Education by baking goods and selling lemonade in lieu of gifts.

They are both seventh graders at University School of Nashville. Lucia enjoys her Goldendoodle, Blue, Harry Potter, USN lacrosse, reptiles and baking. Marina enjoys swimming at Ensworth Aquatics, spending time with her friends, baking and traveling.

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Obituaries

New information service

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

Joseph W. Blumenthal

Condolences to the family of Joseph W. Blumenthal who died on March 21. He is survived by his son, Eric, daughter-in-law, Patricia, and grandchildren, Sam, Emily (Colin) and Stephanie. Donations may be made in Joseph's name to ACLU, Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich., and Congregation Micah.

David Bozeth

Condolences to the family of David Bozeth. Survivors include his sister, Linda (Lenny) Sisselman, and his nephews and nieces; Mickey (Ankita) Sisselman, Justin (Heather) Sisselman, and Jeffrey Sisselman.

Fred Goldner, Jr., MD

Condolences to the family of Fred Goldner, Jr., MD, who died on April 3. He was born in Nashville in 1921 and was predeceased by his parents, Fred Goldner, Sr. and Ida Weinberg Goldner and his sisters, Norma Neaderthal and Reta Guttman.

He had a spirit of faith and courage that enabled him to approach each day with tenacity and lightness of heart—always with hope. His greatest legacy is the love of his family. Above all, his love of his wife, Martha of 66 years, has been an example for anyone who came to know them.

Dr. Goldner graduated Cum Laude from Vanderbilt Pre-Med (1945-48) where he was president of ZBT, served as circulation manager of The Hustler and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. A wrestler, he played baseball which later ignited his devotion to Boston Red Sox and Vandy Basketball.

He interned at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta and at Boston City Hospital, and was a resident at the Brigham Hospital in Boston and at Vanderbilt. He was a captain in the U.S. Army and served in the Surgical Research Unit at Brooke Army Hospital in Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. He co-established the first Artificial Kidney Unit for the Armed Services and founded the first Nashville clinic with an artificial kidney unit in Tennessee. He was also elected to the American Society of Hypertension and member of the International Physicians for the

Prevention of Nuclear War.

He was president of the Nashville Cardiovascular Society and the Upper Cumberland Medical Society. He established Nashville's Cardiac Work and Exercise Evaluation Clinic at Vanderbilt Hospital.

A member of The Temple Ohabai Sholom, he became a Bar Mitzvah at age 85. He served as president initiated the first Temple Social Action Committee.

He was a member of the Gordon Jewish Community Center (Board) and head of the Men's Division of the Jewish Welfare Fund; a member of Sherith Israel Synagogue; and also a secretary and member of the initial Vanderbilt Board of Directors of Hillel.

He was pre-deceased by his son, Arthur Lee Goldner, MD. He is survived by his wife, Martha Helen Unobskey Goldner, and their three children: Cynthia Goldner, Francie (Michael Niederman) and Fredjoseph (Carmen Porras) and grandchildren, Aaron, Natalie, Hannah, Dorian and Julian. Accomplishments, in 2015 Vanderbilt University elected Dr. Goldner to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society.

The family expresses their gratitude to Alive Hospice,

Donations may be made to the Adventure Science Center dedicated to the Arthur Lee Goldner Exhibition Hall and to Nashville NPR.

Virginia Wright Rapoport

Condolences to the family of Virginia Wright Rapoport, who died March 23 at age 105. Virginia was the love of her husband, Abe Rapoport's life for more than 60 years of marriage. Her "Babe" as she so affectionately called him, predeceased her in 1999.

Virginia was the treasured matriarch of her family. She instilled the love of Judaism within her family, hosting holiday festivities and Shabbat dinners where the table was beautifully set amid gorgeous floral arrangements. Her love of botanicals led her to decorate the West End Synagogue sukkah for many, many years until the leadership asked her to switch to plastic fruit and artificial flowers, something she could not abide.

Her love of life and purpose, and her desire for independence was evident as she willed herself to walk again after she broke her leg in September. She was a steely magnolia, a true Southern lady. Until recently, she enjoyed dining out, going to symphony and shopping with daughters Sylvia Rapoport of Nashville and Patricia Rapoport (Jesse Samberg) of Redding, Conn.

She is survived by her grandsons Benjamin Goldberg (Tara) of Nashville, Max Goldberg (Alice) of Nashville,

and Jesse Korwin (Camilla) of Fairfield, Conn; great-grandchildren Vivian and Oliver Goldberg of Nashville, Henry and Charlie Korwin of Fairfield, Conn.

A woman who would never say goodbye, only "so long", as she always looked forward to the next meeting with whom-ever departed her company. In that spirit, we say So Long to Virginia who leaves a legacy of openness, love, and peace. She will be forever held in our hearts.

Memorial contributions may be made to Alive Hospice, West End Synagogue, or a charity of your choice.

Sandra (Sandy) Lynn Streiffer Schwarcz

Native New Orleanian and a resident of Nashville, TN, Sandra (Sandy) Lynn Streiffer Schwarcz passed away peacefully on April 12, 2021 surrounded by her children. The daughter of the late Simon Lippa Streiffer and the late Florence Streiffer (nee Canovsky), Sandy was a dedicated daughter, a sister, mother, grandmother, and friend. Sandy grew up in Metairie, LA and went to Metairie Grammar School, then Isidore Newman School from where she graduated in 1961. She and her family were multigenerational members of Congregation Gates of Prayer. She earned an undergraduate degree at Sophie Newcomb College where she was a member of the Sigma Delta Tau sorority, followed by a master's degree in Elementary Education from the University of New Orleans.



Sandy was a lifelong educator and lifelong learner. She touched the lives of so many students, initially as a teacher at Ridgewood School in Metairie, then at the New Orleans Jewish Community Center preschool, then for over 20 years at Isidore Newman School in New Orleans where she taught kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades. After retiring from Newman, she continued to mold future generations by being an active patron of the Jewish Day School in Metairie where she helped to create the initial curriculum of the school and as a tutor in Nashville. Sandy didn't just help youth but also helped adults, spending her free time volunteering in an adult literacy program. Sandy also believed in making a difference within her communities and was actively involved in the National Council of Jewish Women, serving as Co-President of the New Orleans chapter as well as a member of the Board of Congregation Gates of Prayer.

In addition to all of her giving, Sandy believed in constantly learning. She enjoyed music and the arts and was always interested in going to the symphony or taking in the latest exhibit at the art museum. She was active and engaged with countless friends and mah-jong games and was always available to provide a helping hand, cook or bake a dish, or offer a word of encouragement when anyone needed some advice or a just a hug. She also made the meanest chopped chicken liver around. Later in life, Sandy moved to Nashville and became a valued part of the community there and at The Temple - Congregation Ohabai Sholom, where she loved participating in the Thursday women's Torah

Study group. She was known for her warmth and kindness as well as her brilliant and friendly smile that drew others in. She cared for all of the people she met along the way but most of all for her children and grandchildren who meant the world to her. Her memory lives on through them.

Sandy is survived by her two children Andrew Schwarcz (Barbara) of Nashville and Cristi Schwarcz of Arlington, VA and her 5 grandchildren Matthew, Anna, and Jack Schwarcz (Nashville) and Sam and Sophie Hunter (Arlington, VA), her brother Rick Streiffer (Ann) and nephews Micah and Adam (Taiya) and niece Ellie Streiffer (Ben Horwitz), a large extended family of Streiffer, Finger, Pesses and Caron/Canovsky descendants, and many friends. May her memory be a blessing.

Special thanks from her family to the medical team that cared for Sandy for many years including Drs. Jay Kayser, Nancy Peacock and Ira Stein. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Nashville Symphony or Jewish Family Service of Nashville (<http://jfsnashville.org/>).

Doris Hannah Silber

Condolences to the family of Doris Hannah Silber, 74, who died on April 12 after a long illness. She was born on September 13, 1946, to the late Al Silber and Miriam (Garfinkle) Silber. She is preceded in death by her sister, Marie Sue Silber and niece, Heather (Silber) Pullen. She is survived by her brother Ronald J. Silber (Linda) of Atlanta, her niece Yvonne (Silber) Whittier and many loving cousins and friends.

A lifelong resident of Nashville, Doris graduated from Hillsboro High School and George Peabody College for Teachers. She was an elementary school teacher with Nashville Metro Schools for many years. After her retirement, she enjoyed her work as an administrative assistant. She was an active member and former teacher at the Temple, Congregation Ohabai Sholom.

An ardent supporter of Vanderbilt Women's Basketball, Doris and her other two "musketeers," Patsy and Penny, never missed a home game or booster event. Her friends and co-workers, along with staff and fellow residents of the Windsor Tower, were frequent recipients of her surprise gifts and treats. Her heart was always open to those who frequently came to her for advice or solace.

For over 14 years, Doris has been an inspiration to those who have witnessed her remarkable victories over the illnesses she has dealt with. Her tenacity and strength of spirit will be long remembered.

Donations may be made to The Ovarian Cancer Awareness Fund of the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, 3833 Cleghorn Avenue, Suite 400, Nashville TN 37215, or the charity of your choice.

Harriett Simpson

Condolences to the family of Harriett Simpson, who died on April 9. She is survived by her husband, Vic Simpson, her daughter, Valerie (Adam) Landa, her stepchildren; Rachel (Todd) Halford, and Nick (Jenny) Simpson; grandchildren, Abby and Zach Landa, Hunter Halford, Camden Simpson and Colton Simpson.

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