

the Jewish Observer

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Mission to Israel Hang on Tight and Enjoy the Ride!

By **MARK S. FREEDMAN**
Executive Director, Jewish Federation

Twenty-two souls (21 from Nashville, and one from Chattanooga) returned last month from the 2013 CommUNITY Mission to Israel, which included attendance at the Jewish Federations of North America's General Assembly in Jerusalem.

Most stumbled off the plane in Nashville exhausted, jet-lagged, over-programmed and over-fed. Doesn't sound like much fun, does it?

Well, you couldn't be more wrong if you thought "OMG, who would ever want to experience a trip like that?"

The simple fact is the break-neck pace of the mission appealed to every one of us. Over 10 days we visited our Partnership 2Gether friends in Hadera (more about this later) and traveled deep into the Negev to Mitzpe Ramon, where we stayed at Israel's most magnificent resort hotel and spa. We breezed through breezy Tel Aviv twice, spent five days in Jerusalem, and found time for a side trip to learn about life in the West Bank town of Tekoa, the eastern most town of the Gush Etzion region that a handful of Nashville natives now call home.

Some other highlights:

- Our 2013 Jewish Federation Young Leadership Award winner, David Schwartz, dined with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Knesset.
- My wife, Leslie J. Klein, was plucked from the audience and danced on stage with Israel's most famous troupe, the Batsheva Dance Company.



The full Nashville delegation at Sde Boker, gravesite of Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion.

- Together we studied Jewish text in one of Jerusalem's most prestigious centers of learning, The Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies (an institution supported by our annual campaign).
- We dined on delicious Israel cuisine prepared by Cochin Jews (Jews from India who settled in Israel), Ethiopian Jews, Moroccan Jews, and Bedouins. Of course I must also mention stops at Israel's most famous bakery establishments in Jaffa and at the Machane Yehuda market in Jerusalem to stock up on sinfully indescribably scrumptious rugelach and cheese-toast.
- We played a spirited game of soccer with at-risk youth who participate in the Children of the Dream program in Hadera, a program supported by our annual campaign.

Continued on page 2

Nashville stars in a global day of Jewish learning and community

By **CHARLES BERNSEN**

Felicia Anchor used an interesting analogy to explain why she was participating in Global Day of Jewish Learning for the first time: "What brought me here was the notion that to be Jewish you need to know something about your tradition. If you're going to the prom, you ought to learn to dance."

Diane Lutz came to the daylong Global Day event at the Akiva School last month not only "to keep on learn-



ing" but also to support the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, the local Global Day sponsor. She was peeved at herself, though, for not encouraging the other 13 members of her *chaverah* (Jewish study group) to attend.

Anchor and Lutz were among about 150 Global Day participants in Nashville who spent almost seven



NOV. 17-13

hours listening to a plenary presentation by Rabbi David Levin-Kruss of the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, watching a luncheon panel discussion featuring six local rabbis, participating in 12 study sessions led by local clergy and educators, and listening to Vanderbilt Hillel students Jacob Grossman and Jeremy Bloomstone

Continued on page 3

Register for the Federation's Cuba mission

There's still time to sign up for a special mission trip to Cuba March 2-9. This encounter with the vibrant Cuban Jewish community in Havana and Santa Clara will include a tour of historic Old Havana to see some of its fine art studios and museums as well as the extraordinary home and

studio workshop of Jose Fuster. Other highlights will be a visit to the former home of Ernest Hemingway, a U.S. State Department update on relations with Cuba, a festive Shabbat meal at the Patranato Jewish Center, entertainment at the legendary Tropicana Night Club and the Buena Vista Social Club at the famed Hotel Nacional, and dining at

some of Havana's finest Paladares, centers of Cuba's emerging private enterprise gourmet cuisine.

The mission is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. The registration deadline is Dec. 15. For more information email Mark Freedman at mark@jewishnashville.org or call him at (615) 354-1660. □

Mission to Israel

Continued from page 1

- We were regaled by the Ben Yakir Youth Village boys choir (a facility supported by our annual campaign) while dining and tasting wine at Benyamina Winery in our Partnership2Gether region of Hadera-Eiron.
- We had a chance encounter with members of the elite IDF homeland security force while visiting an observation outpost just a few hundred yards from the northern border of the Gaza Strip.
- The men and women in our delegation prayed TOGETHER at the Kotel (Western Wall) at the new facility at the edge of the retaining wall commonly referred to as Robinson's Arch.

And these extraordinary experiences only scratch the surface of our 10-day itinerary.

In our Partnership2Gether region we visited the Hillel-Yaffe Hospital in Hadera to observe the incredible impact of the pediatric clown program supported by our annual campaign. We also visited a marvelous children's residential facility in Hadera, Neve Michael, which serves vulnerable youth whose lives have been devastated by abuse and neglect.

At Kibbutz Ein Shemer, we witnessed a new generation of young Israeli pioneers who are using their entrepreneurial spirit to find new ways to engage with the environment as opposed to exploiting it. This is a program operated by the Jewish Agency for Israel, which is the largest overseas beneficiary of our annual campaign.

And while in the Negev, we learned about the important work of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee



Russell Wolff jokes with young musicians at Neve Michael Children's Village in Hadera, which is part of Nashville's Partnership 2Gether sister region.

(JDC), which works with local social service agencies to assist Bedouin communities through the ECHAD program. Its aim is to promote equal opportunity among Arab-Israeli children under the age of 6 and minimize risks that threaten their educational development.

Shoe-horned into all this were visits to a variety of "tourist" sites — The City of David excavations in Jerusalem; Israel's national Holocaust memorial and museum, Yad Vashem; Independence Hall in Tel Aviv, and the grave site of David Ben-Gurion at Sde Boker. While some in our delegation took time to rest, others spent a day at Masada and the Dead Sea or viewed the incredible Herod exhibition at the Israel Museum.

Some of us visited family and friends on Shabbat. And a good number from the



Jan Liff (left) with Valerie Seidner in the West Bank village of Tekoa in the Gush Etzion region. Valerie is a former resident of Nashville.

delegation spent a day picking olives at the family farm of our local community shlichah, Hadar Moskovitz. It was hard work, rewarded with a fine lunch and good wine along with temporary souvenirs: calouses from plucking all those olives.

Toward the end of the mission, we were privileged to attend the opening reception of our Partnership2Gether art

exhibition, "The Sound of Many Waters" at the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem. Leslie J. Klein co-chaired the exhibition, and mission participants Lorna Graff and Austin Center of Chattanooga have pieces in it as does Jerry Klein, the father of mission participant Risa Klein Herzog. Other Nashville artists with works in the exhibition are Frances Allen, Sharon Charney, Leslie Klein, Carrie Mills, Kim Phillips, Bill Rosen and Linda Schlanger.

In the near future we will announce dates for the next Jewish Federation mission to Israel. If this recounting of our trip intrigues you then please considering joining the next mission. If the pace seems to slow for you, we can certainly try to speed it up a bit!

For more information about federation missions e-mail Naomi Limor Sedek at naomi@jewishnashville.org or call her at 615-354-1642. □

See more photos from this event at www.jewishobservernashville.org



Attending the opening reception of the "Sound of Many Waters" exhibition at the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem are (from left) Judy Yuda, Aviad Sella, Amanda Bass, Naomi Sella, Leslie J. Klein and Andrea Arbel. Naomi Sella and Leslie J. Klein are co-chairs of the exhibition.

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From the Campaign Trail

This Year in Jerusalem!

By **STEVE HIRSCH**
Campaign Chair

Where do I begin? This month's "From the Campaign Trail" article was intended to provide some highlights from the Nashville CommUNITY Mission to Israel. How do you put into a couple of hundred words 10 days of incredible experiences? I'll try to do that, and I will begin with the end of the trip, which was the closing session of the General Assembly meeting.



Steve Hirsch

The afternoon of our last day in Israel, we assembled along with several thousand Jewish Federation delegates in City Hall Square for a final plenary session. We heard from Nir Barkat, the mayor of Jerusalem; Natan Sharansky, the chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, and Naftali Bennett, Economic Minister and a leading voice in the Knesset. They spoke about the vibrancy and growth of Jerusalem and Israel, the solidarity of Israel and the United States, and the importance of the work of the federations in North America in supporting the needs of Jewish people in Israel and around the world.

As the presentations concluded, we marched en masse to the Kotel. We halted traffic in Jerusalem (an incredible feat in itself) and attracted attention from passers-by and residents of the Old City. It is hard to describe the feelings of joy and pride we felt, being a part of the Nashville delegation, the North American GA contingent, and most of all being part of the Jewish people in the capital of our own Jewish nation. It was the culmination of 10 days of exploration, learning and reaffirming the reasons why what we do at the Nashville Federation is so important not only in our city but also in Israel.

Last year, our grants committee designated approximately 35% of our campaign funds to Israel-related programs. During the course of our travels, we had the chance to visit with some of the people this funding is helping. For example, we spent the first two days of our trip in our partnership region, Hadera-Eiron. The group visited Hillel Jaffe hospital and saw the pediatric clowns (that we supported with a grant) in action. We heard a youth choir from Ben Yakir Youth Village perform. This organization takes in at-risk teens and helps them become responsible members of the community. In Pardes Hanna, we visited Neve Michael, a residence for children who cannot live at home. These children are given a second chance at a normal childhood from very challenging previous home environments. And we had a fun encounter with the Children of the Dream program, an after-school soccer program for Ethiopian, Israeli, Arab and Druze children alike. Through sports, it aims to instill proper values in kids who might otherwise find nothing but trouble.

From Hadera-Eiron, we moved on to

the south and spent a few incredible days in the surprising Negev region. Hiking through the Makhtesh Ramon, a huge crater that is probably the closest thing Israel has to the Grand Canyon, we saw ruins of way stations from the spice route traveled by caravans thousands of years ago. Later we visited Ramat Negev, a desert agri-research center that is pioneering new methods for raising crops that will help feed the world population in the future. Following visits with the Ethiopian National Project in Beersheva and an experimental dance studio in Mitzpe Ramon, we completed our exploration of the Negev with a visit and dinner with a family in the town of Yerucham. The story of this couple's journey from Tunisia to Israel many years ago left us all with tears of sadness and joy.

Heading north from the Negev, we stopped in Tel Aviv/Jaffa for a unique experience at the Nalaga'at Center, which is an acting company featuring blind and deaf actors. After a long day and evening of travel, we arrived in Jerusalem to prepare for the next several days of activities. If you have never attended a Kabbalat Shabbat at the Kotel, you must put it on your bucket list. Simply watching different groups arrive at the wall, from Yeshiva students marching arm in arm and singing, to large groups of IDF soldiers, the orthodox Haredim and the secular Israelis, all drawn to the holiest place in the holiest city to welcome in Shabbat.

Other Jerusalem highlights involved studying with North American fellows at the Pardes Institute, touring the latest excavation of the David Citadel, where 4,000-year old buildings have recently been exposed, a visit to Hadassah hospital, and of course, paying our respects at Yad Vashem. In the middle of all this, we attended the General Assembly meeting and heard from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Shimon Peres and a series of distinguished speakers from Israel and the United States.

The key messages we heard at the GA were: 1) the determination of Israel to insure the security of Israel and the Jewish people 2) the willingness to negotiate for a two state solution assuming the Palestinians are willing to recognize Israel as a Jewish state and 3) solidarity and the continued strength of the relationship with the United States and, in particular, the American Jewish community.

Near the conclusion of our mission, the group sat down and reflected on the impact of the trip. This was a powerful and sometimes emotional session. I returned to Nashville with a renewed resolve on the importance of the work of the Federation. If you have any doubt, the work of the Federation is not only still relevant but also a key element of support for vital programs and services helping the young, the old and the most vulnerable in Israel, here in middle Tennessee and elsewhere in the world where our extended Jewish family is living. What we learned in Israel is the power of the collective efforts of federations from all over North America. In a similar way, our collective efforts in Nashville will ensure that we are doing all we can to support our local community and our brothers and sisters in Israel and around the world. □

Nashville stars in a global day

Continued from page 1
discuss their senior theses.

Rabbi Levin-Kruss began his remarks with a compliment: "Nashville really is known as a place where Jewish people cooperate and create community."

That cooperation was quite visibly symbolized several hours later in the makeup of the luncheon panel, which featured three Orthodox rabbis, a Conservative rabbi and two Reform rabbis discussing the concept of community.

"The fact that we can all sit here together like this is unusual. It doesn't happen in every community," said Rabbi Joshua Kullock, the new spiritual leader of the West End Synagogue. The significance of his observation was echoed by Rabbi Mark Schiffan of The Temple and Yitzchok Tiechtel of Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad.

Rabbi Levin-Kruss's presentation, one of 24 streamed live around the world on the Internet, was entitled "What Price Pluralism: Creating Unity while Acknowledging What Separates Us."

Even the Jews of Nashville, widely recognized for being able to work past their differences, must grapple with a certain tension associated with Jewish divergence. Or as Rabbi Levin-Kruss put it, "How can peace and truth co-exist?"

While not minimizing this dilemma, he offered both historical perspective and a practical approach for handling this dilemma. First, he noted, the problem is not new. Divergence and dissension have always been present in Jewish societies – from the sectarianism of the Second Temple period to the sometimes vicious animosity between Hasidic and Lithuanian Jews in 18th and 19th century Eastern Europe.

More important, rabbinic texts offer practical advice for dealing with the tension between truth and unity: First, pick your battles judiciously; don't fight over small stuff. Second, recognize that it is sometimes necessary to take a stand and choose between competing truth claims. Third, be magnanimous in victory. The victors in ideological and cultural disputes "can afford to be gracious," he said.



Following his plenary presentation at the Global Day of Jewish Learning, Rabbi David Levin-Kruss speaks with Rami and Janet Weismark. Their son studied with him at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies.



Moshe Werthan and Michael Rosenzweig, president and CEO of the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem.

Among those in the audience for Rabbi Levin-Kruss's presentation were Libby and Moshe Werthan, whose generosity made possible his appearance as the Nashville community's Global Day scholar in residence.

Global Day of Jewish Learning is an annual event initiated by the Aleph society in which Jews in communities around the world come together to study their religious heritage and its texts. The theme of this year's event was "Creating Together."

According to the Aleph Society, 420 communities in 40 countries participated in last month's 24-hour event, and more than 2,000 people watched the live-streamed videos live, including 80 who watched Rabbi Levin-Kruss.

All of the plenary sessions are available for viewing at <http://www.theglobalday.com/24x24/> □

See more photos from this event at www.jewishobservernashville.org



The luncheon panel on creating Jewish community included (from left) rabbis Laurie Rice, Saul Strosberg, Yitzchok Tiechtel, Joshua Kullock, Shlomo Rothstein and Mark Schiffan.

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letters to the editor

Hillel says thanks for supporting Shepard celebration

To the editor:

The students, board and staff of Vanderbilt Hillel thank the Nashville community for helping us celebrate Goldie Shepard. Goldie is an integral part of the Jewish experience on campus. Goldie makes our weekly Shabbat celebrations possible, cooks 1,000 meatballs for a week of Passover meals and always provides kosher food for the holidays. We thank Goldie for letting us celebrate her at our fundraiser in October -- and we thank you, the more than 300 individuals who supported Hillel at this event. It raised nearly \$50,000, which will help keep the Shabbat experience free for students during the coming year.

Hillel receives no support from Vanderbilt and none from national Hillel. Its annual budget is dependent on you. In addition to our current student families and recent alumni, the commu-



Hillel student president Jacob Grossman presents Goldie Shepard a black apron embroidered in gold with the message: "Hillel loves Goldie."

nity support, grants from the Jewish Federation of Nashville and the annual financial gift from the Council of Jewish Women are important for sustaining our budget each year. But individual support is also needed.

We are grateful to you, the Nashville Jewish community, for making our celebration of Goldie a success. We

invite you to visit us, share Shabbat dinner with us, and become part of our Jewish campus life.

For now, thank you all again for your support of Vanderbilt Hillel.

Jacob Grossman, student president
Cynthia Morin, board president
Ari Dubin, executive director

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Ad dismays reader

To the editor:

I was recently dismayed to open *The Jewish Observer of Nashville* and see an ad for a group called Proclaiming Justice to the Nations (PJTN). Although the ad focuses on their Christian Zionism, anyone who has been paying attention to the anti-Muslim rhetoric here for the past few years, especially in regards to the mosque in Murfreesboro, will be aware that PJTN and its founder, Laurie Cardoza-Moore,

have been front and center in leading false charges against our Muslim friends and neighbors as well as actively seeking to deny them a place of worship.

In an interview on the "The Daily Show," for example, Ms. Cardoza-Moore proclaimed, "Islam is a political system of global domination." I cannot ignore eerie similarities of this accusation to propaganda promoting anti-Semitic conspiracy theories against Jews like those found in *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.

As a convert to Judaism, I was most recently taken aback by comments Ms. Cardoza-Moore made in an August 14, 2013 article "Opponents of Tenn. Mosque want state court to rule" on the website OneNewsNow.com. She states of the Murfreesboro mosque's imam, "His specialty is converting Christians to Islam." Would my conversion from Christianity to Judaism also offend Ms. Cardoza-Moore? Shouldn't adults be free to think for themselves and make their own decisions regarding individual expressions of spiritual identity or membership? I believe so.

I also believe that an organization and a leader who work hard to deny civil rights to Muslims do not deserve the support or collaboration of the Jewish community. It is worth remembering that Isaac and Ishmael were brothers. We need to support each other. I would implore *The Observer* to please be mindful of that when running ads in the future.

Sincerely,
Matthew M. Stafford

The Observer welcomes letters to the editor. They should be emailed as Word documents to charles@jewishnashville.org or sent by regular mail to our offices at 801 Percy Warner Blvd., Suite 101, 37205. Letters should be no more than 300 words. All letters will be reviewed by our editorial board, and *The Observer* reserves the right to edit for clarity, style and length. The submission deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Editorial Submissions Policy and Deadlines

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

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JACQUES BACK

Federation funds 12 New Initiatives for senior services, engaging new leaders and Israel education

The Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee has awarded almost \$45,000 in funding 12 new programs in the local Jewish community.

The New Initiative Grants are going to outreach efforts that fall into three broad categories: next generation engagement and leadership, services for seniors, and Israel education and advocacy. Though sponsored by specific congregations, all the programs are open to the entire Jewish community.

"We are impressed with the quality and creativity of the twelve new programs," said Faith Haber Galbraith, co-chair of the committee that awarded the grants. "Congregations and agencies continue to collaborate in providing new services to our target areas in very innovative and experimental ways."

Said Lisa Perlen, the other grants committee co-chair, "The enthusiasm for our New Initiative Grants has grown each year they have been offered. We have funded 31 new programs since 2010. Our rabbis, educators, and Jewish professionals are true partners in meeting the needs of our community. Federation has identified areas of unmet needs and our professional partners have created the programs to meet those needs."

The new programs include

Next Generation Engagement and Leadership

Ignite Jewish Nashville is a program sponsored by the Nashville Jewish Federation. Its purpose is to

help young Jewish leaders acquire and refine their leadership skills and empower them to turn their passion into action. Local Jewish organizations and congregations will be able to nominate participants for this program, which is offered by Joel Abramson, the federation's community engagement associate, and Mark S. Freedman, the federation's executive director.

The federation's Community Relations Committee will select two people to attend the **Jewish Council for Public Affairs Plenum** for young adult leaders in Atlanta next March. The conference offers in-depth training on the issues and skills needed for Community Relations Committee leadership.

The Blessing of a Skinned Knee offers parents a six-session educational program focusing on the positive parenting themes from Dr. Wendy Mogul's book of the same name. The course will be taught by Rabbi Laurie Rice of Congregation Micah; Julie Greenberg, the education director at Micah, and Alina Spaulding, head of school at the Akiva School. Dr. Mogul will teach the concluding session and also speak at a community-wide event.

Torah at Home with the Rabbi is a series of home-based Jewish study programs with Rabbi Joshua Kullock of West End Synagogue for adults and children. Rabbi Kullock will teach on a theme or topic determined by the participants while an educator will offer a program for the children.

Vanderbilt Hillel Rosh Hashanah Seder is a unique and creative approach to encourage students to have an inspiring and meaningful Rosh Hashanah observance in a student friendly atmosphere. Hillel is expanding on an already successful launch of this endeavor last year by Rabbi Joshua Barton and Ari Dubin, executive director of Vanderbilt Hillel.

Eating with Intention is a four-session cooking and learning program hosted by the Akiva School. Local chefs and Jewish professionals will teach participants about issues such as kashrut (eating kosher), buying and eating locally, the important role of traditional food in Jewish culture, and rethinking classic Jewish dishes. This is a hands-on cooking, learning, eating, and drinking adventure.

Services for Seniors

Living Memories offers seniors the opportunity to record their life story with a volunteer who will create a "living testament" book of their life story, ideals, advice, and guidance for friends and family members. Rabbi Yitzchok and Ester Teichtel are hosting this novel program.

The Senior Adult Newsletter is a monthly large print, hardcopy insert for the Jewish Observer of Nashville featuring all activities from every local organization and congregation geared toward adults over 65. The newsletter is being coordinated by the Meryl Kraft, director

of adult programming for the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

Thanksgiving Celebration offers a beautiful and meaningful Thanksgiving experience for seniors and their families. The celebration will include the traditional meal with all the trimmings plus music and community. Rabbi Saul Strosberg and Cantor George Leiberman of Congregation Sherith Israel will host this event.

A new **Senior Services Directory** will enable Jewish Family Service to update and reprint the first edition, which was published in 2010. Over 1,000 copies of the first edition were distributed. The updated directory will list all Jewish community programs, resources, and volunteer opportunities for seniors.

Welcome Shabbat, a program offered by Jewish Family Services and the Gordon Jewish Community Center, will provide a monthly Shabbat meal, worship, music, and programming for senior adults. Community clergy and students from the Akiva School, Vanderbilt Hillel and Vanderbilt Chabad will lead worship and musical programs.

Israel Education and Advocacy

Israel Here and Now is a weekend of lectures and programs Dec. 6-8, 2013 featuring Dr. Paul Liptz, a scholar and political analyst at the Hebrew Union College in Israel. It is being offered by Congregation Micah. □



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December 2013



Crossroads Campus: Saving pets and helping youth

Crossroads Campus, is a 501(c)(3) Nashville nonprofit founded in 2010. Our mission is to transform human lives by creating opportunities for individuals who face poverty and homelessness to care for homeless dogs and cats. We currently operate two programs.

Crossroads Pets- Shop & Adopt, 707 Monroe St., 37208 is a nonprofit, social enterprise that saves abandoned animals and provides healing and job training for at-risk teens and young adults. The store offers a wide variety of pet products, ranging from nutritional dog and cat food to interactive toys, and pet services, including grooming and self-wash. It is located in Historic Germantown near the Nashville Farmer's Market, The Gulch, and Metro Center. Since opening in March 2013, it has saved the lives of 62 cats and dogs through our pet adoption program in partnership with Metro Animal Care and Control (MACC). Four young people have received job training in basic animal care, pet grooming, dog training, in-store retail, and customer relations and marketing.

Caring Connections is a humane education and dog training program that gives young people the opportunity to socialize and train rescued pets to help prepare once homeless animals for successful adoptions while nurturing empathy, self-awareness, and self-esteem, all of which are critical to positive youth development.

We will launch a residential campus in 2015 to provide transitional housing for young people aging out of state custody who will, in turn, foster homeless dogs and cats awaiting adoption.

Nashville Holistic Pet: A loving approach to pet care

Nashville Holistic Pet was established around a simple concept: Provide our customers everything required for a holistic approach to happy, healthy pets. That includes quality nutritional products, a warm and welcoming environment, knowledgeable and friendly staff, expert grooming services, and the very best toys, treats and supplies.

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and cats are carnivores and need protein to support their best health. If it's not good enough for Sadie, Trevor, Mika, Lindsay, Kitty, Denver, Lucy or Diamond, (our personal pets), it's not good enough for our customers.

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You see, we love, love, love dogs and cats -- their sweet smiles, their wagging tails, their playful nature, their wet kisses and the way they make us feel when we cuddle up close to them.

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Invisible Fence: Making pets safe and secure

After 30 years of sales and management in corporate America -- and the extensive travel it involves -- Bob Moody decided it was time to get closer to home and focus his energy on a project closer to his heart.

"I was tired of traveling and wanted to enjoy being at home," said Moody, owner of Invisible Fence. As an animal lover, Moody wanted to have a business that would provide safety and security for the well-being of dogs and cats.

Moody purchased the Invisible Fence dealership in 1997. Invisible Fence Brand is the industry leader in the patented electronic containment of dogs and cats. They provide installation, service as well as training for the animals using the product.

"Our products keep dogs and cats safe within their owner's yard, and teaches them their boundaries," said Moody. "I was drawn to the dealership, as it has a solid, stable reputation. I've also spent a great deal of time developing and implementing a proactive customer follow-up program, which our customers love. It's why we have a 99.6 percent success rate with our customers and their pets."

That customer follow up can mean visiting customers homes and making necessary adjustments to the system, as well as working with the owner and pet together. "I like solving problems on the front end," Moody said. "Every customer and their pets have different needs. If a problem is every detected, a certified trainer returns to the home to correct it immediately."

Visit Invisible Fence at www.midtenn.invisiblefence.com.

Pet Portraits: Reflecting years of design and artistic experience

Years before moving to Nashville and finding her muse in her Boston terrier, Popeye, Brooklyn native Carrie Mills was awarded a scholarship at 17 to study at the prestigious

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Parsons School of Design in New York City where she majored in fashion design.

Her design career included stints at Anne Klein studio as well as Leeds luggage in Pittsburgh, which she helped become a leader in the field of business accessories. Upon moving to Nashville Carrie also created a line of handmade vests worn by numerous artists including Brooks and Dunn, Diamond Rio and Ringo Starr.

Upon joining the Plowhaus Gallery in Nashville, Carrie honed her talents in the fine arts. Her ability to capture the animals' spirit in her portraits has led to a formidable career path. Her pet portraits hang in many prestigious homes in Tennessee.

View her work on her website www.carriemillsdesign.com.

Aimee Stubbs: Nashville's "Best Pet Photographer"

As the official photographer for the Nashville Zoo, Aimee Stubbs spends most of her time working with animals. Her favorite subjects? Your pets!

Voted Nashville's "Best Pet Photographer" in 2012 and 2013 by readers of Nashville Paw Magazine, Aimee strives to capture the personality of your dog or cat in every image. Her diverse photographic education allows her to bring a unique and artistic style to her compositions. She creates beautiful and contemporary photos that highlight everything you love about the furry member of your family.

Pets grow so fast, and the time we get to spend with them is limited. A custom pet photography session ensures memories will live on long after your loyal friend has gone.

For more information, including pricing details, please visit her Website at www.NashvillePetPortraits.com or give her a call at 615-521-2632.

In addition to pets, Aimee photographs family portraits and special events. She also teaches animal photography classes and gives private photography lessons at the Nashville Zoo. Visit her full website at www.AimeeStubbs.com to view her entire portfolio.

The Cat Shoppe & Dog Store: Creating a welcoming environment

You can find this equal opportunity destination for pet owners in a cozy bungalow on Bransford Ave.

Owner Chris Achord focuses on creating a welcoming environment and puts as much care into the layout of the establishment as she does into the quality of the products. All the food and treats, including those at an economical price point, are all-natural and have no by-products, corn and added color.

The Dog Store welcomes both small and large pups on leash to search through an entire wall of dog treats and snacks, a variety of dog beds, the fashionable array of dog sweaters, collars and leashes, the shelves of breed-specific gifts, and a wall of dog toys which are designed to engage all the canine senses.

The Cat Shoppe is a peaceful place to spend part of a lunch hour browsing shelves of cat toys and cat-themed gifts.

The Cat Shoppe & Dog store is opened 7 days a week. □

Ohio rabbi has fun with new pet blessing ceremony

By Rebecca Meiser
Tablet

On a Sunday in late September, 13 dogs and one goldfish—and their owners—gathered in Rabbi Eddie Sukol's Cleveland backyard for the 11th annual blessing of creation ceremony.

"If the rabbi was giving out free blessings, we were going to take them," laughed Heidi Solomon, who came to the service with her easily excitable rescue dog, Moose. "We will take any blessings we can get."

The tradition of blessing pets is not exactly a Jewish one, Sukol, a Reform rabbi, acknowledged. It is, however, a centuries-old Catholic tradition attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, known as the patron saint of animals. Each year in the fall, Blessing of the Animals ceremonies take place at Franciscan churches across the country.

"I figured if it was good enough for St. Francis it was good enough for us," Sukol told the 40 participants and yarmulke-clad dogs with a laugh, "so I stole it from them."

It's a nice story, though it's not entirely true. Around 12 years ago, Sukol was teaching Hebrew school to elementary school students. His goal was to get them to connect Jewish life with daily life. And one of the things his classes

most wanted to talk about was their pets. So Sukol decided to put together a service with a few makeshift blessings his students and their parents could say to their pets. He ended the service with a folk song called "All God's Critters Have a Place in the Choir."

The attendees loved the service, and Sukol realized it could work as an annual event. In 2001, he offered the second annual blessing ceremony to his entire congregation, holding it, rather appropriately, on a Sunday between Torah readings of the creation story and the story of Noah. It was a huge hit—and Sukol got to know more of his congregants, including people like Cindy and Larry Mittman. They got married when they were 50, and since they were too old to have children, they adopted a dog they named Shimon, on their one-year anniversary.

Shimon, in many ways is their child—which they admit can occasionally make them feel left out of the community. The service brings them together with other people whose animals also mean a lot to them. Indeed, the annual service often turns into a therapy session of sorts for people who feel their pets have "rescued them."

"At these services I get to see another side of [my congregants] that I don't normally see," said Sukol, who has a dog himself—and a flock of chickens "And often people use this occasion as an opportunity to come up to me and talk about something serious in their lives."



There was a little canine schmoozing before Cleveland Rabbi Eddie Sukol conducted a Blessing of the Animals ceremony in September. PHOTO: FROM THE CLEVELAND JEWISH NEWS

The service is also ripe for all kinds of jokes and puns. The Mittmans joke that their dog is dyslexic and as a result, "He thinks he's God, not a dog."

Bonnie Krohngold said her dog "hates fatty meats and eats mostly grilled skinless boneless chicken, mixed with cheese," which, adds her husband, Wally, "makes her a very unkosher dog too." her husband Wally adds). This year's service had in attendance a dog nicknamed Mazel and one named Tov, who kept getting confused every time the words "mazel tov" were uttered.

When Sukol first started this service twelve years ago, he knew of no other rabbis doing anything similar. But since

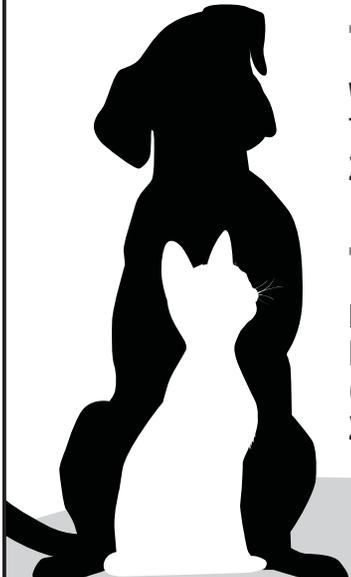
he's started, he's noticed the trend has taken off in cities in Florida, Michigan, New York, and California by rabbis who are looking for new ways to connect with their congregants.

Some Jewish leaders disapprove of this type of Christian-based service. "As Orthodox rabbis we work within the traditions of Jewish liturgy and experience," Rabbi Mark Dratch, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Council of America, explained. "We believe it's not our right or prerogative to create new ceremonies like this ... even if pets are an important part of the family."

But other rabbis think the blessing ceremony is a great outreach opportunity for their congregants. "We say blessings over all kinds of things: rainbows, unusual sights and sounds ... so why would we not say a blessing over family members who happen to be pets?" asked Rabbi Arnie Sleutelberg of the reform Congregation Shir Tikvah in Troy, Michigan.

Likewise, Sukol dismisses the detractors. "It's true this was originally a Christian thing that we've emulated, but imitation is the most sincere form of flattery," he laughed. "This is not Kol Nidre. Not everything has to be so serious."

This article is reprinted from Tablet Magazine, at tabletmag.com, the online magazine of Jewish news, ideas, and culture.



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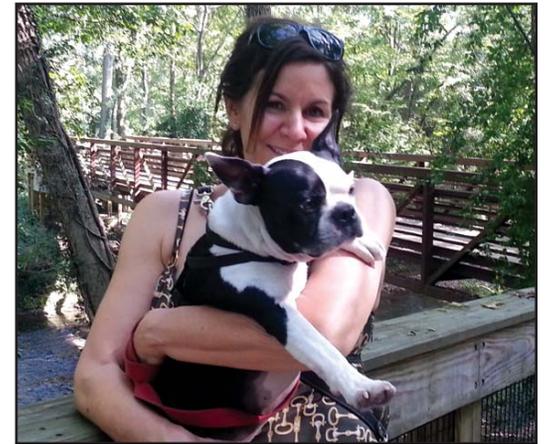
Marilyn Rubin's dog Major



Meryl and Keith Kraft and Sophie



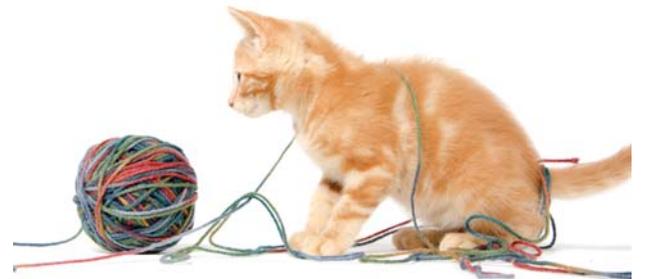
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Hillel at 90: The Jewish campus organization's past, present, and future

FROM STAFF AND
WIRE REPORTS

When Jacob Grossman arrived at Vanderbilt University from Chicago almost four years ago, he hoped to find the same kind of Jewish association he had enjoyed in his high school AZA chapter. So one of the first places he visited was the Vanderbilt Hillel chapter in the Schulman Center for Jewish Life.

"Hillel provided the community I was looking for," said Grossman, who served as the Vanderbilt Hillel president. "It became the center of my life on campus outside of classes."

Hillel, which celebrated its 90th anniversary last month, has come a long way since its humble beginnings in 1923 when Rabbi Benjamin Frankel began working with a small group of Jewish students on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Today Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life is an international organization that serves hundreds of thousands of students on 550 campuses, including Vanderbilt. And it has evolved from a primarily religious organization to a center of Jewish learning and culture that provides a variety of outlets for students to express their Jewish identities.

"In this dynamic and global environment, our young people will go off and pursue careers and opportunities all over the world, but the one time and place when we have the greatest critical mass of the future of the Jewish people is during the college years," said Eric Fingerhut, who became CEO of Hillel last summer.

While continuing to foster a community for American college students, Hillel also involved itself over the years in international causes such as bringing Jewish student refugees to the U.S. on education scholarships, working for the right of Soviet Jews to emigrate and growing support for Israel. Beginning in 1989 when Richard M. Joel took over as its president and international director, Hillel underwent another transformation through a building program that greatly expanded its infrastructure and footprint on many campuses.

The Vanderbilt Hillel chapter has been around for many years, but it has undergone a dramatic change since the late 1990s when the university, in a concerted effort to attract more Jewish students, began aggressively recruiting in areas with large Jewish populations and, with the help of private donations, built the Schulman Center. Since the Schulman Center opened in 2002, the university's undergraduate Jewish population has grown four-fold to about 1,000.

In serving this large, diverse Jewish population, the local Hillel tries to avoid insisting that students be Jewish in a certain way, said Ari Dubin, who is in his ninth year as its executive director. Instead it allows students to create communities that express their Judaism in a myriad of ways — whether through Shabbat services and dinners at the Schulman Center, community service groups, political activism or travel. (Next year the local Hillel's annual spring break trip will be to Cuba.)

"There is a tendency for Jews to think of their Jewish life as separate from their everyday life, something you keep in a box and take out at certain times and then put back," Dubin said. "We want to help our students see that Judaism is relevant to every aspect of their lives."

Because the programming is student-driven, it changes every year as some students graduate and other enroll. Several years ago, for example, the Vanderbilt Hillel sponsored Jewgrass, a student band that adapted Jewish music to the bluegrass style. With those students having graduated, Jewgrass is gone. But a new challah-baking class is underway, reflecting the interests of a new group of Jewish students.

In 2002, Hillel partnered with the Jewish Agency for Israel to create its Center for Israel Affairs. Among its

Israel-related activities, Hillel organized events, brought experts to speak on campuses, and trained students in Israel advocacy. Hillel also became involved with Taglit-Birthright Israel. Along with Vanderbilt Chabad, Vanderbilt Hillel is the primary local coordinator for Taglit-Birthright trips to Israel.

Hillel's work to connect American Jewish students with Israel has not come without controversy, often relating to the questions surrounding the group's "big tent" policy. Hillel's official guidelines state that the group will not "partner with, house or host organizations, groups or speakers that delegitimize, demonize or apply a double standard to Israel." But a student campaign, Open Hillel, was recently founded by students who feel excluded from Hillel because they believe their critical views about Israel are not accepted. Open Hillel held

its first national campaign meeting in September.

"There's a difference between a big tent and an open tent," said Wayne Firestone, former Hillel CEO and current president of the Genesis Prize Foundation. "We've never claimed that anything goes inside Hillel... To hold out to any individual student the notion that [he/she] would be welcome is separate from saying what kind of programs could be co-sponsored at Hillel or in collaboration with Hillel."

Said Fingerhut, "There's no question that Hillel loves Israel, Hillel is a pro-Israel organization, Hillel is about building Jewish identity... and at the core of Jewish identity is that Israel is the home of the Jewish people."

Alina Dain Sharon with JNS.org contributed to this story.



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Former Vandy soccer star Dana Schwartz makes aliyah and signs with Tel Aviv team

By CHARLES BERNSEN

It has always been Nashville native Dana Schwartz's dream to play professional soccer, and now she is -- as a member of ASA Tel Aviv in the Israeli Women's Premier League.

Schwartz, 21, was a star soccer player for Brentwood High School and then Vanderbilt University. "After my last college season ended in the fall of 2012, I knew that I was not ready to be done playing yet, so I began to pursue opportunities abroad," she said. By last June, she had two solid offers, one in Israel and another in Australia.

Still not having made up her mind, she left in July for Israel, where she helped the U.S. women's team win the soccer competition in the international Maccabiah Games. "A couple weeks into my trip, I made the decision to stay. I realized that there was some meaning to playing in Israel. It wasn't just another country. The added religious significance of living in Israel was ultimately what made me choose it over Australia."

So instead of returning to the U.S. after the Maccabiah Games, Schwartz took an offer to join the Tel Aviv team for a post-season tournament in Cyprus and then sign a contract for the 2013-2014 season, which began on Oct. 31. Early in November, she officially made *aliyah*, which means that, in addition to pursuing her professional career, she can represent Israel in international competitions.

"The experience has been unbelievable so far," Schwartz said, although she has had to adjust to a different style of play. "Israeli soccer is more European style, so it is small-sided, tight, and quick. American soccer is bigger--more physical and played more spread out. But I love the technical side of the game so I am enjoying it."

Schwartz, a midfielder, had garnered one goal and four assists as Tel Aviv won its first three games.

The Israeli Women's Premier League is a member of the Champions League of the Union of European Football Associations. While men's soccer is quite popular in Israel, Schwartz said, women's professional soccer is relatively new, though it is gaining interest and growing.



Dana Schwartz holds her new Israeli passport. The Nashville native made aliyah last month and is playing professional soccer in Israel.

And if you believe in omens, then Schwartz has received an auspicious one. She wore number 12 while playing for Vanderbilt, but that number was taken when she had to choose one for her new team. So she picked 21, the number she

had worn in high school. But when new uniforms were laid out for them before the first game, her shorts were too small. So a teammate sitting next to her offered to switch uniforms. Her new number?

12. □

6 DEGREES (NO BACON)

Celebrity Jews in the news

ABC wants more "Goldbergs"

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. -- Fans of "The Goldbergs," *kvell* away. ABC has announced it is picking up the fledgling comedy for a full season.

While the series received lukewarm reviews from critics, it is averaging 7.5 million viewers a week. Apparently folks like being inundated with 1980s memorabilia (think Rubik's Cube and "Ghostbusters" Halloween costumes) and hearing Jeff Garlin lovingly refer to his TV brood as idiots ad nauseam.

Yes, we think it's cool that a Jewish family is standing in for the average American family. That said, is it so wrong to hope for a little more overt Jewishness now that the season has been extended? We're envisioning a



A scene from the ABC show "The Goldbergs," starring Jeff Garlin, Wendi McLendon-Covey and George Segal. PHOTO: ABC/ERIC MCCANDLESS

Chanukah episode, a seder or, even better, some blue eye-shadowed, shoulder-padded bar mitzvah action.

NBC picks up Israeli TV series set in Jerusalem

How does this sound for the premise of a television series: An FBI agent who, while investigating a murder in Jerusalem, stumbles upon a conspiracy intertwined with the ancient city's history. Well, good news: American TV bigwigs think it's a winner.

"Dig," penned by Gideon Raff, the Israeli writer behind "Homeland" and its Israeli counterpart "Prisoners of War," has been picked up by Universal Cable Productions for USA Network, a subsidiary of NBC Universal.

Israeli TV shows have, for several years, been finding success on small screens overseas, but the six-episode deal struck by "Dig" creators marks the first

time a U.S. network has committed to an entire series of an Israeli-produced show without buying a pilot first.

Even more impressive, "Dig" won't be shot somewhere like Malta. The series, co-written by "Heroes" writer Tim Kring, will be filmed on location in Jerusalem.

Baron Cohen "kills" at awards ceremony

Sacha Baron Cohen killed when he took the stage at the BAFTA Los Angeles Jaguar Britannia Awards Saturday night. Literally. He killed an old lady, or at least that's what everyone thought for a minute there.

The Jewish comic actor was being presented the Charlie Chaplin Britannia Award for Excellence in Comedy by Grace Cullington, an 87-year-old wheelchair-bound woman billed as Chaplin's oldest living co-star.

Cullington gave Baron Cohen a cane she said belonged to Chaplin. He then proceeded to use the cane as a prop in an impromptu Chaplin impersonation. All very sweet, until the cane broke, causing him to fall...into the wheelchair, throwing Cullington off the stage, and, supposedly, to her death.

"Grace Collington is the oldest, sorry, was the oldest... I dedicate my award to her," Baron Cohen said, "It's obviously a tragedy, but on the bright side what a great way to go. She'll probably make the Oscars In Memoriam section... Anyway tonight is not about her, it's about me."

It was, of course, a prank. The low-down on "Cullington" from the *Los Angeles Times*: She was a stuntwoman with no connection to Chaplain. □

6 Degrees (No Bacon) is a regular roundup of news about Jewish celebrities by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

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B'nei Mitzvah

Simon Weinberger was called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* on Oct. 12 at The Temple. Born on March 17, 2000, he is the son of Mindy and Michael Weinberger. His grandparents are Ronnye and Dale Kendrick of Memphis, Charles Fineberg of Memphis and Sylvia and the late Sherron Weinberger of Nashville.



Simon Weinberger

Simon has been collecting donations for Happy Tales Humane Shelter's wish list as his mitzvah project. He is in seventh grade at Currey Ingram, and his special interests include basketball, video games, working on the computer and trading Yu-Gi-Oh cards with his friends.

Harrison Halprin was called to the Torah as *bar mitzvah* on Oct. 23 at The Temple. He is the son of Mayu and Jon Halprin. His grandparents are Hilda Rondon De Bautista of Colombia, South America, the late Gerald and Bonnie Halprin and the late Ambrosio Bautista.



Harrison Halprin

Harrison's mitzvah project has been collecting soda tabs for the Ronald McDonald House which support programs that directly improve the health and well being of children. He is in seventh grade at Lighthouse and his special interests include golf, tennis, piano, karate, traveling and being with family and friends.

Daley Hall was called to the Torah as a *bat mitzvah* on Nov. 2 at The Temple. Born on Oct. 23, 2000, she is the daughter of Tami and Jeffrey Hall. Her grandparents are Charles and Alyse Sprintz of Nashville and Eleanor and Nathan Hall of Los Angeles.



Daley Hall

Her mitzvah project is a donation to Locks of Love, which provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada. Daley is in seventh grade at University School of Nashville. Her special interests include volleyball.

Jonathan Ghertner was called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* on Nov. 9 at the Temple. Born on November 21, 2000 in Nashville, he is the son of Lynn and Scott Ghertner. His grandparents are Barbara and Frank Ghertner, Arlene and Jerry Averbuch, and the late Dr. Morris A. Lebovitz.



Jonathan Ghertner

Jonathan's mitzvah project is assisting the children of the First Teed golf program to learn the

fundamentals of golf as well as the core values that can be used both on the course and throughout life. Jonathan is in seventh grade at University School of

Nashville. He enjoys playing golf and basketball, watching football and spending time with his family and friends.

Daniel Jacobs was called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* on Nov. 16 at The Temple. Born on Sept. 27, 2000, he is the son of William and Erica Jacobs. His grandparents are Kenneth and Ellen Jacobs of Nashville and Mitchell Weinstein of Nashville and Sheila Wiselman of Chicago.



Daniel Jacobs

Daniel's mitzvah project has seen him working around the grounds of Abe's Garden at Park Manor, which assists those suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Daniel also presented an educational session on the high holidays for residents.

Kimberly Kiepek will be called to the Torah as a *bat mitzvah* on Dec. 7 at Congregation Micah. She is the daughter of Wendy and Jonathan Kiepek and sister of Andrew.

For her mitzvah project, she made several donations to local and national organizations that include: Ronald McDonald House, Nashville Rescue Mission, Rails to Trails (converts old railroad tracks to bike ways and nature trails), National Parks Reserves. Kimberly is passionate about preserving the environment. She enjoys reading about environmental issues and educating others. In addition to becoming a vegetarian over the past year, she encourages the rest of the family to eat more environmentally friendly foods.

Kimberly is a seventh grader at Woodland Middle School in Brentwood. She is active in several clubs, including Students Taking a Right Stand (STARS), the Forensics Club, Beta Club, Science Club and chorus. Kimberly loves the outdoors and enjoys sailing, hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, and camping with her family and her two dogs Ziggy and Blizzard. Her biggest accomplishments this summer were hiking to the summits of Wheeler Peak in New Mexico (13,167 feet) and Mt. Elbert in Colorado (14,433 feet). Kimberly also earned her boating license during summer camp.

Honors

Nashville singer/songwriter **Stacy Beyer** has been named one of Time magazine's "10 Stars of New Jewish Music."

"What an honor and thrill it is to be included on this list Jewish music artists who are not only incredibly talented, but who also inspire me creatively," said Beyer.

A New York native, Beyer moved to Nashville to pursue a career in country music, but her artistic focus shifted to contemporary Jewish music. She has produced three CDs and tours the United States performing at synagogues and for various Jewish camps, community centers and communal organizations.

Her work is widely performed by rabbis, cantors and congregational and community choirs. Her most recent project was the Candle Blessing Project, a recording that includes 60 well-known contemporary musicians celebrating the lights of Shabbat. All proceeds from the project benefit the Religious Action Center.



Stacy Beyer

Gabrielle Kaye of Hopkinsville, KY, was among five young Jewish women across the nation selected to represent the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) last month in Israel at the 25th anniversary celebration of Women of the Wall, a group working to secure equality for women at Judaism's holiest site. The NFTY delegation, which was selected based on their positions as leaders among their peers, spent time learning from and lobbying with the leading female voices in the Jewish world. Kaye is a senior at University Heights Academy in Hopkinsville, and her family attends The Temple in Nashville. Her trip was made possible in part by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

Sympathy

... to the family of **Arthur S. Gunzberg**, 101, who died on Oct. 26 in Evanston, IL. He was born on December 24, 1911 in Buffalo, NY and graduated from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. He built M. Wile & Co., an apparel manufacturer started by and named for his grandfather in 1877, into the largest volume men's suit maker in the country, with brands such as Johnny Carson and Pierre Cardin. In 1969 he sold the company to Hart Schaffner & Marx, later Hartmarx, and remained its chairman and a director until his retirement in 1985. A world traveler, Mr. Gunzberg made it his mission to visit the most inaccessible spots on the planet. Among his trips was a voyage to Antarctica, where he spent hours in an inflatable raft after his ship ran aground before being rescued by the Chilean navy. Arthur lived in Buffalo, NY where he was married for 48 years to the former Aline duBin, who passed away in 1984. He then moved to Nashville, where he was married for 27 years to Sylvia Hyman, Nashville's internationally renowned ceramic artist, who died in December, 2012. He leaves a son, Guy (Joan) of Evanston, IL; a step son, Paul (Myrna) Hyman of Fairfax, VA; a step daughter, Jackie Hyman (Kurt Wilson) of Brea, CA; two grandsons; two great-grandsons and two step grandsons. Services were in Evanston. Memorials in his memory may be made to the Southern Poverty Law Center or the Evanston Community Foundation.

... to the family of **Bernard Hindes**, who died on Oct. 26. He is survived by his daughter-in-law, Debbie Umans, and granddaughter, Robyn. A memorial service was held in New York. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his honor to Congregation Micah.

... to the family of **Estelle Marguerite Fisher Jacobs**, age 87, who passed away peacefully on Oct. 28. She was preceded in death by parents, Nettie and Nathan Fisher, and brother, Herbert Fisher. She is survived by her devoted husband of 64 years, Eli West Jacobs; children, Norman Jacobs, Shelley Antin

(Bob), Robbie Lustig (Ron) and Jan Hoffman (Colman); grandchildren, Natalie and Jamie Antin, Brian, Tracey and Andy Lustig, Allyson and Mark Hoffman, and Laura Hoffman Shmerling (Phil). Estelle was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, teacher and friend. A native of Nashville, she graduated in 1948 from Vanderbilt University. Her greatest joys in life were her husband, children and grandchildren. She was a gifted lifelong teacher at the Akiva School and Burton Elementary School. For many years she and Eli, her devoted husband of 64 years, owned and operated Zager's Fine Foods. She was a voracious reader and scrabble player extraordinaire, and had great talent for gardening, knitting and cooking. Throughout her life she maintained a sharp sense of wit. Special thanks to her loving caregiver, Kay Britton. Graveside services were held Nov. 1 at The Temple Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to either The Temple of Nashville, The Halcyon Hospice of Atlanta Georgia or to charity of choice.

... the family of **Herman Mark "Herb" Mathias**, 81, who died at home on Oct. 31. He was born in Nashville on Oct. 5, 1932 to the late Hazel Loveman and Julius Mathias. He was preceded in death by his brother, Marvin (Cy) Cypress. In addition to his wife, Sarah Neeley Mathias, Herb's Nashville survivors include nephews David and Larry Cypress. Herb was an automobile salesman and later a mortgage broker. With a beautiful smile and delightfully witty sense of humor, he was a happy optimist who made everyone's life better. A memorial service was held Nov. 6 at The Temple. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice.

... the family of **Phyllis H. Friedman**, of Murfreesboro, formerly of Cherry Hill NJ and Moorestown, NJ, who died on Oct. 29. Her Nashville area survivors include her son, Mark (Ruthie Beckwith) Friedman of Murfreesboro. Services were in Cherry Hill with burial in Mt. Sharon Cemetery in Springfield, PA.

... the family of **Howard Alvin Nitzberg**, who died on Nov. 9. He is survived by his daughter, Joann Bregman (Daniel). Graveside services were held at Congregation Sherith Israel's Cemetery (KKSI).

... to the family of **Neora Ruth Flantzman** died on Nov. 10. Her Nashville area survivors include her son, Dror Flantzman (Somphet), and grandchildren, Talia, Ben and Shani. A memorial service was to be held in Israel.



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Concert by Cantor Fishbein set for Dec. 7 The Temple

Cantor Tracy Fishbein will present a concert on Dec. 7 at The Temple entitled "The Songs of the Scrolls."

The concert will feature compositions by Nashville composer Ellie Flier based on the books for Lamentations, Ruth, the Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes and Esther. Cantor Fishbein will be accompanied by Russell Davis on the piano and Rick Kleiner on the guitar.

The concert begins at 7 p.m. and will be followed by light refreshments.

Chabad offering course on Jewish engagement with the world

Chabad of Nashville has started a new series of courses called "The Need for Jewish PR: Why Jews Must Engage the World."

Historically Jews have responded to persecution by either assimilating with the larger society or segregating themselves from it. Living in a free society presents a new challenge: how to be part of society but not be consumed by it.

The course began on Nov. 25 and will run through April with a two week hiatus at the halfway point. Classes will be held at 7:30 p.m. every Monday on the Chabad campus at 95 Bellevue Road. The cost is \$8 a class or \$65 for the entire series; however, no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Those who need scholarships for the course can contact the Chabad office at (615) 646-5750.

Hanai new PJ Library coordinator

Sara Hanai is the new coordinator of the PJ Library for Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

Hanai grew up in Philadelphia and received her masters in physical therapy from Ithaca College. She moved to Nashville in 1999 as an Americorps Promise Fellow for Hands On Nashville,

where she was responsible for coordinating youth volunteer projects.

She worked for Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee for two years as staff associate and then took some time off to be with her children. During that time, she also served on the GJCC Board and was delegation head for the Nashville Maccabi Team as well as chair of the Early Childhood learning center committee. Hanai also served on the Board of the Akiva School, chairing their strategic planning committee, as well as the Jewish Federation's Campaign Cabinet. She and her husband, Ramin, have four children, all of whom attend Akiva.

PJ Library, a Jewish family engagement program, mails free high-quality Jewish children's literature and music to families across the continent on a monthly basis. Hanai said she understands that some families don't have easy access to Jewish life and others who want to help their children learn to live Jewishly may not even know how to start.

Her goal is to make PJ Library a starting point and a place where parents can find friends for themselves and their children. Her vision is for PJ Library to be as much about building and growing community as about receiving books in the mail.

The program is open to any family with Jewish children from ages 6 months up to 5-8 years (depending on the community). Those interested can sign up on the PJ Library website at www.pjlibrary.org or contact Hanai directly by calling (615) 473.1011 or emailing her at pjlibrary@nashvillejcc.org.

The PJ Library is a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, made possible through partnerships with philanthropists and local Jewish organizations. The local PJ Library is a partnership of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, The Temple, Congregation Micah, West End Synagogue and the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

Hadassah Nashville to introduce to officers and board

The Nashville Chapter of Hadassah will introduce its incoming president,

Leslie J. Klein, along with other new officers and board members at its annual fundraiser this month.

Klein, who has been a Hadassah Life Member in three states, moved to Nashville two years ago and made an immediate impact, initiating a successful Torah study group with Arlene Lapp. She has been selected by Hadassah to attend "Making Your Impact Count: Leadership Training for Our Second Century" next year in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"Hadassah is so well-known for our support of medical research, and for the stellar hospitals serving all populations in Israel," Klein said. "Less well-known perhaps are the other dimensions to this worldwide organization: serving the social and medical needs of children at risk, advancing the achievement and visibility of women, and supporting the cause of Zionism."

"My goal for the next two years is to bring to Nashville's attention the full nature of Hadassah's efforts on behalf of Israel and the Jewish people."

The new slate of officers for 2014-2015 will be introduced on Dec. 14 at the Hadassah Mystery Night Donor Event at West End Synagogue. They will be installed in February. In addition to Klein, the new officers and board members are Karen Weissman and Jackie Harrison, co-vice presidents of education and programming; Robbie Lasky, vice president of members; Victoria Cohen-Crumpton, vice president of fundraising; Ellen Hirsch, treasurer; Arlene Lapp, assistant treasurer; Michelle Gutman, recording secretary; Ruth Klar, corresponding secretary, and Jill Melody, parliamentarian.

JFS launches new website

Jewish Family Services has launched a newly revamped Website www.jfs-nashville.org that makes it easy for users to access information about its broad range of services.

The website is set-up so that the home page displays the six areas of service offered by the agency: adoption, counseling, services for seniors, family life and community enrichment, financial assistance, and information and referral. Clicking on the appropriate link allows users to explore one area of service more fully. For example, by clicking on services for seniors, users will find the nine JFS programs and services for the senior population.

In addition to providing easy access to the agency's comprehensive list of

services, the new Website has information about the agency's 160 year history, mission, and leadership; financial statements, and ways to support the JFS. We hope that you enjoy learning more about your Jewish Family Service -- Supporting Our Community, One Child, One Adult, One Family at a Time.

Mills to perform Dec. 17 at Sunflower Café

Singer/songwriter Carrie Mills will perform a solo acoustic set of her original music at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 17th at 6:30 at the Sunflower Café, 2834 Azalia Place.

Mills's music can be heard on Spotify or on her two CDs found on her website www.carriemills.com. She has played throughout Europe and performed her original song inspired by the words of Anne Frank, "The Beauty that Still Remains," during a ceremony this year on Yom Hashoah, Day of Remembrance, at the state capitol. She also works for Jewish Family Service's program Helping Hands program providing music therapy for seniors with Alzheimer's and dementia.



Wearing a cap proclaiming "I Served With Pride," Robert Mamlin was among 100 people who attended a Veterans Day lunch and celebration last month at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. Mamlin served with General George Patton's 3rd Army during World War II, fought battles in France and Germany and helped liberate the Dachau concentration camp. Sitting behind him is Robert Eisenstein, who also helped liberate Dachau.

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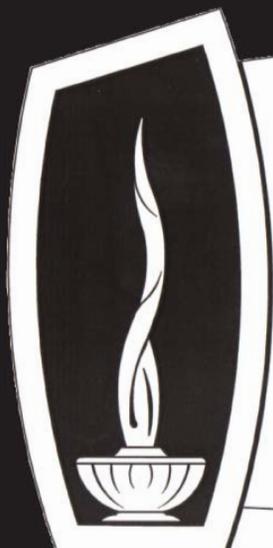
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NEW & RENEWING ADS ARE SHADED

Oy Vey! Special GJCC exhibit will feature paintings and photos of Jewish comedians

By CHARLES BERNSEN

Humor has long had an important place in Jewish culture, and Jewish comics have always had an outsized role in the American comedy scene. Next month the Gordon Jewish Community Center will celebrate that role with an exhibition of paintings and photos of famous Jewish American comedians from Groucho Marx and Rodney Dangerfield to Gilda Radner and Jerry Seinfeld.

“Oy Vey, Jewish Comedians in the House” will feature the work of two well-known Nashville artists, freelance illustrator Jason Erwin and celebrity photographer Raeanne Rubenstein. The special exhibition will be on display indefinitely in the House Gallery in the GJCC’s northeast wing along with famous jokes and sayings from many of the subjects. The works will be available for purchase, and the exhibition will be replenished with new works from Rubenstein and Erwin as they are sold.

An opening reception with the artists will be held at 7 p.m. on Dec. 11,

and to get everyone in the proper frame of mind, the reception will feature a comedy routine by Nashville actor and comic Brian Schlanger.

The concept of the exhibition was the brainchild of Carrie Mill, manager of the GJCC galleries. She was looking for something “fun and with a Jewish theme” to replace the photos and paintings of sports figures that have hung in the House Gallery for years. After she decided on the theme of Jewish comedians, several of her friends encouraged her to get in touch with Rubenstein, whose career as a celebrity photographer has spanned four decades and whose work has appeared frequently in the *Village Voice* and *Rolling Stone* magazine.

Although Rubenstein is perhaps best known for her photographs of country music icons – her subjects have included luminaries such as George Jones, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, Loretta Lynn and Dolly Parton -- she also has photographed dozens of comedians, many of them Jewish.

“The joy of photographing comedians is that they truly are funny, and the photos reflect that,” said Rubenstein, a native of Staten Island, New York who moved to Nashville in 2000. The subjects of her photos in the GJCC exhibition include Gilda Radner, Rodney Dangerfield, David Brenner, Al Franken, Judd Hirsch, Robert Klein, Paul Schaeffer, Harry Shearer, Shel Silverstein, Paul Krassner, Marshall Efron, Josh Mostel and Carol Leifer.

All of the photos were taken decades ago, and pulling them together



Raeanne Rubenstein
BY JERRY ATNIP



Raeanne Rubenstein’s photo of humorist, author and actor Marshall Efron is one of 15 photographs of Jewish comedians that will part of an exhibition beginning next month at the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

for this exhibition has rekindled her interest in comedians as photographic subjects. “I’d like to continue with it,” she said. “It’s an interesting project for the future.”

Erwin is well known in Nashville for his paintings depicting music celebrities and sports figures that adorn the walls in almost two dozen area restaurants. He had never done any paintings of comedians, but happily agreed to produce some for the exhibit when approached by Mills. He said his choice of subjects reflects an effort to cover the history of American Jewish comedy from the Three Stooges and Fanny Brice to Phyllis Diller and Lenny Bruce to Woody Allen, Larry David and Jerry Seinfeld.

“It has been a wonderful experience,” he said. □



Jason Erwin’s painting of comedian Don Rickles is one of a dozen by the Nashville artist that will be in the exhibition.

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