

Visiting Rabbi eager to share lessons of religious texts on Global Day of Jewish Learning in Nashville

By CHARLES BERNSEN

When he comes to Nashville next month for Global Day of Jewish Learning, Rabbi Alex Israel plans to talk about the biblical story of Rachel and Leah, the two wives of the Jewish patriarch, Jacob.

“They were sisters and they seem to have had quite divergent personalities, yet they fought over the same man,” said Rabbi Israel, director of community education and the summer program at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem. “We will study this sibling



Rabbi Alex Israel

rivalry, and its implications for Jewish unity. Their children (Joseph and his brothers) are also wrought by conflict. Is Jewish unity possible? Is conflict always bad?”

The sixth annual Global Day of Jewish Learning – the fourth in which Nashville has participated – is on Sunday, Nov. 15. The local Global Day events will be at Congregation Micah, with registration beginning at 10 a.m. and Rabbi Israel’s plenary presentation scheduled for 10:30 a.m. (Register early
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Combat Ethics



Bentzi Gruber, a colonel in the Israeli Defense Forces, uses video and photos from actual combat situations to explain the agonizing decisions IDF personnel make in adhering to an ethical code that prohibits the use of force against innocents and seeks to limit the collateral damage of war. He will make several presentations this month during a visit to Nashville. See related story and column on page 5.

Siblings open Abe’s Garden as memorial to beloved father and a “living laboratory” to advance Alzheimer’s care

By CHARLES BERNSEN

Longtime Nashville physician Abram C. Shmerling loved gardening, so it’s fitting that when his children established an Alzheimer’s care home in his memory, they called it Abe’s Garden.

But make no mistake: The \$14 million facility that opened last month on the grounds of the Park Manor Senior Lifestyle Community on Woodmont Boulevard is much more than a bucolic home for the residents of its 42 units.

Founder and Chairman Mike Shmerling describes the Abe’s Garden Alzheimer’s and Memory Care Center of Excellence as a “living laboratory” whose mission is to identify and disseminate the best practices for the care of individuals dealing with the disease that took his father and has become the nation’s sixth leading cause of death.

“We have institutions that research the best practices for treating cancer, heart disease and the other leading causes of death,” Shmerling told about 30 members of the Jewish community who toured Abe’s Garden a few days before it



Mike Shmerling and Judy Given in the arboretum at Abe’s Garden, an Alzheimer’s care and research facility named for their father, Dr. Abram C. Shmerling.

opened. “It’s time there was one for Alzheimer’s.”

It has been almost two decades since Shmerling began thinking about establishing a cutting-edge research center for the care of individuals with

dementia. His father had been diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer’s in 1995, and the family quickly discovered how difficult it was to find appropriate care for him. Not long after his father’s death in 2006, Shmerling founded Abe’s Garden as a not-for-profit care and research organization.

Two years later, he purchased the Park Manor facility, a seven-story senior residence built in the early 1960s on a 7.3-acre wooded lot that provided an ideal location for the care home he envisioned. Dr. Andrew Sandler, an experienced clinical psychologist and health-care administrator, was brought in as chief executive officer. While fundraising took longer than expected in the wake of the 2008 recession, the project hit its initial goal of \$9 million early last year, and construction of 36,000-square-foot Alzheimer’s facility was finished two months ago.

“We’ve been at this a long time,” Shmerling said. “It’s very exciting to be at the stage where we are actually seeing residents move in.”

A successful entrepreneur and private equity manager, Shmerling estimates that he has spent 15-20 percent of

his time over the past decade working to make Abe’s Garden a reality. A key partner in the project has been his sister, Judy Given, who moved back to Nashville from Baltimore in 1997 to help care for her father and in 2007 took on the fulltime position as director of campus development for Abe’s Garden.

Given, who has a background as a dance therapist for special needs children, had been director of clinical services at a special education school in Baltimore. After returning to Nashville, she transformed herself into an expert in the care of dementia patients.

Though she describes herself as “a soldier” who is following her brother’s leadership in the project, Given has played a crucial role in aggregating the best practices of other institutions and programs and incorporating them into virtually every aspect of Abe’s Garden – from its design, architecture and furniture to its programming to the training and development of its staff. Some examples:

- Instead of the narrow hallways and harsh lighting characteristic of many care homes, Abe’s Garden

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Hadassah’s annual fundraiser will honor Bobbie Limor, “beloved figure in Nashville”.
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“Kids” of the PGW Club hold 80th anniversary reunion.
page 9



New Jersey native Alex Leff takes helm of adult programming at GJCC.
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Entertainment & Dining Out issue
page 11

Think Globally. Learn Locally.

Register online at www.jewishnashville.org/global-day

Global Day of Jewish Learning

Schedule:

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon
Arrival, Registration and Refreshments
Opening Learning Session with Pardes
Scholar Rabbi Alex Israel

12:00 Noon to 1:40 p.m.
Lunch
Community Rabbis Panel Discussion

1:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.
Breakout Learning Sessions with local
clergy
Jewish Educator's In-service Session
with Rabbi Alex Israel
PJ Library Program
Youth and Teen Activities

2:50 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Closing Learning Session with
Rabbi Alex Israel

(More details about Global Day programs will
be available online at www.jewishnashville.org
and in the November issue of the Jewish Observer)

Theme: Love: Devotion, Desire and
Deception

Date: Sunday, November 15, 2015

Cost: \$10 per person for lunch
and refreshments

Location: Congregation Micah
(Baby-sitting will be available)

To register for the
Global Day of Jewish
Learning, please contact
Barbara Schwarcz at
(615) 354-1630 or
Barbara@jewishnashville.org,
or visit
www.jewishnashville.org.

Presented by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee in cooperation with: Akiva School, B'nai Brith Social Unit, B'nai Brith Maimonides Lodge #46, BBYO, Chabad Jewish Student Center at Vanderbilt University, Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad, Congregation Micah, Congregation Sherith Israel, Get Connected, Gordon Jewish Community Center and the GJCC Early Learning Center, Hadassah Nashville Chapter, Jewish Family Service, JMingle, NCJW Nashville Chapter, NowGen, PJ Library, The Temple-Congregation Ohabai Sholom, Vanderbilt Hillel, and West End Synagogue.

The Global Day of Jewish Learning in Nashville is generously underwritten by Libby and Moshe Werthan to support the participation of Rabbi Alex Israel of the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies.



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Institute of Jewish Studies

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MICAH**



**Jewish Federation
& Jewish Foundation**
OF NASHVILLE AND MIDDLE TENNESSEE

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Abe's Garden

Continued from page 1

consists of three main “households,” each with a spacious, high-ceilinged kitchen, dining and activity area that looks out onto a central courtyard with a lighted pathway, outdoor kitchen and grill, interactive water feature, fireplace and nature discovery area. “It’s designed so that residents are free to move around, visit one another and spend time outdoors every day,” Given said. “We wanted to give the feel of a home, not an institution.”

- Residents have easy access to a remarkable array of activities: cooking, gardening, music, computers, exercise, art, drama and storytelling programs, even pet care, with each household will have its own dog. Recalling the awkward boredom of visits with her father, Given said easy access to stimulating activities not only prevents boredom and depression among the residents but also allows families “to engage with their loved ones in a multitude of fulfilling ways.”
- Abe’s Garden is using an evidence-based training model developed with its partner, the Vanderbilt University Center for Quality



Judy Given conducts a tour of Abe’s Garden for members of the Jewish community shortly before it opened. The facility’s open layout is designed so that residents “are free to move around, visit one another and spend time outdoors every day,” she said. “We wanted to give the feel of a home, not an institution.”

Aging, along with an innovative scheduling system and a career ladder – all aimed at promoting competence, commitment and loyalty

among its staff.

Even with a day and evening respite program for individuals with dementia who still live at home, Abe’s

Garden will be able to accommodate less than 0.2 percent of the estimated 35,000 Nashville area residents with Alzheimer’s and other forms of memory loss. But as a research center, Shmerling intends for its impact to be far greater.

The facility has set up a rigorous program to assess all of its design, programming and staff development features, with the idea of determining the best practices for caring for dementia patients and “sharing that information with the public,” he said.

To that end, it has established a relationship with Vanderbilt University Medical School, where it has endowed the Abram C. Shmerling, M.D., Chair of Alzheimer’s and Geriatric Medicine. Dr. Laura Dugan, a neuroscientist who was appointed to the Shmerling Chair last year and directs the school’s Division of Geriatric Medicine, will lead applied research activities at Abe’s Garden and publish the results.

“We want to be a resource for other facilities around the world,” Given said, “and even provide solutions for people who are caring for loved ones in their own homes.”

In that way, Shmerling said Abe’s Garden has the potential to benefit millions of families, even those who never see it themselves. •

Global Day

Continued from page 1

beginning Oct. 1 at www.jewish-nashville.org/global-day.)

A kosher lunch and panel discussion by local rabbis will be followed in the afternoon by breakout discussions on this year’s Global Day theme, “Love Devotion, Desire and Deception,” each led by a local clergy member or educator. In addition, there will be an in-service session for community Jewish educators led by Rabbi Israel as well as afternoon PJ Library event for toddlers and their parents and an activity for elementary school-age children organized by Jack Simon, children’s programming and camp director at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. Global Day events will conclude by 3:45 p.m.

Global Day is an initiative of the Aleph Society. By bringing together hundreds of Jewish communities around the world to study the same sacred texts on the same day, it is intended to support Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz’s goal of fostering Jewish literacy and identity. Rabbi Israel’s presentation in Nashville will be one of 24 local plenary sessions streamed live on the Web around the globe every hour during Global Day.

Rabbi Israel said Global Day reflects the Pardes Institute’s philosophy that “the study of Judaism’s core Torah texts generates deep engagement with Judaism and enables a genuine and substantial conversation about real Jewish ideas. There is nothing more empowering in a Jewish context than text study ... that can stimulate a fundamental connection to the past, present and future of the Jewish story.”

British born and now living in Israel, Rabbi Israel said he has been to several U.S. cities on the East Coast and in the Midwest, but this will be his first visit to the South.

“I’m really excited to come and meet what I hear is an amazingly warm community in Nashville,” he said. “I love meeting new Jewish communities as



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Institute of Jewish Studies

I always return home with insights for myself and my Israeli community. So I look forward to teaching, but also to learning from you.”

In addition to his participation in Global Day events, Rabbi Israel will lead a session on Monday, Nov. 16 for Jewish professionals titled “Religious and Secular in Israel: Room of Optimism?”

“Relations between religious and secular in Israel are frequently portrayed as a violent intractable battlefield,” said Rabbi Israel, who works with an organization called Tzohar that seeks to bridge the gap between them by performing orthodox weddings for secular Israelis. “Using statistics, modern Israeli music and an analysis of recent trends in Israeli Reality TV, we will trace a more nuanced grassroots perspective, and identify ways in which there is room for optimism in religious-secular relations.”

Rabbi Israel’s visit to Nashville is made possible through the generosity of Libby and Moshe Werthan. Local Global Day events are funded by the Jewish Federation and Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee whose partners include Akiva School, the Gordon Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Service, NowGen Nashville, Get Connected, PJ Library, Vanderbilt Hillel, Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad, Congregation Micah, Congregation Sherith Israel, The Temple, West End Synagogue, B’nai B’rith Youth Organization (BBYO), Chabad Jewish Student Center at Vanderbilt University, Hadassah Nashville Chapter, National Council of Jewish Women Nashville Chapter, B’nai B’rith Social Unit and B’nai B’rith Maimonides Lodge #46. •

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President's Memo

As new year begins, there is more need for Jews to come together in unity

By CAROL HYATT

In the days leading up to and during the High Holidays, we take time for reflection, contemplating the past year as well as the year ahead. For me, the past year has been incredibly rewarding, but it is also very humbling to be in a position of leadership during a time filled with so many challenges.

As president, I am privileged to see how the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, as a result of the generosity of our donors, addresses so many needs in our community -- engaging the next generation in being Jewish through early childhood scholarship funds; supporting our Jewish day school, after-school programs, and Jewish summer camp experiences, and sending a free Jewish book or CD each month to more than 300 children through PJ Library.

Dozens of our teens explore their Jewish identity and travel to Israel together through the wonderful Get Connected program. We welcome Israeli teens from our partnership region of Hadera-Eiron to spend several weeks learning what it is like to be Jewish in Nashville. We connect young adults to social, leadership, education and mission activities through our NowGen Nashville initiative.

We provide people of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to learn

and grow Jewishly through a variety of speakers and programs such as the Global Day of Jewish Learning (our fourth annual event is coming up on Sunday, Nov. 15). We provide hot meals and help to meet the transportation needs of our elders. And of course we provide assistance to the most vulnerable among us.

The Jewish Federation also mobilizes the community in times of need. Lately, we have been learning of the plight of refugees from Syria arriving in Europe in dangerous old boats and creating the most severe refugee crisis there since World War II. I was pleased to learn that through the Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief, Jewish organizations have been quietly funding relief efforts to support Syrian refugees for the last two years. Federation's overseas partner, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), and others are now appealing for an even greater coordinated Jewish effort, so those who share this concern and are able to help are encouraged to visit our website and make a donation. All funds raised through this

special campaign will be utilized for direct services to those in need.

There are numerous other concerns, such as the ongoing crisis in Ukraine which has led to a 50 percent increase in *aliyah* from that part of the world, and the situation in Israel where, despite their impressive economic success, one out of five families lives in poverty.

But the most contentious issue in the last year has been the agreement with Iran and concerns about the impact it will have on the security of our country as well as that of Israel. Even if Iran complies with every detail of the agreement, the influx of billions of dollars in funds to Iran will likely increase that country's role in destabilizing the already volatile Middle East region. Iran has not changed its views of the United States as the Great Satan, and its leader continues to call for the destruction of the state of Israel. So there is reason to fear what the coming year will bring.

Our Federation held a public forum the evening before our August board meeting, and a variety of viewpoints

were expressed about the Iran nuclear agreement. Ultimately, the board voted overwhelmingly to take a position in opposition to the deal.

Now that it is clear that the agreement will be implemented, there is all the more reason for us to come together, regardless of our thoughts about the deal, because Federation exists to help care for Jews in need wherever they are, to assure the continuity of the Jewish people, to ensure the safety and security of Israel and to convene, educate and mobilize on issues of concern. Those needs continue to exist and may very well increase in the coming year.

It is my sincere hope that in these politically polarizing times, our Jewish community will continue to focus on our shared values and goals. We all wish for peace and prosperity. Let us hope the coming year will bring that. May the New Year be a good year for us all. •

Carol Hyatt is president of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.



Federation President Carol Hyatt



From the Campaign Trail

In wake of divisive Iran debate, Federation's mission is even more important

By JERRY SILVERMAN

The Federation movement touches more Jewish lives than any other entity on the planet. In the breadth of that reach, there is more than one opinion, more than one methodology, more than one way of looking at any given situation at

any given time. This summer's debate over the Iran nuclear agreement was a perfect example of this diversity of perspectives.

Yet for all the differences among us, which played out in living color these past few months, I know there is one thing on which we can all agree: Federation is the organization that can lead the reinvigoration of our community when the votes on the Iran agreement are behind us.



Jerry Silverman

We are uniquely positioned to serve in this role. No, we don't speak for every Jew. But we remain the central Jewish address in our cities and towns. This is our mission; it was relevant more than 100 years ago, is even more significant today, and will continue to be critical tomorrow.

This summer, as the debate ensued over the Iran issue, we lived our mission. Federation was the primary convener of opportunities to hear from both sides regarding the implications of the deal. JFNA hosted five webcasts, including one with the prime minister of Israel and another with the president of the United States, drawing more than 40,000 registered participants and countless thousands who watched on various cable channels and other web platforms. After great introspection, 39 Federations expressed apprehension about the agreement, and 25 opposed it. But every community watched the unfolding of events with deep concern.

And we all are aware that after the Congressional debate over the agreement draws to a close, the issue of preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapon capability will be far from over.

It will be important that we con-

tinue to encourage our nation's leaders to ensure

verification of Iran's adherence to the accord as well as a nimble and appropriate response to any violations. A strong U.S.-Israel relationship will be vital for both nations to manage the trials ahead.

But we also face new challenges.

How do we build bridges in our communities? Many places were torn by one of the most complex issues facing North American Jewry in generations.

First, we need to refocus on what united us throughout this trying period.

Every one of us took on the solemn responsibility of educating our constituencies on the wide-ranging and long-term implications of this accord. We all believe that Iran must be prevented from developing a nuclear weapon. We all are concerned -- even those who support the deal -- that Iran will violate the agreement.

Second, we need to accept that debate -- even an intense, painful one -- is at the center of who we are as a people.

The Talmud is not merely an explanatory workbook to help us better understand the Torah. It is a copious record of millennia of discourse over its meaning. Even the seating arrangement of the classic yeshiva was set up for standoff: two individuals face to face across the table, arguing different interpretations of the word of G-d.

The entire way we approach our relationship with G-d is indeed a topic of constant discussion; to be *Yisrael* is to be one who struggles, dissents, argues. But these traditions were never intended as mechanisms to divide our people.

This brings me to my third point.

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The Jewish Observer welcomes the submission of information, news items, feature stories and photos about events relevant to the Jewish community of Greater Nashville. We prefer e-mailed submissions, which should be sent as Word documents to Editor Charles Bernsen at charles@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 Charles Bernsen, 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.

Community Relations Communiqué

A vigilant defender of IDF's moral code comes to Nashville

By **ABBIE WOLF**

As we know all too well, every time there is any kind of military exchange in Israel, newspapers and blogs worldwide are filled with allegations and condemnations of Israel's war crimes. It happens like clockwork. Israel is taunted continually by rocket fire, refrains from retaliation, and then after a certain point finally launches something back. And immediately, Israel is roundly condemned by the world for their military aggression.



Abbie Wolf

Like many of you, I become frustrated that Israel is seldom seen in a positive light, no matter what it does. When I was last in Israel on the Christian clergy mission, however, I met Col. Bentzi Gruber and became hopeful that there are ways to battle this distorted reality.

Colonel Gruber is a one-man army on a mission to shatter myths and present the facts missing in today's discussion of Israel's military and the lengths it goes to in order to prevent the loss of innocent lives.

In the hour we spent with him, we heard his personal account of Israeli military ethics, and how the IDF strives to minimize civilian casualties even in the midst of armed conflict. As a vice commander of an armored division of 20,000 soldiers in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), Colonel Gruber has seen a lot. It's fair to say he's seen things few of us have seen – brutality, terror and inhumanity. In other words, the horrors of war.

Battle-hardened though he is, he's still troubled by the accidental killing of an elderly woman by troops under his command. "It was 25 years ago," Gruber said. "I can still remember her husband holding her and crying."

It's that humanity that drives him to go around the world to discuss the strict moral code to which the IDF holds itself. As he explains, there are moral values

each commander must take into account, every single time, in deciding when to shoot and when to hold fire. When the decision to move forward is made, the IDF does everything in its power to warn innocent civilians that there is time to leave.

The IDF often drops leaflets 48 hours before entering an area to warn civilians to vacate. Twenty hours before, villagers are called while another unit sends text messages. "We are the only army in the world that warns our enemies we are coming," said Gruber. During last summer's combat in Gaza, he said, "We delayed a 4,000-man unit that was set to attack because people didn't leave their houses."

Colonel Gruber is not without his critics. At campuses around the country, his talks are consistently interrupted by protests. At Florida State University, Students for Justice in Palestine interrupted his presentation by unfurling a banner that read "WAR CRIMINAL" and accused Israeli troops of committing war crimes. At George Mason

University, Students Against Israeli Apartheid conducted a silent walkout in protest of his presentation. At the University of Denver, protesters disrupted his talk by repeatedly shouting insults, culminating in a protester rushing the podium and being restrained by Denver police and university security.

These protests tell me there's much more Israel advocacy work to be done – both on campuses and in the general community. Please join me on Monday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Gordon Jewish Community Center for an evening with Colonel Gruber. You won't regret it. When he spoke to our interfaith group in Israel, you could have heard a pin drop. Each of us was engrossed and, at the end, deeply affected – so much so that two of the churches are sponsoring an event with him on the day before our program. He was that compelling. I look forward to seeing you there.

Abbie Wolf is the community relations director for the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

Israeli colonel will be in Nashville to explain strategic and ethical considerations that guide IDF in combat

After a drone spotted a pickup truck carrying Hamas rockets on a Gaza road last year during Operation Protective Edge, the Israeli Defense Forces launched a guided rocket to destroy it. But in the moments before the rocket arrived, the truck ducked into a garage in an occupied building. How did the officer guiding the rocket respond?

What was the response of an IDF artillery crew when seven armed Hamas militants commandeered a Red Cross ambulance during Operation Protective Edge?

How did the IDF respond when Hamas street fighters adopted the tactic of snatching small children to use as shields against pursuing Israeli troops?

Col. Bentzi Gruber will be in Nashville this month to discuss these and other real life dilemmas faced by Israeli soldiers and the strategies they employ to ensure that the IDF remains what he describes as "the most ethical army in the world."

A reserve vice commander of an armored division of 20,000 soldiers and founder of the initiative called Ethics in the Field, Gruber had made it his personal mission to rebut misperceptions about the IDF and present facts that are often omitted in discussions of Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

He will make a multi-media presentation called "Seconds to Decide: An Exclusive Look Inside the IDF and the Ethics of War" at 7 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 19 at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. The event is sponsored by the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. Those who wish to attend are asked to RSVP to



Col. Bentzi Gruber

Community Relations Director Abbie Wolf at abbie@jewishnashville.org.

Gruber also will make a presentation at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18 at Belle Meade United Methodist Church at an event jointly sponsored by Vine

Street Christian Church. The pastors of the churches were among the Christian clergy who met Gruber on a Federation-funded mission to Israel earlier this year. Sunday evening, Gruber will be the featured speaker at the Federation's Joshua Society Dinner for major gifts donors. For more information about the dinner, contact Campaign Director Naomi Limor Sedek at (615) 354-1642.

Using photos and videos from actual combat situations, Gruber has made his presentation to hundreds of audiences large and small around the world – military academies like West Point, international conferences, high school and college campuses, Jewish community gatherings and informal coffee klatches. His goal is to explain the agonizing decisions IDF personnel must make – often in just a few seconds – as they adhere to a code that prohibits the use of

Click on this link
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfYcnZBKsIE>) to listen to a YouTube video of a presentation by Col. Bentzi Gruber about how the Israeli Defense Forces deal with the ethical dilemmas of combat.

force against innocents and seeks to minimize collateral damage as they confront terrorists who have imbedded themselves in a civilian population.

Gruber, an internet and biotech entrepreneur in civilian life, also founded a non-profit organization in 1981 called Chesed in the Field that brings together IDF reservists and chronically ill and disabled children for special events throughout the year as a way of instilling in soldiers the values of community and social responsibility. •

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About Your Speaker. Daniel resides in Franklin, Tennessee with his wife Catherine and their son William. He graduated from the University of Dayton School of Law in Dayton, Ohio, and received his Bachelors degree from Purdue University and his Associates Degree from Holy Cross College in South Bend, Indiana. Daniel serves as an Estate Planning Attorney with Rabalais Law that services the greater Nashville area with its office located in the West End.

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<p>Brentwood Thursday October 8 Amerigo 1656 Westgate Circle 11:30am-12:30pm Lunch Provided</p>	<p>Brentwood Thursday October 8 Amerigo 1656 Westgate Circle 6:00-7:00pm Dinner Provided</p>	<p>Franklin Friday October 9 The Egg & I 1000 Meridian Blvd., #118 11:00am-12:00pm Lunch Provided</p>
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Be Part of the international Jewish response to aid refugees and migrants

Every day in the headlines we learn of the worsening plight of refugees from Syria and instability throughout the Middle East and North Africa. Many of those displaced are arriving in Europe illegally in old and dangerous boats sailing across the Mediterranean Sea, representing the most severe refugee crisis to hit Europe since World War II. In the wake of the flood of images and stories we see on the news and social media, we are called to action.

No one country or organization can address the scope of this global problem alone. Through the Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief (JCDR), Jewish organizations have been quietly funding relief efforts to support Syrian refugees for the past two years.

To date, JCDR's assistance to Syrian refugees has been delivered in Jordan, which has seen more than 625,000 officially registered refugees enter the country since the beginning of the fighting in Syria.

This week JCDR expanded the scope and mandate of its Jewish Coalition for Syrian Refugees in Jordan to include refugees and migrants in

Europe and the Middle East. The human toll and needs will be massive and there is an urgent and compelling call for humanitarian and life-saving assistance.

If you would like to be part of a collective, international Jewish response to provide humanitarian aid to the Middle Eastern refugees and migrants, Federation's overseas partner, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), and others are mounting a coordinated Jewish effort. One hundred percent of the money raised will be used for direct services to those in need.

More than once, we too were strangers. Join the Jewish community in making a statement about our values and our commitment to learn from the painful lessons of history.

To make a pledge, go to <http://nashville.fedweb.jewishfederations.org/page/s/syrian-refugee-and-migrant-fund>. If you need assistance making your donation online, please call Naomi Limor-Sedek at (615) 354-1642. You may also mail your donation check to the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, 801 Percy Warner Blvd., Suite 102, Nashville, TN 37205 with a notation "For Refugee Crisis." •

Campaign

Continued from page 4

The esteemed Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks has described conflict management as "the single greatest unresolved problem in Jewish history."

How do we keep community cohesion during, and especially after, conflict? We can glean many lessons about this from our own religious traditions. For example, the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies has its own center dedicated to Judaism and conflict resolution. Other Jewish institutions have similar programs.

We will be integrating many of these lessons and these scholars into the GA, and we encourage you to do the same in your communities.

Fourth, we must stand together against retribution. Withdrawing a Federation gift that feeds the hungry, sends kids to camp and provides solace to Holocaust survivors over the Iran issue? That is indeed retribution. And it is contrary not only to our mission as a community but also to the precepts of Jewish law upon which our existence depends. I would also add that vitriolic condemnation of Israeli and American leaders – and each other – is an imprudent way to handle situations like this one.

Finally, we need to get practical and prepare ourselves for the challenges and the opportunities ahead.

Israel is likely to become a more

controversial issue generally, and potentially a more divisive issue in our community. Boycott, divestment and sanctions efforts are likely to proliferate, especially on college campuses.

Yet while so many eyes were focused on the Iran issue over the summer, the 500,000th young adult arrived in Israel on a Birthright trip. The 8,000,000th PJ Library book arrived in the mailbox of a family somewhere in North America; for many families, this is their primary connection to Jewish life. Federation funds continue to ensure that thousands of displaced Jews in Ukraine have their needs met, and that tens of thousands of Holocaust survivors receive much-needed care.

We Jews only represent 1.8% of the American population today. In order for us to continue to make a difference, we must remain unified as a people and a community. We don't have to agree on issues; however, we must have unity. As we continue to and gather as families, congregations and communities, let us bring in 5776 with a renewed commitment of debate with unity. We are so blessed as a people—and with that we have profound responsibilities and opportunities together.

Shana tova – a healthy, happy and sweet new year to all. •

Jerry Silverman is president and executive director of the Jewish Federations of North America.

GJCC statement on Planned Parenthood event

We would like to take this opportunity to share with you an update on a recent development with a proposed rental of our Gordon Jewish Community Center auditorium. Planned Parenthood approached us in August to rent our auditorium for a fundraiser after another organization had backed out. We accepted their request, as we have with many non-profit organizations who have asked to rent space at the GJCC. This proposed arrangement was a rental only and, like all other rentals, did not include an endorsement by the GJCC.

We regularly rent our auditorium, rooms, gym and pool for weddings, life cycle events, meetings and fundraisers to a variety of individuals and organizations who represent a broad spectrum of thoughts and ideas. We use these rental fees to help us offset overhead and to fund high quality services for our members and the Greater

Nashville community. These rental fees are an important part of our budget each year. To qualify to rent space at the GJCC, all individuals and organizations must meet certain guidelines. One criterion for renting space is that the proposed rental does not cause financial harm to the GJCC.

After further review of this proposed rental and multiple discussions with a wide range of our membership, the leadership of the GJCC quickly realized the first hurdle for rentals – “do” no financial harm” – would not be met. The decision was made that we could no longer rent our auditorium for this event. This decision was not made easily, as many members of our leadership are also supporters of Planned Parenthood. The conclusion that was reached, however, was not about whether one supports or does not support a particular organization. The sole basis for the decision was our attempt to act in the best interest of our organization. We informed Planned Parenthood of our decision and worked

with them to secure an alternative site.

While our handling of this request from Planned Parenthood was certainly awkward and unartful, we believe that the ultimate decision not to have the event at the GJCC was the best option for our organization. We are a Jewish-centered organization that represents a spectrum of religious practices and political and social beliefs both within Judaism and in the greater Nashville community. We regret that we accepted the rental request and then altered our course (and have apologized to Planned Parenthood for the same), but we have a fiduciary obligation to all of our constituents to ensure the financial stability of our organization. We determined that allowing this rental would cause unnecessary financial harm and bring about unwanted and needless conflict throughout our membership.

During the past week, we have had many discussions with members of the GJCC about this issue. While the political and social views of our membership

are wide and varied, there exists a deep and consistent commitment to respectfully discuss and embrace diversity. Members of all faiths, ages and social beliefs have engaged in meaningful, constructive discussions about our role as a Jewish community center. To be sure, not all of our membership is happy with, or supportive of, our decision and we respect their thoughts and concerns. We also respect the passion that some of our members have for Planned Parenthood.

The GJCC's decision was not about backing away from an agreement or supporting any particular organization. It was our attempt to be sensitive to our entire community, Jewish and non-Jewish, to protect our financial stability and to ensure our tag line “you belong here” is more than just words.

Sincerely,

Carla Rosenthal, GJCC board president
Leslie Sax, GJCC executive director

NowGen's Rosh Bash Rings in the New Year

By ANNA LAUREN LEVY

More than 100 Jewish young professionals rung in the New Year on Sept. 12 at NowGen Nashville's sixth annual Rosh Bash.

Among them was Hayley Levy, who had moved to Nashville just one week before to start a new job.

“The event was great,” Levy said. “It was the perfect way for me to meet people. I can see myself coming to future NowGen events.”

Carolyn Hecklin Hyatt, the new community engagement associate for the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, said 108 tickets were sold at the event, which was held at The Harding House at the Belle Meade Plantation and featured appetizers, cocktails and music.

NowGen is the Nashville Federation's outreach program for young Jewish professional ages 22-40, a diverse group that includes newcomers to Nashville as well as those who grew up here, singles starting out in their careers and looking to meet people as well as young families looking for friends and activities for their children as well as themselves.

It's Hyatt's job to develop programming to accommodate this diverse pool of young professional Jews, and she said she's been brainstorming possible networking events for those looking to grow their careers and make connection while also looking to establish partnerships with kid-centered institutions around town for family fun. What annual events like Rosh Bash and the Purim Masquerade provide, Hyatt explained, is a great opportunity for the young professional Jewish community to come together as a whole and celebrate.

David Deerson moved to Nashville a month prior to Rosh Bash for Vanderbilt Law School. He found out about Rosh Bash through a friend at the Vanderbilt Chabad House. When asked about the event, he said, “I spoke with a great mix of people, from practicing attorneys to new friends who I'm excited to meet up with again soon.”

Laura Queryrouze works at Micah



Sarah Eckstein (left) and Anna Lauren Levy were among those welcoming the New Year at NowGen Nashville's annual Rosh Bash.

Children's Academy and studies early childhood education at Lipscomb University.

“Even though I've been here a few years, I met a ton of new people that I can't wait to get to know better,” she said. Though it's hard to balance work, school and a social life, she said that “making Jewish friends here is definitely... important to me as a young adult, and especially trying to make a life and home here in Nashville.”

Jeff Sterne is on the NowGen board for civic engagement. He moved to Nashville three years ago to work at Nissan. “I wasn't really active in a Jewish community at home in [the] Chicago burbs nor in college in DC.” But after Sterne moved to Nashville, he said, “Nowgen became my entire social circle of friends.”

Erica Schwartz, a graduate student at Vanderbilt, heard about NowGen through a family friend. When asked what she enjoys about NowGen, she said, “I didn't know anyone when I moved here in June...and I'm looking to broaden my network of people. It's a bit of a cultural shift coming down South from Boston...[so I] enjoy meeting people in the Jewish community, because it's nice to connect with people that understand how I grew up. It's important for me to have a Jewish base and friends down here.”

Sarah Motis, a preschool teacher at the Gordon Jewish Community Center, moved to Nashville over the summer

with Jacob Ruden, who is completing his residency in biomedical sciences at Vanderbilt University. She said the pair originally discovered NowGen by looking up “20/30s Jewish life” online and have been enjoying NowGen's weekly trivia nights.

Rosh Bash “was a great way to meet people,” she said.

The event was co-sponsored by Reliant Bank, the Vanderbilt Hillel graduate student program, XMI Holdings

and the Dog Spot. To find out about NowGen and upcoming events, contact Carolyn Hecklin Hyatt at Carolynh@jewishnashville.org or visit nowgennashville.org. •

Anna Lauren Levy is a writer new to Nashville. She is getting her master's in education with a focus on English as a second language from Lipscomb University. Contact her at allauraena@gmail.com or visit annalaurena.com.



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Hadassah's annual fundraiser will honor Bobbie Limor, "beloved figure in Nashville"

By CHARLES BERNSEN

Although she has catered hundreds of *b'nai mitzvah* luncheons, wedding dinners and other Jewish communal gatherings for almost four decades, Bobbie Limor won't be providing the food next month when the local Hadassah chapter holds its annual fundraiser.

Instead she'll be the guest of honor. "Nashville Hadassah is so pleased and proud that Bobbie Limor will be our Woman of Valor for the 2015 Hadassah Donor Event," said Leslie Klein, president of the local chapter. "She is such a beloved figure in Nashville, and indeed throughout the Southern region of Hadassah."

Limor will actually be honored at two events on Sunday, Oct. 25. The first, a 10:30 a.m. brunch at the home of Phyllis Alper, will recognize current and

prospective major donors. The second, a dessert reception from 7-9 p.m. at the Gordon Jewish Community Center, is open to all members, associates, family and friends of Bobbie for a minimum donation in addition to the covert to help cover costs. Barbara Paillet, a National Board Member and devoted leader of Hadassah, will be the featured speaker at both events. Hadassah members will receive their invitations by mail.

For her part, Limor feels "a little uncomfortable" with all the hoopla. "It's not my style. I like being in the background," she says, "The volunteer work I do is because I believe in the organization and want to support the community."

"But it's for a good cause. Hadassah

deserves all the kudos it can get."

Hadassah has been one of Limor's dearest volunteer endeavors since she arrived in Nashville more than 40 years ago with her husband, Alex. She's been president of the local chapter – twice. She also served on the regional board and as regional president and a member of the national board. At the national level, she chaired Hadassah's constitution committee for eight years and the national camps committee for four, overseeing Camp Tel Yehuda, the senior leadership camp, and four regional junior camps, including Camp Judaea in North Carolina.



Bobbie Limor, Nashville Hadassah's Woman of Valor for 2015.

Limor speaks of Camp Judaea with a special fondness from her association with it as both a parent and a volunteer. "All my kids went there, and we have made a lot of great friends through Camp Judaea," she says.

In fact, Klein said the local chapter is honoring Limor's request that this year's fundraiser be dedicated to Camp Judaea and its motto of helping Jewish children experience "a little bit of Israel in the Blue Ridge Mountains."

Limor grew up in Oak Ridge, where her parents stayed after taking part in the effort to build the first atomic bomb. She met Alex, a native of Nashville, while they were students at the University of Tennessee. After the couple moved to Nashville, Bobbie graduated from

Vanderbilt's Peabody College but decided to be a stay-at-home mom rather than pursue a career, which gave her flexibility not only to start her catering business but also do volunteer work.

All five of her sons – Ben, Danny, Sam, Yoni and Avi – attended Akiva School, so it was natural for her to get involved there, first as a board member and then as president during the crucial period in which the school's new building was funded and constructed.

Limor also has also been a board member of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, serving as both the woman's campaign chair and annual campaign chair. It was during that period that she helped start the local chapter of the Lion of Judah program, which awards distinctive gold pins women who make extraordinary gifts to the Federation's annual campaign. The local program, which began with just five Lions, now has more than 80.

Limor is also a longtime leader at Congregation Sherith Israel, where she has served as president of the sisterhood and chaired various board committees. She is presently chair of the CSI cemetery committee.

Jewish voluntarism is something that both Bobbie and Alex, who built the massive iron monument for the Nashville Holocaust Memorial at the Gordon Jewish Community Center, learned from their parents.

"It has been a natural progression," she says. "I'm proud of our volunteer efforts. I think they've made a difference." •

Federation sets 2nd Newcomer Reception for Oct. 21

Are you new to Nashville? Are you returning after an absence and want to reconnect with the Jewish community?

The Welcoming Ambassadors Program of Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee will hold its second Newcomer Reception from 5-7 p.m. on Oct. 21 at the home of Suriva Fischer. Invitations are being emailed to the more than 40 people who attended the first reception last month. If you weren't there but would like to attend the second event, contact

Barbara Schwarcz, the Federation's newcomer liaison and events coordinator, at barbara@jewishnashville.org or (615) 354-1630.

The Welcoming Ambassadors Program is a new initiative of the Federation aimed at improving the experience of newcomers to the Nashville Jewish community by adding personal, face-to-face interactions with more than 30 individuals who have volunteered to be welcoming ambassadors.

If you know a newcomer – or if you want to be a volunteer – please contact Schwarcz. •



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"Kids" of the PGW Club Hold 80th anniversary reunion

By **RANDY GROSS**

More than 50 "kids" were on hand on Sept. 20 to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Promote General Welfare (PGW) Club, a Jewish social club and basketball team for boys.

Started in 1935 by the Young Men's Hebrew Association, the precursor organization of the Gordon Jewish Community Center, the PGW Club expanded over time to 35 members and their wives, most of whom remained life-long friends.

The group held regular meetings, and its basketball team competed until World War II, when most of the members joined the armed services. All but one – Ralph Shepard – returned safely. When the club was re-established in 1945, its members honored their fallen friend by creating the annual Ralph Shepard Award (now called the Kehillah Award) for outstanding achievement among Nashville's Jewish youth.

After the war, the club continued to hold monthly meetings and contribute to social causes such as the Red Cross, March of Dimes, and various Jewish charities. But mostly PGW was a social club, and the members sponsored anniversary parties, social events and New Year's Eve dances open to the Jewish community at venues like the Maxwell House and the Noel Hotel. The 1960 New Year's event planned for the Hermitage Hotel was cancelled due to the hotel company's policy excluding Jews from certain venues. While the



Maurice Karr (second from left) is the only surviving member of the Promote General Welfare Club, a youth group launched 80 years ago by the Nashville Young Men's Hebrew Association. Randy Gross, shown here holding his daughter Lilia Claire, organized an anniversary reunion attended by more than 50 children and wives of original members, including Barbara Cohen (left) and Bernice Rothstein. In the background is a photo of the 1937 PGW basketball team.

monthly meetings began to trail off by the mid-1960s, members and their wives remained close friends and continued to sponsor anniversary parties and get-togethers well into the 1990s. A reunion luncheon for several of the remaining PGW wives was held as recently as 2013.

Many of the "kids" of PGW members and their spouses who attended the event are now grandparents. They were joined by several wives and childhood friends of PGW members, including Dooley Gross, Shirley Greenberg, Barbara Cohen, Lillian Schklar, Ruth Klar, Bernice Rothstein, Minnie Berlin, and Dorothy Kohnstamm. A highlight

was the appearance of Maurice Karr, who at age 92 is the sole surviving PGW Club member. There was a tribute to his son,

Marshall Karr, who had been eager to attend the reunion but passed away unexpectedly three weeks earlier. He was remembered and celebrated warmly as a recipient of the Ralph Shepard Award and for his overall contribution to the Jewish community.

Those attending the event also watched films and looked at pictures of the PGW Club's anniversaries and other events collected over the years by Charles Gross. A selection of minutes from some of the PGW meetings was read to howls of laughter.

The GJCC provided the room and sponsored a bagel breakfast for the reunion, which ended with a reading of a 1953 PGW anniversary speech by Charles Gross that expressed the group's significance: "Whether we realize it or not, in many ways our lives have been influenced greatly by this little organization." •

Randy Gross is the son of the late PGW member Charles Gross. He organized the gathering of children, wives and friends in order to honor the members and to celebrate the incredible friendships and community they developed over 80 years.

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What they don't tell you about Birthright

By ANNA LAUREN LEVY

Birthright is a free 10-day trip to Israel that immerses Jews ages 18-26 in Israeli culture, politics, food, economy and Judaism. Those who plan the trip, friends and family members who've gone before, try to prepare you. But they don't tell you how your emotions will betray you.

You get mad when a sales clerk tells you the price in Hebrew. Can't she see like they did in Thailand that you're a foreigner? You don't look like her. You have dark curly hair, dark eyes and ... you look exactly like her. In Israel, no one asks you if you're from Mexico or Italy or Greece. No one asks if you're half black.

You feel at peace walking through a park in Jerusalem on Shabbat. CNN never shows Israelis walking their dogs or pushing baby strollers. For the first time you fit in somewhere. You decide you have to move to Tel Aviv. But you know it's the breath of a dream you'll forget as soon as you wake up back in the States. Instead, you extend your trip. Because when you look out across the beach in Tel Aviv, you feel tethered not by the nation to which you were born but to the nationality to which you belong.

They don't tell you that you'll be angry when you get to the Western Wall, where your people have sought to pray for thousands of years. You wanted a spir-



Anna Lauren Levy at the top of Masada.

itual awakening. Instead you see that your people – women – are still fighting to pray. The Wall's divided: 80 percent for men, 20 percent for women. The rabbinic authority of the Western Wall forbids women from reading the Torah, wearing tallit or praying out loud because "kol b'isha erva" (the voice of woman is lewd). But there's a movement, Women of the Wall. Women sneak in Torahs and sing out loud. Why in the State of Israel can every Jew not pray equally?

They don't prepare you for the sadness. You'd never heard of Mount Herzl and the rows and rows and rows and rows of graves. You'd never heard of lone soldier. You never saw so many headstones with ages 20, 22, 21, 22, 22, 22. The Israelis traveling with you cry. Even

when they speak about their military experience, you can't fully understand about stepping on mines, picking up body parts, arriving at the hospital too late to say goodbye to a friend. Your group sits down to talk in a park. You can see hillsides and trees extending out into Israel. You're told you're sitting on land for future rows of 20, 22, 21, 22, 22, 22.

They don't tell you you'll feel guilty. The land may be your people's, but can you really call the state yours? You didn't serve in the army. You didn't have any friends die. You went to college and lived. You should join the army. But you're afraid. You learned about laying down a life for freedom in America. But until Israel, you never understood it.

They don't tell you about daily life. When Birthright is over, you stay with an Israeli from your trip for a few days. On the train that goes from Tel Aviv to Rishon Lezion, a neighboring city, you see soldiers commuting from the army to home and from home back to the army. You watch parents on the train reading to their young children. You see the signs posted outside the train with a running-man emblem and an arrow pointing to the nearest train station. You don't have to ask your Israeli friend what it means. You saw the movie where the aliens attacked the city and people had to take shelter. Only this isn't a movie. On your second to last day in Israel, you cry

because the novels are real. *The Hunger Games*. *Divergent*. Any dystopia in which children are sent to war.

"Thank you for reminding us how horrible our lives are," jokes an Israeli friend when you express your sadness. How is he joking? But he closes the door on the conversation by laying down a card in the game you're playing. Israelis have a big appetite for life – that's what they choose to focus on.

On your last day, you go back to Jerusalem, back to the Western Wall. You walk through all the places your Birthright trip leader took you. Only now the experience is yours alone and not shared with 30 other Jewish-Americans trying to buy a slice of Israel in the Old City. You still feel anger and frustration at the Wall. You just want to lean in and kiss it like everyone else. You want to feel a connection to Israel.

That evening, you walk Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem. A man plays a guitar for shekels. Teenagers talk on the phone and couples hold hands. You sit in a café, your tea cooling. They never told you Jerusalem was a city like any other – because it's not. So you choose to focus on what really matters. So you let the corners of anger and holes of sadness be smoothed with gratitude into love. •

Anna Lauren Levy returned from her Birthright Israel trip in August.

the Jewish Observer

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Deadline for ads is November 15, 2015

My first trip to Israel

By STEPHANIE BLUMENTHAL

This summer I had the opportunity to join other teenagers from my camp, URJ Goldman Union Camp Institute, on a trip to Israel through the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) Adventure program.

I have been a camper at GUCI for seven years, and this is the trip every camper dreams about. During this trip, Jewish teens from 10 states who had gone to my camp came together in Israel. We were in Israel for a month and we traveled all over; we spent four days in the Negev, four days hiking across the country from the Kinneret to the Mediterranean Sea and in a variety of cities, hostels and kibbutzim.

One of my favorite memories is from our stay in Jerusalem when we visited the *shuk*, or market. Our four counselors split our group of 39 into groups of four. Each group was given 100 shekels and instructed to buy one food item that would be used to make lunch for the entire group. My group was in charge of buying pita.

Upon entering the market, I was dazed by the huge variety: booths that were restaurants, booths that had tables and tables of spices, booths that sold produce, baked goods, clothes – and pita! My group walked through the busy *shuk* and looked at the prices for pita at three stands. We decided on our bargaining price. We bought our pita and met the

rest of the group outside of the *shuk*. Together, we all walked to a park, gathered our various items and had a delicious lunch of pitas filled with falafel, hummus, Israeli salad, cabbage and baba ganoush. We also had apples and grapes. Our counselors even surprised us with delicious chocolate marzipan rugelach. It was a fantastic afternoon in Jerusalem.

I met so many fabulous people on my trip to Israel this summer and learned so much about them and all about Israel itself. It was my first time off the continent, and I wouldn't have wanted to spend it any other way. We climbed mountains, discovered cities and made memories and friends that I am confident will last us long after high school ends.

This trip has made me so much more empathetic and supportive of the state of Israel. I saw historic places, like the Independence Hall where David Ben-Gurion and others signed Israel's Declaration of Independence or the square where Yitzak Rabin was shot. This country is strong; they deserve our help and respect. Am Yisrael Chai! •

Stephanie Blumenthal is the daughter of Patricia and Eric Blumenthal. Her trip to Israel was subsidized by the Jewish Federation and Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee through its Mary and Harry Zimmerman Family Youth Exchange Endowment Fund, which provides financial incentives for exchange trips to Israel for area high school and college students. For information about the Zimmerman Fund contact Harriet Schifftan at harriet@jewish-nashville.org or (615) 354-1687.

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

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Optique: helping you deal with dim light while dining out

Many people find when dining out or in theatres with low lighting, their near vision is more difficult than usual. After age 40, we naturally lose the ability to focus up close.

"In setting the ambiance, most restaurants have dim lighting," says Dr. Michele Sonsino, optometrist and partner at Optique Eyecare and Eyewear. "If you are over the age of 40 and do not have appropriate reading glasses or contact lenses, you may notice that your ability to read is impacted."

But there is more to the story. As we age, there are other factors that contribute to the loss of ability to read in dim lighting. "Factors such as increasing nearsightedness, early onset of cataracts, normal decrease of photoreceptors in the retina, some rare eye conditions, and even vitamin deficiencies all may contribute to difficulty reading at the restaurant," Sonsino says.

While treatable, many of those causes are considered normal processes of aging. However, there are insidious causes that do not have such simple treatments," says Dr. Jeffrey Sonsino, optometrist and partner at Optique. "Even though many people can be fixed with simple devices, like progressive glasses or multifocal contact lenses, we are always on the lookout for eye conditions that are not so simple to treat."

Although there is no cure for age-related macular degeneration or glaucoma, there are good treatments that can prolong the ability to read. While at Vanderbilt, Dr. Sonsino invented a pair of reading glasses that help people with vision impairment read.

For more information on this commercially available device, contact Low Vision Readers at (888) 509-0910.

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The restaurant design effortlessly combines old-world architectural elements that evoke authentic Italian trattorias with sleek, modern accents such as sculptural light fixtures and tinted mirror panels of red, orange and gold. Key features include a bustling exposition kitchen with a brick pizza oven, a centerpiece bar, beautiful outdoor patio with a separate bar and private dining rooms.

Franklin Pargh: helping homebuyers find the perfect place for entertaining

These days people love to entertain in their homes. As a realtor I serve many homebuyers seeking a place that will fit their entertainment needs – a large, open engaging living room, or perhaps a large outdoor space to hold family events and gatherings. Others seek a home with a built in theatre. These days the words “home” and “entertainment” are synonymous.

When it comes to dining out, location is very important. Buyers are looking for walkability to local eateries and social gatherings. With Nashville's food scene getting bigger and more popular, we are seeing the need to find homes in certain areas that offer great dining experiences as well. Whether it's a quick walk to get some ice cream, or a short Uber ride to a fine dining experience, having the location that offers this a must have for some buyers in this market.

Contact me, Franklin Pargh of Synergy Realty Network, at (615) 351-7333 or visit franklinpargh.com.

Porta Via: focus on fresh, authentic Italian cuisine

When Porta Via opened its doors in Bellevue 25 years ago, it gained a reputation for serving excellent authentic Italian cuisine. Locally owned and operated, there are now two locations, one in Belle Meade and one in Cool Springs.

Under the guidance of Executive Chef Giovanni Giosa, a native Italian who trained in Florence, Porta Via has maintained a loyal customer base with its focus on fresh gourmet Italian food. In 2011, it became the first Italian restaurant in Tennessee to receive certification from the Vera Pizza Napoletana (VPN) for creating pizzas authentically in the Naples style, as they have been made for the last 250 years.

Giosa and his team start every day at 5 a.m. making fresh dough for the pizzas according to the VPN guidelines. The dough proofs for eight hours while the staff creates fresh sauces, pastas, breads and gelatos. By making all the recipes from scratch with the very best ingredients, the chef is able to control his flavors and create a lasting impression for the customer.

Porta Via aims to create a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere so customers can enjoy an authentic Italian dining experience. The staff is trained to be knowledgeable about the food and wine they are serving, so that they can make the customer's experience more complete and welcoming.

Here are some unsolicited comments from loyal customers:

- “You will have to tell me next time you plan a trip. I am sure I can give advice on some good restaurants/places to stay and visit. If you like Italian pizza, try Porta Via on White Bridge, it is the closest thing I found in Nashville so far.”
- “Each and every time, I get great service, a friendly smile, and a wonderful meal. Awesome awesome awesome.”
- “Excellent! Great menu choices and variety of items. Quality, service, cleanliness was top notch! Nice ambience too.”



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Wine lovers, too, will tell you 1808 Grille is a must. Popular wine events are curated by the in-house sommelier, and the extensive wine list has been honored annually with Wine Spectator's Award of Excellence.

Centrally located and offering complimentary valet parking, 1808 Grille is an ideal location for business lunches. But don't miss the delicious selections at breakfast, dinner and weekend brunch as well. There's even a full bar menu, where you'll find one of Nashville's favorite burgers. And for a more intimate setting, the restaurant offers personalized menus in two private dining rooms.

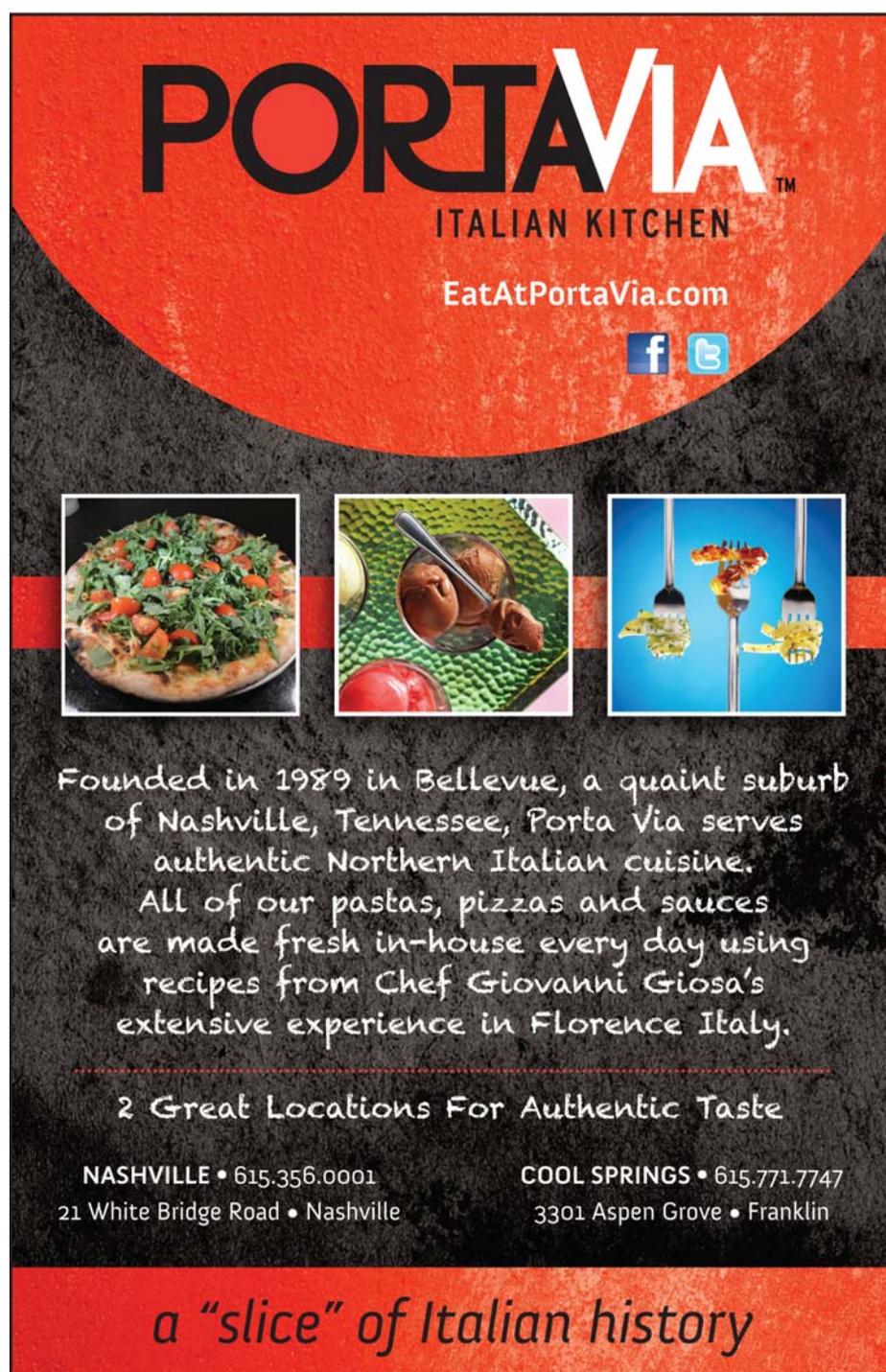
The hotel and restaurant are at 1808 West End Ave. Visit them online at www.1808Grille.com. Reservations can be made on www.OpenTable.com or by calling (615) 340-0012.

Sperry's Restaurant: 41 years of impeccable food and service

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



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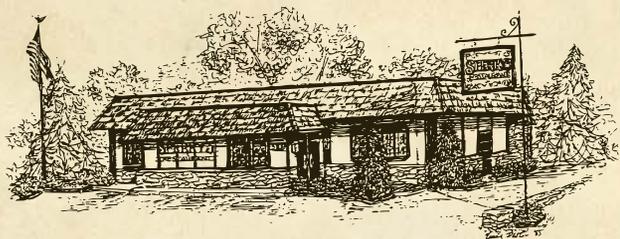
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Must-try menu items at Sperry's include delicious beef entrees, its famous salad bar complete with home-made green goddess dressing and the bananas foster dessert. Sperry's Restaurants are located at 5109 Harding Road just past the Belle Meade Plantation and in Cool Springs at 650 Frazier Drive next to Thomasville Furniture. There's also a Sperry's in Florence, AL.

Go to www.sperrys.com for more information and to make reservations.

RED Spirits & Wine: Big changes are brewing

This September, RED Spirits & Wine is celebrating its anniversary. Hard to believe that it's already been four great years of serving the Nashville community in Bellevue and we've loved every step of the journey!

You may have noticed the new facelift to the front service areas and the construction of RED's new "state of the art" Growler Station, where guests can choose from the finest local and craft beers "ready to go" straight from the tap. With interest in craft beer continuing to grow, RED will be serving the best brews with a rotating menu of local favorites, allocated release and special brews that will only be available at RED.

In addition to fantastic beers, RED will adding four more taps that will serve wine straight from the keg. This will allow us to offer many unique and small production wines that you might not be able to find in the bottle. This is already a popular concept in many large markets, and RED will be among the first to offer it in Tennessee. We've also added a large humidor and are starting a fine selection of cigars and accessories, as well as now providing mixers, soft drinks, stemware, and lot's of other items.

There are exciting changes underway at RED, and we thank the community for the support through our first four years. We are committed to bringing Nashville the finest in wines, spirits, beer and much more in a lively atmosphere with a great staff that strives to give our guests the best service. We hope to see you soon at RED.



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Now on the kosher menu at Grins: free parking

Grins Vegetarian Café, Nashville's first certified kosher restaurant, has added a sweet treat that you'll want to try but won't want to eat: free, convenient parking for off-campus customers. And the café, located on the Vanderbilt University campus, is offering a sweet edible incentive to come try it out.

"We're not only making it easy for people to come here, we're offering a bribe to them to try us out," says owner Bob Bernstein. "Until the end of the calendar year, we're giving anyone from off campus who parks in our spots a free cookie or coffee with their entrée."

Located in the Ben Schulman Center for Jewish Life at 2421 Vanderbilt Place, the café has served the Jewish and college communities since 2002. However, until now it has been hard for non-students and faculty to get to. Free, dedicated parking right outside the door makes it a perfect place for anyone to get breakfast, lunch, dinner or an in-between snack.

The Schulman Center is home to Vanderbilt Hillel. Executive Director Ari Dubin said Hillel "is thrilled that we can now offer free parking to people coming to the building. This is a tremendous way to make it easier for the Jewish community to take advantage of Nashville's kosher restaurant."

Grins serves a globally-inspired menu that includes breakfast tacos, paninis, salads and even a tofu version of Nashville's Hot Chicken. The café is owned by Bongo Productions, which also owns Bongo Java, Fido, Fenwick's 300 and Hot & Cold.

Noshville: a perfect combination of food and atmosphere

At Noshville Delicatessen, the goal is simple: To prepare and serve the highest quality food in a friendly, comfortable atmosphere.

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Noshville is also available for restaurant rental for anything from wedding rehearsal dinners and receptions to bar and bat mitzvah celebrations. We provide the perfect combination of food, service and atmosphere for any occasion.

Noshville has three convenient locations offering the Make your Mother Happy...Eat and Enjoy Experience, in the heart of Green Hills at 4014 Hillsboro Circle, 1918 Broadway and the A/B Terminal of the Nashville International Airport. So come see why we have been voted Best Delicatessen 17 years and remember Noshville is an eating experience, not just a place to eat! Visit our website at www.noshville.com for more details.

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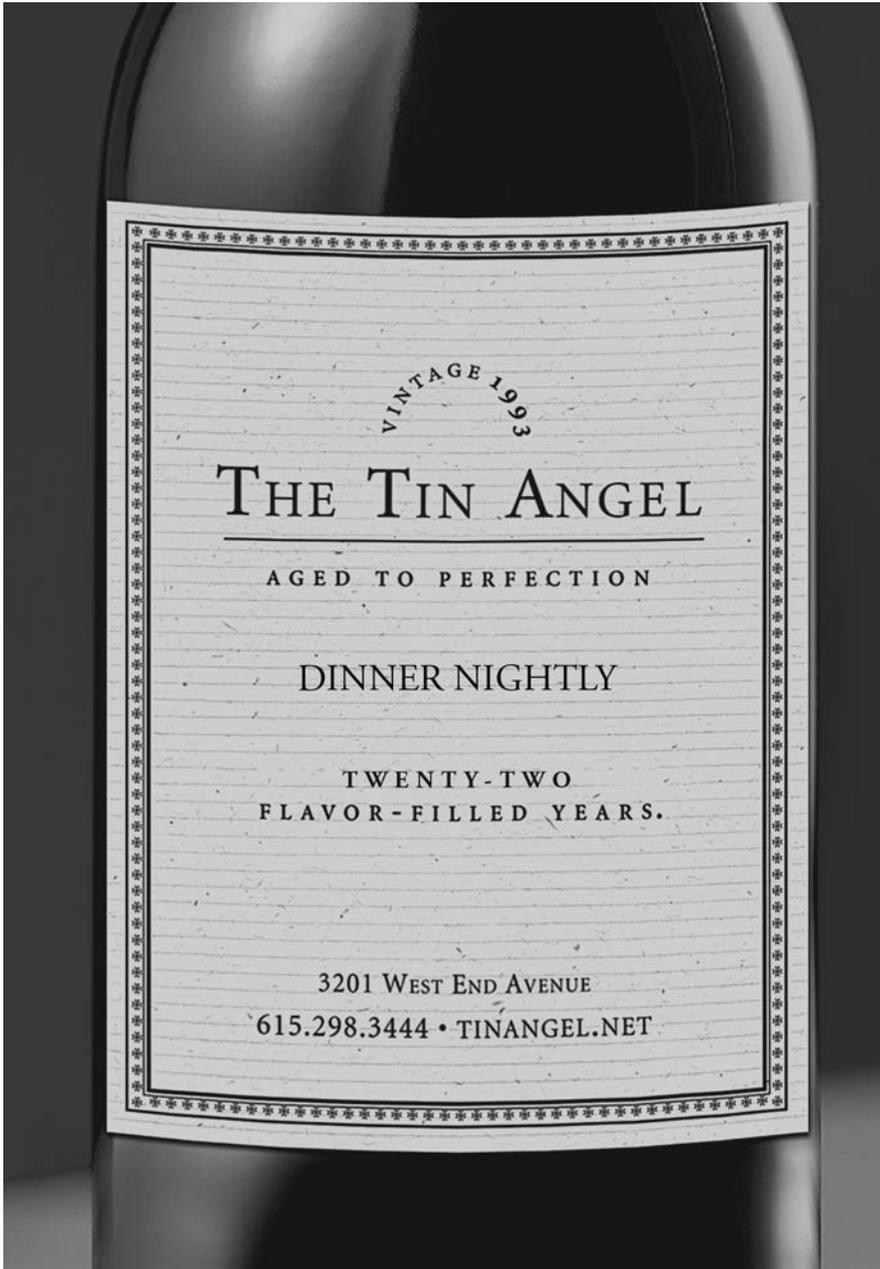
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New Jersey native Alex Leff takes helm of adult programming at GJCC

Alexandra 'Alex' Leff has been named director of adult programs at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. Leff takes over for Meryl Kraft, who retired at the end of last month.

Before moving to Nashville with her fiancé, David Heller, Leff worked at the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center in Newark, NJ as an outreach and partnership coordinator. One of her projects there was an Aging in Place initiative in which she created a directory of resources to allow seniors to remain at home as long as possible. She also worked with local businesses to provide a checklist of accommodations that would

encourage businesses to become more senior-friendly.

"Health and wellness have always been of interest to me, and I tend to gravitate towards more 'vulnerable' populations," said Leff. "Of course, once I learned more about older adults, I realized that this demographic spans a large age range that have different health needs."

Leff, 31, grew up in central New Jersey and went to Rutgers University. After working briefly in advertising sales for a television station, she returned to school at Montclair State University and got a master's in public health with a focus on community health education.

"Alex is passionate about working



Alex Leff

with older adults and brings experience and enthusiasm to this position," said GJCC Executive Director Leslie Sax.

"While we all know she has huge shoes to fill, both Meryl and I feel that she is up to the challenge."

In addition to her interest in the health needs of the aging population, Leff said, "I truly enjoy spending time with older individuals. They have so many life experiences and stories, and I appreciate their candor and how they don't hold back on their opinions just to be nice."

Leff loves to travel – she has visited far flung family in both Sweden and Israel and is making plans for a trip to Peru – and her avocations include "cooking and eating, trying new fitness classes and doing anything outdoors."

"I also love seeing live music," she said, "so I am particularly excited about moving to Nashville!" •

Rosenberg returns to direct Nashville BBYO

The new director of Nashville's BBYO chapter is a familiar face.

Sheri Rosenberg has returned to Nashville to lead the local Jewish youth group for high school students and its counterpart for junior high students, BBYO Connect. As assistant BBYO regional director, she will also have responsibility for helping oversee BBYO chapters

in New Orleans and Huntsville, AL.

Rosenberg, who started in her new post the day after Rosh Hashanah, spent the previous year working with special needs Jewish youth in the Philadelphia as regional director for Yachad, the National Jewish Council for Disabilities.

In her BBYO post, she will also be the teen program director and assistant camp director for the Gordon Jewish Community Center. •

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WEDNESDAY, OCT. 21ST AT 7PM - SARRATT CINEMA

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Annual Vandy Holocaust series will look at role of gender in genocide

Vanderbilt University's 38th annual Holocaust lecture series begins this month and will include not only a traditional academic lecture but also a one-woman play, a feature film, a talk by a survivor and a panel discussion – all focusing on the role that gender plays in genocides.

The question of gender in genocide “goes well beyond the experiences of women and girls or the perpetration of gender-based crimes,” writes Elisa von Joeden-Forgey, assistant professor of Holocaust and genocide studies at Stockton University, who will be one of the scholars taking part in this year's series. She contends perpetrators of genocide use gender to define and organize their own group and the groups they are targeting, pursue the destruction of

targeted groups and influence conceptions of self among perpetrators and victims, bystanders and witnesses.

Joeden-Forgey will part of the final event in the series, a Nov. 5 panel discussion aimed at ending the “shame-filled and stigma-fearing silence” about the role that sexual violence has played in genocidal campaigns ranging from Europe in the 1940s, Cambodia in the 1970s and Bosnia in the 1990s to Darfur and Eastern Congo in the 21st Century.

The discussion, which begins at 7 p.m. in rooms 235/237 of the Vanderbilt Commons, will be moderated by Yolanda Redero, assistant clinical professor of law at Vanderbilt. Other participants are Sonja Hedgepeth, professor of German at Middle Tennessee State University; Jocelyn Kelly, director of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative's Women in

War program, and Edward Kissi, associate professor of Africana studies at the University of South Florida.

Vanderbilt's annual Holocaust lecture series is the longest-running program of its kind at any university in the United States. Other events in this year's series include:

Oct. 6, 7 p.m., Benton Chapel

“Ettty,” a one-woman theatrical play adapted by Susan Stein from the diaries and letters of Esther ‘Ettty’ Hillesum, a young Dutch Jewish woman living in German-occupied Amsterdam in 1941.

Oct. 12, 7 p.m. 126 Wilson Hall

“Hitler's Furies: German Women in the Nazi Killing Fields,” a lecture by Wender Lower, the Roth Professor of History and Roberts Fellow at Claremont McKenna College.

Oct. 20, 7 p.m., Sarratt Cinema

Ida, a Polish feature film directed by Pawel Pawlikowski set in 1962 about a young woman orphaned as a child who is about to take vows as a Catholic nun when she learns that she is the daughter of two Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

Oct. 27, 7 p.m., 101 Buttrick Hall

A talk by Inge Auerbacher, who was born in Germany in 1935 and spent three years in the Terezin (Theresienstadt) concentration camp in Czechoslovakia. Her lecture will describe her memories of life before World War II in the small village of Kippenheim where she grew up; her family's deportation to Terezin in 1942; and the ordeal of survival in a camp where starvation, disease, and transportation to the death camps were among the salient features of everyday life. •

Nashville conference on Southern Jewish history aims to interest non-academics too

When the Southern Jewish Historical Society holds its 40th annual conference in Nashville this month, it will include presentations by several well-known scholars.

But this is not your typical academic conference, said Mark Bauman, chair of the conference program committee and editor of *Southern Jewish History*, the society's annual journal.

“One of the key strengths of the conference is that the levels of the presentations tend to be high but accessible to a largely lay audience that frequently interacts with the professionals,” said Bauman, a retired history professor and author of *Dixie Diaspora: An Anthology of Southern Jewish History* (University of Alabama Press, 2006). “There aren't many academic conferences geared so much toward professionals and laypeople.”

The theme of this year's conference, which runs from Friday, Oct. 30-Sunday, Nov. 1, is “Jews and the Urban South.” Sponsors include The Temple, Congregation Sherith Israel, B'nai B'rith Maimonides Lodge No. 46 and the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

Speakers include not just academics from numerous universities but also several journalists, two attorneys, a premier southern Jewish demographer, the head of the American Jewish Archives, a professional genealogist who works for the Leo Baeck Institute and archivists and museum professionals.

Among the presenters will be Jean Roseman of Nashville, a longtime member of the society and its former corresponding secretary, who will give a presentation titled, “The May Family Miracle: German/Nashville Connections.” The conference also includes a bus tour of Jewish Nashville as well as a concert on the last night featuring local musicians, including Congregation Sherith Israel Rabbi Saul Strosberg.

The registration fee for the full con-

ference is \$125 (\$50 for students), but Dan Puckett, chair of the host committee, said there are several options for Nashville residents who would like to attend only a portion of the conference.

- \$50, for the Friday tour of Jewish Nashville, lunch and afternoon sessions.
- \$40 for the Friday dinner and keynote presentation.
- \$25 for the Saturday program, including lunch.
- \$25 for the Sunday program.

For more information about the conference or the historical society, see www.jewishsouth.org/

Southern Jewish Historical Society Conference Schedule

Friday, Oct. 30

(lunch and afternoon sessions at the Gordon Jewish Community Center)

9 a.m.: Bus tour of Nashville Jewish sites

Noon: Lunch and address by Vanderbilt University Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos

1:15 p.m.: Murder in Middle Tennessee
• Paul Berger, “Samuel A. Bierfield: Innocent Victim or Radical Republican in Reconstruction Franklin, Tennessee”

2:15 p.m. Immigrants during the First Half of the 20th Century
• Jean Roseman, “The May Family Miracle: German/Nashville Connections”
• Shira Kohn, “From German Jews to Jewish Greeks: Student Refugees in America's Southern Universities, 1933-1945”

4:15 p.m.: Tour of Vanderbilt University campus

6 p.m.: Dinner and Erev Shabbat Service at The Temple
• Professor Gary P. Zola, Hebrew Union College/American Jewish Archives, “Lincoln and the Jews of the South”



Ira Sheskin, a geography professor at the University of Miami who specializes in Jewish demographics, will give the key note address on Oct. 31 at the annual conference of the Southern Jewish Historical Society in Nashville.

Saturday, Oct. 31

(Morning service and lunch at the Ben Schulman Center for Jewish Life/Vanderbilt Hillel; sessions at the Student Life Center)

7:45 a.m.: Shabbat Service with Rabbi Stanley Garfein

9 a.m.: Violent Confrontations and Civil Rights
• Steven Krause, “From the Mouth of Nashville's ‘Pistol-Packing Rabbi’: Notes from a 1966 Interview with Rabbi William Silverman”
• Dan Puckett, “The Fire-Bombing of Gadsden's Temple Beth Israel”

10:30 a.m.: Atlanta Jewish Women and Social Justice during the 1960s
• Emily A. Katz, “Council Women and Social Welfare Work in 1960s Atlanta”
• Ellen Rafshoon, “Esther Taylor: Hadassah Lady Turned Birth Control Advocate”

11:45 a.m.: Lunch and keynote address
• Professor Ira Sheskin, University of Miami, “The Changing Demographic Profile of Jews in Southern Cities, 1950 – Present and Future”

1 p.m.: Little Explored Roles of Jews and the Civil Rights Movement

- Janet Bordelon, “Dialogue in Civil Rights Era Dixie: Jewish Women's Involvement in the Panel of American Women in Jackson, Mississippi”
- Dina Weinstein, “Miami Civil Rights Attorney Tobias Simon”

2:30 p.m.: Civic Engagement and Jewish Mayors

- Scott M. Langston, “Contributions to Civic Development: The Isaac I. Moses Family and Girard/Phenix City, Alabama”
- Rosalind Benjet and Harriet Gross, “They Made It Big in Big D: Three Jewish Women Mayors”

4 p.m.: Reception hosted by Vanderbilt Jewish Studies Program, Buttrick Hall

8 p.m.: Havdalah and dessert reception at Congregation Sherith Israel

- Southern-style concert of Hassidic, Israeli, folk, jazz, and klezmer music by a five-piece band featuring the Rabbi Saul Strosberg on keyboard.

Sunday, Nov. 1

All sessions at the Homewood Suites

- 9 a.m.: Negotiating Identity in 19th-Century New Orleans
- Patricia Behre, “Finding Those Who Don't Want To Be Found: The Artist as Guide to Networks of Sephardic Sociability in Early New Orleans”
- Marlene Trestman, “Anniversary Celebrations at the Jewish Orphans' Home of New Orleans (1855-1946): Engaging and Elevating the Jewish Community”

10:30 a.m.: Celebration of Synagogue Archives with Dana Herman, American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati; Jeremy Katz, William Breman Jewish History Museum, Atlanta; Bonnie Eisenman, Beth Ahabah Museum and Archives, Richmond, VA, and James Pfeifer, Temple B'nai Israel Archive, Little Rock •

Tennessee Trade Mission to Israel



Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam, seen here ringing the opening bell for the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, led a trade mission to Israel last month to encourage bilateral trade and investment opportunities focused specifically on high tech, biotech and healthcare firms.



Members of the delegation met with U.S. Ambassador to Israel Daniel Shapiro (center). From left are real estate executive Arthur Perlen, chair of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee; Mark Freedman, Federation executive director; Julie Fisher, wife of Ambassador Shapiro; Gov. Bill Haslam; Mark A. Cohen, the Justin Potter Professor of American Competitive Enterprise and professor of law at Vanderbilt University's Owen Graduate School of Management, and Tennessee First Lady Crissy Haslam.



Also on the mission were philanthropist and private investor Bernard A. Pargh and his wife, Maria Pargh, shown here with Governor Haslam.



A portion of the delegation visited the Haklai High School in Hadera, the base for many of the Partnership2Gether teacher and student exchanges with the Nashville Jewish community. Seen here are (from left) Haklai School Director Dr. Lior Aviman, Tennessee First Lady Chrissy Haslam and Israeli Partnership Steering Committee Chair, Doron Rubin. While at the school, the mission delegates participated in an interactive session with Haklai High students involved in a leadership training program that culminates for many of them with a visit to Nashville or other cities in the P2G Southeast U.S. Consortium. The session which explored "Israel Beyond the Headlines" was facilitated by Israeli journalist Nathan Jeffay. Dr. Aviman will be traveling to Nashville in December as part of the teacher exchange program sponsored by the Nashville Federation and the Partnership Steering Committee.

Jewish woman part of crew on (simulated) mission to Mars

By PATRICIA CORRIGAN

SAN FRANCISCO — Dr. Sheyna Gifford is a Jewish medical doctor, science journalist, astrophysics researcher and space enthusiast who is living on Mars — sort of.

Gifford, 36, will join five other crew members in the NASA-funded Hawaii Space Exploration Analog and Simulation (HI-SEAS) habitat for a simulated space mission to Mars that launched on Aug. 28. For the next 365 days, she and the others will be isolated inside a geodesic dome that's 36 feet in diameter.

Perched on a slope 8,000 feet above sea level on the Big Island of Hawaii, the two-story habitat simulates space missions, to help identify risks associated with long-term human space exploration.

Recently Gifford was at St. Mary's Medical Center in San Francisco to film training videos for non-medical crew on how to treat injuries. A Los Angeles native who grew up in Berkeley, CA and now lives in St. Louis, Gifford will serve as a medical doctor, neuroscientist and habitat journalist for the mission, her second. She completed a stint at NASA's Human Exploration Research Analog in the spring.

This HI-SEAS mission to Mars — longer than any of the previous three — has several purposes.

"It's about psychology, logistics, sci-



Dr. Sheyna Gifford

ence and maintenance," Gifford said. "We're looking at what you need to feed and water people for a year, how much science you can get done and how the crew manages" in about 1,700 square feet of living space.

The crew includes a field biologist, a fluid physicist, an astrobiologist, a spacecraft engineer and a space architect. HI-SEAS researchers are working to develop effective team composition and support strategies for traveling to Mars and back, an estimated three-year journey.

The dome's 993-square-foot ground floor includes a kitchen, dining area, bathroom, lab and exercise area. The 424-square-foot second floor includes six small sleeping quarters and a half bath. In addition, a 160-square-foot workshop, made from a converted shipping container, is attached to the habitat.

As the only Jew on the crew, Gifford says she faces several specific challenges. "Being a Jew is a community activity, a group effort. Any individual work you do, such as being a thoughtful, contemplative and helpful person, you do in the context of the whole world," she said. "Also, there will be no other Jews to cel-

brate [Jewish] holidays with."

In post on her blog titled "A Shtick by Any Other Name: Being Jewish on Mars," Gifford explores being the only Jew on the mission. In it, she quotes Rabbi Josh Breindel, a friend of hers since high school who now is at Temple Anshe Amunim in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

In another blog about the mission that she shares with crew members,

Breindel wonders: "When you're in a space station that circles the Earth every 90 minutes, experiencing multiple sun-downs daily, when, precisely, do you get your Jew on?"

"Probably I will light the candles — or turn on the electric candles, as I am not going to make fire in space — on Hawaii time, the same time as our ground control," Gifford said. "Though of course at that time I might be in the middle of a space walk or doing surgery or cleaning the composting toilet."

Fortunately, Gifford looks forward to sharing some Jewish rituals and history. "None of my roommates at Berkeley were Jewish, and I managed to bring others there into the fold," she said.

Participation in the HI-SEAS mission is the fulfillment of Gifford's childhood dream. "I always wanted to be an astronaut, because being an astronaut is being a hero, a leader, having the ability to spread the word about how cool science is," she said.

"As a society, we should choose to

invest in space the way we invest in schools or roads. It elevates us as a species, gives us the tools and the motivation to come together to do big things."

Whether or not Gifford actually gets to Mars, she is not at all worried about being confined for a year during the simulation.

"Mentally, physically and socially, I have no concerns," she said. "Only curiosity."

This article originally appeared in j., the Jewish news weekly of Northern California . •

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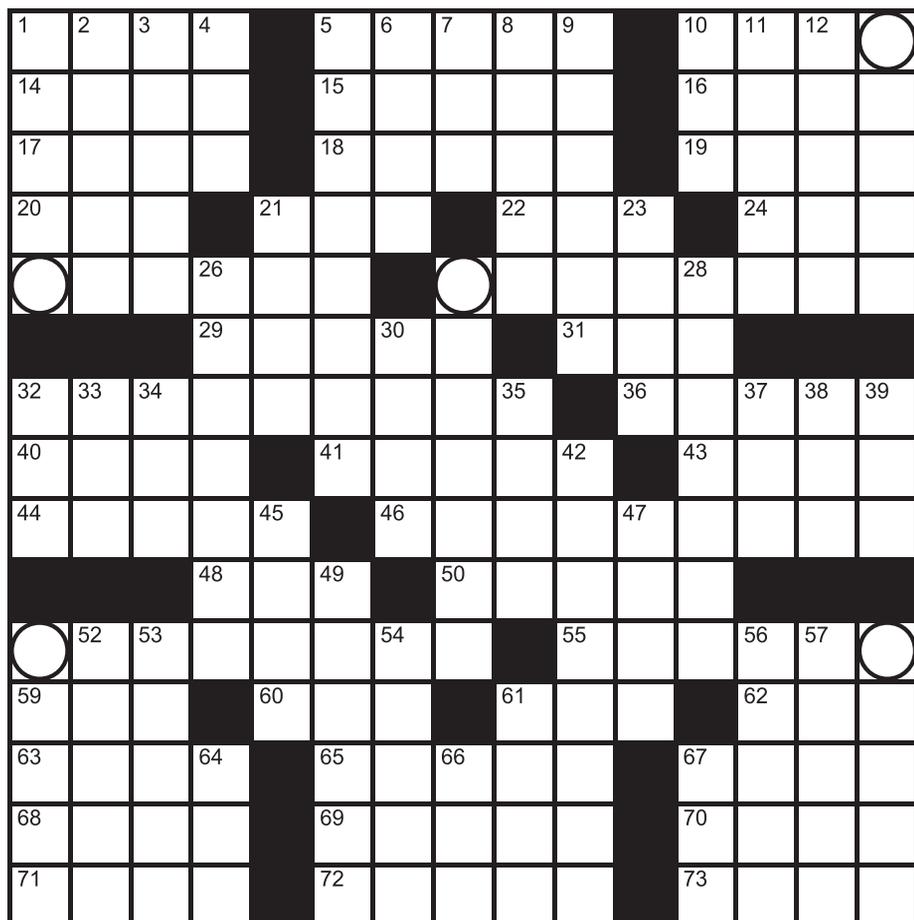
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"The Real McCoy" By David Benkof

Editor: DavidBenkof@gmail.com • Difficulty Level: Challenging • Solution on page 22



Across

- 1 Bit of karpas, perhaps
- 6 JNF branch?
- 10 2001 Tony winner for playing Bialystock
- 14 Ryan who played Berthe in "Pippin"
- 15 Israel's is smaller than New Jersey's
- 16 Feynman's bomb
- 17 Third word of "Blowin' in the Wind"
- 18 Funny Sahl
- 19 Act like a bedouin
- 20 Star whose life was like the title of her film "Girl, Interrupted"
- 23 Dead Sea spa sound, sometimes
- 24 Way to act on Shabbos afternoon
- 25 Yenta interjection
- 28 King David Hotel reputation
- 31 Nosh on
- 34 Star of 1970's "Love Story"
- 37 "Adoni" in Delhi
- 39 Film set in Islamicist Iran
- 40 The ones used to make tefillin come from cooked ox hide
- 42 Chazerai
- 43 "Jewish ___" (slang for a cash register)
- 45 She played an English teacher in "Fame"
- 47 Moses saw many
- 49 Word that follows "Abracadabra"
- 50 Abba, but not Eban
- 51 Smallest shekels
- 53 Santa ____, California (home of Benjies Deli)
- 55 For a decade, she starred as Lily Aldrin on "How I Met Your Mother"
- 62 To stop bad luck, say it three times while spitting
- 63 Occasional anti-Semitic tactic
- 64 Like many Yom Kippur shoes
- 66 Fisher's "Postcards From the ___"
- 67 Give tzedaka to
- 68 Answer choice on some surveys about religious identification
- 69 First word of the title of Pauline Phillips' long-running column
- 70 See 9-Down
- 71 Like land after the shmita year

Down

- 1 ___ Moses Montefiore
- 2 "No ___!" ("Sababa!")
- 3 Tush
- 4 Location of the Bene Israel community
- 5 World War II villains
- 6 "The Jew in the Lotus" personage
- 7 Word with dome or curtain
- 8 She played Sophie
- 9 Superhero whose creator's last name was 70-Across
- 10 His name gets 217 million Google hits
- 11 Sitting on a dreidel?
- 12 Second Torah portion
- 13 Julia Louis Dreyfus and Julianna Margulies each got one on August 25, 2014
- 21 Teva part
- 22 Some arms
- 25 The Mossad might set one
- 26 Where spymaster Eli Cohen died
- 27 Obama picked her in 2010
- 29 Ward who co-starred with Jake Gyllenhaal in "The Day After Tomorrow"
- 30 Act like a dybbuk
- 32 Forward
- 33 Bess Myerson headgear
- 35 Treif
- 36 Dunham of "Dog or Jewish boyfriend? A Quiz"
- 38 TV funnyman Garrett
- 41 Kind of car that attacked Pamela Geller's "Draw Muhammed" event
- 44 Oy!
- 46 Barry Alan Pincus took this name at his bar mitzvah in 1956
- 48 He illustrated I.B. Singer's "Zlatch the Goat"
- 52 Its queen visited Solomon
- 54 Second Temple Period bead material
- 55 Acted like impressionist Manny Silver
- 56 Solomon's mines treasure
- 57 Class at the J, often
- 58 V'imru ___
- 59 Sol, e.g.
- 60 Reason for Akamol
- 61 Ten men for a minyan
- 65 Some Yiddish humor

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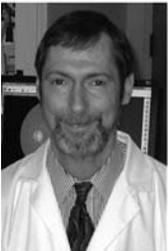
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The Observer accepts original opinion pieces and letters from Nashville area residents on topics of interest to the Jewish community as long as they have not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere. Submissions should be sent by the 15th of the month prior to publication to Editor Charles Bernsen at charles@jewishnashville.org or 801 Percy Warner, Suite 102, Nashville 37205. The Observer reserves the right edit all submissions for clarity, length and style.

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B'nai Mitzvah

Alli Lauren Jacobs will be called to the Torah as a *bat mitzvah* at 11 a.m. on Oct. 3 at The Temple.



Alli Lauren Jacobs

Alli was born on July 22, 2002 in Nashville. Her parents are Nancy and Raymond Jacobs. Her grandparents are Barbara and Irving Levy of Nashville, Lynn and Jim Bean of Nashville and Crossville, Alvin and Diane Jacobs of Naples, FL, and the late Milton Grossman.

Alli is in the 7th grade at University School of Nashville. Her interests include lacrosse, volleyball, dance, swimming and hanging out with her family and friends.

For her *mitzvah* project, Alli volunteered at The Nashville Zoo and donated to the Israel Guide Day Center for the Blind.

Morgan Jacobs will be called to the Torah as a *bat mitzvah* at 11 a.m. on Oct. 3 at The Temple.



Morgan Jacobs

Morgan was born on Sept. 12, 2002 in Nashville. Her parents are Gail and Jeff Jacobs. Her grandparents are Bernice and Joel Gordon of Nashville, Lynn and Jim Bean of Nashville and Crossville, and Alvin and Diane Jacobs of Naples, FL.

Morgan is in the 7th grade at University School of Nashville. Her interests include art projects, making jewelry, being with her friends and, most of all, Chippewa Ranch Camp.

For her *mitzvah* project, Morgan volunteered at The Nashville Zoo.

Emma Rudy Srebnik will be called to the Torah as a *bat mitzvah* at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3 at Congregation Micah.



Emma Rudy Srebnik

Emma Rudy was born on Oct. 7, 2002 in Hermosa Beach, CA. She is the daughter of Lynne and Kenny Srebnik and granddaughter of Alan and Aissa Newman of Marina Del Rey, CA, Judy Newman of Oxnard, CA, and the late Dave and Sooky Srebnik.

Emma Rudy is in the eighth grade at The Harpeth Hall School. She participates on the MathCounts, LEGO League Robotics, cross country, swimming, and track and field teams. She also loves traveling, horseback riding, stand-up paddle boarding, collecting PEZ, playing with her dog Keshet, taking pictures, cooking, and going to her lake house in her free time. Emma Rudy is also a Girl Scout who loves to sell cookies. She wants to be a marine biologist when she grows up.

For her *mitzvah* projects, Emma Rudy will be donating school supplies to a school in Kenya, where she traveled over the summer. She will also be supporting girls at that school so that they can go to high school. Another part of Emma Rudy's *mitzvah* project is adopting elephants from an elephant orphanage

she visited in Kenya. Next, she will be remembering Raize Merele Sharfman, a 12-year-old girl who perished during the Holocaust. Emma Rudy learned of Raize as a part of the program Remember Us. She was able to get in contact with Raize's first cousin in Canada and learn more about Raize and her family. She published a book on her studies and donated a copy to her library. Emma Rudy has also created a B'nai Tzedek fund with the Jewish Foundation of Nashville.

Alana Megan Rothenstein will be called to the Torah as a *bat mitzvah* at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10 at Congregation Micah. Alana is the daughter of Bonnie and Steve Rothenstein, younger sister of Melissa and granddaughter of Diane and Arthur Fishman of Pomona, NY, Marlene Feinstein of Westbury, NY and the late Stuart Rothenstein of New York, NY.



Alana Megan Rothenstein

Alana is an eighth grader at Heritage Middle School. She is currently playing the first bass drum as part of the Independence High School Marching Band.

For her *mitzvah* project, Alana has been raising money and awareness for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. This organization is important to Alana as it has affected her late grandfather, Stuart.

Lily Virginia Greenberg will be called to the Torah as a *bat mitzvah* at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2015 at Congregation Micah. Lily is the daughter of Clay and Julie Greenberg, sister of Jake Greenberg, and granddaughter of Robert and Ginny Greenberg of Oklahoma City, OK; John and Virginia Wolfarth of Garden Valley, TX; and Dr. William and Alice West of Dallas.



Lily Virginia Greenberg

Lily is a seventh grader at Linden Waldorf School, where she enjoys the company of her creative classmates while singing in the choir, running cross country and pursuing her love of drawing. Lily plays the viola and piano, and she has always been an avid reader. A serious animal and nature lover, Lily has never met a lizard, snake, dog, fish or flower that she didn't love. Special favorites include her rescue cats, Milo and Stella. No surprise, Lily is also an enthusiastic and discerning diner who can't wait to travel and savor the world's cuisines.

For her *mitzvah* project, Lily is collecting new and gently-used children's books to donate to Book 'Em, a local literacy non-profit that works through Nashville's public elementary schools, including her alma mater, Sylvan Park Paideia Design Center. In the spirit of her Torah portion, which offers the prospect of "going forth" into an unknown land, Lily enjoys a great sense of adventure that she wants all children to share through the gift of reading.

Zoe Rosenblum will be called to the Torah as a *bat mitzvah* at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31, at Congregation Micah. Zoe is the daughter of Jessie and Jay Rosenblum, sister of Simon Rosenblum, and granddaughter of Brenda and Bobby Rosenblum and Mary and Bill Stockard of Nashville.



Zoe Rosenblum

Zoe is in the seventh grade at University School of Nashville. She loves dance and attending Camp Barney in the summer.

For her *mitzvah* project, Zoe is forming a team for Hike For The Homeless and she is volunteering at Safe Haven Family Shelter.

Sympathy

... to the family of **Harry Vise**, 94, of Nashville, a Holocaust survivor who died peacefully at home on Aug. 26.

Harry, whose twinkling blues eyes reflected his optimism about life, is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Doris; five devoted children, Judy and Mark Schaengold, Joyce Vise, and Lori and David Vise, and five adoring grandchildren, Rachel and Josh Wojnilower, Jessica Schaengold, Allison Vise and Jennifer Vise.

Born in Coblenz, Germany in 1921, Harry Vise excelled in school, soccer, track and field and Jewish studies. But his life changed dramatically with the rise of anti-Semitism in Nazi Germany. In November 1938, the Nazis stormed his family's apartment and seized his father, who was a rabbi. Harry, then 17, escaped through the back window of their apartment and climbed down a fire escape.

Before morning, Harry went to the Hamburg synagogue where his father worked and saved four Torah scrolls, carrying them in the dark of the night to his mother, who was still in the apartment. Harry then hid in the woods before crawling across the German border into Holland. Remarkably, Harry's father was released from the concentration camp after U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull, a native of Tennessee, intervened on his behalf. (Hull had been contacted by a close friend in Tennessee who knew the family.) Hull also granted the family non-quota immigrant visas so they could leave Germany and enter America, where they settled in Clarksville, Tennessee.

Harry went to work at Acme Boot Company, starting as a production worker and leaving as a manager. In October 1950, Harry went on a blind date with Doris Oppenheim, a woman from New York who also grew up in Germany. They became engaged on their third date, married on Christmas Eve and relocated to Nashville.

Harry's founded his own company, Texas Boot Company, in 1950 in Lebanon, Tennessee. From a single production facility, it grew over the next 30 years to become one of the country's best boot enterprises, with four plants in Tennessee. Harry was a humble man and knew the names of all his employees and help them whenever they were in need.

A philanthropist as well as businessman, Harry and his wife participated in a host of charities and institutions, one of which was Cumberland University. Harry became a renowned benefactor of the university and in 1989 the Cumberland library was dedicated in the family's honor.

Funeral services were at The Temple, 5015 Harding Pike with burial at The Temple Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory can be made to The Temple, 5015 Harding Road, Nashville, TN 37205.

... to the family of **Mary Theresa "Terri" Somers Urbano**, PhD, MPH, RN, of Nashville, who died on Aug. 27. She is survived by her husband, Richard Urbano; her daughter, Jennifer Urbano Blackford; son-in-law, Robert Blackford,

and granddaughters, Emma and Anabel Blackford. Terri was a professor emerita at Vanderbilt University. During her career she held leadership positions at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, the Vanderbilt School of Nursing, and the University of Miami Mailman Center for Child Development. Funeral services were Aug. 30 at Congregation Micah. Memorial gifts can be made in her honor to Gilda's Club Nashville, Congregation Micah or the Southern Scholarship Foundation.

... to the family of **Marshall I. Karr**, 63, noted Nashville businessman and philanthropist, who died suddenly on Sept. 1, 2015. He is survived by his wife, Bambi Karr; his sons, Price and Morgan; his parents, Joy and Maurice Karr, and his brothers, Jerome Karr and Scot Karr (Patricia) and sister, Benita Kichler (Bob).

A graduate of Nashville School of Law and Oklahoma University, he decided early not to become a practicing lawyer but instead to devote himself to the world of business and real estate development. He was able not only to enjoy tremendous success but also to become an active contributor to and executive of a number of community organizations. He was a member and chair of the Metropolitan Government Tax Equalization Board, a member of the Mayor's Task Force for the Convention Center Authority, a former officer and director on the board of the Greater Nashville Association of Realtors, a member of the Tennessee Association of Realtors, the Institution of Real Estate Management, and past chairman of the Metropolitan Board of Zoning Appeals. He also served as a member of the committee for the restoration of the Tennessee State Capitol, the Nashville City Center Land Use Subcommittee, the inaugural class of the Transit Citizen Leadership Academy for bringing high speed rail to Middle Tennessee, and the Metro Historical Commission.

As managing partner of Karr Commercial, Inc., a multi-faceted commercial and residential real estate firm, he was able to oversee and assist in the renovation and historic preservation of many of Nashville's landmarks and residences. He was also a past president and board member of the Tennessee Jazz and Blues Society, and his contributions to the city were matched by his devotion to The Temple (Congregation Ohabai Shalom), where he was a board member.

Marshall was not only respected but also loved by all who knew him, as he stretched out his hand to help whoever needed it. As was said by Shakespeare, "We shall not look upon his like again."

Funeral services were at The Temple and interment in The Temple cemetery. His wife Bambi, his early love with whom he was happily reunited, has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the organization that he had a lifelong commitment to and passion for, Temple Cemetery Beautifications Fund.

...to the family of **Anne Elizabeth Shelton**, 68, who died of ovarian cancer on Sept. 3 in Kingsport, TN. She is survived by her wife, Cynthia Garrett; daughter, Jennifer Sims (Travis C.); former husband, Dave Sims; sisters, Mary Shelton (Dan Ramage) and Rebekah Kelley (James T.), and nephews and niece, Avram Ramage, Eliana Ramage (Shmuel Aiello) and Noah Ramage. She was preceded in death by her parents, Jennie and Jesse E.R. Shelton; her infant

Continued on page 22

around the town

Akiva open house on Oct. 28 will include tours and a panel discussion

Akiva School will host an open house on Wednesday, Oct. 28 for parents of prospective students or anyone interested in learning more about Akiva.

Tours of the school will begin at 9 a.m. followed by a panel discussion and a question-and-answer session.

"The tour will allow guests to see our state-of-the-art facility and to get a glimpse into the classrooms in action," said Director of Admissions Christian Evans. "The panel discussion will provide a forum for visitors to hear from a variety of speakers and get answers to any questions they may have."

The panel will include administrators from several other private schools in Nashville, Akiva faculty members and students and an Akiva parent, among others.

Akiva is Nashville's Jewish community day school, enrolling students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Evans said she is "excited to showcase

our community's school. We had a 100 percent student retention rate this past year and our student body grew by over 30 percent. I look forward to welcoming members of our community to our open house."

Akiva is located on the grounds of the Gordon Jewish Community Center at 809 Percy Warner Blvd. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Christina Evans at (615) 356-1880 or cevans@akivanashville.net.

NCJW to honor five past presidents at annual fundraiser on Oct. 28

The Nashville section of the National Council of Jewish Women will honor five inspiring local leaders with the Hannah G. Solomon Award on Wednesday, Oct. 28 at its annual Ways and Means Celebration 35 Fundraiser.

The five honorees, all past presidents of the local section, are Ellen Jacobs, Albee Guttman, Alice Zimmerman, Sally Wolfe and Irma Kaplan.

Named for NCJW's founder, is named for the NCJW founder, the Hannah G. Solomon Award honors those who exemplify the organization's mission of improving the quality of life for women, children and families; promoting the status of women in community life; advancing individual and civil rights, and providing leadership that has motivated others to work for progress in the community.

This year's event begins at 11:30 a.m. at Hillwood Country Club and has a goal of raising \$30,000 to support all nine community projects funded by the local NCJW: Buz-A-Bus, senior transportation; Kosher Food Box, food support for families in need; Renewal House, a rehabilitative home for mothers recovering from addiction; CASA, the advocacy program for children involved in the court system; PG-13 Teen Players, Planned Parenthood's teen education theater group; Reach for Survivorship at Vanderbilt Hospital, supporting cancer patients; Senior Friends, delivering Rosh Hashanah baskets to seniors, and Vanderbilt Hillel Shabbat Dinners. NCJW's fundraising goal includes opportunities to expand its range of projects and organizations, to broaden its impact within the Nashville community.

Gift categories for the event are: Founders, \$1,000 or more; Patrons, \$750; Pacesetters, \$500; Benefactors, \$350; Sustainers, \$250; Sponsors, \$125; Donors, \$75, and Members, \$50.

Lunch will be \$35, in addition to a NCJW gift. Thus, the minimum amount to attend is \$85. Reservations may be

made by contacting Jamie Brook at jamiebrook@gmail.com or (615) 579-5929, or by mailing a check to Treasurer Mary Jones, 4434 Tyne Blvd., 37215.

B'nai B'rith Social Unit discovers Vanderbilt's Judaica gem

The B'nai B'rith Social Unit recently toured the Mary and Harry Zimmerman Judaica Collection in the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, which is staging an exhibition commemorating its 70th anniversary.

Established in 1945, the collection has grown to more than 20,000 titles relating to Jewish research, culture and history. To learn more about the collection and how to obtain access to it, contact Bill Hook, associate dean of libraries and director of the divinity library, at Bill.Hook@vanderbilt.org.

The Nashville B'nai B'rith Social Unit was founded in 1994 as a social group for active adults ages 50 and up. It strives to promote friendship, social awareness and camaraderie while conforming to the values of Judaism, and serves as a model for other B'nai B'rith social chapters nationwide. Programs consist of social gatherings, Jewish education events and participation in community service projects.

For more information, contact Joyce Fox, president, jdf3@comcast.net, or Jackie Harrison, membership vice president, jackieharrison1951@gmail.com.

To access the Community Calendar, go to www.jewishnashville.org and click on "Calendar." Every community event is listed for your convenience.

Lifecycles

Continued from page 21

brother, Harvey Wirt Courtland Shelton, and her beloved son, Matthew Franklin Shelton Sims.

Anne was born on Sept. 8, 1946 in Kerrville, Texas. She started school in Turtle Creek, Texas in a one-room schoolhouse and later earned master's degrees in humanities and in library science. She worked as an archivist, librarian, teacher, peer counselor, technical writer and IT support person. She was also a talented artist and a tireless com-

munity activist. As an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation, she was an early participant in Cherokee language revitalization efforts, and she was a longtime member and local officer of the NAACP.

Anne was known for her joyous spirit. She knew the names of dozens of trees and wildflowers, and she loved the mountains. In her last days, she found comfort in the Psalm 121: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help."

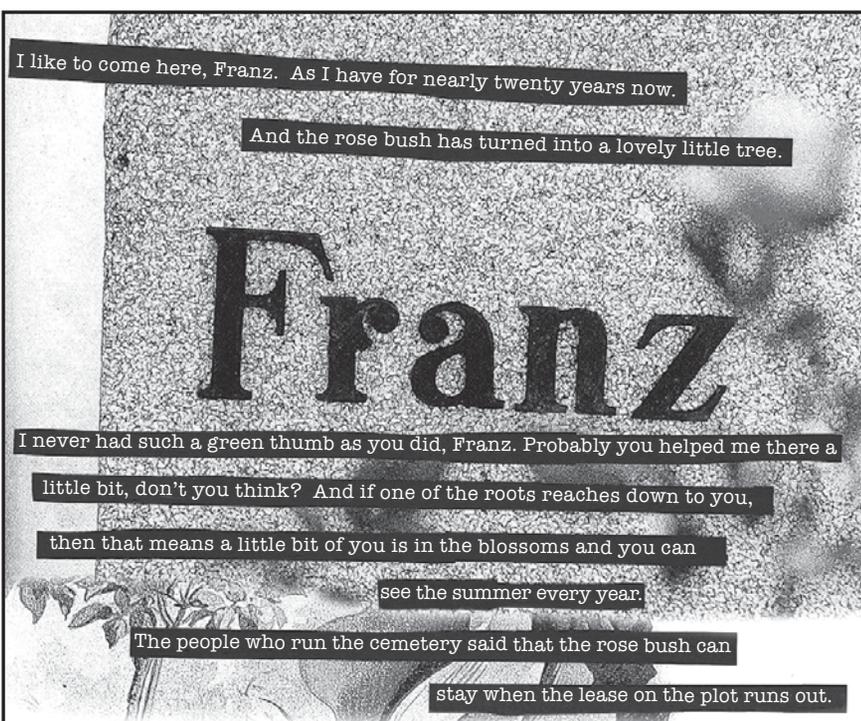
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Crossword solution

S	P	R	I	G	L	I	M	B	L	A	N	E	
I	R	E	N	E	A	R	E	A	A	T	O	M	
R	O	A	D	S	M	O	R	T	R	O	A	M	
B	R	I	T	T	A	N	Y	M	U	R	P	H	Y
A	A	H	L	A	Z	Y							
T	S	K	P	O	S	H	N	I	P	A	T		
R	Y	A	N	O	N	E	A	L	S	A	H	I	B
A	R	G	O	G	L	U	E	S	G	E	A	R	
P	I	A	N	O	A	N	N	E	M	E	A	R	A
A	N	K	H	S	T	A	D	A	D	A	D	A	D
O	N	E	S	A	N	A							
A	L	Y	S	O	N	H	A	N	N	I	G	A	N
P	O	O	H	D	E	M	O	L	A	C	E	D	
E	D	G	E	A	B	E	T	O	T	H	E	R	
D	E	A	R	K	A	N	E	W	E	E	D	Y	

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Col. Bentzi Gruber takes us behind the scenes of the IDF's daily battle to both ensure Israel's security and uphold one of the most rigorous military codes of ethics in the world today. In a unique multimedia presentation combining classified IDF footage, shocking statistics, and riveting personal narration, Col. Gruber explores:

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- The facts missing in today's discussion about the IDF and the Israel-Palestinian conflict

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**Event is free and open to the
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