

Jewish Nashville invited to take part in program to build legacy giving

Has "potential to transform our community"

By CHARLES BERNSEN

Jewish Nashville has been accepted into a nationwide program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation aimed at helping Jewish communities across North America secure endowments and build legacy giving into their philanthropic cultures.

Local Jewish synagogues, schools, institutions and agencies that become partners in the Grinspoon Foundation's Life & Legacy program will be eligible for special training, marketing assistance and financial incentives to help build endowments, particularly legacy endowments that extend beyond the donors' lifetimes.

The Grinspoon Foundation decided to bring Nashville into the program as a result of efforts by the Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, which will administer the four-year partnership

and provide the financial incentives.

"This truly has the potential to transform our community by helping us develop the kind of legacy giving that will ensure its future," said Risa Klein Herzog, director of foundation development for the Nashville Jewish Foundation.

As a general rule, a nonprofit organization should aim to get about 20 percent of its annual budget from endowments in order to remain financially secure, said Herzog, and one of the purposes of Life & Legacy is to help local Jewish organizations work toward that goal. More broadly, she said, it also will raise awareness of the importance of legacy giving within the Jewish community.

Founded 23 years ago by the real estate entrepreneur and philanthropist whose name it bears, the Grinspoon Foundation has launched a number of initiatives in which it partners with local Jewish communities to underwrite programs promoting

Jewish identity and continuity in North America. Nashville already participates in two of those initiatives – PJ Library, which promotes Jewish literacy by providing free Jewish books and music to families with young children, and the B'nai Tzedek program, which encourages b'nai mitzvah-aged teens to establish philanthropic funds with the Nashville Foundation with support from the Feldman/Hassenfeld Fund for B'nai Tzedek.

Last month, after a site visit to Nashville to gauge local interest, the Grinspoon Foundation invited the city's Jewish community to join 36 others in its Life & Legacy program, which was launched four years ago with the goal of helping Jewish organizations recognize and respond to what it describes as the "unprecedented transfer of generational wealth" taking place among American Jewish families. Through last March, Life

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Lihitraot, Liron;
Shalom, Adi



The Nashville Jewish community held a going-away party last month for shlichah Liron Finkelstein (left). Among those who spoke was 8-year-old Emmie Wolf-Dubin, who described the special bond the two developed during long talks outside her mother's office after school. A story about Finkelstein's sendoff and a profile of her successor, Adi Ben Dor, are on pages 4 and 5. (Photo by Rick Malkin)

After helping seniors get around for 43 years, Buz-A-Bus will make its final run this month

By CHARLES BERNSEN

As he stepped aboard the small bus parked at the entrance to the Gordon Jewish Community Center following a recent Thank Goodness Its

Thursday lunch program for seniors, Fred Prozeralik handed a foil-covered plate of food to the driver, Doug Bishop. It's been his routine for much of the past 15 months.

"I'm worried about him," a smiling Prozeralik said of Bishop. "He's looking like he's missed a few meals."

That kind of banter – and genuine friendliness – is typical on the Buz-A-Bus, which over the past 43 years has provide low cost door-to-door transportation service for seniors, helping thousands of them run routine errands, get to doctor's appointments, attend community events and visit friends.

This month, however, the Buz-A-Bus will make its last run. The local

chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women, which operates the program with funding from the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, decided earlier this year to discontinue the program as a result of declining ridership and rising costs.

In a recent letter to members announcing the decision, local NCJW co-Presidents Jamie Brook, Freya Sachs and Erin Zagnoev emphasized that supporting transportation for seniors through alternative means will remain a core mission for the group.

"... there are more efficient transportation services available for our seniors and we would like to work with Shalom Taxi with hopes of increasing senior ridership," the letter said. "We hope you will join us in celebrating the success of Buz-A-Bus and of NCJW, Nashville Section's ongoing support of transportation for our seniors."

Lori Fishel has chaired the NCJW

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Maureen 'Mo' Riley has spent 28 years as the scheduler for Buz-A-Bus riders. Her husband, Doug Bishop, has been driving the bus for 10 years. As the transportation service for seniors winds down this month, Riley said, "It's been an honor and a privilege to serve these people."



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McLarty is Akiva
School's new
executive
director
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Restructured NowGen Nashville gets ready for 7th annual Rosh Bash

NowGen Nashville will hold its 7th annual Rosh Bash on Saturday, Oct. 1 at Sambuca in Nashville's historic Gulch entertainment district.

Rosh Bash is the oldest and biggest event sponsored by NowGen, a group for young Jewish professionals ages 23-40 that provides a variety of social, philanthropic and educational activities.

Held at a time of the year when many young adults are moving to, returning to or visiting Nashville, Rosh Bash is "a great opportunity for us to show that Nashville



Ellie Flier



Ben Katz

has a young professional Jewish group that is active and thriving," said Carolyn Hecklin Hyatt, community engagement associate for the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, which sponsors the group.

The event is from 8 p.m.-midnight. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 the day of the event, with a special price of \$15 for Vanderbilt University graduate

students. Tickets include appetizers and a drink ticket.

This year's Rosh Bash comes as NowGen completes a restructuring that includes a new 14-member volunteer programming board co-chaired by Ben Katz and Ellie Flier. While Tara Lerner continues to represent NowGen as a member of the Federation board, Hyatt said the NowGen board will act as the

group's "voice," developing new programming, helping to promote participation and involvement, and engaging with newcomers to Nashville.

"Just as Nashville has changed every year, so has NowGen," said Flier. "This year I'm especially looking forward to having so many new leaders on the board and seeing how they take NowGen into the new year." •

Endowments

Continued from page 1

& Legacy had assisted 303 Jewish organizations in Jewish communities large and small to secure more than 9,300 legacy commitments with an estimated value of over \$376 million in future gifts, according to its national director, Arlene D. Schiff.

As the local administrator of the program, the Jewish Foundation will invite local synagogues and virtually all other Jewish organizations and agencies in Nashville to participate, said Herzog, who expects at least 10 to accept. An initial meeting of participating organizations will take place on Nov. 17, when Life & Legacy community consultant Christine Kutnick will give a presentation on the importance of legacy giving at this moment in time for Jewish continuity.

Life & Legacy is a four-year partnership involving the Grinspoon Foundation, the Nashville Federation and Foundation, and the local Jewish institutions and organizations that participate.

Over that period, the local participants will be asked to establish endowment policies and put together a team of professionals and lay leaders who will attend training sessions and be responsible for securing a certain level of legacy commitments from members of the community.

In return, the Grinspoon Foundation, in partnership with the Nashville Federation and Foundation, will provide training about how to approach and speak with prospective donors, training in effective stewardship of endowment funds, and marketing assistance, including an annual Book of Life signing event.

The local participants will also be eligible to receive financial incentives from the Nashville Federation and Foundation of up to \$22,500 over the course of the four-year program.

"This legacy program will make the most of the generational transfer of wealth, change the language and landscape of giving, and provide generous and forward thinking members of the Nashville Jewish community with the opportunity to express their passion, purpose and commitment to their most valued Jewish organizations," Schiff said.

Both Schiff and Herzog also emphasized the cooperative nature of the program, which is structured to eliminate competition for donors among participants by encouraging legacy gifts that benefit multiple organizations and agencies. •

Rituals of Memory & Oblivion

The 39th Annual Holocaust Lecture Series At Vanderbilt



Lost Theatrical Works of the Holocaust with Prof. Lisa Peschel
September 13 • 7 p.m.

Adapted from diaries and letters of Etty Hillesum and performed by Susan Stein, the play challenges participants to re-examine assumptions about the Holocaust.

Wilson Hall 126

Vanderbilt is proud to host the longest-running lecture series on the Holocaust at any university in the U.S.

Three Generations of Memory with Rachel Chojnacki, Esther Remer, and Evan Remer
Oct. 6 • 7 p.m.

A survivor, daughter of survivor, and grandchild of a survivor share their experiences.

The Commons Center MPR

Movie: My Mother's Courage (1995)

October 13 • 7 p.m.

The deportation of 4,000 Jews from Budapest to Auschwitz in July 1944, as told by George Tabori, and how the narrator's mother escaped it, owing to coincidence, courage, and some help from where you'd least expect it.

Sarratt Cinema

Moving from Indifference to Action with Fr. Patrick Desbois
October 26 • 7 p.m.

In addition to serving as a Roman Catholic priest, head of the Commission for Relations with Judaism of the French Bishops' Conference, and consultant to the Vatican, Father Desbois is the founder of the Yahad-In Unum, an organization dedicated to locating the sites of mass graves of Jewish victims of the Nazi mobile-killing units in the former Soviet Union. Fr. Desbois' grandfather was a French soldier deported to the Nazi prison camp Rava-Ruska on the Ukrainian border with Poland.

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With laughter and tears, Jewish Nashville gathers to say thanks and farewell to departing *shlich*a, Liron Finkelstein

By CHARLES BERNSEN

About 150 members of the Jewish community got together for a party on Thursday, Aug. 11 to honor and bid an emotional farewell to Liron Finkelstein as her two-year tenure as Nashville's *shlich*a (Israel emissary) came to an end.

And Finkelstein made it a point to hug just about every one of them.

At her own request, she also was the first to speak at the two-hour gathering at the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

"I want to make sure I can do this without crying," she explained.

Finkelstein is one of hundreds of young Israelis who travel abroad to serve as *shlichim* in Jewish communities throughout the world under an initiative of the Jewish Agency for Israel. It's a daunting undertaking, she explained, that involves leaving a country and community that is familiar for one that is not, then juggling a demanding schedule that might include teaching Hebrew to 4th graders at Akiva School in the morning, helping prepare teenagers for a Get Connected trip to Israel in the afternoon, and meeting with a committee of adult volunteers planning a community-wide Israel Independence Day celebration in the evening.

But the reward, Finkelstein told those at the gathering, was the opportunity to enjoy "the wonderful life of a Jewish community I didn't even know existed" and, more important, to experience its love and commitment to her and her homeland.

After two years in Nashville, she



Abbie Wolf (left), community relations director for the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee presents a colorful menorah to Azita Yazdian (center), whose family served as the official host for Liron Finkelstein during her two-year tenure as community *shlich*a. "Liron was my gift," a tearful Yazdian said in response. (Photos by Rick Malkin)

said, "I know in my heart now that we in Israel are alone You will always be a big part of me."

The event was emceed by Abbie Wolf, community relations director for the Jewish Federation of Middle Tennessee and Finkelstein's supervisor, who recalled interviewing Finkelstein during a trip to Israel in early 2014 and knowing immediately that she had found the perfect *shlich*a for Nashville.

"Your intelligence, kindness, sense of humor – and most of all that smile – have endeared you to us," said Wolf, who was moved to tears at the prospect of driving Finkelstein to the airport for her return to Israel.

She was not alone. Azita Yazdian and her husband Abe were Finkelstein's official host family during her stay in Nashville. When it came time for Azita Yazdian to deliver her prepared remarks, she was so overcome with emotion that she had to call on Federation Campaign Director Naomi Sedek to read them.

"Abe and I are very proud to call you

our Israeli daughter," Yazdian wrote. "You are a smart, kind, intelligent and beautiful young lady ... You will be missed, but you will be in our hearts forever."

In response to the presentation of a gift for hosting Finkelstein – a colorful menorah purchased from a shop in Jerusalem – she said, "Liron is my gift."

In all, almost a dozen people came to the microphone to express their appreciation to Finkelstein and praise her contributions to the community.

Federation Executive Director Mark S. Freedman said she had been "an inspiration to us and opened a new and deeper window into Israel for the Nashville Jewish community."

Rabbi Saul Strosberg of Congregation Sherith Israel described her as "warm, professional and compassionate" and said her "big tent view of Judaism" had not

only made it easy for her to relate to all segments of the Jewish community but also provided a model for the community to emulate.

Julie Greenberg, education director at Congregation Micah, said Finkelstein's hundreds of visits to Jewish classrooms and playgrounds "had kindled a connection to Israel among our children that will never dim."

Adi Raz, a Israeli native and leader of NowGen Nashville, the Federation group for young Jewish professionals, became perhaps Finkelstein's closest friend in Nashville.

"I don't know what I'm going to do when you leave," she said, recalling their late night talks over coffee. "You've become more than a friend. You're truly my sister."

Moises Paz recounted the leadership role Finkelstein took in planning and coordinating the Nashville community's celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) last May, which drew 500 people to Red Caboose Park in Bellevue.

And Emmie Wolf-Dubin, Abbie Wolf's 8-year-old daughter, described the special bond that she and Finkelstein developed during long conversations outside her mother's office after school.

"We would sit and talk and talk and talk," she said. "Liron made everyone's day special once, but she made mine special every day."

The official program ended with a video from Israel featuring a message from Finkelstein's parents and siblings, which they read first in Hebrew and then in English.

"We can't wait to see you," they said to Finkelstein.

And to the Nashville community: "Thanks for taking care of Liron and being her family for the past two years." •



Abbie Wolf presents Finkelstein with a gift from the community she served for two years: A blanket on one side of which are reproduced dozens of photographic images from her tenure as Nashville's *shlich*a. On the other side are the words, "Todah Rabah From Your Nashville Family."

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

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New *shlich*a, Adi Ben Dor, comes to Nashville seeking personal growth and hoping to share her love of Israel

By CHARLES BERNSEN

Though she herself was born in Israel, Adi Ben Dor feels a special connection to Jews who live elsewhere.

Her mother made *aliyah* from Argentina and still has family there, she said, "so throughout my life I knew that there are Jews in the Diaspora with a rich community life."

And as a member of the Israel Defense Force, she served as a *mashkit tash* (guidance counselor) to lone soldiers who came to Israel to join the army.

"I used to spend nights with them talking about their families and friends and the Jewish community they had grown up in, and it made me curious," Ben Dor said. "I decided that I would benefit personally from the experience of living with others outside of Israel and at the same time be able to share my love of Israel."

This month Ben Dor begins a two-year tenure as the community *shlich*a (Israeli emissary) at the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. She is among hundreds of young Israelis serving as ambassadors to Jewish communities throughout the world under an initiative of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Though she loves to travel and has been to Argentina, India, Cambodia, Ethiopia, and Holland, this is Ben Dor's first visit to the United States.

"I am really looking forward to the opportunity," she said. "From what I have



Even before arriving this month to begin a two year tenure as Nashville's community *shlich*a, Adi Ben Dor (second from left) met a number of community members while they were visiting Israel, including (from left) Leslie Klein; Mark S. Freedman (standing), executive director of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee; Rabbi Mark Schifftan of The Temple and his son, Ari Schifftan.

heard, I expect my time in the United States will be a totally different and amazing experience."

Ben Dor, Nashville's fourth *shlich*a, succeeds Liron Finkelstein, who returned to Israel last month. Ben Dor will be working closely with Federation Community Relations Director Abbie Wolf, who met her earlier this year on a trip to Israel.

"Adi brings a remarkable range and depth of experience to her role as our *shlich*a," Wolf said. "I'm excited for our community to welcome her, to get to know her and to see Israel through her eyes."

Ben Dor grew up in a *mitzpa* (a small communal village) called Tal-El in the western Galilee. Her mother is retired chemical engineer who worked in the oil refineries in Haifa; her father is a historian. She has three brothers – one is a guitar tutor, another is finishing his Ph.D. in geology at The Hebrew University, and a third works in security after finishing his military service in combat intelligence.

As for herself, Ben Dor got to know the southern part of Israel during her military service and decided to move to Beer Sheva in the Negev Desert to study

at Ben Gurion University, where she received a degree in sociology/anthropology and African studies.

"I have lived in Beer Sheva for four years and love the south," she said. "I guess that made me a Southerner even before I got to Nashville."

Like most Israelis who become *shlichim*, Ben Dor describes herself as outgoing. "I like meeting friends, talking and having fun," she said.

She likes movies and going to the theater, and says that in her free time likes to read, cook and bake.

Ultimately, Ben Dor hopes to have a career in what she describes as "informal education" working with children and youth.

"I don't know exactly with what kind of organization and what my role will be," she said. "But I do know that it is an amazing field for giving young kids the opportunity to reach their potential. I want to be part of their environment that believes in them and helps them achieve their goals."

In the meantime, she is excited that her role as *shlich*a is bringing her to Nashville.

"The word among the *shlichim* is that Nashville is the best community with the nicest families," she said.

That assessment was reinforced earlier this year when several members of the community she will be serving took time during a trip to Israel to meet with her.

"Already I see what everyone means," she said. "I get the feeling that Nashville is a warm and really loving place." •

Rabba Yaffa Epstein will lead Global Day of Jewish Learning in Nashville on Nov. 20

The Nashville Jewish community will hold its fifth annual Global Day of Jewish Learning on Sunday, Nov. 20 at West End Synagogue and again

will feature a visiting scholar from the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem.

Rabba Yaffa Epstein, the Pardes Institute's director of education in North America, will lead a morning plenary session on this year's Global Day theme – "Under the Same Sky: 'The Earth is Full of Your Creations.'" As it was last year, the Nashville plenary session will be one of 24 webcast live and seen by Jews around the world.

Following the morning session there will be a kosher lunch and panel discussion by local rabbis. The afternoon will consist of breakout sessions focusing on the Global Day theme, each led by a local Jewish clergy member or educator, and a final session for everyone again led by Rabba Epstein. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the event will end by 3:30 p.m.

Initiated by the Aleph Society in 2010, the annual Global Day of Jewish Learning is aimed at fostering Jewish unity and knowledge by bringing together hundreds of communities around the world to study the same sacred texts on the same day.

Rabba Epstein, whose visit to Nashville is made possible through the



Rabba Yaffa Epstein

generosity of Libby and Moshe Werthan, has been a teacher of Talmud, Jewish law, and liturgy at Pardes for more than a decade, and has served as the director of the Beit Midrash at the Dorot Fellowship in Israel. After receiving her rabbinic ordination from Yeshivat Maharat and a law degree from Bar-Ilan University in Israel, she studied at the Pardes Kollel, the advanced Talmud Institute at Matan and the Talmud Department of Hebrew University.

She has taught Talmud and Jewish Law at Yeshivat Maharat, The Drisha Institute, The Wexner Heritage New Members Institute, Kayam Farm Kollel and Young Judea. She has lectured at Limmud Events around the world, has written curriculum for the Global Day of Jewish Learning and has created innovative educational programming for Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life.

More details about Global Day events and registration information will be in the October issue of The Observer. Online registration will also be available at www.jewishnashville.org beginning Oct. 1.

Local Global Day events are



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LTCGlobal Agency

Former Delek exec Tony McLarty finds “joy in life” as Akiva’s new executive director

By CHARLES BERNSEN

After 30 years in the business world, Tony McLarty told his wife he was ready for a change. Their two children were grown and out on their own, he had survived a bout with cancer, and he was looking for something “that would bring joy to my life.”

Enter Uzi Yemin, chairman, president and CEO of Delek U.S. Holdings Inc., the Brentwood-based energy company where McLarty had worked for almost 15 years as vice president of community relations and government affairs. Yemin is also board president of the Akiva School, and he asked McLarty to consider taking a position at the Jewish day school in the wake of Head of School Lynn Heady’s resignation last spring for health reasons.



Tony McLarty

McLarty thought it was a great idea, and last month the Akiva board hired him as the school’s executive director, a new position that oversees administrative operations like human relations, budgeting, fundraising and community relations.

In a letter to Akiva families and supporters, the board said it envisions “a creative partnership” between McLarty and Akiva’s longtime principal, Daniella Pressner.

“Daniella will lead the school academically both in general and Jewish studies, while Tony will administer the school financially, strengthen our overall business operations, and lead the charge in the recruitment of new funds,” the letter said.

In terms of student recruitment, both Pressner and McLarty will work

“side by side” with Admissions Director Christina Evans “as Akiva’s ambassadors to the Jewish community,” the letter said.

McLarty and his wife Patty have been married for 35 years. In addition to a son and a daughter, they have a grandchild.

The board’s letter described the 58-year-old McLarty as an affable, hard-working “mensch” who has served on the boards of the Children’s Hospital at TriStar Centennial and the American Cancer Society. And while he has no background in education, the board noted that he has extensive administrative and executive experience at Delek in human relations, risk management and government and community relations, including raising and distributing the company’s charitable donations – all of which will translate well to his duties at Akiva.

In an interview, McLarty said he was excited about the new position and

recalled how he felt walking into the Akiva kindergarten class on the first day of school:

“It was a like a vacation,” he said. “It made me feel like I have a new purpose in life.”

Thought he is not Jewish, the 58-year-old McLarty was familiar with Akiva through his association with Yemin and has been to Israel numerous times, both on business and personal trips. He said he enthusiastically embraces the school’s mission to promote academic excellence in a pluralistic Jewish environment.

Of course, that doesn’t mean McLarty doesn’t have a slight Jewish learning curve.

Upon finding out the Akiva building is kosher, he went straight to Rabbi Saul Strosberg of Congregation Sherith Israel.

“I told him, ‘Help me understand just what this entails,’” McLarty said. •

Buz-A-Bus

Continued from page 1

Bus-A-Bus committee for the past 10 years. She’ll tell you that no two people have been more central to its success than Bishop, who has been driving the bus for the past 10 years, and his wife, Maureen ‘Mo’ Riley, who has been taking calls from seniors scheduling their rides for 28 years.

“The riders adore them,” said Fishel, “because they treat them like family.”

Rhoda Cooper, who has been riding Buz-A-Bus for three years, said much the same.

“Mo and Doug are so wonderful,” she said. “The way they take care of us – you know it’s not just a job to them.”

Riley has a deep empathy for the Buz-A-Bus riders, some of whom call her occasionally not to schedule a ride but just to chat.

“My father died when I was young and my mother couldn’t drive,” she said. “We lived in a very rural area, so I know what it’s like to need transportation and

to depend on others to provide it. I guess you could say I’m paying it forward.”

Riley had been scheduling Buz-A-Bus rides for almost two decades when her husband started winding down his lawn care and landscaping business. She persuaded him to become one the program’s two part-time drivers, and he has since become its sole driver.

“I like to say the worst part is the traffic and the best part is the people,” Bishop said.

One of his regulars, for instance, is Joe Mazer, a native of New York who tells stories about attending baseball games at Yankee stadium and seeing Babe Ruth play.

“What other job could you have and here stories like that,” Bishop said.

Bishop makes it a point to be cheerful and joke with his passengers. “I try to have fun with them. They don’t need to be around grumpy people.”

When the NCJW started Buz-A-Bus in 1973, the initial response to the service was tepid, and Riley said that may



Rhoda Cooper and Fred Prozeralik ride the Buz-A-Bus each Thursday for the TGIT lunch program for seniors at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. “They take care of us,” Cooper said of Bishop and his wife, Maureen Riley, the Buz-A-Bus scheduler.

have been because the rides were free.

“The seniors didn’t want to be seen as taking charity,” she said. When a 25-cent fee was instituted, the program “really took off.” The cost is still only \$1 each way.

It wasn’t long before the Buz-A-Bus became a fixture on the streets of Nashville as it ferried seniors between their homes and the Gordon Jewish Community Center, synagogues, grocery stores, the doctor’s office and social outings. Among the frequent early users were the Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union who settled in Nashville.

With the initials “NCJW” emblazoned on both sides, the Buz-A-Bus became the flagship program of the local organization and a point of pride among its members. That has made the decision to end service even more difficult, said Fishel.

But the results of a study by a joint NCJW-Federation committee made clear there was little choice. Declining ridership and rising costs – including the need to replace the aging bus – meant the program was “no longer viable,” the NCJW co-presidents said in their letter to members.

The committee identified a number of factors contributing to the decline in regular riders to 25, only 11 of whom are Jewish:

- The senior population has spread out beyond the Buz-A-Bus service area, reducing the potential ridership and

making scheduling more difficult.

- Increased traffic has made rides longer.
- Many seniors now live in retirement homes that provide transportation.

But there are alternatives transportation services for seniors. Shalom Taxi, a three-year-old program of the Federation and GJCC, offers highly subsidized taxi rides to seniors 65 and over who are members of the Jewish community or the GJCC. Many seniors also can qualify for AccessRide, a door-to-door service offered by the he Nashville Metropolitan Transportation Authority for those who are unable to access regular Metro bus service.

And the Middle Tennessee Council on Aging is expected to launch a new transportation service next year that will use an online format to connect seniors seeking rides to volunteers who are willing to provide them. Modeled after successful programs in places as diverse as Austin, Texas and Blount County, Tennessee, the program is a kind of volunteer Uber service, said Pam Kelner, executive director of Jewish Family Service in Nashville and a member of the Council on Aging committee overseeing the initiative.

Still, the end of the Buz-A-Bus era is bittersweet for Riley, Bishop and the riders who use it.

“It has been an honor and a privilege to serve these people,” Riley said. •

Close call in softball



The Gordon Jewish Community team made the Warner Park Softball League’s championship round for the eighth year in a row, but lost to red-hot team from St. Matthew Catholic Church. The GJCC team started as the No. 6 seed and defeated teams from Woodmont Baptist Church, Bellevue Presbyterian Church and St. Henry Catholic Church to advance to the championship round. They lost 12-7 St. Matthew, forcing a second game, which they lost 21-10. The Warner Park Softball league is comprised of eight teams from seven organizations. Since 2001, the GJCC team has made it to the championship 11 times, winning seven titles. Pictured here are (front row, from left) Chad Hornick, Dave Kellman, Chip Weinstein, Dave “D-Ray” Brown and Jonah Neuman and (back row, from left) player coach Andy Neuman, Joseph Levy, Jarad Garshnick, Nate Nicholson, Blake Hammons, Rich “The Berks” Berkman, Billy Jacobs, Ty Gottstein, Alex Rotker and Jon Rotker. Team members not pictured are Jon Eisen, Steve Eisen, Daniel Jacobs, Brad Paxton and Scott Zuckerman.

A letter to the chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Dear Chancellor Cheek:

On behalf of The Jewish Federations of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, Memphis, Chattanooga and Knoxville, we are writing to share our collective serious and ongoing concerns about the anti-Semitic and anti-Israel social media postings by current and former students of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK). All four of our Jewish communities have strong ties to the University and many of our constituents have been in contact with us to express their anger, disappointment and worry about these incidents and UTK's official response. We are deeply troubled by recent events and we insist the University act swiftly and forcefully to condemn this hateful, anti-Semitic language in clear and unambiguous terms.

We have been disappointed with the tepid response from UTK officials thus far, which has sought to downplay the postings by pointing out, for example, that "just six of our students" are involved and "none of the statements included in the story (appearing in *The Algemeiner*) was made on behalf of any of our student organizations." To the first argument we say six students are six too many. To the second we point out that most of these students hold significant leadership positions in Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and/or the Muslim Students' Association (MSA). Stori Nuri, for example, is the President of SJP, and is listed as a key contact for the MSA on the UTK Campus. Ms. Nuri is openly and actively associated with both groups and as a public figure she is clearly associated with, and is perceived as speaking for, these organizations.

There is also the argument of free speech, a right that we, too, hold sacrosanct. However, Jewish students have rights as well – including the right to a hate-free campus where they feel safe and that their faith is acknowledged – not derided by statements blasted out over social media like "Your daily reminder that Israel is a piece of s**t."

We insist that UTK officials immediately issue a markedly stronger response that denounces this kind of bigotry against the Jewish people and/or Israel – whether by students currently affiliated with the University, or those who have graduated and moved on. This situation has profoundly troubled our four Jewish communities and we look to you to provide leadership to right these egregious wrongs.

You may direct your response to this letter to Abbie Wolf, Director of Community Relations at the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee by email at abbie@jewishnashville.org.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Perlen, President, Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee
Mark S. Freedman, Executive Director, Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee

Michael Greenberg, Chair, Memphis Jewish Federation
Laura Linder, President and CEO, Jewish Community Partners and Memphis Jewish Federation

Lee Brouner, Chair, Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga
Michael Dzik, Executive Director, Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga

Adam Brown, President, Knoxville Jewish Alliance
Deborah Oleshansky, Executive Director, Knoxville Jewish Alliance

Editor's note: In early August, several Jewish community leaders in Tennessee received a series of emails from community members concerned about an article in the *Algemeiner*, a print and digital Jewish newspaper. The article outlined anti-Semitic, anti-Israel and racist social media posting by current and former students at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Examples included tweets such as "Jew test: throw a pen[n] and if they pick it up they're a Jew" and "Hitler had a lot of great ideas. We need a guy like that in the white house [sic]." The article was based on information uncovered by the organization Canary Mission, a database and blog that says its mission is to "document people and groups that are promoting hatred of the USA, Israel and the Jewish people, particularly on college campuses in North America." In response, Abbie Wolf, community relations director for the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, composed the following letter to UT Chancellor Jimmy Cheek on behalf of the communal leaders of Tennessee's four largest cities.

As a side note, the executive director of the Knoxville Jewish Alliance, Deborah Oleshansky, who ran the UTK Hillel for many years, has assured parents, students and others that despite these tweets, "Jewish student continue to report that they have not experienced any type of anti-Semitism directed at them personally by these groups. UTK Hillel will continue to support and protect all Jewish students and provide a warm and nurturing 'home away from home' during their time here."

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



THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

A Social Action Discussion



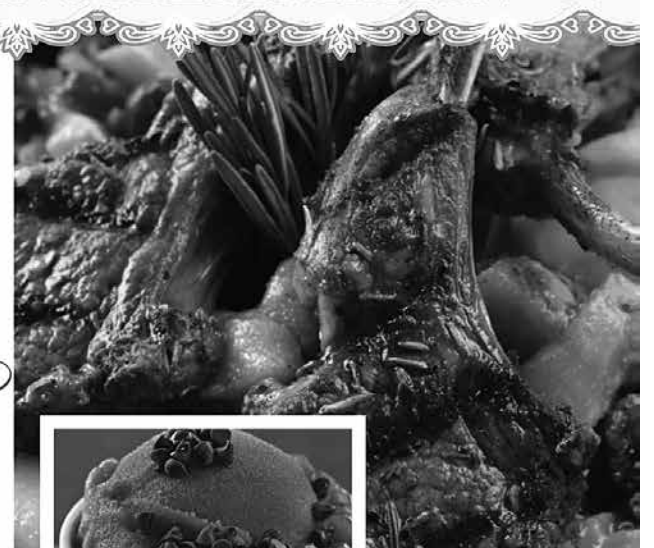
Three current or former Jewish Metro Council members discussed how their Jewish upbringings and values inform their decisions as public servants during a recent membership meeting of the Nashville Jewish Social Justice Roundtable. The panelists – Jim Shulman (from left), Sheri Weiner and Ronnie Steine, along with moderator Irwin Venick – also gave suggestions about how to successfully advocate with public officials on NJSJR issues and positions. Their advice: learn the issues that are before the council, attend public meetings, be a resource for council members, and get appointed to city boards and commissions. About 40 people attended the meeting at West End Synagogue. Anyone interested in NJSJR can go to JSJRnashville.org to read the current position statements and join the group.

The Observer is online at
www.jewishobservernashville.org

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Invite a friend for a fun filled evening

@ Micah

A-J Levine will lecture on "How Jews and Christians Misunderstand Each Other"

Vanderbilt professor A-J Levine will give a lecture on Friday, Sept. 9 at Congregation Micah entitled "How Jews and Christians Misunderstand Each Other."

The 6 p.m. Shabbat service will be followed by dinner in the social hall and then Levine's lecture in the sanctuary. The event will be streamed live. For details see Micah's website at www.congregationmicah.org/.

In her most recent publication, *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*, Levine helps Christians and Jews understand the Jewishness of Jesus so that their appreciation of him deepens and a greater interfaith dialogue can take place.



A-J Levine

Julie Doochin will speak at Micah about prison education

Nashville native Julie Doochin, founder of an effort to provide education opportunities for prison inmates, will speak during the 6 p.m. Shabbat service on Sept. 23.

Doochin, who holds a doctorate in education, founded the Tennessee Higher Education Initiative – THEInitiative – which seeks to allow incarcerated men and women the opportunity to take college courses and earn college credit while serving their sentences. THEInitiative works in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Correction, Nashville State Community College and various colleges and universities in Tennessee in order to make these academic opportunities possible.

Doochin's presentation will include information about the upcoming National Conference on Higher Education in Prison Conference at Belmont University in November.



Julie Doochin

@ Chabad

Celebrity chef Elizabeth Kurtz to host High Holiday cooking demo at Chabad

In celebration of the Jewish New Year, Chabad of Nashville will welcome kosher cooking maven Elizabeth Kurtz to host a pre-High Holiday cooking demonstration at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 21.

Kurtz's demonstration will feature a selection of recipes from her new cookbook, *Celebrate: Food, Family, Shabbat*.

Participants will get to feast on delicious dinner while observing the chef in action, demonstrating the techniques for preparing a High Holiday meal. For more details or to RSVP by Sept. 9, go to chabادنashville.com/kurtz.

Kurtz, who created the popular website www.gourmetkoshercooking.com in 2009, teaches cooking classes, develops recipes, and appears in cooking videos for aol.com, yahoo.com, and justherfood.com. She also writes cooking columns for the Jerusalem Post, Aish.com, and numerous other publications.

"I'm really all about teaching your taste buds," to savor all flavors, not just the overly sweet or overly salty flavors of many foods that Americans are raised eating, said Kurtz, whose new book provides hundreds of recipes as well as instructions for making challah as well as useful tools such as a troubleshooting chart for baking cookies and a chart of kosher meat cuts.



Elizabeth Kurtz

New course at Chabad will use flashcards to teach Hebrew reading

Chabad of Nashville is offering a flashcard-based Hebrew reading course on Tuesday evenings beginning this month.

"Read It In Hebrew" starts on Sept. 6 and runs through Oct. 4. The classes are at 7:30 p.m. Registration is \$49, and each student will receive a set of 70 color Hebrew flash cards. For more information or to register, go to ww.chabادنashville.com/riih or call (615) 646-5750.

The course is targeted to beginners and those who wish to brush up on their reading. The first two lessons of "Read it in Hebrew" focus on the letters of the Hebrew alphabet while the last three lessons introduce vowels and teach students how to read words. The course will be taught by Chabad Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel, who said the course has proven to help many students learn to read Hebrew from the prayer book or a newspaper in just five weeks.

"Many people feel lost in synagogue, because they don't know how to read Hebrew," said Rabbi Tiechtel. "We have found that learning how to read Hebrew strengthens one's feeling of connection to Judaism in a powerful way. 'Read it in Hebrew' fills a tremendous need."

Aleph Champ Hebrew literacy program begins this month for kids 4-13

The Aleph Champion Hebrew literacy program for children will begin at the Bertram and Beatrice King Chabad Hebrew School on Sunday, Sept 11.

The program is open to children between the ages of 4 and 13. For more information, go to www.chabادنashville.com/hebrewschool or call (615) 646-5750.

The Aleph Champ program is structured much like a traditional martial arts system, using different colors to represent a hierarchy of levels in proficiency that allows students to work at their own pace and master one level before moving on to the next.

Each class at the Chabad Hebrew school will be spending 45 minutes each Sunday in the 'Aleph Champ' room, where they will be divided into small groups according to their colors, or levels. Each group will be working under the guidance of veteran educator Esther Tiechtel, acquiring new reading skills and reinforcing these skills to mastery.

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the Jewish Observer

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To access the Community Calendar,
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and click on "Calendar."

@ West End

"Nashville Sings the Psalms" concert set for Sept. 12 at WES

The Nashville chapter of the American Guild of Organists joins West End Synagogue this month in hosting area houses of worship in a concert of Psalms from various liturgical traditions.

"Nashville Sings the Psalms" will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 12 at West End. The free concert will showcase a shared spiritual heritage, the diversity of musical interpretations of the Psalms and the way that the Psalms have shaped worship.

Rev. Cummings to Speak on Social Justice at West End Synagogue

Rev. Judy Cummings will address social justice issues related to affordable housing, economic equity and criminal justice during Shabbat services on Saturday, Sept. 24 at West End Synagogue.

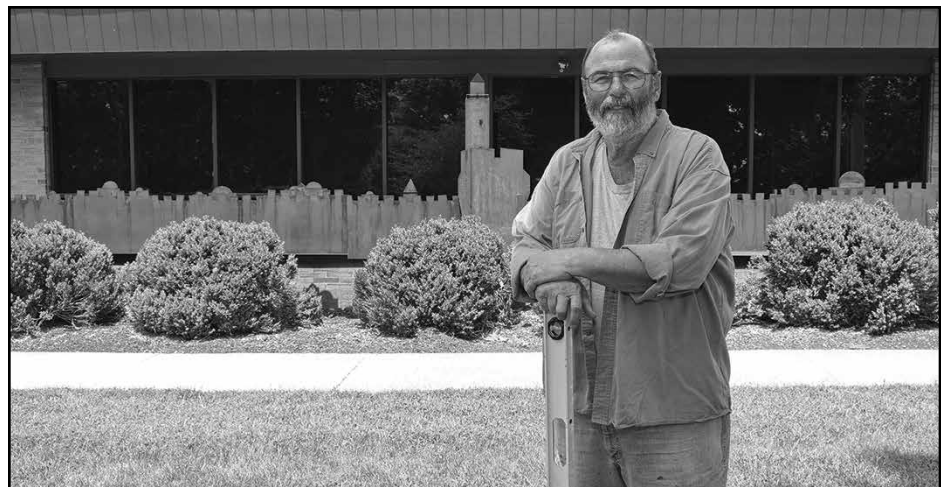
Rev. Cummings's will deliver her remarks about 11 a.m. The talk is open to the whole community.

Rev. Cummings, senior pastor at New Covenant Christian Church and a board member of Nashville Organized for Action and Hope (NOAH), is a dynamic speaker and an advocate for justice who has worked diligently in Nashville in many capacities. A graduate of the 2013 Leadership Nashville Class, Rev. Cummings has served on community boards and organizations, including Women in Numbers (past president), the Metropolitan Planning Commission, the Moving Forward Transit Initiative (task force co-chair), and the Interdenominational Ministers Fellowship (immediate past president).

Among her numerous awards, Dr. Cummings was an one of six 2015 YWCA Women of Achievement honorees.

"We are honored to host Rev. Cummings at West End Synagogue," said Rabbi Joshua Kullock. "Creating gateways for meaningful conversations is part of our mission, and we believe Rev. Cummings will add an important voice in our involvement with the challenges facing Nashville as the city grows."

A Jerusalem silhouette at WES



Sculptor Alex Limor stands with the oxidized carbon steel sculpture he created that runs along the windows near east entrance at West End Synagogue. "I was challenged with finding a way to add security to the administration offices facing West End Avenue without broadcasting the intent," he said. "What I designed was a silhouette of Yerushalayim ... highlighted by the tower of David in the center." Limor and his late father and brother, Irvin and Victor Limor, have created a number of enhancements to West End over the past five decades: the Aron Kodesh doors and the "Exodus" wall sconce in the lobby by Irvin, the bimah lectern and the chanukiah by Victor, and the bimah rails, guest book stand in the lobby, and rails in the east chapel by Alex. (Photo by Rick Malkin)

Learn & Lunch returns to West End Synagogue

Rabbi Joshua Kullock will be the speaker on Wednesday, Sept. 14 when West End Synagogue and Congregation Sherith Israel resume their regular Lunch & Learn program.

Rabbi Kullock will speak from 11a.m.-noon, followed by a kosher lunch catered by Goldie Shepard from noon-1p.m.

The cost of the lunch is \$3. Please RSVP by calling (615) 269-4592 or emailing linda@westendsyn.org.

Selichot Services

In the lead up to the High Holidays next month, Nashville congregations will be holding traditional Selichot services in which penitential poems and songs are recited and sung focusing on God's attributes of mercy. A full listing of events and services at local synagogues related to Rosh Hashona and Yom Kippur will appear in next month's issue of The Observer.

The Temple and West End Synagogue will hold a joint Selichot service at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24 at West End, 3810 West End Ave.

The service, which is open to everyone, will consist of a musical journey through some of the core parts of the liturgy for the day. The evening will include reflections on the key ideas and values of the season as well.

A dessert reception will follow.

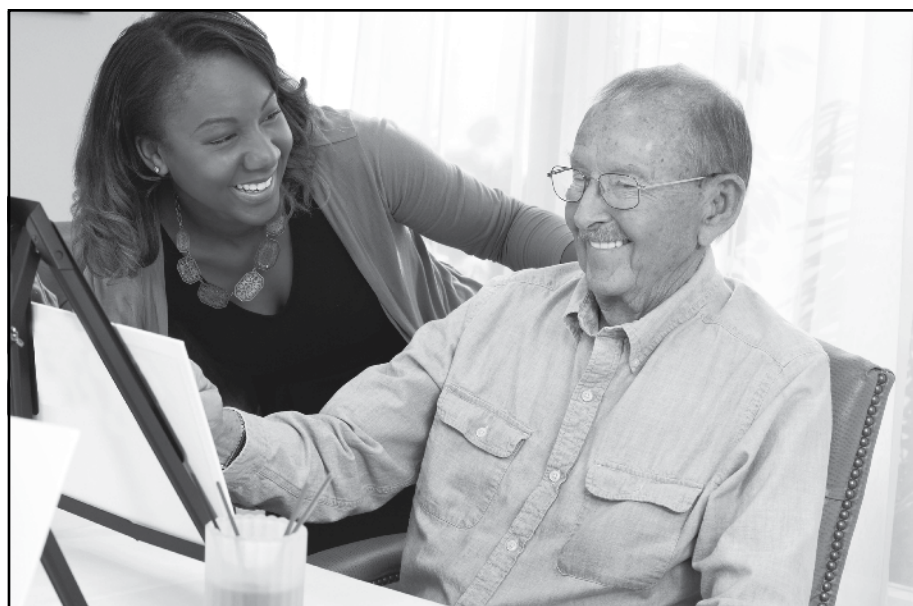
Congregation Micah will hold a Selichot service at 8 p.m. on Sept. 24. The service will be a contemplative musical prelude to the High Holidays featuring Lisa Micah cantorial soloist Silver, Micah composer-in-residence Michael Ochs, and singer-songwriter Batsheva.

A service will be followed by a dessert oneg.

Congregation Sherith Israel and Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad will hold a joint Selichot service at 11:30 p.m. Saturday Oct. 1.

The service will be at Congregation Beit Tefilah, 95 Bellevue Road, and will be led by Cantor George Lieberman of Sherith Israel. Rabbi Saul Strosburg of Sherith Israel will play variations of the Selichot melodies on the keyboard. This is the second year that the two congregations are joining together for the Selichot service.

The Selichot service will be preceded by a Hasidic *farbrengen*, a gathering in which stories of Hasidic masters will be shared along with a bit of P'chaim to warm the soul for beginning of the High Holiday season. It will be led by Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel of Beit Tefilah, and Rabbi Shlomo Rothstein of Chabad at Vanderbilt.



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Nashville contingent returns from Maccabi Games with great memories

By **ANDREW SCHULMAN**

Team Nashville had a successful week at the JCC Maccabi Games in Columbus, Ohio earlier this summer.

Ellie Hornick, Annie Jacobs, Anna Schwarcz, Ilanit Sedek, Jordan Marger, Ally Solomon, Emna Rudy Srebnik and Zachary Kammer attended the games in July along with coach Sheri Rosenberg and delegation head Andrew Schulman.

The Nashville contingent participated in volleyball and swimming. The three swimmers Ally, Emna Rudy and Zac combined for more than 20 medals. And while the volleyball team didn't medal, they had a blast on and off the court.

"The Maccabi Games ... was an experience of a lifetime! I loved that it didn't matter how well we did or didn't play, that wasn't the primary focus," said Jordan, who was on the volleyball team. "It was being amidst hundreds of other Jewish teens and in the end, walking away with friendships that will last a lifetime. I look forward to Maccabi 2017 and reconnecting with them all... and yes, playing a little bit of volleyball too!"

Jordan's mother Victoria and her grandparents were in Columbus and made for a great cheering section.

"I will not soon forget what the Maccabi games offered to my daugh-



Nashville teens Ally Solomon (from left), Jordan Marger, Emma Rudy Srebnik, Ellie Hornick, Annie Jacobs, Ilanit Sedek and Zachary Kammer get ready to fly home after participating in the JCC Maccabi Games in Columbus, OH. Not pictured is Anna Schwarcz, who left a day earlier.

ter and her fellow teammates," Victoria said. "They felt a sense of inclusion, belonging, and friendship. While watching them compete, it became obvious that they were not only becoming better athletes, but also that of friends."

The Nashville contingent has already had its first "reunion" at the

Schwarcz household, laughing, talking and expressing their excitement about their experiences and anticipating next year's Maccabi Games in Birmingham.

The Nashville team's trip to Columbus was underwritten by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. •



Ally Solomon and Emma Rudy Srebnik celebrate after a swim at the JCC Maccabi Games.

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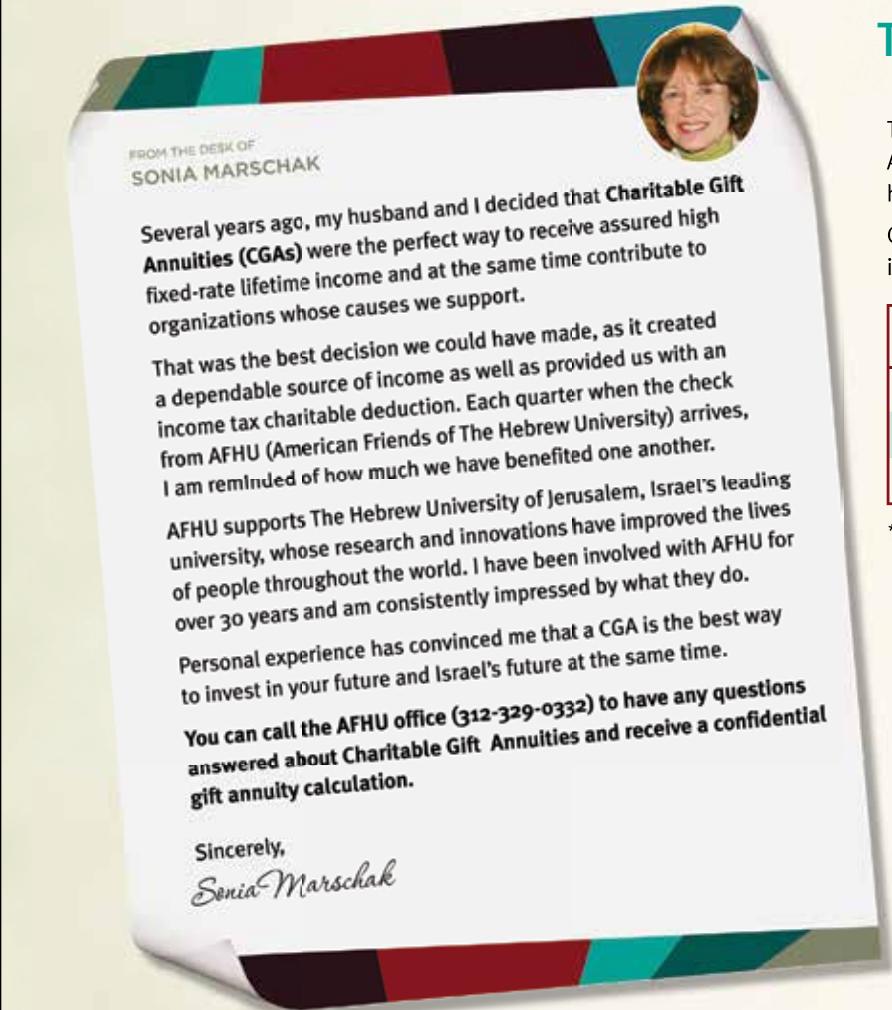
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the
Jewish Observer

Grins: Kosher vegetarian fare for all since 2002

Grins Vegetarian Café, which opened in 2002, is located on the Vanderbilt University campus in the Schulman Center for Jewish Life; our kosher certification is provided by Rabbi Saul Strosberg of Congregation Sherith Israel.

A member of the Bongo Java family of restaurants, we are lucky to be included in the Vandy Student Meal Plan. This keeps us busy when students are in town. (Grins operates only during the school year.) You'll find us open Monday through Thursday for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and Friday for breakfast and lunch only. While our clientele is mostly Vanderbilt students and faculty, Grins welcomes everyone in search of fresh kosher vegetarian fare and offers enough metered parking to accommodate all non-Vanderbilt guests.

Our regular menu features grilled sandwiches, made-from-scratch soups and salads, and vegan cookies and muffins that are so good you'll order them for an appetizer. Our daily specials include choices like chile relleno, szechwan noodles and Indian veggie curry, and are posted daily at bongojava.com. Check us out on Instagram at [grinsvegcafe](https://www.instagram.com/grinsvegcafe) for colorful photos, and on Facebook at Grins Vegetarian Café.

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Trattoria Il Mulino: Authentic Italian cuisine with a Music City flair

Trattoria Il Mulino is a spinoff of New York City's famous Il Mulino restaurant. Located in the Nashville Hilton Downtown, the cuisine is modeled on the original Il Mulino restaurant menu created by New York chef Michele Mazza.

Nashville's Trattoria Il Mulino's executive chef Thomas Cook draws upon his experience and adds local flair, resulting in an exceptional and delectable experience unique to the Music City. The restaurant design effortlessly combines old-world architectural elements that evoke authentic Italian trattorias with sleek, modern accents such as sculptural light fixtures, brick pizza oven, and beautiful outdoor patio. Trattoria Il Mulino Nashville recently earned the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence for its outstanding wine program.

Sperry's Restaurant: 42 years of impeccable food and service

Sperry's Restaurant is a timeless Nashville tradition and award-winning, family-owned dining destination with locations in heart of Belle Meade and Cool Springs.

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In addition to being one of the best steakhouses in Southeast, Sperry's boasts an extensive wine list with more than 188 selections as well as a weekly happy hour that features unbeatable deals on martinis, wines, spirits and small-plate food options, fondly called Burton's Bites after owner Al Thomas' grandfather, Burton Sperry.

Must-try menu items at Sperry's include delicious beef entrees, its famous salad bar with home-made green goddess dressing, and the bananas foster dessert. Sperry's Restaurants are located at 5109 Harding Road just past the Belle Meade Plantation and in Cool Springs at 650 Frazier Drive next to Thomasville Furniture. Be sure to visit the newly opened Sperry's Mercantile Meat and Seafood Market behind the Belle Meade restaurant for fresh steaks, seafood, sides, dressings and more. Sperry's Mercantile is open Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

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RED Spirits & Wine: Staying the course

This month marks our five-year anniversary at RED Spirits & Wine. They say that time flies when you are having fun, and it's true because it has been a pleasure for us to serve the Bellevue and the Nashville community.

While many things have changed, our mission at RED remains constant, which is to provide the finest selection of product choices in a modern atmosphere along with the best customer experience in the industry.

As we begin our sixth year of service, we invite you to enjoy shopping with us in-store as well as exploring new conveniences with special event planning and delivery services to compliment the best in wines, spirits, beer, mixers and cigars for any occasion.

Thank you for choosing RED!

Continued on page 15

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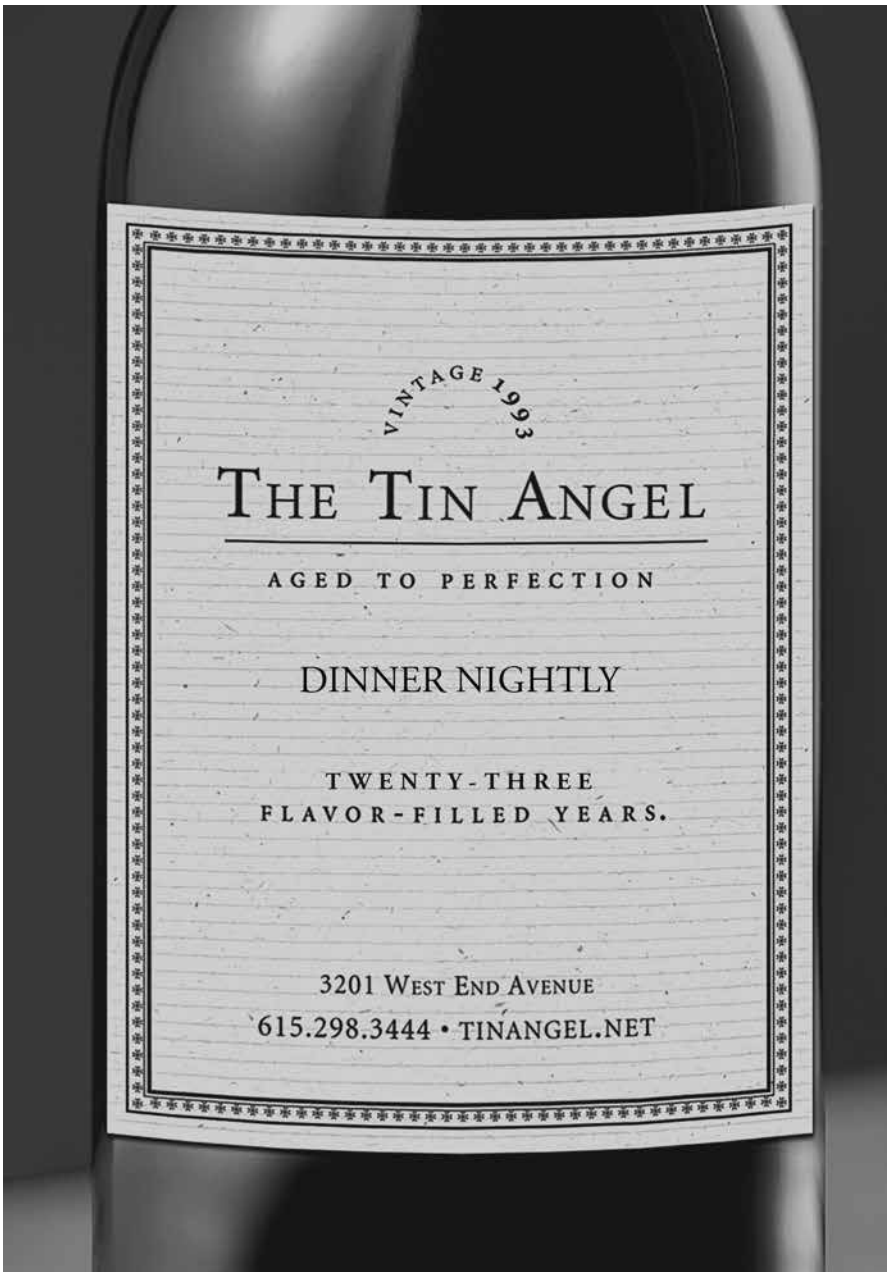
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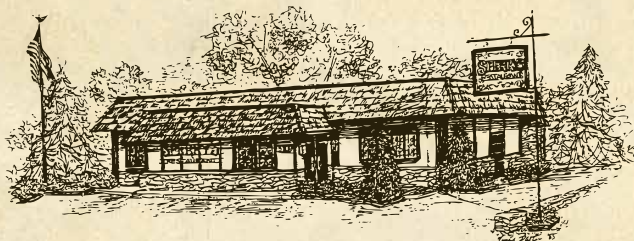
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Continued from page 13

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Continued on page 16

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Dickey's Barbecue Pit in Nashville serves authentic, Texas-style barbecue featuring signature slow-smoked brisket as a top seller. Owner/operators David and Ashley Mullins opened the barbecue hot spot in last January and are passionate about serving the Nashville community the highest quality food at the best possible price.

Both with restaurant backgrounds, David and Ashley decided to become business owners and researched franchise concepts before making a decision. After the first taste of Dickey's barbecue, the couple knew that the barbecue brand was the right investment at the right time for Music City.

David and Ashley have a sense of pride every time they rub a brisket with Dickey's signature rub, place it in the barbecue pit and slow smoke it overnight for 14 hours. The pride comes from the passion for their craft and for their community, and they hope to continue to serve great barbecue to Nashville for many years to come.

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With passionate attention to detail, Porta Via's culinary team make all pastas, sauces and soups daily from scratch, using only the highest quality, freshest ingredients. Imported 00 flour, San Marzano tomatoes, and mozzarella di bufala are found in recipes that have been handed down from generation to generation. What's more, Porta Via is the only restaurant in Tennessee and just the 350th in the world to be certified by the Associazione Verace Pizza Napoletana for preserving the art and tradition of Neapolitan pizza making.

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Calvin Trillin on civil rights, his Jewish background and the art of reporting

By CURT SCHLEIER

(JTA) — Writer Calvin Trillin may be most famous today for his humorous musings on food, family, travel and love.

But before he won the Thurber Prize for Humor in 2013; before “Uncivil Liberties,” his humor column for The Nation; before becoming known as the “Deadline Poet” for penning tongue-in-cheek rhymes with a political edge, Trillin was one of America's great long-form journalists.

“I think a lot of non-fiction reporting is in the details,” Trillin says of his craft. “When I talk to a journalism class and someone asks, ‘How you go about describing a town or community?’ I use the old ‘*ma nishtanah*’ method: ‘Why is this place different from all other places?’”

Trillin, 80, began his career at Time magazine, where he covered the civil rights movement from the Atlanta bureau. In 1963, he became a staff writer for *The New Yorker*, where his earliest article, about the two black students who integrated the University of Georgia, became his first book, *An Education in Georgia*.

His latest, *Jackson, 1964: And Other Dispatches from Fifty Years of Reporting on Race in America*, which came out earlier this summer, is a collection of articles he's written since then. They run the gamut from a 1964 story about New Orleans' Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club, an African-American krewe that marches in blackface during Mardi Gras, to a 1995 piece about the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission, which in the 1960s and '70s sent investigators to look into the ethnic background of suspected biracial infants.

The highly readable stories remain topical today. And taken as a whole, the book is a reminder of how graceful and seemingly effortless his prose is. Trillin has perfected the technique of exploring broad societal issues while training a close lens on a narrow yet compelling subject.

Trillin was born in 1935, in Kansas City, “Missoura,” as he calls it, traces of his Midwestern accent still in place. His father, Abe, an immigrant from Kiev — later the subject of his book “Messages From My Father” — was determined that Bud, as Calvin is known, would remember he is both Jewish and an American. Abe had read “Stover at Yale,” a 1912 popular novel about undergraduate life at the school, and was determined his son would become a true American and go to college there.

Trillin did. And on a whim, he signed on to be a reporter for the Yale Daily News. Though he says he had no previous inclination toward journalism, Trillin took to it quickly.

He eventually became the paper's chairman, a post once held by Time magazine founder Henry Luce. Tradition at the time was that all Daily News chairmen — and they were only men then — auto-

matically received an internship at Time. Trillin impressed the powers-that-be and landed the Atlanta bureau job.

Being in the South put Trillin in the middle of the biggest story of the time: Between school desegregation battles, sit-ins and boycotts, he was full-time on what he calls “the seg beat.” That experience reaffirmed his career choice, he says.

“I found what I really liked was reporting not on celebrities or politicians, but regular people involved in sort of dramatic situation,” Trillin says.

One of his major concerns was remaining objective, not locking arms with protesters and singing “We Shall Overcome,” and Trillin says his impulse to cover these stories was at least partially motivated by his Jewish upbringing.

“I can't say I wasn't brought up in a culture where ‘schvartze’ wasn't used as a synonym for maid, as in, ‘Don't bother with the dishes, the schvartze will do them tomorrow,’” he said. “[But]

in my home, I think there was sort of a general feeling about justice and people's rights.”

As it happens, his Judaism also impacted his humor writing. In fact, Trillin first realized he was funny in Hebrew school.

“I'd been a pretty quiet child,” he recalls. “But when we got to the part in the Bible where it says, ‘If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning and let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth,’ I stood up and said, ‘If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning’ with my right hand laying there kind of helpless. And then I said, ‘Wet my tongue kweave to duih woof of my mouf.’”

“I got a big laugh and, I believe, kicked out of the class,” he adds.

As a break from his long, serious articles, he started writing light, funny pieces that the *New Yorker* calls “casuals.” These attracted the attention of Victor Navasky, the editor of *The Nation* and a former Yale classmate, who asked him to start a humor column. (He refers to *The Nation* affectionately as “a pinko magazine published on cheap paper that paid him ‘in the high two figures.’”) Several variations of the column ran under different auspices (including in *Time*) from 1978 through 2001.

Since 1990, he's also become known as the “Deadline Poet,” writing short — usually political — verses for *The Nation*. One of the latest:

The comics used to say of Trump, ‘His childish boasts, his hair, his money Will surely give us lots of laughs.’ But now, alas, he's not so funny. While rereading his old ‘seg beat’ stories recently, Trillin realized that something else was ‘not so funny.’

“I was surprised a little bit,” he says, “how a lot of them could have been written today.” •



Calvin Trillin says Judaism impacted his humor writing and he first realized he was funny in Hebrew school. (Photo by Richard Stamelman)



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Film festival will include “Surviving Skokie” recounting survivor community’s response to neo-Nazi intimidation

By CHARLES BERNSEN

During her nearly five years as managing director of the Nashville Jewish Film Festival, Fran Brumlik has screened hundreds of films, including dozens about the Holocaust and its aftermath.

But few have drawn a more visceral response than “Surviving Skokie,” the 2015 documentary that recounts the furor surrounding a neo-Nazi group’s attempt in the late 1970s to stage a march through the suburban Chicago community that was home to an estimated 7,000 Holocaust survivors.

“It brought me back right away,” said Brumlik, who was a vice president of the Kaplan Jewish Community Center board in Skokie at the time. “I remembered how frightening it was for the community ... to think that Nazis were going to march through the streets of this quiet little suburb where everyone felt so safe.”

“Skokie” is one of 15 films that will be featured during the 16th annual Nashville Jewish Film Festival from Oct. 19-Nov. 12. Its co-director and cinematographer, Eli Adler, will be on hand for question-and-answer session following the Nov. 1 screening at the newly renovated Belcourt Theatre.

Adler said in an interview that the genesis for “Skokie” dates to 2009 when a friend from Chicago sent him an article about the opening of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie.

“Having grown up in Skokie as the child of a Holocaust survivor, this naturally piqued my interest,” he said. “The more I looked into the story, the stronger my desire to make a film about this became. It also seemed quite relevant to me in light of contemporary issues that were facing Jews around the world.”

What’s interesting about “Skokie” is that so little of the film actually deals with the attempt by Frank Collins, founder of the National Socialist Party of America, to stage a march in Skokie or the legal and communal resistance that eventually forced him to hold a small demonstration in a Chicago park instead. Indeed, the issue of the march itself is resolved in the first half of the film.

The real focus of Skokie is on the unintended consequences of Collins’ effort to intimidate a community of survivors, many of whom had suppressed memories of the Holocaust and rarely



With his son Eli at his side, Holocaust survivor Jack Adler stands at the infamous gate to Auschwitz, where he had been imprisoned 68 years earlier. Adler’s poignant visit to Poland for the first time since World War II is recounted in his son’s documentary “Surviving Skokie.”

spoke about them to their families and neighbors. Adler himself acknowledges in the film that as a child he had only been vaguely aware of why his family was “different.”

“Skokie” chronicles how the march controversy transformed the community, giving rise to a survivor movement that champions Holocaust remembrance and education.

“The notion that this could happen again in their newly adopted country prompted many of them to speak up and speak out about racism and bigotry in all its forms,” Adler said. “They suddenly discovered the need to educate those who knew nothing or very little about the Holocaust. The Illinois Holocaust Museum is a direct byproduct of this desire to educate. I believe that if Collin knew this might happen, he would never have targeted Skokie.”

The film includes an interview with one of the players in the events who points out this very irony by paraphrasing Joseph’s words to his brothers in Genesis 50: “You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good.”

Paralleling the awakening of the Skokie’s survivor community is the personal transformation of Adler’s father, Jack Adler, who is the emotional focus of the film. A survivor who lost his entire family in the Holocaust, Adler had long kept his story buried and hidden from others, including his son.

In the wake of the march controversy, however, the elder Adler became an outspoken Holocaust educator, and

much of the last half of the “Skokie” recounts his return to his home in Poland to confront his past and speak with young people participating in the March of the Living. The return is doubly emotional because Eli Adler accompanies his father and becomes part of the story.

“I had planned to join my father in Poland on the March of the Living documenting his journey through the ghettos and camps that made up a large part of his youth,” Adler said. “My co-producer, Blair Gershkov, convinced me that it would be prudent to hire a local crew so that I could become part of the story.”

Though he initially resisted – “I’ve

always felt more comfortable behind the camera than in front of it,” he said – Adler is glad he eventually yielded. “I think that decision has helped to make Surviving Skokie as powerful as it is,” he said.

“I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to visit my father’s hometown with him. Many of my friends who are children of survivors never had that chance.

“Seeing his apartment and the ghettos he lived in with his family helped me add flesh to the stories I’ve heard from him I also discovered a new found respect for my father and the work he does with young people.” •



When: Oct. 19-Nov. 12

Tickets: \$12 per screening (\$8 for students and seniors), \$150 for a pass to all screenings, \$250 for a pass to all screenings and special events*

Opening night, Oct. 12: 6 p.m. dinner and cocktails at Cabana, screening of “To Life!” at 7:30 p.m., Belcourt Theatre

Closing night, Nov. 12: 6:30 p.m. deli dinner at the Gordon Jewish Community Center, screening of “The Pickle Recipe” at 8 p.m., GJCC

*For more information about the films, schedule, sponsorships, ticket packages and passes visit nashvillejff.net or call Fran Brumlik at (615) 356-7170 Ext. 1628. Tickets and passes can be purchased online at www.belcourt.org.

Jerusalem’s Ramban Synagogue is first Orthodox shul in Israel to hire woman as spiritual leader

In a first for an Orthodox congregation in Israel, a woman has been hired as a spiritual leader at a Jerusalem synagogue.

Karmit Feintuch will serve at the Ramban Synagogue alongside Rabbi Benny Lau and will have the title “rabbanit.” The story was first reported last month by The Jerusalem Post.

A committee of the religious Zionist synagogue in the Katamon neighborhood unanimously approved the hiring earlier this month, according to The Post. Feintuch, who has

served as an educator at the Migdal Oz seminary in the West Bank since 2008, is expected to start this month. She will deal “with all aspects of the spiritual life of the community and the connection between man and God,” Rabbi Lau said.

Feintuch will be the first female communal leader at an Orthodox synagogue in Israel, according to The Post. In 2015, Jennie Rosenfeld became the first female communal spiritual leader to serve the Orthodox community of the West Bank settlement of Efrat. •

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By: Yoni Glatt, koshercrosswords@gmail.com • Difficulty Level: Manageable • Solution on page 22

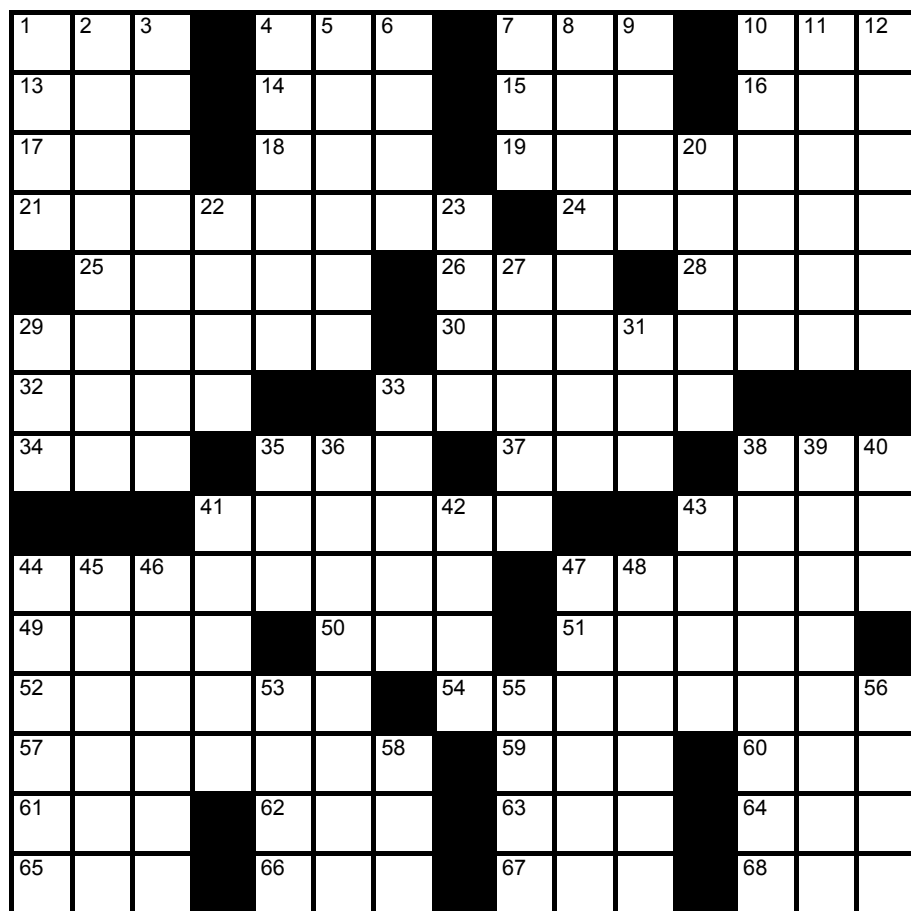
Across

1. Rehovot need?
4. Author Levin
7. Siddur on your phone, e.g.
10. Pose (to a Rabbi)
13. Possible request from this paper's editor: Abbr.
14. It's a candle
15. First word of "Scarborough Fair"
16. Piece on Disraeli, for short
17. Right-wing UK protest group that's pro-Israel
18. Some characters in Spielberg's "The BFG"
19. Like one receiving the Israel Prize
21. Reading of Prophets
24. King Solomon had a magnificent one
25. Gunk in Reitman's "Ghostbusters"
26. It makes Lee's Banner turn into the Hulk
28. Staffs (the INS Lahav)
29. ___ Hadibrot
30. Book that predates the siddur
32. The IDF's HaKirya, e.g.
33. Hachnasat Orchim words
34. Sounds of hesitation by those who don't speak Hebrew so well
35. Plug-___ (some Babylon downloads)
37. Ryan Braun admitted to using (at least) one: Abbr.
38. Reinsdorf's Bulls, on the scoreboard
41. Israeli Mount that's also a Melbourne school
43. City east of Be'er Sheva
44. Prideful song
47. David of NYPD Blue
49. ___ Hara
50. Musician Brian that's anti-Israel
51. Rabbi Kaplan or Minister of the Interior Deri

52. Like Fox (clothing) sales
54. Closing ceremony
57. Not kosher
59. City on Guanabara Bay
60. Compass heading
61. Seinfeld voiced one in 2007
62. Word before Kodesh
63. Transport made by Qoros
64. Jewish school in Riverdale, NY
65. Extra periods for Casspi, for short
66. Tref home?
67. Joel Silver produced "48 ___"
68. "Tevye ___ Milkman"

Down

1. Shalom or shamayim predecessor (in song)
2. Szold's Women's Zionist Organization of America
3. Like Joshua, as a leader
4. It should be tithed
5. Jephthah probably felt it
6. Solo that means "lioness" in Hebrew
7. Ahava spa sound
8. Elisha to Elijah, e.g.
9. Phnom ___, home of Cambodia's Chabad
10. Israel, as a study locale for many 19-year-olds
11. Miller who played Nancy Schultz in "Foxcatcher"
12. ___ HaKodashim
20. TV financial adviser Suze
22. Not something you'd want flat in the Negev
23. Greeting from Kermit or Louis Nye
27. Walkways at Teddy Stadium
29. Monkey of Scott Weinger's "Aladdin"



31. ___ Hanasheh
33. Channel that gave a lot of coverage on Debbie Wasserman Schultz
35. Sound some might make if offered kosher locust
36. Jonathan Tropper or Jonathan Kellerman, e.g.
38. Like the worst villain
39. Part of the new year
40. 1997 Lisa Loeb hit
41. Moses spent some time there
42. "Oy" alternative when erring
43. TV Stark that's a rodef
44. They make a kosher candy line with fish gelatin
45. Zurer of "Shtisel"
46. "Mila 18" and "The Haj", e.g.
47. It's not kosher from a sturgeon
48. Passionate states (in Ecclesiastes, perhaps)
53. Frozen Klein's treats
55. Titus built a notable one
56. Poh
58. Commandment pronoun



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Life in Israel

A beehive of creativity

By **LIBBY WERTHAN**

Israelis know how to have fun. There are street fairs, flower shows, marathons, museums, art exhibits, book fairs, water parks, dare devil sports and film festivals. There are restaurants of all varieties, reflective of the ethnicity of the population. So many things are going on all the time that it is often difficult to decide which to attend.

The world's famous all come to Jerusalem --entertainers, movie stars, heads of state, politicians, writers, and sometimes, the infamous. All this lends an air of excitement to the city. On the other hand, it can be a terrible inconvenience. Most of Jerusalem's streets were originally camel and goat paths, not designed for motorcades and heavy traffic. It is often easier to walk to an appointment than drive.

Israel was only 42 years old when we moved there -- a young country struggling to accommodate thousands of homeless

people, struggling to build an economy, and struggling to protect itself from its enemies. I hardly expected it to have much in the way of a fine arts culture -- music, painting, dance and theater. What I would call the "icing on the cake" of a society.

Imagine my surprise when a plumber came to make some adjustments to our new house on Shimshon Street and, hearing music coming from our stereo (that dates us), turned to me and said, "That's Brahms sonata No. 1. Who is that on the violin?" Okay, maybe it was a fluke, a young Israeli plumber who knows classical music. But then a few days later, I opened the door to a Flying Tiger (Fed Ex) delivery man, and as I was signing for the package, he peered into our living room and exclaimed, "Oh, You have 18th Century English furniture. My wife and I love 18th Century English furniture." Once again, I knew I wasn't in Nashville anymore.

True, the aliyah of Jews from the Soviet Union was happening at the same time as ours and brought with it musicians who enriched our symphony orchestras and some superb athletes,

But my plumber and my deliveryman

were home-grown boys. To my way of thinking, it said a lot about the values and sophistication of this new little country.

We were very fortunate in our choice of residence because we landed in a neighborhood that attracted many artists and sculptors. We were introduced to a woman who lived around the corner. She called herself an independent curator. Every month she would convert her apartment into a gallery and highlight exceptional new young artists. Through her, we were able to secure some wonderful Israeli art. Sometimes you might see a painter or a sculptor hand carrying a work of art from their house to ours.

Over the years we saw great strides made in all the arts -- wonderful writers, actors, dancers, musicians and especially filmmakers.

We became involved with a Jerusalem film school, Maale. Not only does it produce quality films, the school was created to give its religiously observant students a forum to express the concerns of that segment of the Israeli society. Their films highlight real issues and offer a window into both that society and the complexities in the larger society -- whether the

theme is a Shabbat dinner where the younger generation is both religious and secular and still trying to maintain closeness; young soldiers serving at a checkpoint; a rabbi who is so poor, he has to play Santa Claus on Christmas, or a religious man who is trying to come to grips with his illegitimate grandson.

In 1973, a music conservatory, Jerusalem Conservatory Hassadna, was founded in our neighborhood to offer musical training to young people. Today it has 700 students, many from underprivileged families. Last year they won a competition in New York City and recently I got word that the Youth Wind Orchestra won first place at the Summa Cum Laude International Music Festival in Vienna, Austria. A tremendous accomplishment for a grassroots, volunteer created institution. As you can imagine, living in Israel is like living in a beehive of creativity.

Next time, diversity. •

Libby Werthan and her husband, Moshe, lived in Israel for 25 years before returning in 2014 to their native Nashville. "Life in Israel" is a regular column about what it was like living in the Jewish homeland.

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"Gutsy and smart," Jane Eskind's life reflected love of faith, family, community and country

Jane Eskind was remembered on Wednesday, Aug. 10 as a pioneer whose achievements in politics and community affairs were driven by her love and commitment to her faith, family, community and country. She died on Aug. 4 after a long illness.

During the funeral service at Congregation Micah, former Micah Rabbi Ken Kanter eulogized Eskind as a "gutsy and smart" leader who operated at the "unique crossroads of wide-eyed idealism and clear-eyed pragmatism."

All six of her grandchildren spoke lovingly and proudly of their grandmother, whom they routinely referred to by her first name.

"I think she wanted us to call her Jane because she loved idea that we were her peers," said Jeremy Lehman. "She wanted to be approachable rather than authoritarian."

Among the many politicians attending the service were former Vice President Al Gore, former Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen, former U.S. Senator Jim Sasser, U.S. Rep. Jim Cooper and Mayor Megan Barry – a tribute to Eskind's role in Tennessee and national politics for more than four decades.

In 1980, Eskind became the first woman to win a statewide office in Tennessee when she was elected to the Public Service Commission. She later became the first woman to chair the Tennessee Democratic Party.

Noting that his grandmother was often referred to as a pioneer, Lehman

said, "For her, being a pioneer didn't mean being the first to do something but the first to do something with the hope that others will follow."

Rabbi Kanter made a similar point when he closed his eulogy with the biblical account in which the prophet Elisha

succeeds his mentor Elijah, a story that Eskind herself had picked for the service. Just as she had taken up the mantle of those who came before her, Rabbi Kanter said, "she wanted us to know that it's our responsibility to take up her mantle ... and carry it on."

As a leading advocate for progress and social justice, Rabbi Kantar noted, Eskind's mantle included an

impressive array of causes and organizations in which she was active – the Anti-Defamation League, the International Women's Forum, the Women Executives in State Government, for which she was a charter member. She also chaired the Tennessee Commission on the Status of Women from 1979-1980 and was a trustee to the Vice President's Residence Foundation and Brandeis University.

Eskind provided time and energy to many groups, including the boards of Tennessee Tomorrow and NashvilleREAD, a local literacy group. She served as an adviser to Nashville CARES, an HIV-AIDS advocacy group; the Legal Aid Society; the Nashville Institute for the Arts; the League of Women Voters; the Kelly Miller Smith Institute on African-American Church Studies; Family and Children's Services; and New Leadership South. She and her

husband, Richard, also were founding members of Congregation Micah.

In addition to being the first woman elected to the Tennessee Women's Hall of Fame, Eskind was the recipient of lifetime achievement awards from both the Tennessee chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and the YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee as well as the President's Award from the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

A native of Louisville, Ky., Eskind was survived by her husband of more than 62 years, Richard J. Eskind; children Ellen

Lehman and Billy Eskind (Jamie), both of Nashville; brother and sister-in-law, John and Mary Greenebaum of Louisville; sister-in-law Annette Eskind of Nashville; grandchildren Jeremy Lehman, Madeline Eskind, Doni Lehman, Alec Eskind, Isaac Eskind and Jude Eskind; nieces and nephews Steve and Laurie Eskind, Jeff and Donna Eskind, Sam Greenebaum, Anastasia Greenebaum, Elliott Greenebaum, Michael Eskind, Julie Eskind, David Eskind (Megan), Matt Eskind, and Sara Eskind, and by special friends Doris Medlin, Gladys Bender, Kenny Katzoff and Tim Holder. •



Jane Eskind

Panima is taking High Holiday challah orders

A variety of artisan challah is again available for the High Holidays from Panima, a micro-bakery, found by Erika Shuman in 2013.

For the High Holidays, customers can purchase:

- Round Challah, \$6
- Round Challah with Raisins, \$7
- Round Whole Wheat Challah, \$7
- Cinnamon Swirl Challah Loaf, \$7
- Chocolate Swirl Challah Loaf, \$7
- Challah Rolls (8/bag), \$6

Panima also offers 100 percent whole wheat jumbo muffins for \$3 each in the following flavors: apple cinnamon, cranberry, double chocolate chip and zucchini.

Special order flavors such as blueberry, banana and brain and raisin also are available.

To place a High Holiday order, contact Panima at panimabakers@comcast.net or (615) 585-7496. Or you can fill out an order form at the front desk of the Gordon Jewish Community Center and leave it, along with payment, with the receptionist.

Rosh Hashanah orders will be available for pick-up in the lobby of the GJCC on Thursday, Sept. 29 or you can contact Shuman to make alternative delivery/pick-up arrangements.

Panima began in 2013 as a special order bakery but has expanded beyond challah and is now providing hot lunches at Akiva School, which receives a portion of the proceeds from sales. Panima has also baked for many weddings, b'nai mitzvah celebrations, baby namings, simchas and special events throughout Middle Tennessee.

"From day one, we resolved to make only the finest products using only the finest ingredients. It is so rewarding to have so many happy customers come back week after week, year after year," Shuman said. •

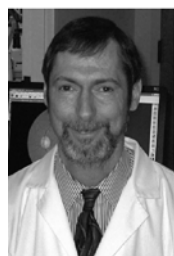
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B'nai Mitzvah

Elliott Flynn Nahmias will be called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 10 West End Synagogue.

Elliott is the son of Sandy and Evan Nahmias and the big brother of Leeds and Noah. His grandparents are Linda Belz Nahmias of Memphis; Susan and the late John Price of The Villages, FL; and Ronnie and Wendy Nahmias of Germantown, TN.

Elliott, a graduate of the Akiva School, is in the eighth grade at Montgomery Bell Academy, where he enjoys learning and competing with its cross country, rowing, rifle, and swim teams. A lover of computers, Pokemon, music, and Nashville hot chicken, Elliott has enjoyed working with West End Rabbis Joshua Kullock and Joshua Barton and Education Director Sharon Paz in preparation for leading the community in prayer and discussing ideas from the Torah.

For his *mitzvah* project, Elliott honors his great grandmothers, Margrite Price and Norma Belz, by leading bingo and spending time with residents at Barton House Memory Care Assisted Living.

Jackson Evans will be called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* during services at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 17 at Congregation Micah.

Jackson is the son of Christina and Todd Evans and the brother of Morgan and Ansley. He is the grandson of Anne and Lawrence Evans of Nashville and the late Elizabeth DiGiovanni and the late Leonard DiGiovanni.

Jackson, an Akiva School graduate, is a seventh grader at University School of Nashville. He is a sports fanatic and enjoys playing soccer, lacrosse, basketball and cheering on The Ohio State University Buckeyes. He loves spending time with his friends and family and looks forward to his summers at Camp Barney Medintz.

For his *mitzvah* project, Jackson is raising money for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America to help support finding a cure for this disease that has hit so close to home.

Tristan Gabriel Numbers will be called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* during services at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24 at Congregation Micah.

Tristan is the son of Natalie Lévy-Sousan and Darrin Numbers and brother to Naomi, Cedric, and Adrienne. He is the grandson of Suzanne Sousan of Nashville and her late husband André Sousan, Jude Wilder-Roberts of Joelton and Donald Numbers of Galway, NY.

Tristan is a seventh grade student at the Jewish Middle School, a pilot school in its second year under the direction of Ron Heady and Rabbi Saul Strosberg. He enjoys pursuing Hebrew and Jewish Studies and helping to shape the future of



Elliott Flynn Nahmias



Jackson Evans



Tristan Gabriel Numbers

this new program. Tristan enjoys reading and spending time with his family and applies himself to a variety of interests including ballroom dance, chess, and piano. He also hunts and is a firearms enthusiast. Tristan has survived six years of cancer treatment for ALL, which did not keep him from exploring his other favorite activities of four-wheeling, fishing, and horseback riding. He even raced cars for two years in a quarter scale mid-gt sprint car!

For his *mitzvah* project, Tristan will be providing Hebrew tutoring at Congregation Micah's religious school as he loves to spend time with younger children and mentor them through education and play. Tristan has also pledged 10 percent of his babysitting earnings over his middle school years to charitable organizations in Israel.

Mazel Tov

... to **Sophie Rapoport and Rabbi Joshua Barton** on the birth of their son, **Levi Peter Barton**, on July 12. Levi, whose Hebrew name is Levi Elitzur, is the grandson of Mark and Anita Barton and Edward Rapoport and Anne-Monique Vos.

Sympathy

... to the family of **Lillian Farkas Shemin**, who died peacefully on July 18 at the Brookdale Belle Meade Senior Living center in Nashville. She was born December 3, 1934 in Moises Ville, Argentina and immigrated to the United States when she was 11.

She was married for 58 years to the late Julius A. Shemin. She is survived by her three children, Randy (Kim), Rochelle Isaacs (Scott), and Robert; grandchildren Alexander and Doran Shemin; her sister, Faye Fischman, and many nieces and nephews. She was a great mother, not only to her own children but to her extended family, and a friend to all. Her wit, humor, family dinners and personality will be missed by all who knew her.

Services were on July 21 at Congregation Micah. Donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association Mid South Chapter, Alive Hospice, or a favorite charity.

... to the family of **Alvin M. Zager**, 81, who died on Aug. 2. Born in Nashville on December 3, 1934, he was preceded in death by his parents, Fannie and Perry Zager, and his brother, Harry Zager. He is survived by a daughter, Penny McPeak; son, Michael Zager (Julie); niece, Valerie Landa (Adam), and four grandchildren, Allison and Samuel Zager and Nelson and Oliver McPeak.

Mr. Zager graduated from West End High School in 1953 and the Vanderbilt School of Engineering in 1957. He worked for Tennessee Department of Transportation for 37 years in the Design Department, the Data Processing Department and the Right-of-Way Division. He retired in 1997 as the state utilities engineer.

Graveside service were on August 4 at the West End Synagogue Cemetery with Rabbi Mark Schiffman of The Temple officiating. Pallbearers were Howard Taradash, Mark Podis, Adam Landa, Morton Stein, Charles Gilbert, Ralph Pilsk and Ted Thaler. Honorary pallbearers were Jack Bern, Karl Peters, Joe Perlen, Allen Klein and Chip Weinstein. Memorial contributions may be made to The Temple.

... to the family **Bernita Kirshner Brown**, 86, of Nashville, who died on Aug. 8 from injuries sustained in a car accident on Aug. 6. Mrs. Brown was born at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville on July 1, 1930, attended Ransom Elementary School, was a 1948 graduate of West End High School, and earned an associate degree from Sullins College, Bristol, VA. She was preceded in death by her parents, William Kirshner of Nashville and Hannah Rosen Kirshner of New York, and by her sisters, Roslyn Lavine of Greensboro, NC, and Adele Pilsk, of San Francisco.

An indomitable extrovert, Bernita took advantage of all life had to offer and bettering the lives of those she touched along the journey. She served as President of The Temple Sisterhood and of the Nashville Area Chapter of Hadassah and as an officer of Hadassah's Southern Region. Bernita was a member of the League of Women Voters, Magazine Circle and an engaging educator about all things Israeli as a volunteer classroom presenter for the Hello Israel program of the Metro Nashville Public Schools.

Bernita is survived by her loving husband of more than 64 years, James H. Brown; sons Jim Maxka (Chris) of Haddonfield Heights, NJ and Daniel B. Brown (Myra) of Atlanta; daughter Valerie Seidner (Baruch Ben Yosef) of Israel; grandchildren Carley and Yehuda Belange, Brian and Ronit Seidner, Zevy and Tair Seidner, Miriam Seidner, Yehuda Seidner, Daniella Seidner and Talia Seidner, all of Israel; Hilary and Nate Schumer of New York, Phoebe Brown of Evanston, IL, and Lili Brown of New York, and seven great-grandchildren.

A graveside service was held on Aug. 9 at The Temple Cemetery. Pallbearers were Nathan Schumer, Seth Pilsk, Eric Pilsk, David Pilsk, Russell Smith, Morris Goldstein, Robert McCullough, and Arthur Perlen. Honorary Pallbearers were Debra and Moshe Steinberg, Berle Pilsk, Fred and Martha Goldner, Dick Eskind, Shirley Zeitlin, Sidney Goldstein, Harris Gilbert, Harris Smith, Judy Smith, Audrey Lavine and Clark Kee, Wendy Lavine, Leon May, Suzanne Brandes, Albee and Jerry Guttman, Alden Kirshner, Martin Levy, Alvin and Ann Stillman, John and Sue Oden.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hadassah, The Temple (Congregation Ohabai Shalom) or Congregation Sherith Israel.

... to the family of **Raye Ann Loskove Greenbaum**, 78, who died peacefully on Aug. 12 in her home surrounded by her family and supported by her many friends.

Raye Ann was born in Memphis, Tennessee on July 6, 1938 and attended Maury Elementary, Snowden Junior High and Central High School. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in 1959.

Preceded in death by her parents, Gertrude and Max Loskove, Raye Ann is survived by her loving husband of 55 years, Ralph Martin Greenbaum; sister, Arlene Averbuch (Jerome) of Huntsville, AL and Nashville; children, Lori Fishel (Brad), Betsy Hoffman (Seth) and Brad Greenbaum (Lisa), all of Nashville, and grandchildren Scott, Max and Jordan Fishel, Gracie and Jonah Hoffman, and Halle Greenbaum.

Raye Ann moved to Nashville in 1967, where she and her husband raised their three children. She served on the Temple Board of Trustees and executive committee as well as the boards of the Gordon Jewish Community Center,

Woodmont Country Club, National Council of Jewish Women, Brandeis National Women's Committee, Very Special Arts Tennessee and McNeilly Day Home. Longtime member of Tri-Arts Book Club, Raye Ann was an avid reader and art lover. Mah Jong, golf, music, dancing and entertaining were her favorite activities. Creative and positive, she wrote song parodies for shows, friends and family. Her professional life took her on a variety of paths from elementary school teacher, stock broker, art broker, author and admissions evaluator in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at Vanderbilt University. Raye Ann was a true matriarch who fostered friendship and love with and between her children and grandchildren. Her Friday night dinners were a focal point of her family's week.

Raye Ann was an optimistic, strong leader who was quick to laugh and offer counsel. She lit up a room and her supportive, passionate, and confident disposition was an inspiration for all.

Services were on Aug. 14 at The Temple with burial at The Temple Cemetery. The Pallbearers were her grandchildren, sons-in-law, and daughter-in-law. Honorary pallbearers were Heidi Addelestone, Jerome Averbuch, Judy Barker, Betsy Chernau, Esther Cohn, James Fishel, Royce Fishel, Harris Gilbert, Ellen Jacobs, Kenneth Jacobs, Alvin Mazur, Peggy Mazur, Marcia Moskovitz, Barrett Rosen, Carolyn Rosen, Nan Speller, Jackie Tepper, Barbara Turner, Larry Wolfe, Sally Wolfe, Alice Zimmerman, and Raymond Zimmerman.

The family acknowledges with deep gratitude the loving care of Dr. David Spiegel, Tennessee Oncology, Alive Hospice, Sarah Cannon Cancer Center, Senior Helpers and the clergy of The Temple. Memorial contributions may be made to The Temple, University School of Nashville, or the charity of the donor's choice.

... to the family of **Rita Moskovitz** of Springfield, TN, 82, who died on Aug. 16 surrounded by family and her many friends. She was a beloved teacher, special education pioneer and mentor to many. Mrs. Rita, as her peers and students knew her, started in the teaching profession when special needs students were not yet part of the mainstream school system. She eventually earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee and her master's degree from Austin Peay University while teaching and raising her family. She became a leader and advocate for special education advances in Tennessee. She taught special education in Greenbrier High School for over 30 years and was also a Sunday school teacher at West End Synagogue.

Her most cherished accomplishments, she always said, were the multitude of students, teaching assistants and future teachers that she helped reach their full potential. The entourage of friends, students and associates who rushed to the hospital to say their good-byes in her final hours was a testament to the impact she had on so many lives. And nothing gave her greater pleasure in her life than that brought to her by her three grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Herb. She is survived by her children, Scott (Cindy) and Staci Joyce (Tim); her grandchildren, Andrew (fiancé Erin McCafferty), Lauren Moskovitz and Hadli Joyce, and her sister, Betty Lou Weiss (Walter).

Continued on pages 22

around the town

GJCC offering Whole Health Day on Sept. 25 along with special yoga classes

September is National Yoga Month, and the Gordon Jewish Community Center will participate by holding Whole Health Day on Sunday, Sept. 25.

The 9 a.m.-4 p.m. event will include activities for mind, body and spirit – meditation, nutrition, reflexology and two yoga classes. The cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members.

In addition, there will be two special Sunday yoga classes at the GJCC earlier in the month:

- A flow yoga class with Tony Perrin from 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. on Sept. 11.
- A hatha yoga class with Cynthia Cardeñas from 2-3:15 p.m. on Sept. 18.

For more information or to register, contact Alex Leff, GJCC adult programming coordinator, at alex@nashvillejcc.org.

PJ Library will hold (apple) pickin' party

Just in time for Rosh Hashana, PJ Library will sponsor an apple-picking party this month at Shade Tree Farm and Orchard.

The event will be from 2-4p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 11 at Shade Tree Farm and Orchard at 2087 Kinneys Road in Adams, TN. The cost is \$10 per family.

In addition to the opportunity to pick and take home a bag of apples, the event will include information sessions on apple farming and wagon rides. (Additional bags of apples can be picked for \$5 each.)

Please RSVP to NiliRSVPs@aol.com by Sept. 4.

Hadassah will hold two social events on Labor Day weekend

The Nashville chapter of Hadassah will hold twin events over the Labor Day weekend – one for Young Leaders (members who are in their 20s, 30s and 40s) and the other for Prime Leaders (those who are 50 and over).

On Sunday, Sept. 4, Hadassah's Young Leaders will have a night of chocolate fondue at the Melting Pot restaurant downtown followed by a night on the town, country style. The group will meet at 7 p.m. in the parking lot of West End Synagogue on Richland Avenue, then carpool downtown.

Those who want to participate are asked to RSVP to hadassahnashville@gmail.com. For more information contact Nili Friedman at QueenNili@aol.com or (615) 498-4564.

The next day – Monday, Sept. 5

– Prime Leaders will gather from 10 a.m.-noon at the home of Gay Eisen for a brunch with mimosas and a screening of the documentary "Dressing America: Tales from the Garment Center."

The film explores the role Jewish immigrants had in creating the New York garment center and the founding of many of the great American fashion houses of today. It includes vintage footage, interviews with descendants of early entrepreneurs, and a "backstage" glimpse of contemporary workshops.

The screening will take place in the home theater of the Eisen residence at 524 West Hillwood at the intersection of Darden Street. There is a \$15 cover to cover the cost of brunch. Please RSVP to hadassahnashville@gmail.com. For more information contact Victoria Cohen-Crumpton at vmeltz@bellsouth.net or (615) 646-7918.

Gilda's Club program will discuss preventative surgery to minimize cancer risk

Gilda's Club of Nashville is sponsoring a program this month for women who are considering preventive surgery to minimize the risk of cancer due a compelling family history of the disease.

The program will be from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sept. 19 at Gilda's Club Nashville, 1707 Division St. It will be facilitated by Gabrielle Friedman, Kari de Reisthal, and Tricia Blumenthal, all of whom have personal experience with the issue, did extensive research and made decisions that were best for them. Reserve a space by calling (615) 329-1124 or emailing felice@gildasclubnashville.org.

Enjoy a final splash and party at GJCC outdoor pool on Labor Day

The Gordon Jewish Community Center is having an End-of-Summer Pool Party on Labor Day that will include a live DJ, games and hot dogs.

The event, which will mark the

end of the season for the GJCC's outdoor saltwater pool, is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The building will be open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

GJCC exhibitions will feature Xavier Payne, Teresa Rhea White and art class

The Gordon Jewish Community Center's September art exhibits will feature the work of Xavier Payne, folk artist Teresa Rhea White, and students in Rhonda Wernick's oil painting class.

The exhibits will run from September 1st – 30th.

The Janet Levine March Gallery will feature Payne's "Black-Pop" paintings, which he describes as "an expression of American minority perspective mixed with popular culture." Also in the Levine gallery will be White's original folk-style paintings. This will be the second time her work has been exhibited at the GJCC. The paintings by beginning and intermediate students in Wernick's class will be exhibited in the Sig Held Gallery.

The reception for the artists is 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 14 at the GJCC, 801 Percy Warner Blvd. Complimentary food and wine will be served. For more information, contact called the GJCC at (615) 354-1699 or Curator Carrie Mills at carrie@nashvillejcc.org, or go to www.nashvillejcc.org.

lifecycles

Continued from page 21

A graveside service was held at Congregation Micah on Aug. 19. Honorary pallbearers were Tommy and Wanda Mason, Philip and Rosio Mason, Clint and Nicole Mason, Rebekah and John Borthick, Carol and Randy Williamson, Mike Kavanaugh, Kenneth and Linda Cherry, Debbie Hollingsworth, Denise and Al Adcock, Robin and Ronnie Tate, Joy and Chip Murphy, Janice Sanford, Jennifer Jackson, Teresa Humphrey, her "Friday Night Chicks", and Faye Marks. These friends, along with countless teachers and retired teachers, were her support system and friends throughout her life in Springfield.

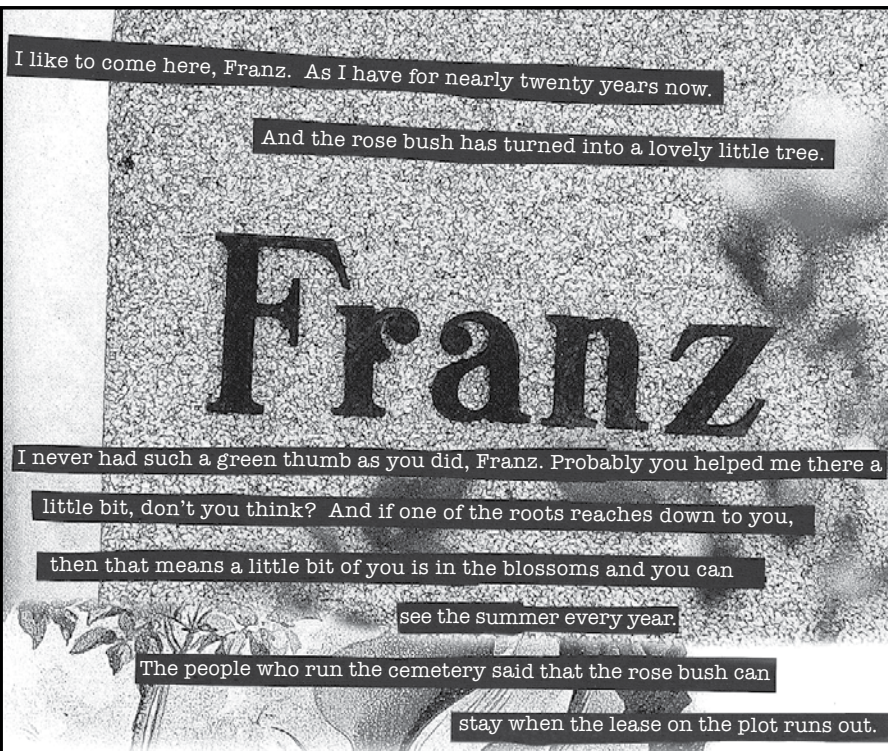
Her final wish was that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to either the Robertson County Senior Center, 615 S. Locust Street, or CASA of Robertson County, P.O. Box 967, both in Springfield, TN, 37172, where she had been very involved over the years.

Unveilings

The unveiling of the headstone for Daniel Liff will take place at 1:15 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11 at the Congregation Micah cemetery.

The unveiling of the headstone for Marshall Karr will take place at 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 18 at The Temple cemetery.

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



I like to come here, Franz. As I have for nearly twenty years now.

And the rose bush has turned into a lovely little tree.

Franz

I never had such a green thumb as you did, Franz. Probably you helped me there a little bit, don't you think? And if one of the roots reaches down to you, then that means a little bit of you is in the blossoms and you can see the summer every year.

The people who run the cemetery said that the rose bush can stay when the lease on the plot runs out.

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For more information, or for an application, contact
Abbie Wolf, Community Relations Director,
at abbie@jewishnashville.org
or Leslie Kirby (Chair of ELI) at lesliekirby@me.com.

*To learn more about the Jewish Federation,
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