

the Jewish Observer

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Community Mission meeting Oct. 30

The community is invited to a meeting on Sun., Oct. 30, about the Nashville Community Mission to Israel June 3-13, 2012. Anyone who wants more information about the mission should attend the 10:30 a.m. meeting at the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

The mission is open to community members from octogenarians to six year olds.

There was some confusion about the pricing for the trip that was printed in the brochure. The price per person refers to the number of people who sign up for the trip, with the price decreasing as the number who participate increases.

For information about the meeting or the mission, contact Naomi Limor Sedek at naomi@jewishnashville.org or 354-1642. □

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Gilad Shalit is coming home!

By Uriel Heilman

If Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit is freed in the prisoner-exchange deal with Hamas that was approved by Israel's Cabinet in a 26-3 vote late Tuesday night, it will raise two immediate questions: Which side finally acceded to the other's demands after years of fruitless negotiations since Shalit was captured in a June 2006 raid along the Israel-Gaza border, and what took so long to get here?

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu offered some hints about the first issue in a hastily called news conference shortly before going into the special Cabinet meeting. This deal, he suggested, was the best Israel was going to get, so if Israel was ever going to recover Shalit, it had to happen now.

"With everything that is happening in Egypt and the region, I don't know if the future would have allowed us to get a better deal — or any deal at all for that matter," Netanyahu said on Israeli television. "The window appeared following fears that collapsing Mideast regimes and the rise of extremist forces would make Gilad Shalit's return impossible."

The prime minister added, "If all goes according to plan, Gilad will be returning to Israel in the coming days."

The deal reportedly was signed by the two sides on Oct. 6 in Cairo



Israelis in Jerusalem celebrate the news on Oct. 11 that an agreement was reached between Israel and Hamas for the release of captive Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit. (Miriam Alster / Flash90)

following years of negotiations and mediation via the Egyptians. News of the deal was first reported by the satellite TV station Al Arabiya. Its exact contours remain unknown.

Shalit's release would mark a remarkable end to a five-year saga that has transfixed the Israeli public, frustrated two successive Israeli governments and spanned two wars.

Then a corporal in the Israeli army, Shalit was taken captive at age 19 on June 25, 2006, and almost immediately his family launched an

incessant public campaign to free him. The crusade included vigils, marches, meetings, statements by world leaders, celebrity endorsements, bumper stickers, congressional resolutions, songs and a protest encampment opposite the prime minister's official residence in Jerusalem.

Shalit's plight struck a chord in the Jewish state and the Jewish world, and Israelis and Jews from all walks of life and political camps took part in activities calling for his release.

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New Federation leader shares vision for future

By Kathy Carlson

From new Israel programs to philosophy to shouts of "Am Yisroel Chai," incoming Federation Executive Director Mark Freedman packed a lot into his first speech to the Nashville Jewish community on Oct. 6.

Freedman, just four days into his position leading the Jewish Federation of Nashville, spelled out his thoughts and goals on three broad themes: developing the organization's financial resources, his commitment to Israel programming, and his views on Federation. He spoke to about 100 community members at the organization's 75th Annual Meeting.

The meeting also featured Federation President Martin Ted Mayden's recap of initiatives begun in the past year through the Best Jewish Nashville priority-setting project. Vlada Melekhin and Freya Sachs, who participated in this past summer's Federation-funded next-generation leadership programs, told



From left: Ted Mayden, Jewish Federation president; Leon Tonelson, interim executive director; Mark S. Freedman, Federation executive director Photos: Rick Malkin

their stories, and Annual Campaign Chair Sandy Averbuch updated attendees on fundraising. Mayden and Freedman thanked Leon Tonelson for his service during the past year as the Federation's interim executive director.

Community members also approved the 2011-2012 slate of Federation officers and board members. They elected Mayden as president; Andrew May, vice president; Adam Landa, treasurer; and Jan Liff,

Continued on page 7

Israel Advocacy Afternoon to address BDS, UDI effects on Israel

BDS and UDI (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, and Universal Declaration of Independence) have been on the Jewish American and Israeli radars for some time now.

Across the country and around the world, the BDS movement seeks to delegitimize Israel by boycotting Israeli products, divesting from companies doing business with Israel (i.e. Caterpillar) and placing sanctions on commerce with Israel. Ethan Felson, vice president of the Jewish Council of Public Affairs (JCPA) has been on the front lines in the battle against BDS, especially with factions of the Presbyterian Church USA, which have been trying for several years to have the faith organization join the BDS movement.

Felson will be the keynote speaker

for the Federation Community Relations Committee's third program in the series, "Increase Your Israel IQ: From Argument to Advocacy," on Sun., Oct. 30, from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. He will speak on "Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement — Implications for Israel," at 1:30 p.m.

Following his talk on BDS, the Israel Advocacy Afternoon will continue with two breakout sessions. Felson will lead a discussion on "How to Talk about Israel (by Talking about Israel)," from 2:30-3:15.

Concurrently, Julie Bernstein, associate managing director of the Israel Action Network (IAN), will lead a discussion, "Community Activism in the Aftermath of UDI (Palestinian Unilateral Declaration of Independence). The IAN is a joint effort by the Jewish



Ethan Felson



Julie Bernstein

Federations of North America and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs to provide information and resources to local communities to promote Israel advocacy.

In late September, the Palestinians presented their proposal for UDI to the United Nations for approval. The U.S. government opposes it. The proposal has been sent to a UN committee for discussion. Bernstein will talk about the impli-

cations for Israel, the United States and the Arab world should UDI be approved. She will provide information the community can use when speaking with friends and neighbors.

The two breakout sessions will repeat at 3:30 to enable everyone to hear both Felson and Bernstein's presentations.

"This is the first time that I know of that there has been an extended Israel advocacy program like this in Nashville," said Judy Saks, Community Relations Committee director. "We urge everyone to come and learn about these topics that are impacting the lives of Israelis and Jews around the world. UDI is on the front burner at present and BDI will be raised, again, next summer at the Presbyterian Church USA General Assembly and is a continuing issue on college campuses in the U.S. and abroad."

Refreshments, coffee and soft drinks will be available throughout the afternoon.

This event is made possible by a grant from the Jewish Federation's New Initiatives Fund.

For reservations, contact Barbara@jewishnashville.org. For additional information or questions, contact Judy Saks at 354-1637 or judy@jewishnashville.org. □



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Needed: Participants for Israel dialogue program

Community members who participate in the Sun., Oct. 30, Israel Advocacy Afternoon [see the article above] are invited to join one of two scheduled facilitated dialogues about the issues raised by the speakers and related topics concerning Israel. One will be on Tues., Nov. 1, from 7:15-9 p.m., and the other on Sun., Nov. 6, from 9:30-11:30 a.m., both at the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

"Having two dates and times," said Judy Saks, Federation Community Relations director, "gives people options to fit a dialogue session into their calendars. We hope to have a wide variety of ideas and opinions expressed in an open and honest conversation as participants listen to and respect each other."

These dialogues are part of the CRC's Israel Education and Advocacy Grant from the Jewish Federation's New Initiatives Fund. The grant has allowed the CRC to bring in speakers about Israel including Jonathan Schanzer in June and Nathan Klein in August as well as Ethan Felson and Julie Bernstein on Oct. 30.

Anyone interested in participating should contact Judy Saks by Oct. 31 at judy@jewishnashville.org or 354-1637. □

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2011 Nashville Jewish Film Festival presents history, comedy, Simpsons

The Nashville Jewish Film Festival marks its 11th year this Nov. 2-10, with another week of notable films, guest speakers and special events. This year's lineup includes an Academy Award-winning documentary, a special appearance by a writer for *The Simpsons* and much more.

Opening night, Wed., Nov. 2, begins with a 5:30 p.m. cocktail supper at Cabana Restaurant in Hillsboro Village. Immediately afterward is the 7:30 p.m. screening at the Belcourt Theatre of *Bride Flight*. This beautiful story shows the power of lifelong friendships and loves, set against the backdrop of an emerging post-war society in New Zealand.

On **Thurs., Nov. 3** the NJFF presents two screenings. At 12:45 p.m. at the Gordon Jewish Community Center, view *In Search of Memory*, a documentary about the life and history of Nobel-prize winning scientist Eric Kandel. Then at 7 p.m. at the Belcourt, NJFF presents *Sholem Aleichem: Laughing in the Darkness*. The film introduces the man and his beloved folk characters of Eastern European Jewry, including Tevye the Milkman, perhaps better known as the star of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Saturday evening, Nov. 5, brings romantic comedy and Hollywood stars to the Belcourt. The first film, *Names of Love*, screens at 7 p.m. It's a comedy about a young neo-hippie who changes people's political opinions by engaging them in love affairs. Next up is *Polish Bar* at 9:30 p.m. This film details the crisis of faith and family that occurs when one young man leaves the family's path of religion for the hip-hop club scene. Special guests will be director Ben Berkowitz and star Judd Hirsch.

On **Sun., Nov. 6,** the film *Strangers No More* will be shown free of charge to religious school students at 9:30 a.m. at the GJCC. The documentary depicts a special school in Tel Aviv where chil-

dren of all races and religions come together to learn and grow. Special guest Avi Poster, an educator and immediate past chair of the Nashville Jewish Federation's Community Relations Committee, will lead the discussion.

Also that day at the GJCC at 3:30 p.m., NJFF presents *The Matchmaker*, telling the story of Arik, a teenage boy growing up in Haifa in 1968, and how his summer job with Yankele Bride, a matchmaker, changes both of their lives forever. Running concurrently with *The Matchmaker* is the Nashville premiere of the new *Shalom Sesame* episodes and *PJ Library preschool program* for young children. Drop off your children at the J for this free event and come enjoy the movie.

On Sunday night at the Belcourt is the feature *La Rafle*, on the roundup of French Jews during the Holocaust as seen through the eyes of a group of young boys and girls. The film starts at 7 p.m.

On **Mon., Nov. 7,** the Monday matinee at noon features *Vidal Sassoon: The Movie*, preceded by a buffet lunch by Goldie Shepard at the GJCC. The documentary tells the story of the incredible Jewish man who changed the world with a pair of scissors.

Crime After Crime, an official selection of the Sundance Film Festival, will be shown on **Mon., Nov. 7,** at 7 p.m. It tells the story of the battle to free Debbie Peagler, an incarcerated survivor of brutal domestic violence. Her story takes an unexpected turn two decades later when a pair of rookie land-use attorneys (one an Orthodox Jew) cut their teeth on her case — and attract global attention to the troubled intersection of domestic violence and criminal justice. There will be a panel discussion moderated by Pat Shea, president and CEO of the YWCA of Middle Tennessee and including the defense attorney featured in the film, Joshua Safran.

On **Tues., Nov. 8,** at 7 p.m., the NJFF brings a little-known piece of history to the screen with the documentary

Jewish Soldiers in Blue and Gray, which recounts the stories of Jewish soldiers fighting on both sides of the Civil War.

On **Wed., Nov. 9,** at 7 p.m., NJFF presents the feature film *Mabul (The Flood)*, about a family struggling to keep up appearances while hiding their sins. The 2011 film was nominated for six Israeli Oscars.

On **Thurs., Nov. 10,** at 5:30 p.m., NJFF presents a **Closing Night Nosh and Happy Hour** at Sam's Sports Grill

in Hillsboro Village. At 7 p.m., the closing night film, *Jews in Toons*, will take place at The Belcourt. This special event will offer screening of rare footage from *The Simpsons*, and *Simpsons* writer/producer Mike Reiss will attend to narrate the screenings, which include a classic Jewish episode from one of his shows.

For more information, contact Jordana White at 615/354-1628, email nashvillejewishfilmfest@gmail.com, or go to www.nashvillejewishfilmfestival.org. □

2011 Food Stamp Challenge adds new participants daily

Nashville's Food Stamp Challenge, co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation Community Relations Committee and Catholic Charities, continues to attract participants for the

Mon., Oct. 24 — Sun., Oct. 30 event. New community partners include Second Harvest, Community Food Advocates, Metro Human Relations Commission, Jewish Family Service, the Mayor's Poverty Council and the Campus for Human Development.

The event is part of a nationwide effort, Fighting Poverty with Faith, by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, Catholic Charities and the National Council of Churches, to put the spotlight on hunger needs in America.

The challenge is for individuals to live on the average Food Stamp budget of \$31.50 a week for food. That's \$4.50 a day. Food Stamps are becoming a reality to more people, many middle class, who are falling into poverty due to the economic downturn. One in seven

Americans rely on Food Stamps to feed themselves and their families, many of them here in Nashville.

Participants will get an inkling of what it is like to live in poverty and how difficult it can be to meet basic needs. This is at a time when the funding for supplemental nutrition programs could be reduced in the U.S. Congress' budget negotiations.

To participate in the Food Stamp Challenge, email judy@jewish-nashville.org and put Food Stamp Challenge in the subject line. To find out more about the Challenge, visit the Facebook page, Food Stamp Challenge Nashville.

Participants, if they are able, are invited to begin the Challenge week on Mon., Oct. 24, at 10 a.m. at the Bordeaux Kroger, 3930 Clarksville Highway. A representative from Second Harvest will talk about hunger in Nashville and a Food Stamp recipient will talk about the experience of relying on the stamps.

Call Judy Saks, CRC director, at 354-1637 with any questions. □



Israeli Cabinet approves Shalit deal

Continued from page 1

It's not clear whether this public campaign helped usher in the deal announced Oct. 11 or whether it hindered an agreement from being reached.

Shalit's family believed that it had to keep up the public pressure on the Israeli government to seal the deal. At the official state Independence Day ceremony last Yom Ha'atzmaut, in May, Shalit's brother Yoel darted onstage with his girlfriend and a banner reading "Shalit is still alive." Instead of getting arrested for the stunt on national television broadcast, he got an audience with Israeli opposition leader Tzipi Livni.

But some analysts warned that all the public clamor to free Shalit only made a deal more difficult by increasing the price Hamas demanded for his release. Indeed, for years Israel insisted that the price was too high.

On Oct. 11, Time magazine reported that the exchange would include as many as 1,000 Palestinian prisoners — first the 450 named by Hamas, and then 550 named by Israel. The prisoners "will include as many as 315 men convicted of killing hundreds of Israelis in terror attacks," Time Foreign Editor Tony Karon wrote.

Critics of prisoner-exchange swaps warn that such deal merely encourages Israel's enemies to capture more Israelis.

Such criticism followed then-Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's decision in July

2008 to trade five Lebanese prisoners — including notorious murderer Samir Kuntar — and the bodies of 199 others in exchange for the bodies of Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, two Israeli soldiers captured in the border attack by Hezbollah that sparked the 2006 Lebanon War.

Goldwasser and Regev were thought to have been killed in the attack or shortly thereafter, but until the coffins with their bodies arrived on Israeli soil, Israeli officials said they could not know with certainty that they were dead.

Shalit's case has been a little different. In a video released by his captors in October 2009, a frail but otherwise healthy-looking Shalit held a current newspaper and read a message asking Israeli authorities to conclude an agreement for his release. In all his years in captivity, Shalit was allowed no international or Red Cross visitors.

As Israel's Cabinet discussed the deal into the wee hours the morning of Oct. 12, the heads of the Israel Defense Forces, the Mossad and the Shin Bet internal security service all reportedly expressed support for the deal. When the matter finally came to a vote, there were only three dissenting ministers: Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman and National Infrastructure Minister Uzi Landau of Yisrael Beiteinu, and Vice Prime Minister Moshe Ya'alon of Likud. □

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- PRESENTATION -

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Partying like it's 5772? Great idea, 200 folks say

This year's Rosh Hashanah New Year's Bash at Merchants Restaurant exceeded expectations, drawing 200 partiers to the downtown restaurant for the Oct. 1 event.

About 120 folks attended last year's inaugural event, co-sponsored by Jmingle, the Jewish Federation of Nashville's Young Adults Division and Hillel at Vanderbilt. This year, twice as many people preregistered online, Federation community engagement associate Joel Abramson said. He thanked Ben and Max Goldberg, owners of Merchants, for opening their establishment to the group.

"The place was absolutely packed," he said. It drew singles, couples from throughout the Young Adults Division rough demographic of folks in their 20s to 40s.

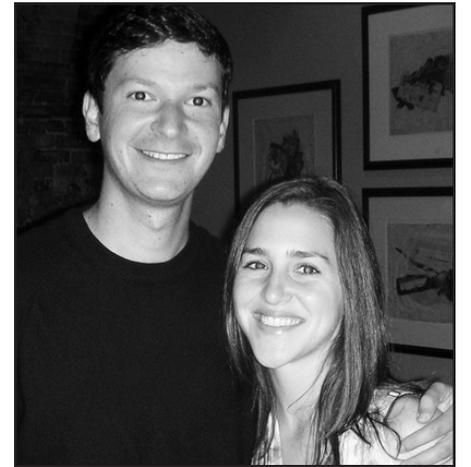


From left: Alex McCarthy, Matthew McCarthy, Felicia Levine, Jessie Stellini, Matthew Strauss, Elizabeth Markham and Jessica Leven

"The annual Rosh Hashanah party is unlike any other event for young Jewish adults in Middle Tennessee," said Joseph Levy. "It combines a reunion of Nashville natives with the intermingling of Nashville transplants and holiday

weekend visitors.

"No longer is there a need to organize a get-together with friends over Rosh Hashanah weekend," he added. "Instead, you can let the Jewish Federation do everything for you!"



Phil Shmerling and Laura Hoffman

More future events are in store. To learn more, check out www.jewishnashville.org or the Young Adults Division page on Facebook, or contact Abramson at joel@jewishnashville.org. □

What is it about Israel that wins Nobel Prizes?

By Linda Gradstein

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Dan Shechtman remembers the day he was kicked out of a research group because of the theory that this month won him the Nobel Prize in chemistry.

"Read this book. What you say is impossible," the group leader at the National Bureau of Standards in Maryland, where Shechtman was doing his sabbatical in 1982, told him.

"I told him, 'I know this book, and I know I have something new,'" Shechtman replied.

The response, recalls Shechtman: "You are a disgrace and I want you to leave my group."

Shechtman joined another group, but the paper he wrote was rejected and

he was ridiculed by many colleagues.

"My friends were nice to me, but kind of in the way that you're nice to the retarded kid," Shechtman recalled with a wry smile at a news conference this month.

Nearly 30 years later, Shechtman received the Nobel Prize for his work in quasicrystals, also called Shechtmanite.

Shechtman is the 10th Israeli to win a Nobel Prize, part of a chain that stretches back to S.Y. Agnon, who won the prize for literature in 1966. Of the 840 Nobel Prizes ever awarded, some 20 percent have gone to Jews. Israel, with its population of 7.5 million, has won the same number of Nobels as India, which was founded a year before Israel and has a population of 1.15 billion.

What is it about Israel — and Jews — that wins Nobels?

"Israeli universities, like my university, the Technion, are excellent," Shechtman said of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. "But there's also an Israeli spirit of free thinking. Sometimes it leads to chaos because everyone has his own idea about everything, but free thinking encourages suc-

cessful scientists."

Since 2002, Israeli scientists have received six Nobels — two in economics and four in chemistry.

Some say Jews are uniquely suited to the study of science.

"For thousands of years, Jews have been brought up to question and to try to bridge the gap between existing knowledge and the prevailing reality," Gidi Greenstein, the director of the Reut Institute think tank, told JTA. "You have the Torah and the Talmud, and then you have the reality, which keeps changing. The tension between what we know and what we experience is the secret of creativity."

Others say there is something unique about the Israeli character.

"One of the things you need to do well in science and high tech is to think outside the box, and we as Israelis are not familiar with any boxes," said Professor Dan Ben David, director of the Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel. "We don't understand lines, we don't believe in lines and we always ask why when someone asks us to do something. That can be very aggravating, but it's a great quality when it comes to doing research."

Israelis also tend to be tenacious and obstinate. The saying "Right or wrong, but never in doubt," could be a national slogan. Shechtman provides the perfect example: He was ridiculed for years but never gave up.

"Open societies that are self-critical can foster courage and an appreciation for the pursuit of truth," said Daniel Gordis, president of the Shalem Foundation. "Israel, for all its faults, and there are many, has both intellectual openness and academic excellence."

Others say that Israel's overwhelm-

ing defense needs have boosted the state's interest in science.

"An enormous amount of money has been invested here in security," said Professor Yaron Oz, the dean of Tel Aviv University's Exact Sciences Department. "A large number of people studied science or engineering relative to the population, and many of them studied in military related programs. It was seen as essential to Israel to develop its own weapons."

Oz says that in many other Western countries, more students are going into fields like law or business, which are more lucrative than science. But in Israel, scientists are highly respected and salaries are competitive.

Many Israeli scientists worry that the level of Israeli students is slipping and call for more government spending on science education. In a study conducted by the Taub Center, Ben David compared the levels of science, math and reading in 25 developed countries, including Israel. Israel came in last place.

"We need excellent teachers who cannot only teach, but can be role models," Shechtman said. "In some countries, a teacher has prestige and a good salary. Here a teacher can't support his family."

At the same time, there is a trend of Israeli scientists from abroad returning to Israel to continue their research here. Oz came to Israel from Geneva 10 years ago. The latest Nobel Prize will only encourage that trend, some predicted.

"Every Israeli university has graduate students that can compete with the best students in the world," Oz said. "You need talent and infrastructure, and I think we have both. I expect we will win many more Nobel Prizes." □

□ □ **STAFF** □ □

Publisher	Mark S. Freedman
Editor	Judith A. Saks
Advertising Manager	Carrie Mills
Staff Writer	Kathy Carlson
Layout and Production	Tim Gregory

Telephone	615/356-3242
Fax	615/352-0056
E-mail	judy@jewishnashville.org

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and click on "Calendar."
Every community event is listed
for your convenience.

Occupy Wall Street protests taking on a Jewish flavor

By Dan Klein
and Danielle Fleischman

NEW YORK (JTA) — Rachel Feldman originally had meant to attend a traditional synagogue Kol Nidre service. Aimee Weiss hadn't found a place to daven but was looking for something more interesting than a "big box synagogue."

Come Yom Kippur eve, they and several hundred other Jews found themselves drawn to lower Manhattan, where under the gaze of curious onlookers, they held an open-air Kol Nidre service organized to support the Occupy Wall Street protesters near Zuccotti Park.

"Kol Nidre reminds us that though we make commitments under duress, ultimately we are accountable only to the higher values of justice and righteousness," the organizer of the service, Dan Sieradski, said at the event, reading from a labor leader's Midrash.

The service was the most salient but hardly the only sign of a growing attempt to infuse the economic protests with a Jewish flavor — at least, for the Jews involved.

From progressive activists who seek to conflate the protesters' aspirations

with Jewish values to Chabadniks looking for opportunities to have Jews to perform mitzvahs such as sitting in a sukkah, the Occupy Wall Street protests are becoming a fulcrum of Jewish ferment. In Boston and Philadelphia, too, Jewish activists held Yom Kippur services at the site of the demonstrations.

"For many of us, social justice is where we find our Judaism," said Regina Weiss, the communications director for Jewish Funds for Justice. "For many there is no more important way to stand up and express Judaism on the holiest night of the year than to stand with people who are hurting and to stand up for greater equality in the country."

The person credited with the idea of holding the Kol Nidre services at the protests, Rabbi Arthur Waskow, director of the Shalom Center, told JTA that protesting is a key part of Judaism.

"The reason there is a Jewish place in these protests is that there is a protest place in Judaism," he said. "From the Exodus, from Isaiah, from Jeremiah and all the way down to rabbinic Judaism, there is a sense that Judaism is constantly struggling against top-down power of the Pharaoh."

"Judaism calls for freedom, democ-

racy and feeding the hungry," he added.

Some Jews involved with the protesters said they're also trying to combat a minority strain of anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism running through the movement.

"There was a guy with a sign 'Zionists control the financial world,' " said Kobi Skolnick, an ex-Chabadnik who once attended a yeshiva in the West Bank. "They have freedom of speech, but so do I. What we did is we wrote on a big, 10 times bigger, sign: 'This sign sucks, and it is not representative here.' "

Sieradski, too, said there are some anti-Zionist ideologues involved in the Occupy Wall Street protests who believe that Israel is central to U.S. economic issues.

They "think that the issue of the Israeli occupation is inseparable from the economic situation. They think that Israel is an outpost of American imperialism, including economic imperialism," he said. "There is a tendency on the left to make Jews who identify with Israel uncomfortable. I hope we can overcome that. There are plenty people against the Israel occupation, but that's not what this is about."

For Yoni Reskin, a Chabadnik who owns the PopUp Sukkah company, the protests were about an opportunity to have Jews fulfill the mitzvahs of Sukkot. In the lead-up to the holiday, he made plans to build a sukkah at the site of the New York protests.

"It's not a political angle," he told

JTA. "I truly believe that on Sukkot everyone should be able to celebrate the holiday. When I found that this opportunity was available, I wanted to be able to help perform the mitzvah."

The Conservative movement's Rabbinical Assembly donated 120 High Holidays prayer books for the Yom Kippur service.

"Wherever there is an opportunity to bring Torah and learning to Jews, wherever they are, we want to be there," said Rabbi Julie Schonfeld, the organization's executive vice president.

Last Friday night, the drumbeat at the plaza protesters have occupied since Sept. 17 was drowned out by the sounds of Kol Nidre.

Congregants arranged themselves in concentric circles around the bimah and a Torah scroll on loan from an Orthodox synagogue, chanting and singing so that the words of the service could carry back to the edges of the crowd. It was hard to tell whether the Kol Nidre call and response was borrowed from an old labor tactic or Jewish summer camp. Halal food carts ringed the congregation.

Feldman, 26, an activist who had demonstrated in Zuccotti Park earlier in the week, noted that the service drew many of her friends who would never go to services.

"This is what shul should feel like," said Feldman, surrounded by a congregation wearing a mix of sneakers, ties, tallitot, yarmulkes, jeans and T-shirts. "Overwhelmed by community." □

U.S. Government probing alleged anti-Jewish discrimination at Columbia

By David Fine
Tablet Magazine

NEW YORK (Tablet) — "You'll feel very uncomfortable," Barnard Professor Rachel McDermott allegedly told an Orthodox Jewish student at the college when the undergraduate inquired about a course called "Arabs and the Arab World" taught by a controversial Columbia University professor, Joseph Massad. "Why don't you look at ancient Jewish history?"

In her first interview since the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights launched an official inquiry into possible anti-Jewish discrimination late last month, the student gave Tablet Magazine a description of the incident that sparked the federal investigation. (The Office for Civil Rights confirmed in an e-mail that it was "investigating a complaint alleging that Columbia discriminated against a student of Jewish ancestry/ethnicity on the basis of national origin.")

"I went to her to speak about the major and talk to her about classes that I was looking at," the student, who asked not to be named, said of a January meeting in which she sought advice from McDermott, the longtime chair of the Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures Department at Barnard, which is affiliated with Columbia. "I mentioned a course taught by Joseph Massad."

"Oh, he's very anti-Israel," McDermott responded, according to the student. "And I said, 'That's fine, I've heard anti-Israel things before, and I'm fine if it's a culture clash.' "

But McDermott insisted that Massad's course would make the student "uncomfortable," the student said in the interview. In the end, the student, then a sophomore, instead took the Jewish history class.

McDermott, who stepped down from her position as chair last month,

declined to comment for this article.

Columbia President Lee Bollinger, a First Amendment scholar, issued a statement to Tablet Magazine.

"It is important to note that the individual complaint appears to relate to academic advising at Barnard College and in no way involves Professor Joseph Massad," the statement said. "Based on these facts, therefore, it is extremely unfair for Professor Massad to be cited in a matter in which he played no part whatsoever."

But Massad's notoriety was clearly enough of a problem that McDermott, an India specialist with a stellar reputation, felt the need to counsel a student away from his course. Indeed, the student "was apprehensive" to refer the investigation, she said in the interview, "because Professor McDermott was just protecting me."

The student, now a Middle East studies major, knew about Massad's reputation. In 2005, a short documentary called "Columbia Unbecoming" featured a number of Jewish students recalling instances of intimidation they faced because of their pro-Israel views. Many of their testimonies focused on Massad, then a tenure-track professor.

In one particularly chilling account, a student who had served in the Israeli army recalled Massad asking him at an off-campus lecture how many Palestinians he had killed.

So, the student said, she wasn't much surprised by McDermott's advice until May, when she met Peter Haas, a professor of Jewish studies at Case Western University and president of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East — a network of pro-Israel academics and professors — and told him about what happened.

Another member of Scholars for Peace, Judith Jacobson, a professor of epidemiology at Columbia's School of Public Health, followed up by calling the

Continued on page 10

Buy Israel!

Throughout the United States and in many parts of the world, there is a concerted effort to delegitimize the State of Israel. One of the tactics being used is a boycott of Israeli products. This action has been seen in several locations in our country.

In an effort to counter that boycott and support Israel, many Jewish communities and organizations have urged Americans to buy Israeli products. The Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and The Observer want to make it easier for Nashvillians to find Israeli-made goods by publishing a list of the products and where to find them, locally.

We need your help. If you know of available products and the stores that carry them, email that information to judy@jewishnashville.org. Food, clothing, jewelry, wine, etc., whatever you have found, please share it with our community.

See the updated list, below and send your additions to judy@jewishnashville.org or call 354-1637.

Israeli silver jewelry -
area TJMaxx stores
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grocery stores and Costco



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refrigerated section
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The untold story of Josh Fattal, Iranian prisoner and a Jew

By Bryan Schwartzman

PHILADELPHIA (Jewish Exponent) — By now, the whole world knows the name and face of Joshua Fattal, the 29-year-old Elkins Park, Pa., native who spent 26 months in an Iranian prison before being reunited with his family last month in Oman and arriving back on U.S. soil shortly afterward.

But one aspect of the story that has largely gone unreported is the fact that Fattal is Jewish. Josh's father, Jacob Fattal, was born in Iraq and moved to Israel before ultimately settling in the United States. Josh Fattal became a bar mitzvah at Philadelphia's Rodeph Shalom.

It's no accident that the Jewish side of the story has largely been kept under wraps, according to family friend Brian

Gralnick and others familiar with the situation. And it doesn't take much imagination to guess the reasons why: The Iranian government is virulently anti-Israel and has a history of charging Jews with spying for Israel.

While it stands to reason that Fattal's captors knew his religion or learned it during interrogations, his family did not want to take any chances and risk having information get out into the public sphere that could endanger their son even further.

And, since the families of the three captives worked so closely together, forming a united front, the idea was to keep the focus on three American citizens who were wrongly imprisoned, rather than single out one because of his Jewishness.

So, despite the fact that Laura Fattal appeared frequently in the media as she and the other families waged a public campaign for their children's release, she and other family members declined to be interviewed by the Jewish Exponent. The family also rejected offers of several Jewish organizations to intervene.

The Jewish Exponent chose to refrain from reporting on the story altogether, let alone detail Fattal's Jewish connection, until the hikers were freed.

"When it comes to someone's physical safety, we'll always err on the side of caution, even if it means suppressing such a dramatic and important story," said Lisa Hostein, the Exponent's executive editor.

Many of the details of the story are well known. Fattal, Shane Bauer

and a third individual hiking in Iraqi Kurdistan, Sarah Shourd, were arrested in July 2009 by Iranian guards after apparently inadvertently straying into Iranian territory. It is still far from clear exactly what transpired that day, whether the threesome had actually entered Iranian territory, whether they had been coaxed over by border guards or some other scenario. The three were charged with spying for the United States and sent to Iran's notorious Evin prison.

Shourd, who was engaged to Bauer in prison, became ill and was released last year on \$500,000 bail, given by an anonymous party. The two remaining hikers were convicted and sentenced to an eight-year prison sentence.

The families "knew that they had to get sentenced," said Gralnick, 32. "The tougher part was the end of Ramadan," when the family had been led to believe — or at least was hoping — that he would be pardoned. "That was much more critical than the guilty verdict."

Finally, on Sept. 21, nearly two weeks after a promise from Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad that they would be released on humanitarian grounds, the two were freed on \$1 million bail together, flown to the capital of Oman and reunited with their families in a jubilant scene captured by cameras.

Shortly after their arrival at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, Fattal and Bauer spoke out about their ordeal. They described how they spent most of their time together in a cell about the same size as a small moving van, denied a chance to exercise or even to receive letters from family.

"Many times— too many times — we heard the screams of other prisoners being beaten, and there was nothing we could do to help them," Fattal said during the news conference.

The two described themselves as hostages who were only held because they were from the United States. Bauer, a journalist and the more overtly political of the two, said that he and Fattal actually opposed American policies that are the source of the antagonism between the two nations. They said they were unsure if they had ever actually crossed the border — and may never know.

"We applaud the Iranian authorities for finally making the right decision regarding our case. But we want to be clear that they do not deserve undue credit for ending what they had no right and no justification to start in the first place," said Fattal.

There is still much to learn about what happened during the past few years, some of it likely to come out as the families, and the hikers themselves, share more of their harrowing ordeal.

One significant piece of the story was how both Josh's mother, Laura, a teacher, and his brother, Alex — a doctoral student in anthropology at Harvard University — put their respective lives completely on hold and threw all their efforts into Josh's release while Laura's husband, Jacob Fattal, continued to work in order to support the family.

Gralnick, a lifelong friend who had known Alex Fattal since pre-school, witnessed the physical and emotional toll that the uncertainty had on the Fattal family, heard the details of the family's interactions with the U.S. State Department, the White House, the office of U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, Swiss diplomats and the attorney in Iran. □



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of the Jewish Federation of Nashville

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(Palestinian Unilateral Declaration of Independence)**

Julie Bernstein, Associate Managing Director, Israel Action Network

(The breakout sessions will run concurrently and be repeated in the next hour to allow for participation in both.)

1:30-4:30 p.m., Sunday, October 30, 2011

Gordon Jewish Community Center

RSVP to barbara@jewishnashville.org

This program is made possible by a grant from the Jewish Federation's New Initiatives Fund.

For information, contact Judy Saks at 354-1637 or judy@jewishnashville.org.

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New Federation leader shares vision for future



Freya Sachs

Continued from page 1

secretary. Elected to their first three-year terms on the board of directors were Lori Fishel, Steve Hirsch and Afshin Yazdian. Mindy Hirt was elected to an additional three-year term, and Dianne Berry, Daniel Biller, David Hanchrow, Saul Kelner, Adam Leibowitz and Ellen Rosen were elected to continuing three-year terms.

In fewer than 15 minutes, Freedman shared his vision, rooted in his conviction that Federation must pursue its mission of promoting the welfare, viability and cohesiveness of the local Jewish community and of ensuring the continuity of the Jewish people here, in Israel and around the world. To his mind, cohesiveness is key.

"There is much at stake in the Jewish world," Freedman said. "There are many different points of view that run the full spectrum and many of these views are held with passion and resolve."

"I believe that to the greatest extent possible ... the Federation should be an honest broker in the way it conducts itself in dealing with various constituencies and advocacy groups."

Freedman outlined his personal philosophy: "Federation is not a political football that can be tossed around the yard. I will urge the Federation leadership to adhere to its mission of striving for cohesion and continuity. If we fail in this regard, we will stray from our mission and we will compromise our values. The result will be that we become irrelevant and less effective."

Guiding his decisions are these values: commitment to Torah through Jewish education; Tzedakah that goes beyond charity to embrace justice, strength and righteousness; Gemilut Chasadim, or compassion and caring for those in need; L'Dor v'Dor, linking generations to Jewish heritage; and Tikkun Olam or repairing the world "because it underscores our mission and our holy work."

"Our goal is simple," he said. "We will raise more money from more people in many different ways. ... We will accept your gift, whatever the amount. We will thank you frequently and with genuine appreciation. We will show you, if you want to see, in the most transparent and tangible ways how your contribution is being used."

Turning to Israel, he stated a big goal: For "every single member" (and he repeated it twice) of Nashville's Jewish community to visit Israel, the sooner the better.

And however people choose to visit, the Federation is ready to help in planning the trip, he continued. "We can provide you with suggestions and support



From left: Fred Zimmerman; Mark S. Freedman, Federation executive director; Joel Abramson, community engagement associate; David Schwartz; Inbar Shaked, community shlichah. Photos: Rick Malkin

so you can see sights in Israel that you might not consider or even know about on a normal trip."

Starting next January, Federation will post community members' photographs of Israel on an online Nashville

Israel Jewish family album, he said. An intergenerational project is also planned for Israel's 65th anniversary in 2013, featuring the stories of those born in the 1948 era, the year the modern State of Israel was declared its independence. □



Vlada Melekhin

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To sign up for the Nashville Food Stamp Challenge, contact Judy Saks at judy@jewishnashville.org. Put **FOOD STAMP CHALLENGE** in the subject line. Follow us on Facebook at Food Stamp Challenge Nashville.



The Nashville event is co-sponsored by Catholic Charities of Tennessee and the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville

Other organizations:

Metro Human Relations Commission • Jewish Family Service of Nashville
The Mayor's Metro Poverty Council • The Campus for Human Development
Second Harvest of Middle Tennessee



Kroger will host a gathering of Food Stamp Challenge participants on Monday, October 24, at 10 a.m. at the Bordeaux Kroger, 3930 Clarksville Highway. All participants are invited to meet and shop with their \$31.50 weekly allotment. We will talk about the challenge, the issue of hunger in our country and the possible Federal Budget cuts to the Food Stamp program. (This is not a requirement for participation. Shop at any store at your convenience.)

VU Hillel's first Israel Fellow helps make Jewish homeland real to students

By Kathy Carlson

Lital Swissa, Vanderbilt Hillel's first Israel Campus Fellow, brings energy, optimism and her own sense of Jewish geography to Nashville.

Born on a tiny agricultural moshav near Jerusalem to Moroccan Jewish parents, Lital has family in Los Angeles and New York. She sang in the Ankor Choir, the children's choir at Yad Vashem, and traveled to Russia and Italy to share Israeli music with Jews there. After serving in the Israeli Army, she spent time traveling in Peru, Bolivia, Argentina and elsewhere in South America.

Choosing to serve as an Israel Campus Fellow in Nashville is "something from the heart," she says. "It's right to do. People here seem to me really friendly, so I chose this. I'm glad."

The Israel Fellows program of the Jewish Agency places recent Israeli college graduates in Hillels on North American college campuses to serve as ambassadors to the college community. They help with Israel education and advocacy programs, work with Taglit-Birthright Israel trip participants and returnees, and help students interested in exploring options for long-term programs in Israel. Fifty campuses participate in the program.

"This is something we've not had before," Hillel Executive Director Ari Dubin said. "We're very excited about it and very excited about her."

Lital is not simply an Israel Fellow but a full staff person, he continued. She



Lital Swissa

is involved in many different programs: advising the women's group, starting an a cappella singing group, helping recruit students for Birthright Israel trips.

"We knew that when we brought her to campus she was going to bring a dimension of Israel activities that we haven't had before," Dubin said. This year, for Rosh Hashanah, she introduced Israeli blessings and toasts, along with fruits that are associated with the holiday in Israel.

Because she is Israeli, Lital "has a perspective that almost every student on campus doesn't and so she's able to take programs we had and make them so much closer to what you'd see in Israel," said Rob Friedman, a senior majoring in Middle Eastern history and Jewish studies. Friedman works with Lital as the

Israel vice president of Hillel. He leads a 15-person committee that plans social and cultural pro-Israel activities such as Israel Fest, held each spring.

For example, Falafel at Midnight is a Saturday night event in which students open up the Schulman Center and snack on falafel and pita, he said. Lital added decorations and Israeli music to heighten the connection to Israel. He and the committee will work with Lital to add the Israeli touch to other events and programs.

"My job here is to bring Israel into focus," by helping students create person-

al connections to Israel and educating them about the many different cultures that Israel itself embraces, Lital said. Less than two months into her assignment in Nashville, she is getting to know students and their interests. "They have a lot of motivation to be involved in Israel and to know about Israel," she said.

She enjoys working with individual students to answer their questions about Israel and help them find connections that are meaningful to them. "They're very smart, very interested. They really want to know, because they really care." □

Enjoy Sukkot lunch in the GJCC sukkah with Israeli shlichah

The Jewish Federation and the GJCC will co-host **The Lulav and Etrog on the Front Page** event on Wed., Oct. 19, from noon to 1 p.m. in the GJCC's sukkah. Inbar Shaked, community Israeli shlichah, will present a new look at current events in Israel. The community is invited to bring lunch and the Jewish Federation will supply the drinks and dessert.

Also for Sukkot: **Prime Time Dinner Club Hawaiian Luau for Sukkot!** Get your grass skirts ready for Tues., Oct. 18, when Prime Time will meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Lemongrass in Bellevue (7108 Highway 70 South) and then head back to the GJCC at 7:30 for Hawaiian dessert, ukulele music with Casey Dugan, a hula

contest and more. For reservations, contact Marilyn Rubin at 615/356-7170 or marilyn@nashvillejcc.org.

Upcoming events include: Celebrate the New Year and Yourself. Join the Oil Painting Class (for all levels) with Rhonda Wernick on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. - noon. Email Rhonda at Rhonda@dancingart.com for pricing and the supply list. Release your inner artist.

New — Memory and Enhancing the Power of the Brain. Join representatives from St. Thomas Health as they discuss how to know if it's more than a memory issue such as Alzheimer's, tips on exercising the brain, building stronger memory, and when to seek help. It will be on Mon., Oct. 24, from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the GJCC. There is no charge.

New — Ballroom Dancing. Experience your own "Dancing with the Stars" with or without a partner. Never be embarrassed at a wedding, bar mitzvah or party. Learn to dance the salsa, rumba and others with professional dance instructors Lisa Burghart and Rhonda Wernick. Wednesdays, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30 and Dec. 7 from 7:45 - 8:45 p.m. at the GJCC. Pre-registration is required. □

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lifecycles

Births

Julie and David Kaufman announce the birth of their daughter, **Kate Lillian**, on Aug. 14 in Washington, D.C. Kate is the granddaughter of Molly and Richard Schneider of Nashville.



Julie Kaufman and Kate Lillian

Beth and Jeremy Saks announce the birth of their daughter, **Cora Elise**, on Oct. 3, in Brooklyn, N.Y. Cora is the sister of big brother, Jonah, and the granddaughter of Judy Saks and the late Dan Saks of Nashville and Anne and Ed Miller of Allentown, Pa.

B'nai Mitzvah

Tommy Solomon Wright, son of Nancy and Mark Wright of Elmhurst, Ill., was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Aug. 13 at Temple Etz Chaim in Elmhurst. He is the grandson of Joan Silar and Sid Wright, Doris Solomon and the late Richard Solomon. His sister is Lainie Wright.

Family and friends from across the country joined in the celebration. The Wright family formerly lived in Nashville.

Tommy's mitzvah project was helping to pack Passover food for those in need in Chicago.

Hannah Levy will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah at Congregation Micah on Sat., Nov. 5, at 10:30 a.m. Hannah is the daughter of Lisa and Jay Levy and the sister of Lauren Levy. She is the granddaughter of Stephanie and Bernard Simon and Jean and Morton Levy, all of Houston, Texas.



Hannah Levy

A seventh grader at Brentwood Middle School, Hannah participates on the cross country team and has been elected a class representative to the Student Government. She also enjoys playing the piano.

Marriage

Claire Schneider and Jean-Michael Reed were married on Sept. 10 at Fort

Niagara near Buffalo, N.Y. Claire is the daughter of Molly and Richard Schneider of Nashville.



Jean-Michael Reed and Claire Schneider

Her sister, Deborah Lank, was matron of honor. The couple lives and works in Buffalo.

Sympathy

... to the family of **Sandra "Sandi" Goldstein**, 75, of Sun City Center, Fla., who died Oct. 6 at home surrounded by her loving family. Mrs. Goldstein came to Tampa three years ago from Nashville where she had resided since 1991. She previously lived in Petersburg, Va., for 35 years. She was a registered nurse, having graduated nursing school at the Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, and eventually earned her BSN from Chapman University. She was a life member of Hadassah and Beth Israel Congregation in Sun City Center. Survivors include her beloved husband of 54 years, Sidney; son and daughter-in-law, Morris and Amy Goldstein of Cherry Hill, N.J.; daughter and son-in-law, Myra Ann and Daniel Brown of Atlanta, Ga.; sister, Fran Ravine of Torrence, Calif.; and grandchildren, Hilary Schumer (Nathan), Alyse Goldstein, Phoebe Brown, Daniel Goldstein and Lili Brown. Memorial contributions may be made to Hadassah or the H. Lee Moffit Cancer Center, Tampa, Fla.

... to the family of **Minda Lazarov**, 56, who was born in Memphis. She died in her home in Nashville on October 6. She is survived by husband, Barry Sulkin; daughter, Shea Sulkin; mother, Matilda Lazarov; sister, Reva Stern. She was preceded in death by her father, Israel Lazarov. Minda devoted her life to helping people raise healthy children through her work as a nutritionist and as a children's health advocate for the state of Tennessee, UNICEF and Vanderbilt. She cared deeply about Tennessee's natural resources and led land preservation efforts in the Scottsboro/Bells Bend area. She radiated power and peace. Her graceful spirit will live on in the many lives she touched. Donations may be made to Beaman Park, To Bells Bend Conservation Corridor, 5268 Old Hickory Blvd. 37218, or St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

General Sessions Judge Leon Ruben dies at age 77

Judge Leon Ruben, who died just hours before Kol Nidrei was to begin on Oct. 7, left a legacy of service to the community. He was 77.

Ruben, a Nashville native, was born in 1934 and grew up just south of downtown, near what is now the Howard School complex of Metro government offices. His parents, immigrants from Poland, owned a retail store nearby. He was active in student government at Nashville's Howard High School, graduating in 1952. He also was active in AZA and in 1952 received the Ralph Shepard Memorial Award, given each year to an outstanding 12th grader in the Nashville Jewish community.

Ruben earned a bachelor's degree in 1956 from Vanderbilt University. After graduation, he worked in the family business and studied law at night at the Nashville School of Law. Ruben became a lawyer in 1962, served on Metro Council representing Bellevue from 1975 to 1981, and was appointed to serve as a General Sessions Court judge in 1981. He continued to serve in that

position until his death.

He was a member and past president of West End Synagogue and also belonged to Congregation Sherith Israel, and Congregation Ohabai Sholom - The Temple. He maintained his ties with AZA, serving as an adviser for the Athens of the South chapter.

Judge Ruben was predeceased by his first wife, Myra Lou Jacobs Ruben, his sister, Jeannette Rubin, and his parents, Herman and Rose Ruben. He is survived by his wife, Sandi Gordon Ruben; children Melinda (Ronnie) Bimstein, Susan (Raymond) Evans, Renee (Scott) Geltzer, and Herman (Jennifer) Ruben; stepchildren Samuel (Robin Lynn) Gordon, Michael (Cindy) Gordon, and Robin J. Gordon; grandchildren Edward and Matthew Bimstein, Kimberly and Nathan Evans, Jacob and Noah Geltzer, Ellie and Henry Ruben; and stepgrandchildren Rebecca, Jacob, Jeremy and Rachel Grace Gordon.

The family requests donations be made to West End Synagogue, the Nashville School of Law or to a charity of choice. □

Alive Hospice hosts Faith Leaders Conference

Alive Hospice will host its Second Annual Faith Leaders Conference on Oct. 27 focusing on spirituality and the end of life. Planned to coincide with National Pastoral Care Week, the conference will examine the spiritual needs of the dying and what faith leaders can do to care for themselves as they care for others.

This free conference will be held

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Alive Hospice's administrative offices, 1718 Patterson St. (near downtown Nashville). Participants may register until Oct. 20 by calling 615/346-8418. Space is limited, and lunch will be provided.

Speakers will include Alive Hospice chaplains and other hospice caregivers, who will share insights from their own experiences caring for terminally ill patients and their families. □

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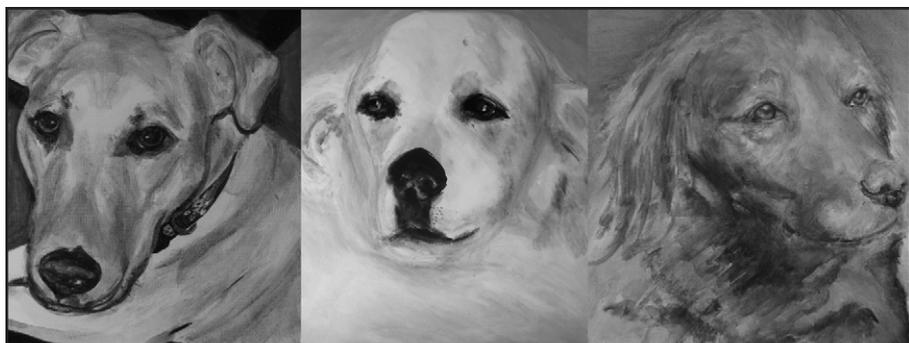
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The White Party: An Evening of Sophistication

Mark your calendars now for this year's Gordon Jewish Community Center's Main Event, The White Party. Chaired by Leslie Kirshner and Rhonda Wernick, the Saturday evening, Dec. 3, event puts a Nashville spin on a global phenomenon known as The White Party.

Started in the Hamptons several years ago, White Parties quickly became a favorite theme for festivities in cities such as New York, Chicago, Miami and London. Traditionally, all of the décor and all party participants were decked out in head-to-toe white.

The GJCC's Main Event is the most important event on the GJCC's calendar each year. It's not only an excellent and fun way to spend time with your friends, peers and colleagues,

but it also supports all of the excellent programming and offerings the GJCC is able to provide this community each year. The White Party also provides scholarships for needy children and families to attend our summer camps and other programs.

Everyone can schmooze and shop while enjoying extraordinary hors d'oeuvres, a creative silent auction chaired by Janet Krebs, and an event program and ad book chaired by Judy Lefkovitz. Then eat, bid and party at the live auction followed by a dinner fit for any foodie by SOVA catering.

Dance or just enjoy live music by the Alana Rocklin Trio, featuring vocalist Annie Sellick. The Decorations Committee is chaired by Judy Eskind. There will be special drinks thanks to Chairs Marshall Karr and Joe Perlen. The After Party will

include a Salsa dance demonstration with Lisa and Danny, hip music, plus...The Big Surprise.

In addition to the White Party, sign up for one of the additional parties: A Dinner Party around Elisha and Jeff Zander's pool, a Sweetheart Party at the

home of Maria and Bernie Pargh, and Wine and Dinner parties at Cindee and Michael Gold's home and SOVA catering kitchen.

White attire is entirely optional, but the GJCC hopes you will indulge for this amazing fete. □

GJCC sets cheerleading program for the 5-13-year-old children

Beginning Sun., Oct. 16, through Sun., Dec. 4, the GJCC will be offering cheerleading to children between the ages of 5-13 through local cheerleading program, Top Flyte.

Top Flyte Cheerleading is an All Star Cheerleading program dedicated to helping your child develop the skills and knowledge that are necessary in the growing sport of cheerleading, competitive all

star cheerleading and tumbling. At Top Flyte, head coach and owner Victoria Lane's goal is to develop athletes that are confident, self-disciplined, have high self-esteem, and work well together as a team.

Coach Lane has been coaching All Star cheerleading since 2005, with many successful teams in her past.

Classes begin at 1:15 p.m. for ages 5-7 and at 2:30 for ages 8-13. For more information, contact Blayne Lipman at the GJCC at blayne@nashvillejcc.org. □

around the town

GJCC track opening soon

Enjoy the lush landscape of the GJCC's 52-acre campus by taking a stroll, a run or a sprint around its new outdoor track. Henry Pipes, aspiring Eagle Scout, has taken on the project to earn his Eagle Scout Badge with help from the Sports & Wellness director. Over the past six months they have cleared the land and tilled the ground. The half-mile loop begins by the Holocaust Memorial with access to the Stacy Kraft Community Garden. The track will be opening shortly and a ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned.

Fall Break Camp

The school year is flying – fall break is already upon us. Do your kids have plans yet? If not, the GJCC Fall Break Camp promises to be a total blast and will give your kids a new set of skills that will carry through to the holidays and beyond. Cooking projects, food art and games abound in the camp held from Oct. 17 – 19. For more information or to register, contact Claire Bernstein at the GJCC at claire@nashvillejcc.org.

See what's happening in the community. Go to www.jewishnashville.org

U.S. government probing alleged anti-Jewish discrimination at Columbia

Continued from page 5

student. Jacobson wanted to know if the student was interested in talking to Kenneth Marcus, who heads the group's legal task force. The student agreed to speak with Marcus.

Marcus, the director of the Anti-Semitism Initiative at the Institute for Jewish and Community Research, headed the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, the agency investigating Columbia, in 2003 and 2004. According to Marcus, what happened at Barnard was an instance of "steering" — a term that typically refers to housing discrimination, when a real-estate agent tells a black family that it would feel "uncomfortable" in a particular neighborhood because of its predominantly white population. The U.S. Congress passed the Fair Housing Act in 1968 to outlaw the practice.

What McDermott allegedly did, according to Marcus, who handled cases

of alleged steering as the head of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity in 2002 and 2003, was a form of steering and thus violated the Jewish student's civil rights under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Marcus said in an interview that he knew of "no other steering cases in an educational context," but that if the student's allegations are verified, "it would be extremely difficult for Barnard to say that any steering would not have any harmful effect."

It remains to be seen whether the Office of Civil Rights agrees with its former director. □

David Fine, a junior at Columbia, is editor in chief of *The Current*, a magazine of contemporary politics, culture and Jewish affairs at the university.

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