

the Jewish Observer

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Calling all campers...

What was it about those weeks spent each summer that inspired your connection to Judaism? Was it the spirited singing after dinner or Havdalah on the edge of the lake at sunset? The Jewish summer camp experience creates community for life, not just for a summer.

Year after year our children return home from camp filled with stories, memories, and friendships. For many children it could be the first time they're surrounded by all things Jewish. Overnight Jewish camping is a wonderful way to introduce our children to the joy and celebration of the Jewish traditions.

The Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee realizes the importance of building Jewish life and makes available on a need basis financial assistance for students to attend Jewish summer camps. If you know someone who could benefit from this information, please share it. To request information on summer camp opportunities or for a scholarship application, please contact Vanessa Leibowitz at the Jewish Federation office, 356-3242, extension 224, or by email, vanessa@jewishnashville.org. All inquiries are confidential. Applications submission deadline is Feb. 28. □

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Residents of Astoria, Queens survey the damage from Hurricane Sandy as New York City and the Jersey Shore shift into cleanup mode. Photo: JTA

In deadly hurricane's aftermath, Jewish volunteers step up

By Chavie Lieber

NEW YORK (JTA) – Just before Shelly Fine went to sleep on the night after Hurricane Sandy came ashore, he posted his contact information and an appeal seeking volunteers for relief efforts on a popular Upper West Side blog. When the 63-year-old woke up the next morning, he had 163 responses. Together with other volunteers, Fine has helped to orchestrate a grassroots effort to help out at the city's local shelters.

Continued on page 2

How to help

The Jewish Federations of North America has established the JFNA Hurricane Relief Fund to collect contributions to help in recovery and rebuilding following Hurricane Sandy. Every dollar donated to JFNA to the Hurricane Relief Fund is used for hurricane relief.

Donors may go to the JFNA web site, www.jewishfederations.org, and use the link for the Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund in the upper left side of the home page. In addition, donors may text RELIEF to 51818 on a mobile device to pledge a donation. They also may send checks to The Jewish Federations of North America, Wall Street Station, P.O. Box 148, New York, NY 10268. Indicate "JFNA Hurricane Relief Fund" on all checks or in the designation box online.

Donors also can learn more and donate through a link on the Jewish Federation of Nashville's web site, www.jewishnashville.org.

There's still time to sign up for Global Day of Jewish Learning

Approach Thanksgiving Day 2012 with a new perspective by attending the Global Day of Jewish Learning, set for Sunday, Nov. 18, at 10 a.m. at the Akiva School. Even though the date is nearing, you can still register for the event.

The Global Day allows the Nashville Jewish community to learn about Jewish concepts of blessings and gratitude. We'll first learn in a communal 10 a.m. session with Rabbi Zvi Hirschfield of the Pardes Institute and then in smaller

afternoon groups exploring specific aspects of blessing and gratitude. Rabbi Hirschfield's participation in the Global Day is made possible with the generous support of Libby and Moshe Werthan.

There's also a morning session on blessings and gratitude for preschool children and their parents.

In addition, participants can choose to attend two afternoon sessions on these topics:

Finding God, Finding Gratitude: How to Appreciate our Everyday Lives – taught by Rabbi Shlomo Rothstein in Session 1 and

Rabbi Shana Mackler and Cantor Tracy Fishbein in Session 2;

Gratitude and Birkhat HaMazon – Rabbi Joshua Barton and Sophie Rapoport, Session 1; Cantor Marcia Lane, Session 2

Is There a Recipe for Prayer? A Lesson in Picking the Perfect Words – Rabbi Mark Schifan and Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel, Session 1; Rabbi Saul Strosberg and Daniella Pressner, Session 2

Blessing the Bad: How Do We Relate to Bad Things? – Rabbi Zvi Hirschfield, Session 1; Rabbi Joshua Barton and Sophie Rapoport, Session 2

Celebrating Differences: An Artistic Interpretation of Blessing Those Who are Unique – Rabbi

Continued on page 12



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**In deadly hurricane's aftermath,
 Jewish volunteers step up**

Continued from page 1

"The response of the Jewish community up here has been amazing," Fine told JTA. "Synagogues, organizations and individuals - everyone has been coming out to volunteer. We've been sending people with medical training around to the evacuation sites to make sure everyone is OK, people are showing up and handing out cooked food, fresh clothing and games for children."

Fine is just one of a number of Jewish volunteers stepping up to bring relief to New Yorkers affected by Hurricane Sandy. Tens of thousands of residents across the five boroughs still have no heat and electricity after the storm ripped through the city, tearing down trees, homes and power lines. Many residents evacuated to local shelters or, stuck inside their homes, relied on volunteers to bring them food and supplies.

**Facebook,
 flashlights, food**

Uri L'Tzedek, an Orthodox social justice organization, hit the streets of New York City to hand out food and supplies to those in need. After placing an announcement on Twitter and Facebook, some 45 volunteers showed up to distribute candles, batteries, flashlights, water and food.

"We brought just about every flashlight we could find, and eventually just stood on street corners and handed out water to anyone who needed," said Uri L'Tzedek's Yael Keller. "A lot of people approached us telling us about elderly people stuck on higher floors who needed company and supplies. We climbed stairs."

In Brooklyn, Masbia, a network of kosher soup kitchens that usually provides 500 meals a day, made more than four times that number in the first days after the storm, which made landfall on Oct. 29. The organization originally had prepared to close its facilities ahead of the storm since many employees live in affected neighborhoods.

But Masbia's executive director, Alexander Rapaport, told JTA that after receiving several calls from shelters in need of food, he gathered a team of volunteers and worked around the clock to provide meals to thousands of people in three public shelters in Brooklyn and Queens.

"We've been sending most of our meals to the seniors evacuated to Park Slope Armory, which is part of the government's evacuation plan," Rapaport said. "There were hundreds of people being bused in, on stretchers and in wheelchairs. We usually aren't equipped to make this much food, but we've had a lot of volunteers. People understand the sense of urgency to help these older people."

Masbia was particularly concerned about the food seniors at shelters were eating. Shelters were providing military-grade food rations, he said, describing the offerings as "lasagna meets chulent" that were high in sodium.

Rapaport said that Masbia had recently received a large shipment of fresh fish that it would bring to the shelters. "It's low in sodium and much healthier for the older people," he said.

**Federation
 rebounds**

In lower Manhattan, the Jewish Federations' building lost power amid Hurricane Sandy's winds and surge of seawater. For nearly 48 hours last week, the organization's servers were down, its e-mail, computers and phones offline and inaccessible. But then the Jewish Federations came back.

First using Facebook to communicate and later shifting to texts, e-mails and phones once server access was restored, the organization kicked into action, opening a hurricane relief fund that raised more than \$68,000 by week's end.

Farther uptown, the federation system's largest member, UJA-Federation of New York, announced a week after the storm that it was making available \$10 million in emergency relief aid to its network agencies and synagogues in the New York area.

**College students
 pitch in**

Meanwhile, on the Lower East Side, students from Yeshiva University went on foot to the area's public housing units, handing out water, flashlights, batteries, fruit and dried snacks. Volunteers were organized by students, and the supplies came from the student government's own budget.

"The student response has been great," said Margot Reinstein, the student council president at Yeshiva's Stern College for Women, as she lugged a case of water bottles down Cherry Street. "We all felt really lucky that the storm didn't affect our families the way it did down here. People with Uri L'Tzedek told us there are some buildings here with seniors on life support who are stuck. No heat, no electricity, no way of getting out."

Many Jewish organizations set up relief funds online to funnel money to communities impacted by the hurricane. UJA-Federation of New York collected hundreds of challahs that it planned to distribute before Shabbat on the first Friday after the storm. Butterflake, a popular kosher bakery in New Jersey, donated over 300 challahs to the effort.

Occupy Judaism, a group of Jewish supporters of Occupy Wall Street, live-blogged volunteer opportunities around the city on its Facebook page. Other organizations like Chabad Young Professionals and JCorps, a Jewish social volunteering group, also sent volunteers to hundreds of apartments in Lower Manhattan with supplies.

Nechama, a Jewish disaster-response nonprofit located in Minnesota, arrived in the New York area to help cleanup efforts and utility crews. (Nechama volunteers greatly helped in Nashville after much of the city was flooded in May 2010.)

"We've deployed four staff members with two trailers equipped with tools for anything we will possibly encounter," said Ross Topol, the group's operations leadership fellow. "We do mucking and gutting of houses, chainsaw work, tree removal, roof tarping, debris removal and damage assessments." □

Campaign events highlight tradition and community

By Kathy Carlson

This year, the Jewish community calendar for December features two very special events – one newly launched and another well established – that celebrate the role of tradition in our lives.

Both the inaugural Bonim Society event and this year's luncheon for members of the Lion of Judah and Pomegranate women's philanthropy groups will highlight aspects of tradition, the theme for the Jewish Federation of Nashville's 2013 Annual Campaign.

The Bonim Society event, titled "The Fiddler's Dinner," will be held on Sunday, Dec. 2 at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. The Lion and Pomegranate luncheon, titled "Miracle of Miracles," is set for Tuesday, Dec. 11 at The Temple.

"Bonim means builder," Annual Campaign Special Event Chair Karen Yazdian said. "Everyone's gift helps build our community. Everyone's gift helps sustain our fellow Jews in Israel and other countries."

"It's important that people come and participate," said Alyse Sprintz, chair of the Fiddler's Dinner. "It's important that the younger generations support Federation and support the community and come out and share these things together."

"We were looking for ways to recognize and acknowledge the importance of all the donors in the category of bonim, the builders, (who give) \$1,000 and up" per household, either individually or as a couple, said 2013 Annual Campaign Chair Steven Hirsch.

These men and women have a tradition of generosity as regular Campaign donors, and they fund a significant part of the Annual Campaign, he said. "We want to draw attention to that (through the Fiddler's Dinner). We hope that this will encourage people to continue to be strong supporters and maybe encourage" others to give at that level.

Alina Gerlovin Spaulding, Akiva School of Nashville's head of school, will speak at the Fiddler's Dinner. With the help of many Jewish agencies funded by Federation, she and her family arrived in the United States in 1979 from the Former Soviet Union. "Her story alone is very inspiring," Hirsch said. "Anybody that comes to that dinner and gets a chance to (hear her) will be touched and impressed."

"Alina is just the most wonderful speaker," Sprintz said. "She's so special

and we're so fortunate to have her in this community."

And there will be a real fiddler at the Fiddler's Dinner. Alex Geller will perform klezmer and other music.

The dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. It is a solicitation event and participants will be able to pledge their gift to the 2013 Annual Campaign. For information on joining the Bonim Society, please contact Federation Campaign Director Naomi Limor Sedek, naomi@jewishnashville.org.

The Dec. 11 luncheon for Lion of Judah and Pomegranate members, "Miracle of Miracles," celebrates Chanukah. West End Synagogue Director of Lifelong Learning Sharon Paz will speak about traditions of Chanukah around the world. Nashville singer-songwriter Joie Poster will perform songs that reflect the spirit of the holiday,

including an original Chanukah song. Geller will provide music.

Lion of Judah recognizes women who have committed to supporting Federation Annual Campaigns through annual donations of \$5,000 and up. Pomegranate recognizes those who have committed to annual gifts of \$1,800 and up.

"These women know what it feels like to give generously to make a difference in our community," Yazdian said. "There's a tradition of philanthropy, of women helping other women, being together and making a difference." She urged luncheon participants to wear the Lion of Judah or Pomegranate pins that day, to symbolize their shared values and commitments.

Cindee Gold is chairing the luncheon for Lion of Judah, with Rae Hirsch and Diane Berry chairing for Pomegranate.

The luncheon will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at the Temple, with doors opening at 11:15 a.m. and luncheon starting at 11:30 a.m. Participants will be able to make their pledge for the 2013 Annual Campaign. □

To attend these events...

Bonim Society Dinner
Sunday, Dec. 2, 6:30 p.m.
Gordon Jewish Community Center

Lion of Judah and Pomegranate Luncheon
Tuesday, Dec. 11
Doors open at 11:15 a.m.
Luncheon served at 11:30 a.m.
The Temple

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Born after Rabin's death, Israeli teens see in assassination the perils of extremism

By Ben Sales

TEL AVIV (JTA) – About a year before Guy Ben-Simon was born, his parents attended the Tel Aviv rally at which Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated.

It was a night of shock and sadness, they recalled for him while he was growing up. They had called all of their friends, telling those who had not heard that the prime minister had been killed.

"They cried," said Guy, 16, repeating his parents' story. "Everyone cried. It was very hard to unite after that because something bad had happened."

Guy is now a member of HaNoar Ha'Oved V'HaLomed, a left-wing youth group traditionally tied to Rabin's Labor Party. He's also part of a cohort of Israelis born after the Nov. 4, 1995 assassination who have no firsthand memory of Rabin's killing and are learning about it as part of history.

Seventeen years on, Rabin's assassination is refracted through the lens of contemporary Israel, taught and remembered in different ways depending on who is doing the teaching. In youth movements and in schools, his killing offers a lesson in the dangers of ideological extremism.

"You don't really talk about Rabin

the person," said Hadar Pardo, 23, one of Guy's youth group counselors. "You talk to them about seeing peace and trying to make peace even if it's not part of your everyday life."

In a sign of the changed political landscape in Israel, where even the left has shifted away from emphasis on negotiations with the Palestinians, Rabin's official commemoration this year emphasized not peace but the importance of the democratic process.

Some 20,000 people attended the Oct. 27 memorial, which highlighted the dangers of the "price tag" movement – a strategy adopted by a group of extremist Israeli settlers who deface and destroy Arab property and holy sites in retribution for settlement freezes and demolitions, or for Palestinian attacks on Jews.

Pardo, who attended the commemoration at the site where Rabin was killed – now called Rabin Square – said she, too, focuses on democracy rather than peace in discussing the assassination with her students.

"When you don't believe Arabs are equal to you, that they're second-class citizens, you can't have peace," Pardo told JTA. "You talk to them about the democratic rules of the game. Even if there's no assassination now, there are a

lot of things in society that break the rules of the game."

Yeshoshua, the principal at Torah U'Melachah High School, also emphasized tolerance and the importance of stable government during the Tel Aviv school's commemoration of the assassination. Though Rabin's assassin, Yigal Amir, hailed from Israel's Orthodox community, Yeshoshua said he does not shy away from condemning the religious incitement that led to the murder.

"This is very important – why was there anger?" asked Yeshoshua, who declined to give his last name because the Education Ministry had not authorized him to talk to a reporter. "We talked about having conversations about things you don't accept and how important it is to safeguard the government."

Yeshoshua said that although teachers talked about "the desire for peace," they did not focus on the peace process.

"We don't go into politics," he said. "It's not just political. It affects every person."

Some of Yeshoshua's students say they don't attribute much significance to the assassination.

"I don't take any lesson from it," said Vova Baronov, 14. "It's sad, but God must have wanted it to happen."

Guy, who is also a youth group counselor for 11-year-olds and will be drafted into the Israeli army in about two years, said his students were "very interested and very mature" when he discussed the assassination with them.

Pardo said many of her students are deeply affected when they learn about the assassination.

"You understand the difference between good and evil at every age," she said. "When you talk to kids, even though they weren't born yet, they feel hurt by it." □

Elie Wiesel says he and Obama teaming for book

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Elie Wiesel and President Obama are writing a book together, the Holocaust survivor and author told an Israeli newspaper.

The book, which the two men will resume writing after Tuesday's presidential election, is "a book of two friends," Wiesel, a Nobel laureate, told Haaretz.

Haaretz reported that Wiesel and Obama became friends in 2009 when Wiesel joined Obama on a visit to the

site of the Buchenwald concentration camp, where Wiesel was interned at the end of World War II following a death march from Auschwitz.

"We talk about philosophy, contemplation, thought, but never about politics. He is a thinking person, a person with depth and intellectual curiosity," Wiesel said about the dinners that the two occasionally have together.

Wiesel and Obama first met when Wiesel lectured at California's Occidental College, where Obama was a student. Obama graduated from Columbia University in New York.

"Your lecture has stayed with me to this day," Wiesel said the president told him years later. "When I heard that, my pulse went up. I told myself that I have to be careful because I can never know whether anyone in the audience will be a future president." □

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Publisher Mark S. Freedman
Editor Kathy Carlson
Advertising Manager Carrie Mills
Layout and Production Tim Gregory
Editorial Board Frank Boehm, Chair; Barbara Dab, Greg Goldberg, Scott Rosenberg, Bill Snyder

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

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Israeli startup hopes to put paraplegics back on their feet

By Ben Sales

YOKNE'AM ILIT, Israel (JTA) – Radi Kaiuf was serving in Lebanon in 1988 with the Israel Defense Forces' Golani Brigade when, in the middle of an operation, he took two bullets to the stomach and one to the back.

He was lucky to be alive, doctors said, but he would never walk again.

Now, Kaiuf meets co-workers at eye level, standing with them in the hallway of his workplace, Argo Medical Technologies. It's on the sixth floor of an office building, and if he wanted to he could take the stairs.

Four oblong black plastic cases are strapped to Kaiuf's legs and waist and connected to a thin black backpack. In his hands he's holding what look like ski poles. Before walking away, Kaiuf presses a small button atop one of the poles, leans forward ever so slightly, and with the sound of a whirring machine, his legs begin to move.

In one sense at least, the doctors were right: Without this device, Kaiuf would be in a wheelchair. But he is one of six people who, almost daily, use the ReWalk, a 44-pound exoskeleton that allows individuals with spinal cord injuries to walk, stand and sit with minimal exertion.

"At the beginning I didn't believe I could walk," said Kaiuf, who now works full time at Argo testing the device. "All you know is the wheelchair. It was really incredible. It's fun to walk. It returns me to normal, like everyone else."

The ReWalk, which was developed by Argo and released in September, is the brainchild of Amit Goffer, an Israeli computer scientist and inventor who became paralyzed after a 1997 car accident. Although he cannot use the ReWalk himself because he lacks the use of his arms, he began designing the device with the help of a \$50,000 grant from the Israeli government because he



Radi Kaiuf, who is paralyzed from the waist down, walks using the ReWalk, a device made by Israel's ArgoMedical Technologies that allows paralyzed people to walk, stand, sit and even climb stairs. Photo: JTA by Ben Sales

was frustrated at the lack of alternatives to a wheelchair.

"It's natural to me that if there's a problem, physics has a solution," said Goffer, 59, who is now Argo's chief technological officer. He hopes to one day help develop a similar device for quadriplegics, though for now he is focused on launching the ReWalk.

The device functions through motors attached to the legs that can propel a disabled person at a slow walking speed. A tilt sensor, the same technology used on Segway electric transporters, can sense whether the user wants to move forward or back, stand or sit. Poles are used for added support. Training for the ReWalk takes about 12 hours over the course of a few weeks.

Larry Jasinski, Argo's CEO, says the most difficult part of the training is getting used to walking and balancing again with only the upper body.

"Individuals who got injured, they changed the environment around them to live with ramps and function on wheels," said Jasinski. "We give them functionality in a regular environment. There's an emotional component of this product."

Though the device has not yet been cleared for use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Jasinski estimates that 250,000 people in the United States

and Europe could use the ReWalk.

The device is already available in Europe, where 32-year-old Claire Lomas completed the London Marathon with the help of a ReWalk in May. Lomas walked about two miles of the 26.2-mile course each day, completing it in a little over two weeks.

That kind of performance doesn't come cheap: The device costs \$65,000 and current models are not expected to last more than five years. Jasinski counters that high-end electric wheelchairs are not much cheaper and added that Argo is working to conduct studies touting the ReWalk's health and work benefits in an effort to persuade insurance companies to cover part of the cost.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is conducting a study of paralyzed veterans using ReWalks, and Jasinski is also hoping for assistance from Israel's Defense Ministry. He noted that using the ReWalk burns fat and builds some muscle.

"A healthier person can work better," said Jasinski. "It's easier to work when you can stand up and talk to people. If it becomes clear that the medical benefit outweighs the cost, you will get groups to pay for it."

For many currently using wheelchairs, however, the promise of walking again is priceless.

"For them, if you have something that can make you stand, you go to the end of the world to get it," Kaiuf said. "In their dreams, they're still walking. Their dream is to walk."

His happiest moment with the ReWalk came when his daughter saw him with it for the first time. "She said, 'Abba, you're tall!'" he recalled. "That made me feel good." □



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Major Gifts Dinner
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Chairs: Ellen and Michael Levitt

Dec. 2 "The Fiddler's Dinner"
Bonim/Sustainer Donor
Recognition Event
Speaker: Alina Gerlovin Spaulding
Chair: Alyse Sprintz
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Dec. 11 "Miracle of Miracles"
Lion of Judah/
Pomegranate Luncheon
Songs of Tradition with Sharon Paz
and Joie Scott Poster
Lion of Judah Chair: Cindee Gold
Pomegranate Chairs:
Dianne Berry and Rae Hirsch

Feb. 10 "Tradition"
Tzedakah Tzunday
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Vlada Melekhin
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Nashville remembers Rabin's legacy

Observer staff and JTA reports

The pain from the assassination 17 years ago of Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's then-prime minister, seemed fresh once again as people of all ages gathered at the Gordon Jewish Community Center to commemorate the anniversary of his death.

Community shlicha Hadar Moskowitz said she was 10 years old when Rabin was murdered on Nov. 4, 1995. That was the 12th of Cheshvan, the same day on which the memorial was held this year, Oct. 28 on the secular calendar.

"Israeli society never was the same," she said. The assassination "will always be an open wound."

Nashville resident Yaara Yemin told how she, her mother and her fiancé and now husband Uzi Yemin had attended the rally on 12 Cheshvan 1995 at Kings Square (now Rabin Square) in Tel Aviv. Rabin spoke of peace, she said. "We felt our moment for peace in the Mediterranean was near. ... We walked home with hope."

Afterward, on learning Rabin had been killed, "it felt like a whole country was crying," much like Americans reacted after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. Rabin's assassin killed the peace process, she said.

The event included a video of Rabin, readings from Rabin's speech and from his granddaughter Noa Ben Artzi's tribute at his funeral. "Rabin was murdered because of his views and the way



Community shlicha Hadar Moskowitz, right, and Yaara Yemin, left, light candles in honor of Israel's slain prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin. Israelis held candlelight vigils immediately after his murder in 1995. Photo: Kathy Carlson

he wanted to pursue his vision," Moskowitz said. "Violence is a red line, a border that must not be crossed."

On that same day in Israel, the Cabinet's weekly meeting opened with a moment of silence for Rabin. His murder was "one of the worst crimes of the new age," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at the meeting.

"It certainly besmirches the annals of the state and of Zionism. It will be etched in Jewish history along with other traumatic events," Netanyahu said.

"This murder also obliges us to safeguard Israel's democracy, to defend freedom of speech and to strongly reject all displays of violence."

The previous evening, some 20,000 people gathered in Rabin Square in Tel Aviv to honor the prime minister's memory. Israeli youth movements organized the rally, which was held under the banner of "Remembering the murder - fighting for democracy." It was held at the site where Rabin was shot and killed by right-wing nationalist Yigal Amir.

Among those attending the rally were hundreds of members of the Modern Orthodox movement, and Bnei Akiva Secretary General Danny Hirschberg was a speaker despite opposition from some members of his group. The web site jewishvirtuallibrary.org describes Bnei Akiva as "a religious Zionist youth movement, ... founded in Jerusalem in 1929 with a philosophy of Torah Ve'avoda - a fusion of Orthodox observance of religious commandments and Zionist pioneering." Today the National Religious Party sponsors the group, the site said.

Those opposing Hirschberg's appearance at the Oct. 28 rally included members of Bnei Akiva from Itamar, who sent Hirschberg a letter decrying his decision and saying that Rabin had wanted to dismantle the West Bank settlement. They also said that Rabin's policies had led to the death of at least 20 of the community's residents, including five members of the Fogel family, whose children participated in the youth group.

In response, as reported on Ynet news.com, Hirschberg said, "Although the reason for the gathering is the murder, the rally's theme is how to manage a dispute within the Israeli society, and the unequivocal call for safeguarding democracy."

Hirschberg explained that for years Bnei Akiva leaders had asked themselves why they were being excluded from the memorial rally, Ynet News.com reported on Oct. 27. Now that they have been invited to attend, they must do so, he said. □

Author of Holocaust history in Farsi to speak Nov. 24

Chabad of Nashville invites the Nashville community for a Shabbat lunch and lecture with Ari Babaknia, M.D., on Saturday, Nov. 24, at the Genesis Campus for Jewish Life.

Babaknia is a Persian Jew who graduated from medical school in Tehran, Iran, and continued his studies in the United States, where he now lives and practices medicine. He wrote a four-volume history of the Holocaust in Farsi, the language of modern-day Persia, also known as Iran.

"I've done 10, 11 television interviews," Babaknia told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency earlier this year. The interviews have been transmitted via satellite to Iran, and Babaknia said he's confident Iran's president - Holocaust denier Mahmoud Ahmadinejad - knows the books exist.

"More than 120 million speak or write Farsi in the world, and there never has been a well-researched or documented book about the Holocaust in Farsi," Babaknia, 65, told JTA.

He spent 15 years on the history, which was released earlier this year. Babaknia told JTA he initially thought he could complete his work in one year. "One year was two or three years, then it was 15 years later," said Babaknia,

who said he kept finding more questions to research.

In looking at the world's response to the Holocaust, Babaknia notes that Jews remained safe in Iran.

"The most important thing to understand about Iran is that Iran has a virtually flawless record during the Holocaust,"



Ari Babaknia, M.D.

Holocaust scholar Michael Berenbaum told JTA. "When Ahmadinejad denies the Holocaust, he also denies the humanity of his own people."

Berenbaum commended Babaknia for translating original documents and materials in a serious "attempt to educate those in the Iranian population who are interested in studying history instead of the fantasy that the Holocaust never happened."

Babaknia is currently working on a book in English that aims to capture and convey the emotions experienced during the Holocaust by both victims and perpetrators to be released next spring.

The Nashville lunch and lecture featuring Babaknia will take place on Nov. 24 at 12:30 p.m. at the Genesis Campus for Jewish Life, 95 Bellevue Road. The lunch and lecture will be preceded by the Shabbat morning services at Congregation Beit Tefilah at 10 a.m. For more information please call (615) 646-5750. □

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Regina Stern, survivor of Holocaust, dies at 86

Regina Stern, who with her late sister Esther Loeb survived the Holocaust and built their lives in Nashville and its Jewish community, died on Nov. 4 at her residence. She was 86.

Mrs. Stern was born in Lodz, Poland. She was a loving, devoted and caring family person and worked as a diamond consultant at Service Merchandise.

"The Tennessee Holocaust Commission's thoughts and prayers go out to the family," THC Executive Director Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky said in a statement. "Regina's sweet

smile, grace, and warmth will be missed by everyone who knew her, but her strength and courage along with the memories and reflections she shared will live on to inspire and comfort others for years to come."

Mrs. Stern is survived by her husband, Irving Stern; children, Bella Nomberg Golden and Annette L.S. Kirshner; granddaughters, Erica Beth Kirshner, Sara Jo Kirshner and Libby Lee Harrison; grandsons, Jason Alan (Maria Friberg) Golden and Billy R. Golden; great-grandsons, William Jakob Golden and Erik Alexander Golden; and cousin, Avraham Kolenbrener of Israel. □

Microsoft, Israel agree to strategic cooperation

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Israel and the Microsoft Corp. agreed to a strategic cooperation to advance computing technology.

Microsoft CEO Steve Balmer met on Nov. 5 in Israel with government officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Yuval Steinitz, to discuss the cooperation.

Memorandums of understanding will be signed in the coming days by Israel's chief information officer, Carmela Avner, and Microsoft Israel CEO Danny Yamin, according to reports.

The agreements are in the areas of technological innovation; promoting open government policies; use of technology to reduce bureaucracy; dealing with large databases; information secu-

rity and privacy protection; development of online government services; collaborative projects; and promoting Israeli technologies and start-ups, according to The Marker, the business publication of Haaretz.

In their meeting, Netanyahu and Balmer discussed Microsoft's commitment to Israel, and the company's investments in the Israeli market and their impact, according to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office.

"This is my fourth visit to Israel and I am always excited and inspired by the sheer technological ingenuity of its people and entrepreneurs, a key reason why it's such an important market for Microsoft," Balmer said.

Also on Nov. 5, Microsoft launched its Windows 8 smartphones in Israel. □



Akiva Corner



Third- and 5th-graders at Akiva are learning about American government together.

Students help one another learn

By Kelly Love
3rd-Grade Teacher

The main reason for teacher collaboration is to advance student learning. This is what Akiva Humanities teacher Liza Dansky and I had in mind when we decided to combine our strengths and plan a joint social studies unit for our third- and fifth-grade classes. As we began planning, we soon realized that another advantage of collaboration – the excitement it creates when hearing each other's unique perspectives on a unit. Bouncing ideas off each other has helped us to create a successful multigrade social studies unit about the U.S. government. What a perfect time to get our classes thinking about the way our government works – during a presidential campaign. The third-graders have this great opportunity to learn from the older students, whereas the fifth-graders have a chance to process their new and prior knowledge while leading and guiding younger schoolmates. Already, the

students have learned about the duties of the three branches of government, the Preamble to the Constitution, and several Constitutional amendments. And we are just getting started!

Collaboration between grade levels is a natural process at Akiva. It is a fun and helpful way to move the school forward while developing knowledge and cooperation between grades at the same time. It is one of the many truly special things about this school.

5th-grader Shai: "Although I'm not partnered with my brother, I really like working on this project with the 3rd-graders because I have friends in that class. It is also cool because I feel like a leader and a role model because they are younger."

3rd-grader Iris: "I like working with the 5th-graders because they help me when I need help and I have learned about the government."

3rd-grader Adina: "I like to work with the 5th-graders because they help me with my work when I'm confused about it, and they are great role models." □

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Israel upgrades Iron Dome system

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Israel upgraded the operational capability of its Iron Dome anti-missile system.

The Ministry of Defense announced on Nov. 4 that its Defense Research and Development Division successfully completed trials testing the upgraded operational capability of Iron Dome. The ministry in a statement said the most recent trial "marks a significant upgrade in the operational capabilities" of the system.

An Iron Dome battery – Israel's fifth in operation – is set to be transferred to the Israel Air Force, the ministry spokesman said.

"The series of trials are designed to expand and improve the operational capabilities as we face an unprecedented array of threats," the ministry statement said. □

B'nai Mitzvah

Benjamin Harris will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, Nov. 17, at 11 a.m. at The Temple. Benjamin was born on Oct. 4, 1999 in Nashville. His parents are Nina Harris and Richard Harris. His grandparents are Barbara Turner of Nashville and the late Bruce Turner and Emanuel and Rosa Harris of Tampa, Florida.



Benjamin Harris

For his mitzvah project, Benjamin will volunteer and participate in the Boulevard Bolt to raise money for the homeless in Nashville.

Benjamin is in the 7th grade at University School of Nashville. His special interests include cross country, swimming, musical theater, video games and hanging out with friends.

Wedding

Anita and Steve Rich announce the marriage of their daughter, **Dani Cohen**, to **Jason Shain Pachter**, son of David and Carol Pachter. The wedding took place on Oct. 14 in Nashville.



Jason Shain Pachter and Dani Cohen

Dani, a native of Nashville, graduated from Hillsboro High School, then went on to college and performed with Sesame Street Live for eight years. Jason, a songwriter, moved to Nashville in 2003 from Bellmore, N.Y. The couple will live in Nashville.

Mazel Tov

Dorothy Mintz, a longtime Nashville resident originally from Shelbyville, celebrated her 90th birthday on Oct. 30. Her family came together over the past Labor Day weekend to wish her an early 90th birthday. Her family includes two children, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren: Dr. and Mrs. Phil Mintz of Memphis, granddaughter Lisa Mintz, and grandson Drs. Aaron and Carrie Mintz of St. Louis; daughter, Suzanne and Don Kooi of Dallas, granddaughter Dr. Amy and Evan Charles and their three children, Madelyn, Hannah and Aidan, of Atlanta; and grandson David and Lindsey Sheinbein and their children, Jacob and Daniel, from Houston. Dorothy is temporarily residing at the Richland Place Health Center in Nashville and she welcomes telephone calls at 292-4900.



Dorothy Mintz

Sympathy

... to the family of **Jane Goodman Bell**, who died on Oct. 28. She was the daughter of Samuel and Irma Ray Goodman of New Orleans and the sister

of Gail Greenfield of Nashville. She is survived by her husband, Vereen; children, Mary Bell, Leighton Bell, Eleanor Hall, Julie Marx and Jonathan Marx; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Born in New Orleans, she was an unconventional and fiercely loving wife, a proud and nurturing mother, a kind and generous friend, a great lover of art and music, and feisty in all the best ways. Over the years, she was a dedicated staff member at the Race Relations Information Center and at Vanderbilt University's Sarratt Student Center. She also owned and operated a print and poster shop, Portfolio. She loved to have a good time, and she was an ardent supporter of Democratic and liberal causes. In lieu of flowers, her family requests that you take the time to kiss and hug your loved ones, as she did so often for us. Donations may be made in her honor to Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee (www.las.org).

... to the family of **Kimberly June Chesnut**, who died on Oct. 25. She is survived by her daughter, Daniella (Jack) Fleischer, grandchildren Adam, Matthew and Rachel, extended family and friends.

... to the family of **Julie Juvelier**, who died on Nov. 3 at the age of 86. She was preceded in death by her husband, Irving. She is survived by daughter Elin (Bruce) Fischer; son Steve (Anita) Juvelier; grandchildren Jason Scudder, Jeffrey (Lee) Scudder, Jeremy Juvelier, Bryan Juvelier and other grandchildren. She was a Nashville resident for more than 20 years and, as a volunteer, aided organizations including Saint Thomas Hospital, The Temple and the Gordon Jewish Community Center. Julie was a gracious and warm friend adored throughout the community. Nashville will miss one of its finest volunteers. Memorial contributions may be directed to organizations listed above.

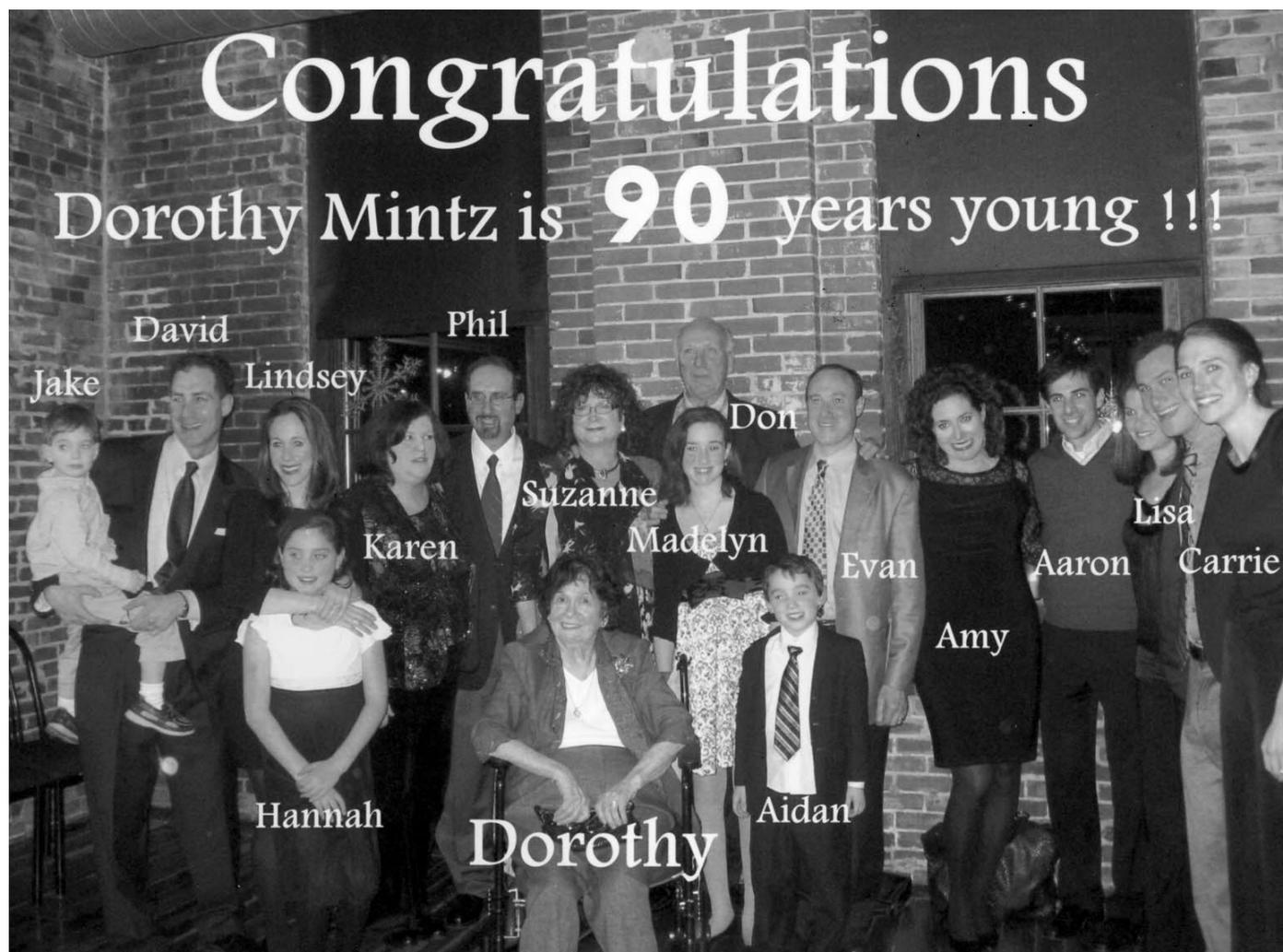
... to the family of **Bertha Moise**, nee Weiner, who died on Oct. 23. Born in Chicago in August 1923, Bertha was

the oldest of 11 children. She married Harold (Harry) Moise in December of 1941, and he joined the U.S. Navy after the Pearl Harbor attack. They had two daughters, Rusty and Sharon. In 1973, she took an art class at the local community college in Skokie, Ill. She learned to sketch with charcoal and colored chalks and enjoyed it so much that she went on to explore oil painting. At first, she only painted single objects, fearing multiple objects would prove to be too complex. Emboldened by time and practice, she started putting different elements into the paintings. Her favorite subject to paint was anything with water. She created more than 200 paintings over 32 years. Bertha was preceded in death by her husband, Harry. She is survived by daughters Rusty Helen Groffman and Sharon (Frank) Ishizaki; grandchildren Robyn (Dennis) Peterson of Nashville, Louis Weiss and Matthew Weiss; great-grandchildren Amanda Nicole and Rachel Erin Peterson; and her sister, Dorothy Weiner. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in her name to Second Harvest Food Bank, 331 Great Circle Road, Nashville, TN 37228, or to The Temple Social Action Committee.

... to the family of **Molly K. Slabosky**, who died on Oct. 26 at the age of 100. Mrs. Slabosky grew up in Chattanooga but spent the past 70 years in Nashville. She served on the boards of Manna, Peace, Nashville Mental Health, West Nashville Covenant Ministry, Nashville Jewish Federation, Council of Jewish Women, Temple Sisterhood, B'nai B'rith Home and Hospital in Memphis, and the Jewish Children's Regional Service in New Orleans. She was a past president of the Jewish Family Service. She served on the board at the Shepherd Center and taught Hebrew at the Temple for many years. She achieved national board certification from the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. For she was active in Luke 14:12, a program in which local congregations alternate in preparing and serving meals to the poor. Mrs. Slabosky was preceded in death by her

husband, David Slabosky. She is survived by her son Alex (Marcella) Slabosky; her grandchildren, Ann Slabosky and her husband Geoff Jara-Almonte, and Kate Slabosky; her niece, Charlene Smith; and her cousin, Philip Russ. Memorials may be made to The Temple or the Jewish Family Service.

... to the family of **Sydney Spector**, 88, of Marietta, Ga., who died on Oct. 26. Dr. Spector, a veteran of World War II, participated in the Normandy Invasion, the Battle of the Bulge, and in four other European campaigns. Dr. Spector was a pharmacologist and spent his career conducting research at the National Institutes of Health, Roche Institute for Molecular Biology, and Vanderbilt University Medical School. His discoveries led to development of medications to treat high blood pressure and psychiatric illnesses. He received numerous awards for his research including election as president of the Pharmacology Society. His scientific legacy will live on in the careers of scientists who trained under his mentorship. In addition to his love of science, Dr. Spector was an avid athlete who played indoor handball at the JCC in West Orange, N.J., and later maintained a rigorous workout routine at the faculty center at Vanderbilt and most recently the UNC Wellness Center. Despite poor vision over the past 20 years, he was a prolific artist who loved to paint. His greatest pride was his family and his son and daughter's accomplishments in life. He was a devoted husband and father who always made time to attend his kids' school and sporting events, and loved to bring his family along during his world travels. Survivors include his loving wife of 64 years, Bettie Spector; daughter and son-in-law, Faye and Brian Maloney, Marietta, Ga.; son and daughter-in-law, Neil and Denise Spector, Chapel Hill, N.C., and sister, Evelyn May. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Donate Life America (an organ transplant organization), Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, or the Alzheimer's Association.



around the town

UK-educated cantor to celebrate Shabbat at Sherith

Congregation Sherith Israel will present a Cantor in Residence Shabbos with Cantor Shimon Cramer on Nov. 30-Dec. 1. Kabbalat Shabbat with Cantor Cramer will take place at 4:30 p.m. on Nov. 30, with dinner and singing at 5:30 p.m. An RSVP is required and there's a charge for the dinner. Shabbat morning services will begin at 9 a.m. on Dec. 1, with Shacharit and Musaf led by Cantor Cramer.

Chazzan Shim is the cantor at the Riverdale Jewish Center. He hails from London, England, where he studied classical cantorial style with the chief rabbi, Lord Jonathan Sacks. Now, as the cantor of the RJC, Shim travels the country performing at various shuls, simachot, concerts and events. He has released two albums, the most recent of which earned him plaudits from the Jewish music world. Shim is married

and has four kids, all of whom have three-letter names.

Spend a Thursday with Israeli Folk Dancers

The Nashville Israeli Folk Dancers meet every Thursday evening at the Schulman Center for Jewish Life (across from Memorial Gym) at Vanderbilt University. Warm-up and beginners dances are 7:30-8:30 PM. Intermediate-advanced dancing and requests are from 8:30-10:00 PM. Come join us for evenings of fun, music, great exercise and new friends! You can stay for all or part of the time, and attend any or all of the sessions. No previous dance experience is required. Everyone is welcome to participate. For more information please contact: Carol Rubin, 352-9447 (Carol.Rubin@vanderbilt.edu) or Sharon Morrow, 662-4881 (smorrow@wswcpasnashville.com) or visit our web site at www.vanderbilt.edu/israelidance

NowGen urges all to learn about hunger through SNAP Challenge

By Rabbi Shana Mackler

This month, NowGen Nashville and other Jewish young adults are joining with a host of other Jewish groups to encourage the community to learn firsthand what it's like to live on food stamps for one week.

The effort to share the experience of food stamp recipients began last week when The Temple hosted a Global Hunger Shabbat. This program was inspired by our young adult members in our community who seek to create understanding and change in our world. They will be helping to lead our Challenge and participate in our service. We will join other Challenge participants, like the AARP, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger, National Council of Jewish Women, National Council on Aging, and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism."

Participation in the food stamp program, now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP, is widespread. The most recent data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture show that in July of this year, nearly 46.7 million people in 22.5 million households received SNAP assistance at a total cost of nearly \$6.3 billion. In Tennessee, 1,275,790 people on average

received SNAP aid each month during the 2011 fiscal year.

The SNAP Challenge, in which non-recipients choose to live for one week on a SNAP food budget, began in 2006 in Philadelphia.

Since then, hundreds – if not thousands – of people have taken the challenge, including members of Congress, governors, state legislators, mayors, advocates for elderly persons and children, religious and community leaders, reporters, and average citizens. (Editor's note: A Food Stamp Challenge took place in Nashville in 2007 and was co-sponsored by the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Second Harvest Food Bank.)

While living on a food stamp budget for just a week cannot come close to the struggles encountered by low-income families week after week and month after month, it does provide those who take the challenge with a new perspective and greater understanding.

Think about what you spend in a day on food – perhaps a \$4 cup of coffee, a \$12 sandwich, maybe \$50 for a couple to eat dinner out. In Tennessee, the average weekly total for food stamps is \$33.45. That is \$4.46 a day. We invite you to participate in the challenge for one week, spending only the allotted average \$33.45 a week on food."

For more information, contact Joel Abramson, joel@jewishnashville.org. □

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GJCC offers basketball camp with former Lady Vols standout

The Gordon Jewish Community Center, in partnership with Hoops-4-Kids, is offering a basketball camp over the Thanksgiving holiday with former Lady Vols point guard Michelle Marciniak.

Marciniak played for the University of Tennessee under legendary coach Pat Summitt. Marciniak ran the Lady Vols offense while guiding Tennessee to the 1995 and 1996 NCAA title games.

In 1996, she received Most Valuable Player honors in leading the Lady Vols to their fourth National Championship. She went on to play professional basketball, coach women's basketball at the University of South Carolina, and with

former South Carolina Head Coach Susan Walvius, start a textile business called SHEEX.

Hoops-4-Kids, a nonprofit that seeks to bring basketball to all children in hopes of building confidence and life-long fitness goals, will be running the 3-day basketball camp at the GJCC on Nov. 21, 23 and 25. There is also a 2-day option available as well as lunch daily and Black Friday early drop-off. The camp is geared towards children between the ages of 5 and 12.

To find out more information, go to www.hoops4kids.net or www.nashvillejcc.org. The GJCC is located at 801 Percy Warner Blvd., Nashville, 37205. For questions or to register, contact hoops4kids@hotmail.com. □

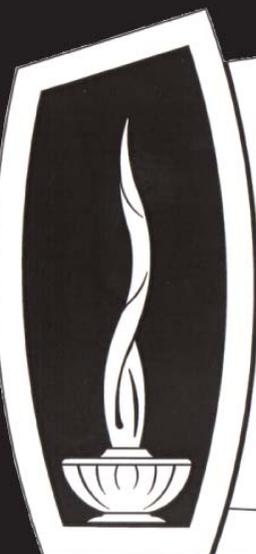
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NEW & RENEWING ADS ARE SHADED

Chabad of Nashville dedicates new mikvah

Guests from around the country joined with the Nashville community to dedicate Mikvah Mei Chaya, the first mikvah to be built in Nashville in over 50 years.

This Mikvah is the crown jewel of the newly built Genesis Campus for Jewish Life, home of Chabad of Nashville, directed by Shluchim Rabbi Yitzchok and Esther Tiechtel. Six months earlier, Tennessee's governor, Bill Haslam, dedicated the new Chabad Center, and now the Nashville community gathered together to dedicate a new mikvah for the Jewish women of Middle Tennessee.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by Shlucha Esther Tiechtel, joined by key supporters including Judy Kilgore, Mohtaram Yazdian, and Karen Yazdian, whose family built the mikvah and the



The ribbon is cut at the dedication of Mikvah Mei Chaya, much to the delight of Judy Kilgore (left), Esther Tiechtel, Karen Yazdian and Mohtaram Yazdian, as Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel and Fred Yazdian look on. Photo: Rick Malkin

new Chabad Center. The mezuzah was affixed on the mikvah entrance by Fred Yazdian and his brother, Abe Yazdian, together with Rabbi Tiechtel.

Rabbi Tiechtel noted the importance of building a mikvah, even prior to the importance of building a shul. To give the feeling of immersing in a luxurious spa pool, the mikvah itself was built spaciouly. To prepare for periods of southern drought when it does not rain for many months, a cistern, an Otzar Geshamim, was built to hold a reservoir of rainwater, like the Rebbe Rashab, the fifth Chabad Rebbe, had for the mikvah in his courtyard in Rostov, Russia.

Esther Tiechtel noted the Hashgacha Pratis – divine providence – that the cement for the mikvah concrete was poured on the 25th of Adar 5771, beginning the process, and then twelve months later, on the day of 25th of Adar, 5772, the mikvah was inspected and approved by the visiting rabbonim. The 25th of Adar also is the birthday of Rebbetzen Chaya Mushka, wife of Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the seventh Chabad rebbe. Upon noting the divine providence of these three events, it was decided to dedicate the mikvah as “Mikvah Mei Chaya.”

Following the official ceremony, the Shlucha from Emory University in Atlanta, Miriam Lipskier, presented a lecture on “The Sensual and the Sacred.” Vanderbilt University Shlucha Nechama Rothstein, and her sister, Ashira King, led tours of the mikvah. The event concluded with an dessert reception, hosted by Goldie and Mark Shepard. Chabad of Nashville gives a special thank you to MikvahUSA for partnering with this project. □



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Chair: Alyse Sprintz

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For more information contact Barbara Schwarcz
barbara@jewishnashville.org or 615-354-1630

Dietary laws will be observed.

**\$30 Couvert represents the cost of the dinner.
Accordingly, there is no charitable contribution.



*The Bonim Society recognizes supporters of the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign who make a household gift either individually or as a couple at a minimum of \$1,000 or more each year. These gifts help us do extraordinary things every year. We thank you for your continued support.

Global Day of Jewish Learning

Continued from page 1

Kliel Rose, Session 1 and Session 2 (repeat of Session 1)

Exploring Blessings: A Look at Some of Our More Creative Blessings – Miriam Halachmi, Session 1 and Session 2 (repeat of Session 1)

Baruch Attah Adonai: What is a Blessing and How is it Different From All of the Other Stuff We Pray? – Daniel Hoffman, Session 1 and Session 2 (repeat of Session 1)

Session 1 will be held between 1-1:50 p.m.; Session 2 runs from 2-2:50 p.m.

At lunch, there’s a video presentation from Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz titled “Nosh and Nourishment.” Lunch will be available with a charge that’s payable at the event. Baby-sitting and senior transportation will be available on request. The day ends with another communal session in which Rabbi Hirschfield and the afternoon-session teachers reflect on the group’s learning experience.

Learners from age 15 on up are encouraged to attend the Global Day. No prior knowledge of Jewish texts is required to participate. Registration is free and can be completed online at www.jewishnashville.org/globalday. □

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