

Bonim Dinner speaker explores family secrets, resilience

German author Jennifer Teege, who co-wrote “My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me: A Black Woman Discovers Her Family’s Nazi Past,” will speak at this year’s Bonim Society Dinner on Sunday, Jan. 28, at the Gordon JCC.

Teege, now 47, lives in Germany and is the daughter of a German mother and a Nigerian father. At the age of 38, she learned that her maternal grandfather was Amon Goeth, a Nazi and commandant of the Plaszow concentration camp near Warsaw. Ralph Fiennes portrayed Goeth in the film “Schindler’s List.”

Although she was placed in an orphanage and then adopted at a young age, as a child Jennifer Teege had some contact with her biological mother and grandmother, a news release from her book publisher, The Experiment Publishing, stated.

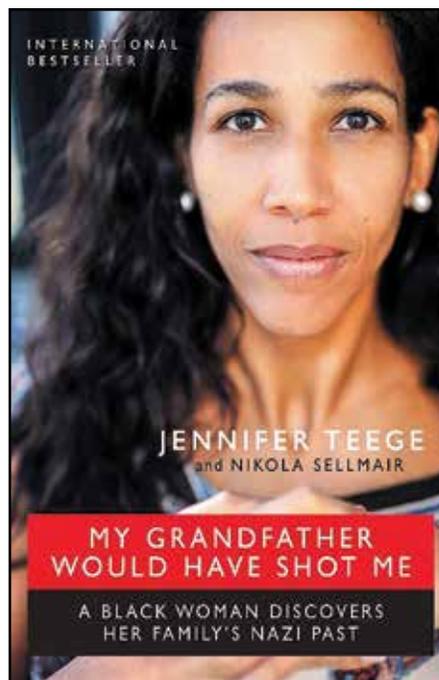
Yet neither her mother nor grandmother revealed their family legacy. At age 38, beginning to learn the scope of her grandfather’s crimes, Teege comes to realize that if her grandfather had met her—a black woman—he would have killed her.

Teetering on the brink of severe depression, Teege delves into researching her family’s past. Over the two years that follow, she tentatively reconnects with her estranged mother Monika, explores the sites of Plaszow concentration camp and the former Jewish ghetto in Krakow, and returns to Israel, where she once attended college and learned fluent Hebrew.

Her book, co-written with Nikola Sellmair, was published in the United States in 2015. In a 2015 interview furnished by her publisher, Teege explains why she told her story publicly:

“I wanted to let go, to live in the here and now again, and be a good mother to

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Security expert Yadlin talks on shared Jewish future

By KATHY CARLSON

Israeli Maj. Gen. (ret.) Amos Yadlin flew on the team that destroyed Iraq’s Osirak nuclear reactor in 1981, served in Israel’s military for more than 40 years and currently heads Tel Aviv University’s Institute for National Security Studies.



Amos Yadlin

He was in Nashville recently for a brief visit that included a stop for an espresso and conversation at the Jewish Federation of Nashville.

“We are one people, living in two different political environments,”

Yadlin said of American Jews and their Israeli counterparts. “We share the same values. We have to keep these values as a bond, beyond the bonds of blood and tradition. The challenge for (us) all (is) to keep Judaism around our main values. The Second Temple was destroyed because we fought each other instead of fighting the Romans.”

Osirak mission

The 1981 military mission to take out the Osirak reactor, still under construction, perhaps illustrates the imperative of the Jewish people to survive, along with the cooperation and labor it takes to make survival possible.

“I was one of eight pilots basically each dropping two bombs on the reactor,” Yadlin recalled. It was his longest combat mission to that point, and the team trained for a full year.

He and the others flew brand new F-16 one-engine airplanes with just enough fuel capacity – after much fine-tuning – to get to Osirak and back. Iraq, at war with Iran, was on high alert, with anti-aircraft installations at the ready.

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Family honors a hero’s legacy

By KATHY CARLSON

When members of Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel’s family honored a remarkable forebear last summer in Russia, they were closing one circle in their shared history and simultaneously rededicating themselves to continue his work in nurturing and expanding the circle of Jewish life.

Their ancestor was Rabbi Yitzchok Raskin, a Chassidic rabbi in the Chabad-Lubavitch movement and Rabbi Tiechtel’s great-grandfather on his mother’s side. Rabbi Tiechtel and his wife, Esther, came to Nashville in 1997 and established a branch of Chabad here. They spoke recently about their family’s history.

One night in March of 1938, Russian secret police forcibly took him from his home in St. Petersburg, then called Leningrad, in front of his four children.

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Some of the descendants of Rabbi Yitzchok Raskin, great-grandfather of Nashville Chabad Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel, gather at the mass grave in which Rabbi Raskin was buried in Russia before the start of World War II. PHOTOGRAPH FURNISHED BY RABBI TIECHTEL



Teens plan their own philanthropy event, set for March 4, page 3



Nashville celebrates Festival of Lights, page 10



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Family honors a hero's legacy

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Rabbi Tiechtel's grandmother, Sima, was about 16, the second-oldest of the four daughters ranging in age from about 19 to 12.

At the time in Stalinist Russia, practicing Judaism was punishable by death. Some 1.5 million Jews lived in the Soviet Union then, and "there was a great depression among the Jewish people because they couldn't practice their religion," Rabbi Tiechtel said. Consequently, a Jewish underground developed under the leadership of the sixth Chabad rebbe, Rebbe Yosef Yitzchok Schneersohn.

"In every town, Chassidic Jews held secret Shabbat services and ran secret schools," Rabbi Tiechtel said. His great-grandfather's "home was known to be an address for anyone who wanted to eat to drink, for a Shabbes meal, as a gathering place for Jews, and he risked his life to do this."

On that night in 1938, there was a knock on the Raskins' door. "Sir Raskin, you are to come with us now," officers in the secret police, the NKVD, told the rabbi. He turned to his children and said, "I want you to remember you're Jewish kids. You should continue in the

ways in which they are taking me." It was the last they ever saw of their father, Rabbi Tiechtel said. It was a clear, sure message one that would be transmitted for generations.

World War II commenced the next year, and the Raskin family kept on the move to survive. Sima eventually met and married her husband, Rabbi Meir Itkin.

They had children, including Rabbi Tiechtel's mother, who was born in a displaced persons' camp in Europe. The family lived for a while in Paris, then in the early 1950's came to the United States, settling first in Philadelphia and then in New York City. The Itkins' home always welcomed visitors, in the tradition of Sima's father.

The intervening years hadn't changed much for Russian Jews, who still maintained their religion in secret and under penalty of death.

Thirty-two years after Rabbi Raskin disappeared, his family learned what had happened that night in St. Petersburg.

"Somebody had escaped Russia and came to my grandmother," Rabbi Tiechtel recounted. The person told her, "I was there the night they took your father. It was the night they swept up a

whole lot of Chassidim. They shot him in a firing squad in the state prison in St. Petersburg."

Now at least one piece of the mystery had come to light. Rabbi Tiechtel was the first person in his family to be named after his great-grandfather Yitzchok. He was the fifth grandchild of Rabbi Meir and Sima Itkin.

Today, many of Rabbi Yitzchok Raskin's descendants bear his name, Rabbi Tiechtel said. He remembers his grandmother saying, "You're the first named after him. His name represents his spiritual energy. ... I want you to continue doing what he gave up his life for."

Over decades, the number of Rabbi Raskin's descendants grew. Today there are perhaps over 300 descendants, continuing to work to fulfill his mission to keep Judaism alive. Rabbi Tiechtel's brother, also a Chabad rabbi in Berlin, Germany, continued to research his great-grandfather's life, this time to try to find where he had been buried, in order to place a stone monument at the mass grave.

He was able to access records of the Russian government, including a transcript of the police interrogation of Rabbi Raskin and at long last, a mass burial site holding his remains. Rabbi Tiechtel said family members decided to take a genealogical trip to Russia to mark his mother's 70th birthday and to erect a stone monument in memory of his great grandfather who was murdered by Stalin because he was a proud Jew.

During the trip, the family was able to see where Rabbi Raskin was kidnapped by secret police on that night in 1938. Esther Tiechtel kept a journal on the trip to Russia.

"During our visit, a kind neighbor ably persuaded the burly security guard to let our family in to courtyard where we stood looking up at the third-story windows where our Zaidy Raskin lived," she wrote. "We said a L'Chaim and some prayers and tried to imagine those moments at the very same courtyard on the 2nd of Adair.

"It was that night at 1 a.m. when the steel gates in the courtyard opened to let in the rare sight of a big black noisy automobile. ... We will never know how (Rabbi Raskin) felt when the secret police stormed in and rifled through every document, waking every person and taking away by force (him) and one of his guests. We do know, that he had the presence of mind and calmness of spirit to turn to his daughters and speak to them with love. He told his oldest, Mina, then engaged, not to delay her wedding while he was gone. He told all of them ... you should continue in the ways in which they are taking me.

Nearly 80 years later, Rabbi Raskin's family gathered at the grave site to erect a memorial and to symbolically bring him to a Jewish burial and to say the Kaddish. Rabbi Tiechtel said there wasn't a dry eye.

"Your descendants kept what you asked them to do: To continue to be truly a light to the nations, a light to the world," Rabbi Tiechtel said. "... You can't be here with us now but we are here to tell you, we have kept your message and life alive. ... You gave up your life as a proud Jew in Russia. We are following in your footsteps in Nashville, and continuing to do what you started, but could not finish." •

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



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February 2-4, 2018

TOPICS

Friday Evening:
"Why Hasidism Matters"

Shabbat Morning Dvar Torah:
"Parshat Yitro: Reading the Aseret HaDibrot (Ten Commandments) as a Path to Personal and Communal Liberation"

Shabbat Afternoon:
"From Ain to Ani (Self to self) and Back Again"

Motzei Shabbat:
"Parables and Paradise: Dialoguing with Hasidic Tales as a Path to Hallowing the Ordinary as You Awaken to the Extraordinary"

Sunday Morning:
"The Ultimate Four Questions: Who am I? Where did I come from? Where am I going? How Shall I live?"

Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Shabbat dinner \$22/adult; \$8/children 3-11/NC for children under 3
Babysitting available upon request by 1/24/18

Pray, Eat and Learn

Friday March 2, 2018



Gabrielle Schonder

Topic: "From Music City to the Beltway: West End Synagogue Religious School Graduates Cover U.S. Politics"

Political Investigations Reporter for the Washington Post and Reporter and Producer for PBS Frontline.

Services at 6pm
Shabbat Dinner at 7pm - \$22/adult
Speakers at 8pm



Roz Helderman

Pray, Eat and Learn

Friday March 23, 2018



Samuel Norich

Topic: "Israel and Us: What We Can Do to Avoid a Parting of the Ways."

Samuel Norich is the president of the Forward Association, the not-for-profit organization that publishes the Forward and the Forverts, now in its 121st year.

Services at 6pm
Shabbat Dinner at 7pm - \$22/adult
Speaker at 8pm

The Annual WES Scholar in Residence Program is funded by grants from the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, the Albert and Evelyn Stein Adult Education Fund, The Max Levine Fund and the Janet Levine March Fund for Cultural Arts.

Open to the entire community



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Tzedakah Funday: Not your daddy's phonathon

Save the date – Sunday, Feb. 11 – for the debut of Tzedakah Funday, a new approach to a time-honored tradition for the Jewish Federation of Nashville's annual campaign.

This year, in addition to phoning opportunities, there will be hands-on projects so youngsters, their parents and everyone else can see how their donations to Federation provide real, concrete support to people locally and around the world.

Families can help to assemble 500 emergency kits that will be distributed to Jewish organizations in Nashville. These kits are designed as a preventative measure to help people get through disasters like Nashville's 2010 floods. They will also have the opportunity to make tzedakah, spending and saving boxes, which they can take home to help manage their

money with intention.

Volunteers on the phone will have the opportunity to thank donors for their past contributions and encourage others to join their community in helping to secure a better tomorrow.

Rachel Iroff, Mollie and Bobby Perry, Hayden Kornblut and Eric Mirowitz are chairing the event this year and are excited to help bring additional interactive opportunities to a program that already connects with so many people.

The annual February fundraiser accounts for about 20 percent of the annual pledges to the Federation's annual campaign. As in past years, it takes place at the Gordon JCC. It starts at 10 a.m. and runs through 4:30 p.m.

To volunteer, sign up online at www.jewishnashville.org, the Federation's website, or contact Joel Abramson at (615) 354-1643 or joel@jewishnashville.org.



The seven teens organizing the upcoming B'nai Tzedek event trade ideas and divide up the work at a recent meeting. PHOTOGRAPH BY SHANNON SMALL

Teens take initiative with philanthropy event

Nothing grabs attention like some cold cash, and the seven teen-agers gathered around a table at the Gordon JCC are definitely interested.

Even if the money's being used to teach them how to give away some of their own to help Jewish causes they believe in.

"This is my first year helping teens with the B'nai Tzedek program," said Federation Financial Resource Philanthropic Officer Shannon Small. "I am hopeful this program will start teens on a meaningful path toward lifelong philanthropy."

The teens are working together to organize an event – set for Sunday afternoon, March 4, at the JCC – to help other Jewish teens ages 13-18 learn how they can join the world of philanthropy.

The theme they have chosen for the event is to match teens' values and interests with an organization they can financially support through their fund and also work with. It's all part of the B'nai

Tzedek program of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. There are currently more than 370 B'nai Tzedeks in Nashville.

The B'nai Tzedek program establishes a Foundation account in the name of a Bar or Bat Mitzvah-age teen. The teen contributes \$125, which is matched with \$125 from the Al Feldman Memorial Fund, then \$250 from the Feldman-Hassenfeld Fund for B'nai Tzedek. Both funds are housed at the Jewish Foundation. As a result, the teen starts with a fund in the amount of \$500 and a new philanthropist is born.

The teens meeting at the JCC with Small traded ideas on how to engage others. They talked about their top values – chosen from a deck of values cards – and learned they shared values such as resilience, effectiveness and acceptance.

They outlined a game plan for the March event and set a date for future meetings. They will be texting or phoning other teens to invite them to the event. More than 60 teens are in the target age group.

Bonim Society Dinner speaker

Continued from page 1

my own children. On my path in that direction, Kraków was an important step. I realized that I am part of the third generation. I know now that I am not to blame, and the guilt no longer weighs heavily on my shoulders.

"That said, today I am occupied with the concept of responsibility. Everyone bears a responsibility to add value to their surroundings. I carry responsibility not only as a German woman, or as Amon Goeth's granddaughter, but simply as a person."

The Bonim Society Dinner is held annually by the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. The Bonim Society includes individuals and couples who make a gift of \$1,000 or more to the Federation's annual campaign. The dinner is open to the entire community; for more information contact Naomi Limor Sedek at naomi@jewishnashville.org.

At the dinner, two leaders within the Nashville Jewish community – Stephen S. Riven and Frank Boehm – will be honored for their service with the 2018 President's Award, the highest honor of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

The President's Award, established in 2012, is presented annually to individuals who have a distinguished record of commitment to the Jewish people through their exemplary philanthropy, dedicated community service and betterment of Jewish life in Nashville, Israel and around the world.

Previous winners are Sandy Averbuch z"l (2012), Bob Eisenstein (2013), Raymond Zimmerman (2014), Moshe and Libby Werthan (2016) and Patti and David Steine Jr. (2017). The 2015 award was presented jointly to Annette Eskin, Richard and Jane Eskin z"l, Bernice and Joel Gordon and Eugene Pargh and Madeline Pargh z"l.

Learn more about this year's Herzlian Dinners

The purpose of the Jewish Federation's series of Herzlian Dinners is to listen, learn and inspire one another through meaningful dialogue around a particular topic.

Speakers will include Avshi Weinstein, who with his father, Amnon Weinstein, co-founded of Violins of Hope; Arielle Di Porto, acting director of the Aliyah section at the Jewish Agency; Sarah Tuttle-Singer, new media editor for the Times of Israel; James Grymes, chair of the department of music at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and author of "Violins of Hope;" Shaun Goldstone, director, strategic partnerships with JDC; Yehudit Zicklin-Sidikman, co-founder and CEO of El HaLev, a nonprofit that provides self-defense and martial arts training to women and girls in Israel; and Sylvia Barack Fishman, the Joseph and Esther Foster professor of contemporary Jewish life and co-director of the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute at Brandeis University.

The series begins on Jan. 11 and runs through April 16. For more information, contact Naomi Limor Sedek, naomi@jewishnashville.org.



Get Connected Israel Teen Tour

Looking for a meaningful & affordable way to visit Israel? Become a participant on our teen educational tour!

TRIP: June 5 - 19, 2018

COST: \$1,600 (scholarships available)

PRE-TRIP: Students will get to know each other during 4 pre-trip activities

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: January 12, 2018 (Receive \$25 discount if you register by December 15, 2017)

For on-line application, visit jewishnashville.org, select the Our Impact tab and click on Get Connected

Questions? Contact Harriet Schifftan at harriet@jewishnashville.org or 615.354.1687

Registration Deadline is January 12!



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JCC art galleries start off 2018 with works by Lisa McLaughlin

The works of Lisa McLaughlin will be featured this month in the art galleries of the Gordon JCC.

McLaughlin is an Ohio native who earned her Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design from the University of Toledo. In 1989, she relocated to Nashville and began a career in the music business, designing and selling merchandise for various country and rock musicians.

Lisa is a founding member of Contemporary Collective, a local group of abstract artists. She is also an active, contributing member of the Nashville Artist Guild serving as their newsletter editor.

"Abstract has become my favorite style of painting in recent years," she says in a statement. "My process typically starts with movement and feeling. I rotate the

canvas, layering colors and textures, until the piece eventually resolves itself.

"Although unintentional, it seems that my extensive travel experiences heavily influence my work. Oftentimes the essence of a specific place makes itself apparent once the painting is finished."

McLaughlin is also a photographer. "I spend nearly 200 days a year working on the road, and because I can't bring my canvases along, I have taken up photography," she says. "It began as a way to record places and things for future painting reference, but it has taken on a life of its own. ... I often find as much beauty and interest in graffiti or a rundown building as I do in a famous landmark or beautiful sunset.

The artist reception will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 10, from 6:30 -8:30 p.m. at the Gordon JCC. •

J Mitzvah Big Night Out offers array of silent auction goodies

Would you and a few friends like to sit down with Nashville Mayor Megan Barry over a cup of coffee and trade ideas with her on making our fair city even better?

Well, it's a real possibility because a breakfast for 10 with the mayor is among the 175 items up for bid in the silent auction set for this year's Big Night Out event benefiting the Gordon JCC.

The Big Night Out takes place on Saturday, Jan. 20, at the J, starting at 6:45 p.m. It's been dubbed the J Mitzvah event, given the theme of "Party like it's your Bar Mitzvah."

For the second year in a row, the Silent Auction chairs are Laurel Orley and Kelly Unger. Up for grabs along with breakfast with Mayor Barry are a Honky Tonk Central VIP deck party for 20, a behind-the-scenes tour of the Nashville Zoo, gift cards to all the new and hottest restaurants in the Nashville dining scene, and much more. Silent Auction will be

open online a week before the event with paper bidding the evening of the event.

Tickets are now on sale and are available for purchase online at nashvillejcc.org/big-night-out. Tickets cost \$136/person at the early bird rate until Jan. 1 and \$150/person after that.

Along with great items at the silent auction, the evening includes dinner, cocktails, DJ and dancing and more. In addition to Laurel and Kelly, Big Night Out chairs are Leeron S. Resnick, Jessica Pinsky, Nancy Jacobs and Barbara Davis.

Sponsors of Big Night Out include lead sponsor Zander Insurance Group, along with American Paper & Twine Co., Argent Trust, Best Brands, Capstar Bank, Delek US Holdings Inc., The Dorothy Cate & Thomas F. Frist Foundation, Ghertner & Company Inc., Hermitage Lighting Gallery, Kraft CPAs PLLC, Lipman Brothers and R.S. Lipman Company, PrintNet USA, Rhizome Productions and Sprintz Furniture.

For more information, contact dara@nashvillejcc.org or 615.354.1639. •

2017 Annual Campaign totals more than \$2.6 million

The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee has raised more than \$2.6 million during its 2017 annual campaign.

That represents not only an increase over the previous year, but also the highest annual campaign total since 2008, said Mark Freedman, executive director of the Nashville Federation.

This excellent result, Freedman said, reflects the leadership of 2017 Campaign Chairman Frank Boehm, who energized the Jewish Federation board of directors, campaign team members and the community to raise funds that help Jews in Nashville, Israel and around the world. Thank you to everyone who has helped make the 2017 Annual Campaign so successful. •

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Rabbi Sid Schwarz

Author of Jewish Megatrends will join us

January 26-27, 2018

Friday Night at 6:00 PM:

Charting the Course of the American Jewish Future

The American Jewish community is riddled with doubts about the viability of the institutions that well served the Jewish community of the 20th century. This talk will look at the social norms that are shaping the habits and lifestyles of younger American Jews and suggest four guiding principles that can actually lead to a renaissance in Jewish life.

Saturday Morning at 9:30 AM:

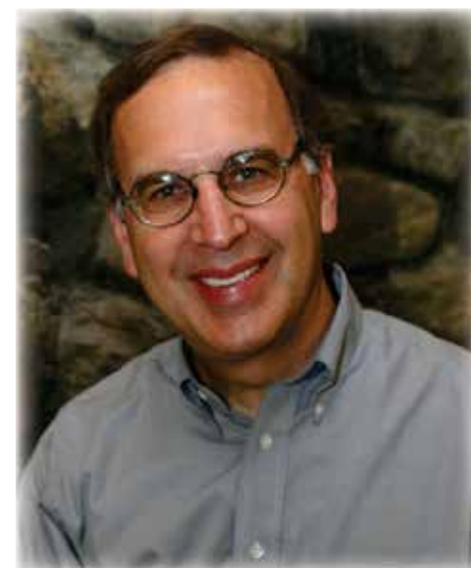
Davenning Out of the Box

Through discussions, song, movement and sharing, participants, from young to old, will walk away with a new appreciation for the shabbat liturgy and the transformative power of prayer.

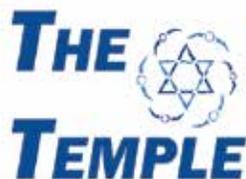
Saturday Post-Lunch:

What is Prayer?

Participants are encouraged to stay for lunch and then join Rabbi Sid for a talk-back session about the morning experience and the future of prayer and spirituality in the Jewish community.



Rabbi Sid Schwarz is a social entrepreneur, author and teacher. He created and directs the Clergy Leadership Incubator (CLI), a program that trains rabbis to be visionary spiritual leaders. He also created and directs the Kenissa: Communities of Meaning Network which is building the capacity of emerging spiritual communities across the country. Dr. Schwarz holds a Ph.D. in Jewish history and is the author of two groundbreaking books—*Finding a Spiritual Home: How a New Generation of Jews Can Transform the American Synagogue* and *Judaism and Justice: The Jewish Passion to Repair the World*.



The Temple is located at 5015 Harding Road ~ Nashville, Tennessee

The entire Temple Scholar Series is graciously underwritten by Trish & Shelly Krizelman

Security expert shares life lessons

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"It was estimated that at least two of us would not come back," he said. Despite the dangers, pilots volunteered for the mission. Yadlin recalled wondering if he'd ever see his four-month-old daughter again.

"If someone tells you they're not afraid (in a mission such as this), they're lying," he said. But when it comes time to act, he continued, "you should not let fear degrade your performance lower than 95 percent percent of your training level. Additional help to overcome fear is to concentrate on the mission so that you don't have time to have a bad feeling."

All eight planes returned to Israel, mission accomplished. "There was a real satisfaction when we came back and knew we destroyed" the reactor, he said. "We could not allow anyone who wanted to destroy us to have the capacity to carry out the threat."

Five rules

Over the years, Yadlin has developed what he calls his five rules in life. "They're good in the cockpit as well as in assessing national security issues," he said.

First of all, never panic. If you panic, you're not reacting to the threat in the most advantageous way.

Second, never be in euphoria. Between 1967 and 1973, he said, Israel got euphoric. It was too happy with the victory in the Six-Day War and paid a high price for the euphoria in 1973's Yom Kippur War.

Third, maintain a state of slight paranoia. As Yadlin says, "For a Jewish Israeli guy, it's the right state of mind," given that many people want to destroy Israel.

Fourth, there is no silver bullet.

Today, he says, the problems facing Israel are more complex and our enemies are more sophisticated, so coping with problems takes more than a silver bullet. It takes iron, gold and copper bullets. "You have to work hard and have all this mix to have a response to threats."

Fifth and finally, there are no prophets anymore. You can't predict the future, but you can try to shape it, with humility, he said.

That notion – shaping the future with humility – often is at odds with today's culture. "The nature of today's social media make many of us stay on the surface," he said. "... We don't go deeply into issues. To get attention, people go to extremes."

Ben-Gurion's legacy

The Jewish tradition offers a way forward. Issues are debated, he said, but in a Jewish way that recognizes not only different perspectives but also shared beliefs and values. This approach allows us to use the different perspectives to create a better culture.

Yadlin talked about the leadership of David Ben-Gurion, Israel's founder and first prime minister. Ben-Gurion, he said, sometimes acted in accord with the political right, sometimes with the left.

"He was smart enough to know when to compromise and when to seize an historical opportunity," Yadlin said. "We rarely have leaders like that nowadays – not in Israel or in your country. The challenge of the 21st century is to identify when it is time to follow the public wishes and when it is time to show them the way." •

Photograph of Amos Yadlin by Chen Galili

Chabad to presents 'Behind Enemy Lines' with 97-year-old hero

Chabad of Nashville invites the Nashville community to a most historic evening with Marthe Cohn, the much-decorated war hero, a former spy who slipped behind enemy lines in a story of courage, faith and espionage. Hear the amazing story of a woman who lived through one of the worst times in human history, losing family members to the Nazis but surviving with her spirit and integrity intact.



Marthe Cohn

Now 97, Holocaust survivor Marthe Cohn became a member of the intelligence service of the French First Army and was able to retrieve inside information about Nazi troop movements by slipping behind enemy lines. She has written a book about her experiences, "Behind Enemy Lines: The True Story of a French Jewish Spy in Nazi Germany."

She will appear in person at the Gordon JCC on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 7 p.m. to tell her remarkable story. "This evening will be an historic event for the people of Nashville," said Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel of Chabad of Nashville. "There are not many people left from that era to tell a story of heroism, a tale of an ordinary human being who, under extraordinary circumstances, became the hero her country needed her to be."

Mrs. Cohn, a best-selling author, will be available for a book signing after

her talk. Tickets can be purchased in advance at chabadnashville.com; there will be limited seating for this event. For more information call Chabad of Nashville at (615) 646-5750 or go to www.chabadnashville.com

Before Mrs. Cohn became a spy, she was a devoutly religious 19-year-old French Jewish girl. Her life took an extraordinary turn when the Nazis invaded France in 1939.

While the rest of her family fled south, Marthe decided to fight back. After graduating from nursing school she joined the French resistance and, on account of her perfect German accent and Aryan appearance, she was recruited to be a spy.

Carrying forged identification papers, she infiltrated German territory in the guise of a German nurse desperately searching for a fictional fiancé. By this time her real-life fiancé had been executed by the Nazis.

During the next year, she mingled freely with Nazi troops, on many occasions caring for injured Nazi soldiers to maintain her cover. She gathered invaluable information on troop positions which she secretly relayed to Allied commanders. Her intelligence gathering was instrumental in allowing the Allies to break through the Siegfried line and enter German territory in 1945, leading to the end of the war. •

The Jewish Observer is online at www.jewishobservernashville.org

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'The Jewish Observer' (ISSN 23315334) is published monthly for \$25 per year by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, 801 Percy Warner Blvd., Nashville, TN 37205-4009. Periodicals postage paid at Nashville, TN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE JEWISH OBSERVER, 801 Percy Warner Blvd., Nashville, TN 37205

This newspaper is made possible by funds raised in the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign.

The Jewish Observer is a member of the American Jewish Press Association and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

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

Editorial Submissions Policy and Deadlines

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

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

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

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RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE IS WHAT WE DO

High Anxiety: JFS offers Jan. 11 program

By **TERI SOGOL, LCSW**
Jewish Family Service

Feeling anxious? You're not alone.

It seems today there are more things than ever to be anxious about. We're bombarded with worrisome news from our televisions, newspapers, and the Internet. Social media has contributed as well.

And it's not just adults who are suffering. Teens are experiencing anxiety in greater numbers than ever before. A recent article in The New York Times noted that over the last decade anxiety has overtaken depression as the most common reason students seek counseling services.

But, you may ask, isn't feeling anxious at times normal? The answer to that question is "Yes"—anxiety is a normal

reaction to stressful situations. But what about when anxiety becomes excessive—when it interferes with our daily life and functioning? What then?

If you would like to learn more about the difference between stress and anxiety, symptoms of anxiety, how to know when to seek help, what kinds of help are available, and more, Jewish Family Service invites you to join us for "High Anxiety," an informative presentation by

David Kirk Barton, M.D., adult psychiatry. Dr. Barton divides his time between his private practice and his work with combat veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder at the Nashville Veterans Administration Medical Center.

The program will take place on Thursday, Jan. 11, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Gordon JCC. Please RSVP to Teri Sogol, LCSW, casework director, at (615) 354-1662. •

Teens: Learn what you can do to turn beliefs into actions

By **TERI SOGOL, LCSW**
Jewish Family Service

The world is filled with unmet needs and issues that beg to be resolved—lack of affordable health care, hunger, homelessness, human trafficking, environmental threats—the list goes on and on. A sense of powerlessness to affect these seemingly overwhelming problems is enough to make us throw our hands up in despair. For really, what can one person do?

Jewish teens are about to explore that question at "Turning Beliefs Into Action," a program on social action being offered by Jewish Family Service in collaboration with the religious school directors of our local congregations on Sunday, Feb. 4, at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. Teens in grades 7 through 12 will participate in small-group discussions facilitated by Pat Halper, a

passionate social justice activist. The discussions will be followed by presentations from two inspiring, dynamic speakers who recognized a social issue, had an idea to address it, and brought that idea to fruition:

Noted Nashville entrepreneur Marcus Whitney is president and co-founder of Briovation, CEO of Health:Further and founding partner of Jumpstart Foundry. He's also co-founder and co-owner of the Nashville Soccer Club, has been listed in the Upstart 100 by Upstart Business Journal, Power 100 by Nashville Business Journal, and has been featured in Techcrunch, Fast Company and The Atlantic.

He will be speaking to the teens about The Unlikely Company, a public benefit corporation he founded that exists to develop entrepreneurs who will have an opportunity to close the income-inequality gap while creating businesses that will address our society's biggest problems, and Oasis Venture, a program

he co-founded with Oasis Center that is designed to help youth create and start viable social enterprises.

With 20 years of conservation and development experience, Julie Stein works to reduce human-wildlife conflict around the world by building markets and wildlife-friendly supply chains for goods and services that achieve the goals of people, profit, and planet. She leads signature efforts to link certified enterprises that protect the world's most endangered wildlife with global partners in the food, health and beauty, textile and tourism sectors.

Stein consults with corporate members seeking to achieve conservation goals in high-biodiversity landscapes and par-

ticipates in public-private partnerships to measure and improve outcomes in raw-materials sourcing for the benefit of people and wildlife around the world. She is a co-founder and executive director of the Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network.

The program goal is for the teens to gain a sense of empowerment as they realize the impact one person can make. Turning Beliefs Into Action will take place on Sunday, Feb. 4, at the Gordon JCC. A continental breakfast will be available at 9:15 a.m. The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 11:45 a.m. There is no charge to attend.

Contact Teri Sogol, LCSW, casework director, at (615) 354-1662 with questions. •

Sharing With Sharon

The Jerusalem Syndrome

By **SHARON BEN AMI**
Community Shlichah

Usually referred to as: A group of mental phenomena involving the presence of either religiously themed obsessive ideas, delusions or other psychosis-like experiences that are triggered by a visit to the city of Jerusalem. It is not endemic to one single religion or denomination but has affected Jews, Christians, and Muslims of many different backgrounds. (Wikipedia)

But actually, the Jerusalem Syndrome is:

Being at a loss of words while trying to describe Jerusalem for all that it is. Home? Past? Future? Seventy names and more just don't do it justice.

The Jerusalem Syndrome is feeling a sense of terror every time you are in a bus and hearing someone behind you speaking Arabic, turning around and seeing it's that guy you used to work with at that restaurant, breathing again and thinking what a fool you are.

It's paying money for a glass of "Clear mountain air like wine" (אוויר הרים צלול כין) from the girl scouts at the town fair.

The Jerusalem Syndrome is when you smell blood every time you go by that street where years ago you saw that bus ... and then it was not.

It's walking down your street that ends with an excavation site where King David's old house was unearthed, thinking huh- how weird. He walked the same ground as me.

It's having the security guard check your bag before you enter anywhere while he's greeting you with 'ahalan' (Arabic for hello).

The Jerusalem Syndrome is happiness mixed with tears, bravery that rose from fear.

The Jerusalem Syndrome is having fresh hummus with a cold Goldstar beer.

The Jerusalem Syndrome is standing your ground, and then thinking - whose ground is it, reflecting on it for a second or so.

It's protesting outside the Prime Minister's residence and getting stopped by an officer, then realizing it's your cousin, and then giving him a warm hug.

That's the Jerusalem Syndrome - love and hate intertwined. How can I explain all of it? I don't exactly know, but for all that it is, Jerusalem is I, Jerusalem is mine, for me that is all. •



Sharon Ben Ami


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Thanks to our generous volunteers and donors, we were able to provide Chanukah gifts to 28 children and 68 seniors in our community.

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Please support the businesses that advertise in the Observer and help support our community in all ways!

See the community calendar at www.jewishnashville.org

Civil Rights Leadership Tour brings generations together

Learn from those who were there during the Civil Rights struggles of the 1950s and 1960s on the Next Gen Civil Rights Leadership Tour offered by The Temple and the Gordon JCC in March.

The tour is funded by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

The four-city tour includes a chance to talk with someone who was beaten on the 1965 Selma-Montgomery, Ala., marches. There's also a walking tour in Birmingham, Ala., led by a clergyman who was a Civil Rights worker in that city. Participants will see the 16th Street

Baptist Church where four girls were killed when the church was bombed.

Participants also will learn about Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel's role in the Civil Rights struggle. They'll visit the King Center in Atlanta, Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery and the Civil Rights Institute and Freedom Park in Birmingham. The group will see the AIDS Quilt in Atlanta and learn about the struggle for rights of the gay community in the 1980s.

The tour is set for March 15-18, with stops in Atlanta, Montgomery, Selma and Birmingham. Cost is \$650 per person and space is limited. To register contact The Temple, (615) 352-7620. •

Singer Batsheva to perform at West End Synagogue

Canadian-born and internationally renowned concert artist Batsheva will perform as part of West End Synagogue's 2018 Concert and Cultural Series. Performing in Ladino, Yiddish, Hebrew and English, she will kick off this year's event, "An Evening with Jon Meacham," on Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at West End Synagogue.

Batsheva has toured extensively with the Canadian Jewish Congress and has also toured, recorded and performed with the "Workmen's Circle," in New York under the direction of Zalmen Mlotek, current artistic director of the National Yiddish Theater.

Batsheva is also an award-winning songwriter. Her piece, "Song of Remembrance," won the National Competition for Holocaust Literature sponsored by the Canadian Jewish Congress and is part of the official archives of Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. Her CD, "I, Batsheva, Singer," has received critical and audience acclaim. She and her husband currently live in Nashville.

"We are fortunate to have such a unique performer right here in Nashville," says West End Synagogue Rabbi Joshua Kullock. "She will be a wonderful addi-



Batsheva

tion to what promises to be a memorable evening of music and conversation." For more information about Batsheva, visit her website at www.ibatshevasinger.com.

Ticket prices for this year's Concert and Cultural Series start at \$75. For more information about "An Evening with Jon Meacham," or to purchase tickets, visit www.westendsyn.org, or call Marcia Stewart at West End Synagogue, (615) 269-4592, ext. 13. •

SAVE THESE DATES



Some 30 young adults from around the Nashville area gathered for a pre-Hanukkah dinner and musical Shabbat services in Germantown, organized by Jewsic City Shabbat. The group brings people together every six weeks or so to get to know each other, play musical instruments, sing and welcome in Shabbat. The Jewish Federation of Nashville has provided funding support to Jewsic City Shabbat. PHOTOGRAPH FURNISHED BY JEWISIC CITY SHABBAT

Jewsic City Shabbat

Friday, Jan. 19, time and place TBA

Join us on Friday night for an intimate musical Kabbalat Shabbat service and potluck dinner. And bring your instruments! Check for more information on our Facebook page, Jewsic City Shabbat.

A Breather for Moms

Thursday, February 1

NCJW, Nashville Section and the Gordon JCC are collaborating on an evening program with Ali Katz titled Finding Balance and Joy While Caring for Others. The goal is to help moms find mindfulness and calm in their everyday lives.

Newcomers Reception

Sunday, Feb. 18, 3-5 p.m., site TBA

New to Nashville? Been here a few years and still feel new and want to meet more people? Please join us at the next Newcomer Reception hosted by the Jewish Federation of Nashville. For more information, contact Barbara Schwarcz, 615-354-1630 or barbara@jewishnashville.org

Community Relations Seder

March 13, 6-9 p.m., Gordon JCC Auditorium

This annual event is sponsored by the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville. To learn more, contact Deborah Oleshansky, community relations director with the Federation, Deborah@jewishnashville.org. •

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Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt

YIDDISH GLORY

Lost and Found Songs of Soviet Jews During WWII



* Photo from the Blavatnik Archive

Singer-songwriter Psoy Korolenko & historian Anna Shternshis bring to life "lost" Yiddish songs of the World War II era in this all-new concert and lecture program.

These previously unknown Yiddish songs were confiscated & hidden by the Soviet government in 1949, and have only recently come to light.

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 | 7-8:30pm
Vanderbilt University | Sarratt Cinema
2301 Vanderbilt Place

For more information, email jewishstudies@vanderbilt.edu



The Jewish Observer is online at
www.jewishobservernashville.org

@ Chabad

Kabbalah-based course: steps to fulfillment

Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel hopes a six-step program offered through Chabad of Nashville will give participants a road map to a life of individual fulfillment resulting in better homes and communities.

"People struggle every day to understand themselves and find inner peace," says Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel of Chabad of Nashville. "They've been through every book in the self-help aisle and they visit their therapist or confide in friends to sort through their feelings." Concludes Rabbi Tiechtel, "What people really need is a guide to help them navigate their own complexity, and the Kabbalah has provided these tools for centuries."

This month, Chabad of Nashville is proud to launch Soul Maps, an ancient yet innovative approach to human psychology. Soul Maps is structured as a six-step program, utilizing tools from the Kabbalah to help participants understand themselves and find inner contentment. The course is based on Tanya, an eighteenth-century book that made the previously esoteric teachings of Kabbalah practical, relevant, and accessible.

"The soul drives us to be good people, but there is a lot of static, interference." Soul Maps will help people from all walks of life learn about themselves and find their way through their own complexities. "Everybody has a spark of God in them," Rabbi Tiechtel said.

The goal is for students to leave the program with tools they can use every day to resolve guilt, conflict and confusion with a positive attitude.

Soul Maps is designed for people at all levels of Jewish knowledge, and participants don't have to have any prior experience or background in Jewish learning to attend and enjoy this course. Additionally, all courses at Chabad are open to the entire Jewish community and people do not need to be a member of any particular synagogue or temple in order to attend.

The course will be offered for five Tuesdays starting Jan. 9 at 7:30 p.m. Register at chabادنashville.com or by calling (615) 480-4731. The course costs \$59 if registered by Jan. 7, and includes the student textbook. Local community members are welcome to register for the course and sample the first lesson free of charge, with no obligation to continue further.

@ Sherith Israel

Annual fundraiser in honor of 'double-chai' members of 36+ years

On Jan. 21, Sherith Israel's 2018 fundraiser will honor those stalwart members who joined in 1982 or earlier. As always, we will have a cocktail hour and a lovely dinner. Our program will highlight the reminiscences of some of our longtime members – you'll laugh, you'll cry as you learn more about the history of the Shul and some of its personalities.

We will also be holding a silent auction with many terrific items available: catered meals, babysitting services, concert tickets, kosher food items, etc.

You can reserve your spot and make your donation on the sherithisrael.com website under Donations and Reservations. For more information, please call the shul office, (615) 292-6614.

Macabeenies Music Class and Play Space

Macabeenies Music Class and Play Space continues to meet the first and third Sundays in January. Karen Daniels, local musician and songwriter, will share fun Jewish music – both traditional and her own original compositions. Kids will have time to get their energy out bouncing on toys, crawling through tunnels, playing with the parachute and more.

Families throughout the community with children age 6 months to pre-K are invited to sing, dance, bounce, and celebrate with us! Macabeenies will meet on Sundays, Jan. 7 and 21, from 10-11 a.m., downstairs in the Playspace at Sherith Israel. Free! Email Cara at csuwall@gmail.com or connect on Facebook with any questions.

Sherith Community Melave Malke Series

Sherith Israel continues its monthly community melave malke series in January. A melave malke is a celebration that extends the joy of Shabbat for just a bit longer. What better way to do that than in the warm homes of our community members? For more details about the date, timing, and location of this community melave malke dessert and social gathering, see sherithisrael.com, or contact Cara at csuwall@gmail.com.

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



THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
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Scholar-in-residence weekend



Rabbi Marvin Tokayer

Noted scholar and historian Rabbi Marvin Tokayer will be the scholar in residence at Chabad of Nashville on the weekend of Jan. 12-14. Rabbi Tokayer was Japan's longest-serving rabbi and continues to travel on unknown roads that reveal the history of our people in Asia.

The weekend is made possible through a grant from the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. All the events are free, though those who want to attend are requested to RSVP at www.chabادنashville.com. For more information call (615) 646-5750, or go to www.chabادنashville.com

The weekend begins on Friday, Jan. 12, at 6:30 p.m. with a Kabbalat Shabbat service, followed by a sit-down Shabbat dinner with Rabbi Tokayer. His after-dinner talk is titled "Pepper, Silk and Ivory: The Exotic Jews of China, Japan and India."

On Shabbat morning, Jan. 13, at 11 a.m., Rabbi Tokayer will present the sermon on the history of the "The Fugu Plan: The Heroic Escape to Japan and China during the Holocaust." This will be followed by a sit-down Shabbat lunch.

On Sunday morning, Jan. 14, at 10 a.m., participants are invited to join Rabbi Tokayer for breakfast as he presents a talk on "The Ten Lost Tribes of Israel – The Oriental Mystery."

Rabbi Tokayer studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary and received his Orthodox Rabbinic ordination in 1962. He served as United States Air Force Chaplain in Japan. Upon discharge from the military he returned to Tokyo to serve for eight years as the rabbi for the Jewish Community of Japan. For many years he was the only rabbi living in Japan and served as the Vice President and Director of Culture, Religion and Education for the Jewish Communities of the Far East.

He has written 20 books in Japanese, including several bestsellers; discovered literally the last of the Chinese Jews; located a long-lost Jewish cemetery in Nagasaki; contributed to the Encyclopedia Judaica; acted as a bridge for many travelers between East and West; served the needs of his congregation; and became spellbound by the threads of a story he began piecing together. His investigation of the facts took him throughout Asia, to Israel and Washington D.C. as he searched for documents and tracked down the people, both Jewish and Japanese, who had taken part in the rescue of Jews from the Holocaust.

@ Micah

Didactic Shabbat (Learning Service) – Jan. 6

This Saturday morning Shabbat experience is an opportunity to learn about the prayers and choreography of the service. Why do we say what we say? Why do we stand or sit for certain prayers? Come get all of your questions answered and spend a beautiful morning with us in the sanctuary praying and singing and building informed community.

Social Action Week – Jan. 7-15

Social Action Week will promote tikkun olam for every individual and family, leading up to the communitywide march on MLK Day. If you'd like to learn more about service options around Nashville (including options for teens for mitzvah projects), attend our Mitzvah Fair on Friday, Jan. 12, before and after services.

Highlights of the week include:

- Thursday, Jan. 11, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. – Social Action Lunch and Learn
- Friday, Jan. 12, before and after services – Mitzvah Fair
- Monday, Jan. 15, 10 a.m. – MLK Day March beginning at Jefferson Street Baptist Church

Love Your Neighbor programs

The two Love Your Neighbor programs in January include a lock-in with Second Presbyterian and the Islamic Center before participation in the MLK Day march with Oasis Center on Jan. 15. Micah will be hosting peers from the Sri Ganesha Hindu Temple on Sunday, Jan. 28. Anyone interested in more details should contact Julie Greenberg, jgreenberg@congregationmicah.org.

Micah's Anniversary Gala – Jan. 27

In celebration of Micah's 25th year, join us for a night of music, dancing, amazing food and an open bar! Food by G Catering & Events, Entertainment by Spangler, and libations by the Lipman Brothers. RSVP and tickets available on our Events page.

Women's Spirituality Retreat

Join Rabbi Laurie Rice and Rabbi Sherre Hirsch on Feb. 5-9. This all-inclusive package includes healthy gourmet meals, more than 40 complimentary fitness activities, a fully equipped spa, four pools, guided hikes and walks, creative arts, as well as airport transfers to and from Tucson International Airport. See the Micah Events web page and contact Rabbi Laurie Rice for more information at rabbilaurie@congregationmicah.org.

@ The Temple

Golden Lunch Bunch dates for January

Golden Lunch Bunch is held at 11:30 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at The Temple. Join us for lunch, entertainment and fun on Jan. 2 and 16. To RSVP, call Anna Sir at (615) 354-1686.

Join in MLK March on Jan. 15

The Temple community will caravan to join the MLK March at the Jefferson Street Baptist Church. For more information, please contact The Temple at (615) 352-7620.

'Jewish Megatrends' author examines American Jewish future

Rabbi Sid Schwarz, author of "Jewish Megatrends," will join us on Jan. 26-27. On Friday night he will speak on the topic "Charting the Course of the American Jewish Future." Saturday morning will include "Davening Out of the Box," with talk-back and text study after lunch.

Rabbi Schwarz is a social entrepreneur, author and teacher. He created and directs the Clergy Leadership Incubator, a program that trains rabbis to be visionary spiritual leaders. He also created and directs the Kenissa: Communities of Meaning Network, which is building the capacity of emerging spiritual communities across the country.

Rabbi Schwarz holds a Ph.D. in Jewish history. In addition to "Jewish Megatrends," he has written "Finding a Spiritual Home: How a New Generation of Jews Can Transform the American Synagogue" and "Judaism and Justice: The Jewish Passion to Repair the World."

The entire Temple Scholar Series is graciously underwritten by Trish & Shelly Krizelman.

Social Action Shabbat on Feb. 2 at 6 p.m.

Each year, the Social Action Allocations subcommittee sends requests for proposals to community organizations that meet our guidelines, and then evaluates the resulting proposals. Recommendations are approved by the Social Action Committee, and then by the board of trustees, for allocations to be made from funds earmarked for social action. In 2018, 17 agencies—including our own Room in the Inn—will receive a total of \$18,000.

At Shabbat services on Feb. 2, we will honor these agencies by providing them an opportunity to display information about their organizations in our Oneg area both before and after services.

Anna-Gene O'Neal, President/CEO of Alive Hospice, will tell us about her organization that evening. Please join us as we celebrate the wonderful works of the organizations The Temple supports.

Also in early February...

Dr. A.-J. Levine speaks on these three Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on the following topics:

- Feb. 6 – The Bible and Immigration
- Feb. 13 – The Bible and Health Care
- Feb. 20 – The Bible and Poverty

@ West End

An Evening with Jon Meacham set for Jan. 14

This event takes place on Sunday, Jan. 14, at West End Synagogue, starting at 7:30 p.m., with doors opening at 7 p.m. The program also features musical guest Batsheva, with dessert reception and book signing to follow. Tickets start at \$75 and are available online at www.westendsyn.org.

For patron opportunities, please call Marcia Stewart, 615-269-4592 ext. 13

Meacham book discussion Jan. 9

Please join us as we discuss Jon Meacham's 2006 book, "American Gospel," in preparation for an evening with the author. Discussion takes place on Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 6:30 p.m. at West End Synagogue, in the East Lounge. Light refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to office@westendsyn.org before Jan. 8. Books are available at a discount at Parnassus Books.

Intro to Judaism class returns

Once again, the West End Synagogue will be partnering with the American Jewish University hosting the Miller Introduction to Judaism Program. Rabbi Joshua Kullock will be teaching the four-month class and everyone is invited to join. This learning opportunity begins on Jan. 7 and runs through May 6. Classes will be held every Sunday from 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

Cost for WES members is \$36 (couples \$50) and for non-members is \$180. There's no charge for members who have attended two previous classes; however, a donation is always encouraged.

Don't miss the opportunity to learn with Rabbi Joshua Kullock, make new friends and explore Judaism in new and deeper ways. For more information, check out the website at intro.aju.edu. We encourage you to please register at office@westendsyn.org or call (615) 269-4592, ext. 12, so that we can plan for materials and the room location of the class. We hope to see you soon!

Learn about Naale on Jan. 20

Come hear two guest speakers: Chaim Meyers, director of Naale in the Western World, and Gidon Berman, regional manager for Naale in Central USA. Naale's web site, www.naale-elite-academy.com, says the program was established in 1992 in a joint effort with the Jewish Agency with a goal of providing Jewish high school students worldwide the opportunity to live and study in Israel for high school. The Naale program is fully subsidized including a full scholarship for tuition, free airfare to and from Israel, room and board, health insurance, trips and more.

Three classes on the Book of Job with Stuart Arkovitz

These classes will be held from 11 a.m. to noon, on the following dates:

- Jan. 7: Look who's talking
- Jan. 14: That's what friends are for
- Jan. 21: Shut up and listen to yourself

Stand with Us session 3 takes place on Jan. 24

Stand with Us session 3 will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 24, at Congregation Micah from 6-8 p.m. with facilitator Vida Velasco.

All Stand with Us sessions are open to teens in 9th through 12th grades. Stand With Us is funded by a grant from the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

Velasco, who is not Jewish, has been speaking up for Israel and educating audiences on the facts for the past seven years as an individual. She left her successful career as a real estate broker in Manhattan to give back to the world in a meaningful way. Having grown up with Jewish people, she never questioned Israel being the home of the Jewish people.

She was hired to train and mentor high school students by StandWithUs, the Los Angeles-based international Israel education organization in recognition of her passion and commitment.

Since August 2012, Vida has spoken to thousands of people of varying backgrounds and has helped many along their journey of discovering why everyone has a responsibility to speak up and act. It has also been her honor to help shape the next generation with the networking, critical thinking and leadership skills they will need as they build towards the future.

WES scholar in residence weekend Feb. 2-4

Guest scholar Rabbi Rami Shapiro will explore these topics over the weekend:

- Friday Evening: "Why Hasidism Matters"
- Shabbat Morning D'var Torah: "The Ten Commandments as a Path to Personal and Communal Liberation"
- Shabbat Afternoon: "From Self to Self and Back Again"
- Motzei Shabbat: "Parables and Paradise: Dialoguing with Hasidic Tales as a Path to Hallowing the Ordinary as You Awaken to the Extraordinary"
- Sunday Morning: The Ultimate Four Questions: Who am I? Where did I come from? Where am I going? How Shall I live?"

Shabbat dinner charge is \$22 for adults; \$8 for children 3-11, no charge for children under 3.

The annual WES Scholar in Residence Program is funded by grants from the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, the Albert and Evelyn Stein Adult Education Fund, the Max Levine Fund and the Janet Levine March Fund for Cultural Arts.

Nashville celebrates Festival of Lights

When Hanukkah started on Dec. 12, Jewish community members gathered downtown to celebrate with Nashville Mayor Megan Barry and light a new 12-foot menorah positioned on the Courthouse Square. As families across the area lit candles, Nashville's congregations held special events in synagogues and throughout the city. Latkes and more awaited participants at the Gordon JCC's annual Hanukkah Fest on Dec. 17. Here are a few photos capturing the celebration. •



Nashville Mayor Megan Barry helps usher in Hanukkah outside the Courthouse.



Children dressed as dreidels dance in the Courthouse square on the first night of Hanukkah. PHOTOGRAPH BY RON GALBRAITH



Bernie Pargh (left) has passed down the tradition of crispy, tasty latkes to his son, Franklin Pargh. PHOTOGRAPH BY JOEL ABRAMSON



The menorah outside the Gordon JCC glows on the last night of Hanukkah. PHOTOGRAPH BY KATHY CARLSON



Bernie Pargh (left), son Franklin Pargh, Emily May, Carla Rosenthal, Alyssa Trachtman, Mark Robin and Sy Trachtman work their magic on simple ingredients to keep Hanukkah Fest attendees in plenty of latkes. PHOTOGRAPH BY KATHY CARLSON



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The tables are full of families and friends sharing dinner and games during Hanukkah Fest 2018 at the Gordon JCC on Dec. 17. PHOTOGRAPH BY JOEL ABRAMSON

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Simchas & Celebrations

JANUARY 2018



the **Observer**
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Green Hills Hampton Inn: Making your out-of-town guests feel at home

Complete confidence that out-of-town guests will feel right at home is a primary concern for every host or hostess, no matter what the social event. Hampton Inn & Suites-Green Hills specializes in just that: making our home their home-away-from-home while they attend your special event.

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Belle Meade Premium Cigars is locally owned by Joe Vetvong, Uyen Tran and Jeff Watson, longtime friends who opened the store together in November 2004.

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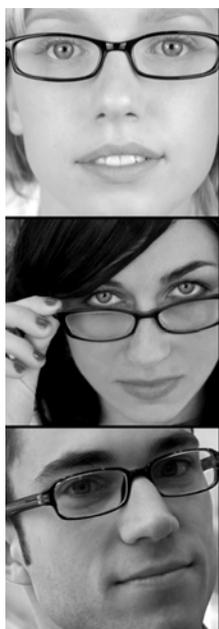
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Dr. Rubin completed his orthopaedic surgery residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center in New York followed by a combined hand fellowship in orthopedic surgery and plastic surgery at Mount Sinai Medical Center and NYU. He recently moved to Tennessee with his wife who is a native Nashvillian.

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See the community calendar at www.jewishnashville.org

Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee welcomes President Trump's statement on Jerusalem

The Federation issued this statement on Dec. 6.

The Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee welcomes President's Trump decision to move the United States embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and to do so in a measured way over a period of time that will ensure it will be, as the President stated, 'a tribute to peace.'

The Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee has traveled on missions to Israel many times since the

peace agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians can only be determined through direct negotiations between the two parties. We are also encouraged by President's Trump decision to move the United States embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and to do so in a measured way over a period of time that will ensure it will be, as the President stated, 'a tribute to peace.'

establishment of the modern State of Israel in 1948 and each and every time our delegations have heard Israeli leaders stress that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel and of the Jewish people. We have also witnessed firsthand how Israel has gone to great lengths to ensure that Jerusalem's religious holy places of the three faiths that share Jerusalem and the religious rights of Jews, Christians and Muslims are maintained in a respectful and appropriate manner.

Today's statement by President

Trump recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and of his intention to move the U.S. embassy should not be exploited by extremist elements whose only goals are to foment violence against Israeli citizens, both Jews and Arab, and to challenge the legitimacy of the Jewish state. We call upon Arab and Muslim leaders throughout the Middle East to demonstrate a new maturity of leadership by appealing to their constituents to eschew violence and to work toward a meaningful peace agreement with their Israeli neighbors. •

U.S. vetoes U.N. Security Council resolution on Jerusalem recognition...

(JTA) — The United States vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution that would have required the Trump administration to backtrack on its recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The other 14 member-states of the Security Council voted in favor of the one-page document submitted by Egypt, which insists that any decisions on the status of Jerusalem have no legal effect and must be rescinded.

The United States and the four other permanent members of the council — China, Russia, the United Kingdom and France — can veto a resolution.

Following the vote, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel released a video in which he thanked Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, for her words of support and the U.S. veto of the resolution.

"Thank you, Ambassador Haley. On Hanukkah, you spoke like a Maccabi," he said. "You lit a candle of truth. You dispel the darkness. One defeated the many.



U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley. PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHANIE KEITH / GETTY IMAGES

Truth defeated lies. Thank you, President Trump. Thank you, Nikki Haley."

President Donald Trump reversed decades of U.S. policy early last month when he recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and began the process of moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv. The Palestinians and Arab and Muslim countries expressed outrage, and

much of the world came out against the move. After the decision, Arab foreign ministers agreed to seek a Security Council resolution.

The text of the draft "affirms that any decisions and actions which purport to have altered the character, status or demographic composition of the Holy City of Jerusalem have no legal effect, are null and void, and must be rescinded in compliance with relevant resolutions of the Security Council." The resolution also called on U.N. member states to "refrain from the establishment of diplomatic missions in the Holy City of Jerusalem, pursuant to resolution 478 (1980) of the Security Council."

Speaking to the Security Council before the vote, Haley said she would not discuss Trump's call on the embassy, saying it's a decision that a "sovereign nation" such as the United States has "every right to do."

Haley instead brought up a U.N. resolution condemning settlement construc-

tion by Israel that the Obama administration allowed to pass last December by abstaining rather than exercising its veto.

"Given the chance to vote again on Resolution 2234, I can say with complete confidence that the United States would vote no; we would exercise our veto power," Haley said. "For decades, Israel has withstood wave after wave of bias in the U.N. and its agencies. The United States has often stood beside Israel. We did not on Dec. 23, 2016. We will not make that mistake again."

Also prior to the vote, Israel's U.N. ambassador, Danny Danon, told the Security Council that even the passage of such a resolution would not change the fact that Jerusalem is Israel's capital.

"Members of the council can vote again and again — for a hundred more times," he said. "It won't change the simple fact that Jerusalem is, has been and always will be the capital of Israel." •

... but General Assembly slaps U.S. recognition of Jerusalem

(JTA) — The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution rejecting any recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in the wake of the pronouncement by President Donald Trump two weeks ago.

The vote at Thursday's emergency session was 128 in favor and 9 against, with 35 abstentions. The United States had vetoed a similar resolution by the U.N. Security Council favored by the 14 other countries.

General Assembly resolutions are nonbinding, but are intended to carry moral weight as an expression of the international community.

Yemen and Turkey drafted the General Assembly resolution, which affirms that "any decisions and actions which purport to have altered, the character, status or demographic composition of the Holy City of Jerusalem have no legal effect, are null and void and must be rescinded in compliance with relevant resolutions of the Security Council."

It also calls on the United States "to refrain from the establishment of diplomatic missions in the Holy City of Jerusalem."

The resolution also noted that "Jerusalem is a final status issue to be resolved through negotiations in line with

relevant United Nations resolutions."

The Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations, Riyad Mansour, called the U.S. decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital "an aggression towards the Palestinian people" and added that it "affect(s) the status of the United States as a mediator of peace."

"History records names, it remembers names, the names of those who stand by what is right and stand up to peace, and it remembers those who speak falsehoods," Mansour said in a reference to U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley saying earlier in the week that she would "take names" of the countries that vote for the resolution.

The Turkish ambassador to the U.N., Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, called Trump's threat to withhold development money from countries that vote for the resolution "bullying."

"We will not be intimidated. You can be strong but that does not make you right," he said.

Haley said a vote for the resolution would show "disrespect" to the United States by other U.N. countries.

"When we make generous contributions to the U.N., we also have expectations that we will be respected. What's

more, we are being asked to pay for the dubious privileges of being disrespected," Haley said.

"If our investment fails, we have an obligation to spend our investment in other ways," she added. "This vote will be remembered."

Haley questioned why Israel remains in the United Nations.

"To its shame, the United Nations has been a place that is hostile to Israel," she said. "Israel has chosen to remain in this institution because it is important to stand up for yourself."

Israel's ambassador to the U.N., Danny Danon, called the fact that the meeting was taking place "shameful." He said the United States "simply stated a fact" when it recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

"Jerusalem is the holiest place on earth for the Jewish people. This is a fact that simply cannot be refuted," he said. "King David declared Jerusalem the capital of the Jewish people 3,000 years ago."

Danon produced a coin dating to 67 A.D. reading "Freedom of Zion" that he said provides clear evidence of the Second Temple and "proves the ancient connection of Jews to Jerusalem."

"Those who support today's resolution are like puppets. You are like puppets pulled by your Palestinian masters," he said.

Prior to the meeting, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "Today is a very important day in Israel and very important outside of Israel.

Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, whether or not the U.N. recognizes it. It took 70 years until the United States officially recognized this and it will take years for the United Nations to recognize that as well."

"The attitude toward Israel from many countries on all continents is changing outside the U.N. and will eventually seep into the walls of the U.N. House — the House of Lies. The State of Israel rejects this vote out of hand even before it was accepted. Jerusalem is our capital, we will continue to build there, and embassies of countries, headed by the United States, will move to Jerusalem."

Following the vote, Netanyahu posted a statement on social media decrying the resolution.

"Israel completely rejects this preposterous resolution. Jerusalem is our capital. Always was. Always will be. But I do appreciate the fact that a growing number of countries refuse to participate in this 'theater of the absurd.'"

He thanked Trump and Haley for their "stalwart support" of Israel and "the truth."

Along with Israel and the United States, the countries that voted against the resolution are Guatemala, Honduras, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau and Togo.

Among those that voted in favor are the United Kingdom, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Greece and Brazil. Australia, Canada, Poland and the Czech Republic were among the nations that abstained. •

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

Family histories: Shaindel's courageous journey

Last fall marked the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Nashville community member Avi Poster joined countless others in paying homage to the stories of family members who escaped the ravages, repression and cruelty of 20th century Russia as well as so many other places. He wrote that his family's brave escape from Russia in the aftermath of revolution, and the suffering they endured, led to and shaped the rich life he has been so fortunate to enjoy and for which he is grateful. Following is his telling of his grandmother's story:

By AVI POSTER

Life during and following the Russian Revolution proved to be one of the epic, most explosive times in history. Led by Vladimir Lenin, the Bolsheviks (who later morphed into the Communist Party) seized power, ending the Romanov dynasty and centuries of Russian Czarist imperial rule, and creating chaos and continued authoritarian rule in its wake. Lenin and his comrades, who gained power on the promise of a proletarian-run state, set into motion the political and social changes that would ultimately lead to the formation of the Soviet Union and a hundred years of Communist dictatorship.

Decades earlier most Russian Jews, subject to the historic anti-Semitism we have forever been victim to, were banished to the western region of Imperial Russia, The Pale of Settlement, outside of which residency was severely restricted. Civil war broke out in the confusion following the 1917 revolution such that Jews could not easily distinguish who their enemies were ... who their few friends were. Both Lenin's Red Army and the democratic socialists' White Army took turns pillaging and destroying their neighborhoods and villages, raping and beating inhabitants, burning homes and confiscating property, with the aim of obliterating what little remained of Jewish culture and Chasidic life. It is within this backdrop that the heroic journey of Shaindel Posternak resides.



Avi Poster's father, Sidney, and his grandmother, Shaindel. PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF AVI POSTER

Beginnings in Ukraine

Shaindel grew up in Pavalitch, her parents' hometown, about 60 miles southeast of Kiev. At the age of 20 she was married off to Berel Dov Posternak, my namesake, a miller in the neighboring town of Skvyra just ten miles up the road. Dov was a successful businessman, a catch so to speak, who could be counted on to help his new extended family. He was also a widower with three very young daughters and a blind mother-in-law in his care to boot. Shaindel adopted Dov's family as her own, then bore him three children of her own: Shlomo (Sidney, my father), David and Rachel (Rochelle).

Skvyra was a town of 20,000, nearly half of which was Jewish. Like most Ukrainian Jewish communities, it fell siege to the various warring factions seeking power and riches. Three brutal pogroms took place in 1918, followed by six more in 1919.

During the last one, Bolsheviks rode through town just as the White Army left, riding in on horseback, beating everyone in sight and stealing whatever the Whites

did not cart away. They burst into the Posternak home; beat Dov to death, next turning on Shlomo who was recovering from rheumatic fever. The beat him while he was lying in bed, so badly that he lost hearing in one ear. Shaindel threw herself over him during while blows rained, only to be knocked unconscious.

Journey of courage and hope

Almost immediately following Shiva for her husband, Dov, Shaindel packed up her three children, along with her three stepchildren and one Klezmer stepson-in-law, and began the family trek to America.

It was a long, arduous, dangerous journey that ultimately led to Ellis Island, where our family name was changed to Poster, and a storied life in this country. En route Shaindel and Shlomo, her oldest child, rented a boat to cross the Baltic, bribed bandits and soldiers, and lived for a year in Romania before receiving the paperwork necessary to enter this country.

Our family story in the United States is a beautiful one. Shaindel brought the family to live in Chicago near a brother who had escaped czarist Russia years

before. The Poster brothers joined new-found family in business (Nathansons and Rappaports) and became successful manufacturers of fine leather goods.

My father, ever grateful for the opportunities living here, devoted himself to family and community, supporting Jewish causes, joining social justice and civil rights movements, becoming a staunch supporter of the establishment of a Jewish State.

Examples and legacies

Shaindel did the same. Without learning the English language, she devoted herself to serving the poor, advancing Yiddishkeit in a local folk school, synagogue life, and more. She always lived with us, not just because dad was the oldest of her children, but I would like to believe her favorite. Mama Fannie devoted her life to deferring to her as the head of our household. Shaindel distinguished herself as a pillar of Chicago's storied West Side Jewish community, leader in the Zionist movement, and as a founder of Chicago's Pioneer Women (Na'amat). Both Shaindel and her son, Sidney, walked this earth as true Tzaddiks.

There is one more story to be considered at the foot of this 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, and that is the story of those left behind in the motherland, including members of our family who for a variety of reasons feared remaining in touch with us during the Stalin regime and after.

These are people who continued to be forced to endure lasting anti-Semitism, the brutality of dictatorship, the challenges of maintaining Jewish identity and culture in a society that did not welcome either. Like other minorities in the emerging Soviet Union they were not allowed to start businesses, own property, accumulate assets. Until the great Soviet Jewry emigration three decades ago, when a million escaped, they were not allowed to leave, not allowed to live a Jewish life. They faced the hardship of relentless discrimination, stalled advancement, restrictions on religious practice, dismantled Jewish institutions.

It is in their name that heroines like Shaindel conducted their virtuous lives. •

Jewish Film Festival breaks attendance records

By FRAN BRUMLIK
Managing Director, NJFF

Thanks to our wonderful and generous sponsors and involved audiences, the 2017 Nashville Jewish Film Festival (NJFF) was a spectacular success. With a varied selection of films, ranging from mockumentaries to documentaries and features, the 15 films shown over a three-week period played to enthusiastic and involved audiences. We are grateful to the people of Nashville and Middle Tennessee for again supporting the enhancement of Jewish culture, history and life through the medium of film, as well as to the Jewish Federation of Nashville for its grant and support.

A special thank you goes to all the groups that hosted a screening. The attendance of members of the host organizations brought the diversity of Jewish life in Nashville alive. Thank you to the following host groups – we hope you will be part of the 2018 NJFF:

- Gordon JCC and The Temple, Congregation Ohabai Shalom –

- “Loving Henri”
- NowGen Nashville and West End Synagogue – “Harmonia”
- Congregation Micah – “Bye Bye Germany”
- PJ Library Parents – “The 90 Minute War”
- W.E.L.L. (Women Engaged in Living and Learning), a program of The Temple – “The Women’s Balcony”
- Nashville Jewish Religious Schools and The Akiva School – “Fanny’s Journey”
- National Council of Jewish Women, Nashville Section – “The History of Love”
- Nashville Hadassah – “The Kind Words”
- B’nai B’rith Social Club – “Compared To What: The Improbable Journey of Barney Frank”
- B’nai B’rith Maimonides Chapter and Chabad of Nashville, Congregation Beit Tefilah – “Keep Quiet”
- Gordon JCC Senior Programs – “Scandal in Ivansk”

- Next Dor, The Temple, Congregations Ohabai Shalom and Sherith Israel – “Body and Soul”
 - Nashville Kosher Hot Chicken Festival – “Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story”
 - Vanderbilt University Holocaust Lecture Series – “Monsieur Mayonnaise”
 - Gordon JCC – “The Exception”
- A big thank you to all the guest

speakers who added to our enjoyment of each film: Robert Allan Black and David Haspel, Sheila Canavan and Michael Chandler, Cantor Sarah Levine, Rabbi Shana Mackler, Daniella Pressner, Professor Allison Schachter, Professor Shaul Kelner, Steve D. Reece, H. Beecher Hicks III, Denise Loder DeLuca, Ari Dubin and Rev. Mark Forrester.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2018 festival. •

Learn about ethical wills at Jan. 9 Hadassah event

At the next Hadassah dinner meeting, Ruth Lebovitz presents “The Ethical Will, a Bridge to Connect the Values Between Generations.” The meeting takes place on Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. at Anatolia Turkish Restaurant, 48 White Bridge Pike.

Ruth Lebovitz, B.A., M.Ed., J.D., is a past president of Hadassah and writes a monthly literary column in

The Williamson County Examiner. She has published on the topic of ethical wills. As Ruth explains, January is a month for personal reflection. This presentation will encourage you to consider creating your own written legacy with lasting memories to share for generations.

Please join this interesting discussion; you need not be a Hadassah member to attend. RSVP to Deana Goldstein at (615) 438-5225. •

Jewish, African-American communities join together in Journey for Justice

By **MARY JONES**
Community Relations Committee

Speaking in November 2016 about a troubling current of tension within the new civil rights movement, David Bernstein, who heads the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, said, “To have a friend, you have to be a friend. How do we influence anyone’s views if we’re not part of the conversation?” He urged Jews to connect with other communities, “(n)ot because we’re trying to shape the movement, but because it’s the right thing to do.”

The Nashville Jewish Federation’s Community Relations Committee (CRC) has engaged with the African-American community through its annual Seders and MLK Day programs, and now it has established a formal framework for ongoing dialogue and partnership.

In spring 2017—months before the shock of Charlottesville, Rabbi Flip Rice and Education Director Julie Greenberg of Congregation Micah developed a plan. Together, Congregation Micah and the CRC submitted a grant proposal to the Federation for a “Journey for Justice” – a first step in exploring the intersecting histories and narratives of the African-American and Jewish communities.

Thanks to the generosity of this New Initiative grant from the Jewish Federation of Nashville, on Dec. 8, over 50 participants from four churches and



Journey for Justice participants gather in the Civil Rights Reading Room of the Nashville Public Library.

three synagogues met at Congregation Micah to worship, have Shabbat dinner, and begin a conversation in hopes of forming friendships and learning how to become better allies for one another.

The next morning, we started the Journey for Justice at the Gordon JCC, where we boarded a bus. The first stop was the Civil Rights Reading Room in the downtown library, where Tasneem Grace Tewogbola interpreted archival photos and inspired honest and reflective conversation about our memories and hopes.

The journey then continued to

the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, where community docents Robin Cohen and Faith Haber Galbraith showed us thought-provoking expressions of the African-American experience in the museum’s current World War I and Nick Caves exhibits.

From there, we went to Fisk University, where treasures from the library’s Special Collections taught us about our shared history. We saw letters and photos of Fisk’s German Jewish refugee scholars, whose lives were saved by the Historically Black colleges who gave

them jobs when no one else would. We saw documents from the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which—with African-American support and labor—helped build over 5,000 schools in 15 Southern states (and also provided funding for buildings and equipment at our own Tennessee State University). And we heard the story of Fisk’s Slave Bible – an 1808 Bible from the West Indies that, like many of its time, excluded passages that could have encouraged liberation – such as the book of Exodus.

Next stop was Belle Meade Plantation, where participants learned about the families who were enslaved there and talked about recent efforts at Belle Meade Plantation and in our city to move beyond the traditional tendency to focus only on the lives of wealthy white families.

The journey concluded back at the Gordon JCC with a tour of the Nashville Holocaust Memorial, testimony from child survivor Frances Cutler Hahn, a stirring song by Dwight Lewis of the First Baptist Church of Gallatin, and Havdallah. As we moved from Shabbat peace to wishes for a good week, we talked about plans for our next gathering.

In the words of First Baptist Church Pastor Derrick Jackson, “Taking the time to share, listen, learn, and love can transform a person, a community, a nation, and a world.”

In the words of participant Arleen Tuchman, “I’m so glad I’m on this journey!” •

PJ Library picks local girl for book-review team

Ilana Hanai, daughter of Sara and Ramin Hanai, will be helping select books for other children to read through the PJ Library program. She was chosen late last year to be on the PJ Our Way National Design team.

You could say PJ Library runs in the family, since mom Sara is the former coordinator of the Nashville PJ Library program.

Ilana, 10, was selected by the Massachusetts-based Harold Grinspoon Foundation to join the national PJ Our Way Design Team. The program is also made possible in Nashville through the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

Currently in its fifth year, the PJ Our Way program is the



Ilana Hanai

next chapter of the highly successful Jewish outreach program, PJ Library. PJ Our Way offers children ages 9-11 a choice of Jewish-themed books and a safe website to upload reviews, videos and blogs.

Ilana and 11 other team members from across America have early access to books and create content including videos

and reviews. Together the team interviews authors, participates in workshops and leads the conversation among their peers.

To apply for the team, Ilana read and reviewed two books, “The Private Notebook of Katie Roberts, Age 11 by Amy Hest, and “Penina Levine is a Potato Pancake” by Rebecca O’Connell.

Ilana likes to write and she looks forward to seeing new books and checking them out for other readers. •

Author Dalin discusses ‘Jewish Justices’ in Book Series event

Local attorney and author Alan Turk interviews David G. Dalin on the lives, legal careers, and legacies of the eight Jews who have served as justices of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Their discussion takes place on Thursday, Jan. 25, from 7-8:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble at Vanderbilt University, 2501 West End Avenue. It’s part of the Gordon JCC’s Jewish Book Series.

Dalin’s 2017 book, “Jewish Justices of the Supreme Court: From Brandeis to Kagan,” examines the lives, legal careers, and legacies of the eight Jewish justices: Louis D. Brandeis, Benjamin Cardozo, Felix Frankfurter, Arthur Goldberg, Abe Fortas, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer and Elena Kagan. Ginsburg, Breyer and Kagan serve on the current

Supreme Court.

Turk and Dalin will explore the relationship that these Jewish justices have had with the presidents who appointed them. They’ll also explore the anti-Semitism some justices encountered in their ascent within the legal profession before their appointment, as well as the role that anti-Semitism played in the attendant political debates and Senate confirmation battles.

The Jewish Book Series runs through April and covers topics including cooking, business, sports, Jewish identity, family, current events, and politics. Unlike traditional book festivals, our series runs over a longer timeframe, so you have a chance to do and see more!

Tickets are on sale at nashvillejcc.org/book. •

Nashville Jewish Social Justice Roundtable sets agenda for 2018

The Nashville Jewish Social Justice Roundtable (JSJRN) is a recently organized progressive Jewish voice within the broader Nashville Jewish community committed to exploring and supporting solutions that advance the principles of democratic pluralism, religious freedom and social and economic justice on the national, state and local levels. Our work reflects the profound historic commitment of the American Jewish community to help develop and sustain a world better than the one we were brought into. We believe it is the responsibility of members of the Jewish community to help protect, preserve and promote a just American society by standing strong in support of social and economic justice issues.

The core beliefs and adopted positions of the Nashville Jewish Social Justice Roundtable are informed by Jewish values and reflect the philosophic pillars of Judaic morality. We activate our organizational goals through information sharing, occasional action calls to communicate with public officials, and periodic educational forums. In 2018, our membership will be offered opportunities to involve themselves in advocacy centered on criminal justice, poverty reduction, healthcare and immigration reform.

Members of the Jewish community are encouraged to consider joining the JSJRN by signing up at www.jsjrnashville.org. For additional information, contact co-chairs Avi Poster (aviposter4@gmail.com) or Irwin Venick (IVenick@aol.com). •

Teens host unforgettable Shabbat featuring Jack and Sara Beth Cohen

By **SHERI ROSENBERG**
BBYO/Teen Director

Nashville BBYO in conjunction with the Tennessee Holocaust Commission was honored to welcome Jack and Sara Beth Cohen as part of BBYO's 'Global Shabbat' campaign last month.

Through the campaign, thousands of teens in hundreds of communities across more than 20 countries – from across North America to the Balkans to Argentina and everywhere in between – were to host simultaneous Friday night, Saturday morning, and Havdalah services.

Designed to unite communities around the world, Global Shabbat allows teens to gather together for powerful and engaging Shabbat programming with their local communities, while being a part of a collective global experience.

"In a time filled with pervasive racial and ethnic injustice, rising anti-Semitism and a growing refugee crisis around the world, Global Shabbat is a more important celebration than ever," said Rae Williams, BBYO's senior director of movement initiatives. "This year's theme reminds us to embrace all neighbors across our community, our peoplehood, and our world to recognize that in the end, we are far more similar than we are different."

Nashville BBYO's Global Shabbat program featured teen-led Shabbat services, a catered dinner as well as a unique opportunity for teens and other community members to engage with Jack and Sara Beth Cohen, who inspired BBYO teen leaders after hearing their story. Jack shared

his story of living in Greece during the Holocaust. He was put in hiding for two years in a monastery. Sara Beth shared with the teens what it was like growing up with a father who was a Holocaust survivor.

"Global Shabbat was such a good experience this past Friday. Not only was I surrounded by my friends but also a Holocaust survivor. Knowing that there are only a few left, I cherished the time we spent with Mr. Cohen," said Hailey Mittelberg, a sophomore at Franklin High School.

Efraim Hanai, junior at Currey Ingram Academy, shared his thoughts from the night: "His story was incredible; I have never heard anything like it. His story truly shows how important it is to pass on the story of the Holocaust, so we never forget, so it never happens again." •



Nashville teens gather for BBYO Global Shabbat, held in conjunction with the Tennessee Holocaust Commission

Brook joins NJFF as volunteer co-director

The Nashville Jewish Film Festival is proud to announce that Jamie Brook has agreed to serve as a volunteer co-director of the Nashville Jewish Film Festival. Jamie joins Laurie Eskind, Jackie Roth Karr, Cindy Moskovitz, and Loretta Saff, all longtime co-directors. Jamie introduced the film "The History of Love" at the 2017 festival, has been a screener for the NJFF and has chaired its advisory committee for the last two years.

Jamie grew up in Nashville and left to pursue degrees in therapeutic recreation and occupational therapy. Since returning home in 2009 with her husband, Jeremy, an entertainment attorney, Jamie has worked in pediatric rehabilitation clinics. She now owns a private occupational therapy practice working with children.

She has served on The Temple Congregation Ohabai Sholom board of trustees, as chair of The Temple Preschool Advisory Committee, as a mother representative on the Best Fed Beginnings committee at Saint Thomas Midtown Hospital, and as secretary and president of the National Council of Jewish Women, Nashville Section. •



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B'nai Mitzvah

Rachel Cohen will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, Jan. 13, at 11 a.m. at The Temple. Rachel is the daughter of David Samuel Cohen and the late Amy M. Cohen. Her grandparents are the late P. Millard Cohen and Peggy A. Cohen of Nashville, as well as the late Berky Sloan and Eileen Lapidus Sloan of Glasgow, Ky.



Rachel Cohen

For her mitzvah project, Rachel is working with the Nashville Humane Shelter to help with the care of their animals. Rachel also has a jewelry business and gives her proceeds to various animal funds and groups.

Rachel is in the 7th grade at Linden Waldorf School and in her free time she plays the ukulele and writes songs. She enjoys art, designing jewelry and hiking outdoors. She also has two pets that she loves spending time with.

Julius Fox will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 11 a.m. at The Temple. Julius is the son of Carrington and David Fox. His grandparents are Sandy Nelson and the late William Nelson of Nashville, as well as the late George and Charlotte Fox of Nashville.



Julius Fox

For his mitzvah project, Julius is helping students with multiple disabili-

ties at Harris-Hillman School by donating money he earned mowing lawns and raising funds through the website he created, www.FoxMitzvah.com. The funds will purchase wipes, equipment, towels, batteries and other items for use by teachers and nurses at Harris-Hillman.

Julius is in the 7th grade at University School of Nashville, where he plays on the tennis team. He also enjoys fishing, shooting his BB guns, working with his brothers in their neighborhood lawn mowing service and taking summer trips to the Flathead Valley in Montana.

Theophilus Maxwell LaLonde Mosse will become a bar mitzvah at Congregation Micah on Saturday, Jan. 20. Theo is the son of Kristine LaLonde and Claudio Mosse, the grandson of Roberto and Susan Mosse of McLean, Va., and William and Oddveig LaLonde of Midlothian, Va. He is the brother of Gideon Mosse.



Theo Mosse

Theo is currently a 7th grader at the University School of Nashville. He enjoys participating in Boy Scouts, soccer, lacrosse, and robots and tech. Theo loves all things Marvel Comics as well as DC Comics.

For his Mitzvah project, Theo will be advocating for OASIS in support of at-risk youth in Nashville.

Wedding

Congratulations to Kimberly Rose Evans and Andrew Klein Nicolas, both of Baton Rouge, La., who were married Dec. 2, 2017 at Temple Israel in Memphis with Rabbi Micah Greenstein officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Evans and the grand-

daughter of Irving Evans and the late Phyllis Evans and the late Judge Leon and Myra Ruben. The bridegroom is the son of Mrs. Kathryn Nicolas and the late Mr. Louis Nicolas, and the grandson of the late Annette Konrad and Luis Lucio.

The wedding was overflowing with many family traditions and heirlooms. The bride's wedding gown was crafted with a section of her grandmother Phyllis' wedding dress. Her grandmother Myra's handkerchief was wrapped around her bouquet. The couple was wrapped in the bride's grandfather Leon's tallit for a special blessing and they drank from Grandfather Irving's wine cup during the ceremony. A special prayer was given by the bride's cousin, Marilyn Rubin. The ring used for the ceremony was from the bride's great-grandmother's family, which was used by several generations including the bride's parents, many aunts, uncles and cousin. The bride and bridegroom's first dance was sung by cousins, Whitney Evans, Rebekah Kelly and Laura Braslow. The father-daughter and son-mother dance was sung by Cousin Alex Evans. The most memorable was a special song written, composed, played and sung by Grandpa Irving in honor of the bride and bridegroom.

The couple will reside in Baton Rouge, Louisiana where the bride is manager of Swap Boutique and the bridegroom is an attorney with the Ezell Law Firm, LLC.

Sympathy

... to the family and friends of **Patrick Plank**, who died on Nov. 30. He was the stepfather of Congregation Micah member Ron (Faith Haber) Galbraith. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made in his name to Congregation Micah.

... to the family and friends of **Marion Wood**, who died on Dec. 1. Among her survivors are her daughter and son-in-law, Congregation Micah members Brenda and Jeff Karp, and her grandchildren Rachel and Adam. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made in her name to Congregation Micah.

... to the family and friends of West End Synagogue member **Walter Harrison**, 73. He died after a brief illness on Dec. 9, surrounded by his family.

A nationally respected pediatrician and Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Walter practiced medicine

until he was 72. He practiced in Lynn, Mass., for over 35 years and rounded out his career in Tennessee. He served as chief of pediatrics at North Shore Children's Hospital, Lynn Hospital and Union Hospital. He was active in the Massachusetts Academy of Pediatrics, and made remarkable strides in legislation for pediatric mental health and expanding healthcare coverage for children.

Walter loved the Red Sox, Celtics, and Patriots, chocolate pudding and his family with the joie de vivre of a large child exploring the world for the first time. He loved Jewish learning and was active in his Jewish communities and synagogues in both Massachusetts and Tennessee. Here in Nashville, Walter represented the B'nai B'rith Social Unit on the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, where he was an active and engaged advocate for Israel and on issues affecting the Jewish people. He served in Brotherhood, B'nai B'rith, and as Ritual Chairman for Temple Ner Tamid in Peabody, Mass.

He is survived by his wife, Jacalyn Harrison; children Lisa Austin, Michael and Peggy Harrison, Daniel Harrison, Nick and Val Kaplan, and Shana and Alex Beach; brother Andrew and Adrienne Harrison; grandchildren Molly and Jake Harrison, Pierce and Amelia Rose Kaplan, and Gabby and Sam Beach; as well as nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard and Jean Harrison of Dartmouth, N.H.

As a man who believed in giving thanks every day both for what you do have and for what you don't have, the family requests contributions in Walter's memory to the charity of your choice in lieu of flowers.

... to the family and friends of **Ruth Abelman**, who died on Dec. 9. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Congregation Micah members Steve and Robin Abelman. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made in Ruth's name to the Joseph and Esther Cheskis Scholarship at Brandeis University or Congregation Micah.

... to the family and friends of **Shirley Greenfield**, who died on December 11. A memorial service was held at The Temple.

... to the family and friends of WES member **Marvin Cohen** (Meyer ben Herschel). Marvin was preceded in death by his wife, Helen Blum Cohen.

He is survived by his children, Karen Cohen and Anita (Steve) Rich; grandchildren Nora Danielle (Jason) Pachter, Jennifer (Charles) Maldonado and Daniel Rich; great-grandchildren Emery Pachter and Addie Maldonado; and by nephews Norman Cohen, Barry Cannell and Stewart (Dee) Cannell and niece Judy (Stan) Weiss. •

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