

the Jewish Observer

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1 Kislev-2 Tevet 5777



Chanukah arriving late but public celebrations start early

Chanukah is traditionally observed in the home, but public celebrations have become commonplace, and this year is no exception.

In Nashville that includes congregational Chanukah parties and other communal events like the lighting each evening of the big Limor Menorah in front of Congregation Sherith Israel and the annual state and municipal candle-lighting ceremonies presided over by Mayor

Megan Berry and Gov. Bill Haslam and other government dignitaries.

New this year is “A Country Chanukah” on Monday, Dec. 26 hosted by Chabad of Nashville at the Gaylord Opryland resort, where former members of the Israeli Defense Force will light a six-foot, 500-pound menorah carved out of ice. The 6 p.m. event will include ice skating, Jewish music and latkes and donuts.

The Festival of Lights begins this year on the evening of Saturday, Dec. 24, although the celebrations get under way

well before that, including the annual community-wide Chanukah Festival at the Gordon Jewish Community Center on Sunday, Dec. 18.

The event is geared especially for families and children, and this year will feature Mr. Steve the Music Man, a local children’s musician who does a weekly morning radio show on WRLT Lightning 100 and emcees the Kid Zone for the station’s Live on the Green concerts in Centennial Park.

The Chanukah Festival, which drew

about 500 people last year, begins at 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 a person with a \$30 limit for families. In addition to the musical entertainment, the festival includes a full kosher dinner featuring the famous latkes prepared by Bernie Pargh and his team of assistant chefs.

As in years past, there will also be art projects and games for children, said Jack Simon, director of children’s programming at the GJCC. And this year there are plans for a service project involving PJ Library. •

Fundraiser celebrates JFS role in assisting LGBT adoptions

By CHARLES BERNSEN

When he decided to adopt a child more than 16 years ago, Dr. Christopher Harris, an openly gay man, spent almost two years trying to find an agency in Nashville that would even complete the home study necessary to qualify him as a potential adoptive parent.

Then he turned to Jewish Family Service, whose adoption agency finished the home study in two months. Not long afterwards, Harris adopted a new born girl, becoming the first openly gay person to become an adoptive parent through JFS.

Now a pediatric pulmonologist with Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, Harris flew to Nashville last month to tell his story at the annual LGBT fundraiser for Adoption Journeys, a program of JFS.

“If not for Jewish Family Service, my life would be much less full,” said Harris. Standing at his side was his daughter, Maria, now 14.

About 85 people attended the Nov. 3 event at the West Meade hill-top home of Curtis Shaw and Desmond

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With his adoptive daughter at his side, Dr. Christopher Harris, speaks at the recent fundraiser for Adoption Journeys, where he thanked the JFS program for stepping up to help him adopt a child in 2002 when other agencies wouldn't.
(Photos by Lynne Srebnik)

Nashville Jewish Federation issues post-election statement

The Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee is committed, as noted in its mission statement, to promoting the cohesiveness of the Nashville Jewish community. Jewish Federation constituents represent a range of views across the entire political spectrum and the Jewish Federation continues, as it always has, to maintain strict neutrality and neither endorses nor opposes candidates for elected office. We seek to work in a productive manner with all candidates who are elected to political office at all levels of government. We will continue to do so.

We acknowledge that as a result of the most recent election and the events leading up to that election have caused broad divisions across our society. We are deeply concerned about the incidents of hatred that have occurred in the wake of the election and we condemn any act of verbal or physical

violence targeted at any individual or group. We express our willingness to work with those who seek to preserve and strengthen the Jewish community and the broader community and to protect those who are the targets of bigoted acts, hatred and marginalization.

We are also concerned with the increased number of incidents of anti-Semitism over the past several months and through the work of our Jewish Federation and its Community Relations Committee we reaffirm our ongoing commitment to combatting anti-Semitism and preserving the safety and the security of the Jewish people at home and abroad.

As we move through a period of transition, we express our hope and our desire that our Jewish community and the broader community will emerge stronger and more united as we seek to work collaboratively with all partners of good will in these very challenging times. Please join us in this important work.

Lisa Perlen
President

Ron Galbraith
Chair, Community Relations Committee

Mark S. Freedman
Executive Director

Abbie Wolf
Community Relations Director



Jewish Nashville launches four-year push to promote legacy giving
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The Federation's 2017 President's Award will go to Patti and David Steine.
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Hypnotist Ricky Kalmon will headline GJCC's Big Night Out next month
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Jewish Nashville launches four-year push to promote legacy giving

By CHARLES BERNSEN

Representatives from 13 local Jewish institutions and agencies were encouraged last month to take part in Life & Legacy, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation designed to secure endowments and raise awareness of legacy giving within Jewish communities.

The group – 52 professional and lay leaders – met for dinner on Nov. 17 at the Gordon Jewish Community Center, where they heard a presentation from Christine Kutnick of the Grinspoon Foundation. Represented at the meeting were the city's five Jewish congregations along with the Jewish Federation and Foundation, the GJCC, Jewish Family Service, Akiva School, Vanderbilt Hillel, BBYO and the local chapters of Hadassah and the National Council of Jewish Women.

Kutnick identified two key factors behind Harold Grinspoon's decision to launch Life & Legacy almost four years ago. First, few Jewish communal organizations derive at least 20 percent their annual operating budgets from endowments, the level recommended for non-profit organizations. Second, there is an unprecedented generational transfer of wealth underway – \$59 trillion, by some estimates – that could address the under-endowment problem.

"What Harold Grinspoon wanted to know was whether communities can be motivated to become proactive in encouraging widespread legacy giving," Kutnick said.

So far, she said, the answer seems to be "yes." As of June, Life & Legacy had helped almost 400 Jewish organizations secure legacy commitments valued at \$421 million, Kutnick said.



Christine Kutnick



Jewish Federation President Lisa Perlen speaks to 52 leaders representing 13 local Jewish synagogues, institutions and agencies during last month's kick off of Life & Legacy, a program aimed at boosting endowments and legacy giving in the Nashville Jewish community.

Last August, the Grinspoon Foundation invited The Nashville Jewish community to join 35 others participating in the Life & Legacy program. The Grinspoon Foundation will provide a third of the funding, while the Jewish Federation and Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee will provide the rest and also administer the program locally.

"I have been overwhelmed by the positive response to this opportunity," Risa Klein Herzog, director of foundation development for the Nashville Jewish Foundation, told the group. "We will be a partner and facilitator for you to grow your endowments."

Kutnick is the Grinspoon Foundation consultant who will be working with the Nashville community, and last month's meeting was an opportunity for her to explain the potential benefits of the program and how it works.

Each organization represented at the meeting has been invited to take part in Life & Legacy by establishing a detailed plan that includes potential donors, a marketing strategy and goals for securing commitments. They also have been asked to name a team of at least one staff member and three lay leaders responsible for carrying out the plan.

The participating organizations will receive special training in securing and managing endowments as well as mar-

keting assistance and financial incentives of up to \$22,500 each over the course of the four-year program, depending on how many legacy commitments they secure.

Both Herzog and Kutnick emphasized that Life & Legacy is not a competition but rather a joint effort to secure the community's future. The financial incentives, for instance, depend not only on whether individual organizations meet their commitment goals but also on whether together they meet a communitywide goal.

The program is set up so that donors will not be put in the position of choosing one organization over others. Instead they will be encouraged to make legacy gifts to several participating if they wish. In other communities participating in Life & Legacy, endowment commitments typically include two or three beneficiary

organizations, Kutnick said.

Kutnick also dispelled some common misconceptions that often make non-profit organizations reluctant to actively promote legacy giving and pursue endowments. For example, she said legacy giving tends to help rather than hurt an organization's annual fundraising by increasing the commitment of donors. Nor are conversations about legacy giving about death; while endowments are often associated primarily with seniors, the largest cohort of legacy givers is between the ages of 40 and 49.

And beyond its financial importance, Kutnick said, legacy giving also can play a crucial role in building commitment to and inclusion in the Jewish community, which is why the Life & Legacy program goals focus on the number of donors and not the size of their gifts.

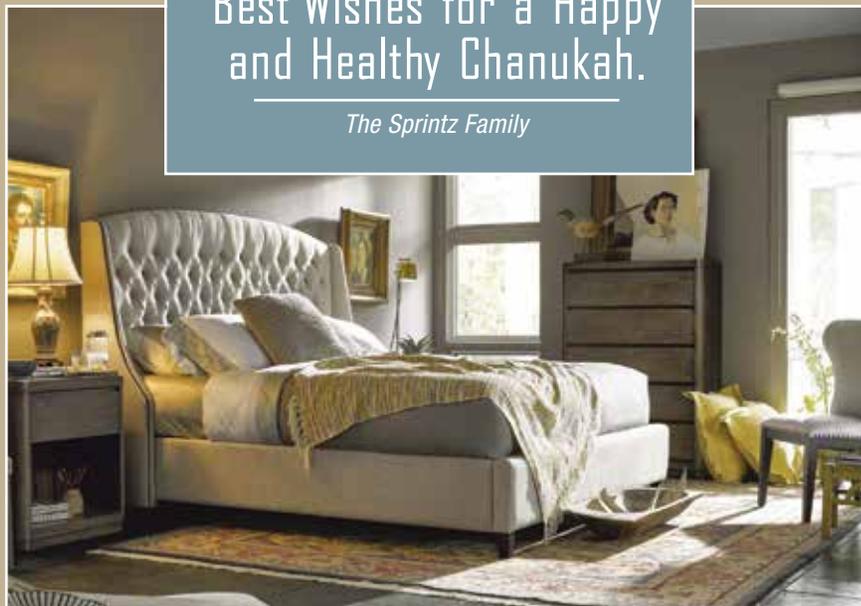
To illustrate, she began and ended her talk with the story of woman of modest means who decided, after being approached by her rabbi, to leave her synagogue the only thing of value she owned – a percentage of the value of her home.

Said Kutnick, "When she told the rabbi about her decision, she said, 'Thank you rabbi. You have given me the opportunity to do something meaningful for the organization I care about.'"

The meeting ended with remarks by Federation President Lisa Perlen and Adam Landa, development chair of the Jewish Foundation, emphasizing the importance of legacy giving. •

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Fundraiser

Continued from page 1

Child. It was the fifth such fundraiser by Nashville's LGBT community to support adoption services at JFS, which has assisted in 136 adoptions involving gay parents since Harris adopted his daughter in 2002. Of those, 39 were original adoptions like Harris's and another 97 were second-parent adoptions that conveyed legal parental status to the partner of a gay or lesbian parent.

Harris was introduced by social worker Teri Sogol, who has been with JFS since 1982 and helped him through the adoption process.

Using the Yiddish word *bashert*, or fortuitous, Sogol recounted approaching Maria's biological mother, who was then pregnant and looking for an adoptive home for her unborn child. Asked if she would consider placing the child with a gay man, Sogol recalled, "She burst out laughing. She said, 'There are several gay people in my family and they all spoil the children, so my only concern is that he would spoil my child.'"

The Adoption Journeys fundraiser began in 2012 as a way for the LGBT community to support JFS and to say thanks for the role in pioneering same-sex adoptions in the Nashville area, said Stan Schklar, who has chaired all five fundraisers. Aside from Harris and his daughter, this year's event also recognized Marietta Shipley, the former Davidson County Circuit Court judge who was the first Nashville area judge to approve a second-parent adoption.

Ironically, with the U.S. Supreme Court's legalization of same-sex marriage obviating the need of gay couples for sec-



JFS has assisted in 136 adoptions involving LGBT individuals or same-sex parents since 2002, including the families shown in these photos.

ond-parent adoptions, this year's LGBT fundraiser will be the last.

Still, because of JFS's history as a pioneer in adoptive services for same-sex couples and gay individuals, JFS Executive Director Pam Kelner said she expects the agency's special relationship with the Nashville LGBT community to continue as it facilitates original adoptions.

So did several of the dozens of adoptive parents who attended the fundraiser.

"I will be eternally grateful to JFS for the biggest blessing in my life," said Maria Salas, who was accompanied by her adopted 10-year-old daughter, Owen.

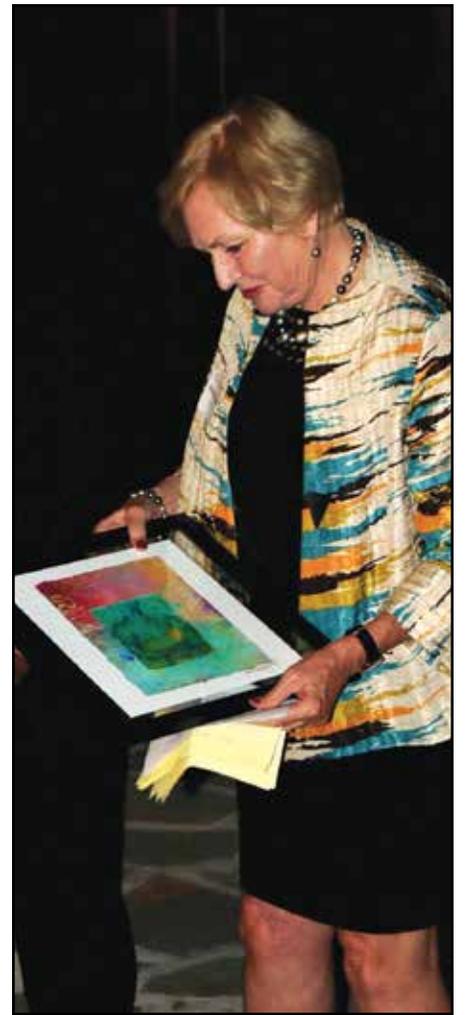
For JFS board member Patty Marks, the agency's effort to provide adoption services for the LGBT community is deeply personal.

"I have a gay son, and I want to

be supportive of the LGBT community," she said. "I'm thrilled that marriage equality has brought adoption equality. But should it ever become an issue again, I want everyone to know that JFS will continue to be there."

Sogol noted that providing adoptions services for the LGBT community is in the DNA of JFS, which started providing them 40 years ago to help another under-served group – the Jewish community.

And in presenting a special award to Schklar for his efforts with the fundraiser, Kelner said that supporting same-sex adoption affirms the traditional Jewish value that every human being "is created in the image of God." •



Former Circuit Court Judge Marietta Shipley receives a painting created by the late artist Kaaren Hirschowitz Engel, a longtime JFS supporter, in recognition of Shipley's role in facilitating adoptions by same-sex couples. In 2005 she became the first Davidson County judge to approve a second-parent adoption.

Corrections and Clarifications

Grant Smith is an E7 in the U.S. Army Reserve. His official rank, which is the equivalent of a sergeant first class, was wrong in a story in last month's issue. •

**MARY AND HARRY ZIMMERMAN
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Over thirty years of research on the impact of the Israel Experience has shown that teens are at a critical time of development when they are shaping their patterns of adult Jewish identity and loyalties. An Israel program can enhance or complement a formal Jewish education. It can also affect those who may have been deprived of a rich Jewish life. Positive moments and memories are central factors in the development of affirming group identification. The purpose is to strengthen Jewish identity.

The next generation's commitment to the Jewish people can be greatly affected by the experience of being in Israel as a teen. The Jewish Federation of Nashville realizes this benefit and encourages families to consider sending their young people to Israel by offering incentive grants. These grants are available to 9th-12th graders as well as college students through the Mary & Harry Zimmerman Youth Exchange Endowment Fund. Programs that may qualify for partial scholarship grants include March of the Living, JCC Maccabi Xperience, NFTY, Ramah, USY, Volunteers for Israel, High School in Israel and BBYO.

For more information please contact Tania Bukengolts, office administrator, at tania@jewishnashville.org or at 615.354.1668

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□ □ STAFF □ □

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

Editorial Submissions Policy and Deadlines

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

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

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

Patti and David Steine will receive President's Award at the annual Bonim Society Dinner on Jan. 29

Patti and David Steine, Jr. are the recipients of the 2017 President's Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

Federation President Lisa Perlen will present the award to the Steines next month at the annual dinner of the Federation's Bonim Society, which includes individuals and couples who make a gift of \$1,000 or more to its annual campaign.

The dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 29 at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. For more information contact Naomi Limor Sedek at naomi@jewishnashville.org.

"I cannot think of two individuals who are more worthy due to the enormous collective impact they have had in enriching Jewish life in our Jewish community and beyond, over many years," said Federation President Lisa Perlen. "Our community is profoundly grateful to Patti and David for all they have accomplished at the Jewish Federation and for other Jewish organizations and I am very much looking forward to paying a special tribute to each of them."

David Steine, a member of the Federation board of directors, is a past president (1986-88) and campaign chair (1999) of the Federation and was its representative on the Akiva School Board of directors from 2013-16. Patti Steine served on the the Federation's Grants



Patti and David Steine, recipients of the 2017 President's Award

Committee from 2012-2015, helping to make decisions about how to allocate to the dozens of agencies and institutions it supports.

The Steines said they were grateful and honored for the recognition.

"Patti and I have always felt that the Jewish Federation campaign is the most important and powerful vehicle for expressing *tzedakah*," David said. "No one gift touches so many of our fellow Jews in so many ways."

Added Patti, "It's also significant to us that the Federation's work encompasses both our local community and Jews in Israel and around the world . . . and helps provide opportunities for Jews today and Jews in future generations."

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

Previous winners are Sandy Averbuch *z'l* (2012), Bob Eisenstein (2013), Raymond Zimmerman (2014)

and Moshe and Libby Werthan (2016). The 2015 award was presented jointly to Annette Eskind, Jane and Richard Eskind, Bernice and Joel Gordon and Eugene Pargh and Madeline Pargh *z'l*.

"The Steines are a very special couple," said Mark S. Freedman, the Federation's executive director. "They bring a wealth of wisdom to the communal table and I am so very grateful that they continue to be actively engaged in the important work of the Jewish Federation. I am so pleased that Lisa Perlen has decided to bestow this great honor upon them. They have truly earned it through their constant devotion to our Jewish community." •

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@ Micah



Members of the 2017 Confirmation Class ride the subway in New York City, where they saw the play *Fiddler on the Roof* and spent time on the Lower East Side.

Micah expanding Chai Society programming for high schoolers

After a successful pilot program last school year called CHAI Society, the staff at Congregation Micah has expanded its high school programming to include more Wednesday evening seminars as well as monthly gender groups – Sisters@Sinai and Honorable Men-schen.

The first session, hosted just a day after the election, found students further exploring the issues raised by such a contentious political season. Rabbi Flip Rice, Ronnie Steine, Adi Ben Dor and Julie Greenberg facilitated a lively question-and-answer session before inviting students to create a video message for President-elect Trump underscoring the Jewish values that they expect to see in the White House. The video can be viewed on Micah's YouTube channel.

Future CHAI Society sessions will include appearances by Rabbis Aaron Finkelstein, Phil Lieberman and Saul Strosberg; Hillel Executive Director Ari Dubin,

and local musicians, athletes, and chefs. Students are contributing to the program's 5777 Digital Torah yearbook project.

Confirmation is still a cherished part of Micah's CHAI Society program, and during their confirmation trip to New York this year students saw the Broadway play "Fiddler on the Roof." The performance provided a timely, thematic bridge to their Shabbat spent in the Lower East Side, where the American immigrant experience, both historic and ongoing, took on a more tangible meaning.

Confirmation is set for May 19.

Rev. Dr. Emilie M. Townes Lecture: "The Challenge of Love in the Face of Violence"

Rev. Dr. Emilie M. Townes, dean of Vanderbilt Divinity School, distinguished scholar and leader in theological education, will be speaking in the sanctuary at Congregation Micah following a potluck dinner after Shabbat Service on Friday, Dec. 2 (The main dish is provided; those who attend are asked to bring a non-dairy side dish.)

The event is free and open to all. Please RSVP through the EVENTS link on the Micah website.

10-week adult education course will focus on Jewish living and values

Members Vicki Estrin and Ron Heady will lead a 10-week course beginning next month called Conversations about Jewish Living that explores life and values through text and conversation.

Topics include spirituality, the synagogue, kashrut, holiness, Jewish rituals, holy days, and more. This course is ideal for those who have always wanted to take "Introduction to Judaism" and for those who also want to deepen their understanding of Jewish living.

The first session will be from 6-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 11.

Micah Book Club sets reading list through March

The Micah Book Club has announced its selections through March: *Here I Am*, Jonathan Safran Foer (Dec. 9); *The Underground Railroad*, Colson Whitehead (Jan. 6); *The Black Widow*, Daniel Silva (Feb. 3), and *The Aleppo Code*, Terry Brennan (March 3). For those unable to commit to a meeting, it is now possible to join in the conversations digitally. For questions or assistance in joining the discussion, please contact Ron Heady ronheady3@gmail.com or call/text (615) 293.2946.

@ Chabad



Stan and Laurie Moore cut the ribbon during a ceremony dedicating the new Cardoza Moore Sukkah Plaza at the Genesis Campus for Jewish Life. With them are family, friends and Rabbi Yitzchok and Esther Tiechtel.

Chabad dedicates the Cardoza Moore Sukkah Plaza

As the sun set and Sukkot was about to begin, Chabad of Nashville dedicated the Cardoza Moore Sukkah Plaza at the Genesis Campus for Jewish Life.

Laurie and Stan Moore cut the ribbon cutting as observers from a cross section of the Nashville community took part in the celebration.

During the ceremony Laurie Moore noted that her ancestors, the Cardozas, were Marranos, Jewish families in Spain who had to hide their Jewish faith during the Spanish inquisition. In public they were Christians and in the privacy of their home they practiced their Jewish religion.

Over five hundred years later, she was closing the circle, by dedicating the Sukkah Plaza at Chabad of Nashville, in memory of her family who were not able to practice their faith and sit in a Sukkah openly the way we can do it today.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony all enjoyed a most beautiful holiday dinner in *sukkot* under the Stars.

Class will focus on role of Jewish women and stories of Jewish heroines

Rebbetzin Esther Tiechtel will lead a special Shabbat class for women at 1 p.m. on Dec. 24. at Chabad of Nashville. The discussion will focus on the role of Jewish women in the home, and share the story of Jewish heroines, including the heroine of the Chanukah story, Yehudit, who killed the Roman general planning to annihilate the Jewish people.

The event is open to the public and reservations are required.

@ West End

West End Synagogue fundraiser next month will honor four of its "stars"

West End Synagogue will light up the night during its annual fundraiser next month when it celebrates the contributions of four of its brightest stars – Charlotte Seloff, Dr. Steve Hecklin, and Dr. Trent and Ellie Rosenbloom.

The Jan. 17 event at the Loews Vanderbilt Hotel, dubbed "Under the Stars," begins at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails followed by a kosher dinner and dancing.

Ticket prices start at \$150, and there are patron opportunities. Entertainment will be provided by the Craig Duncan Orchestra. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Marcia Stewart, (615) 269-4592 ext. 13 or office@westendsyn.org.

"We look forward to celebrating our stars with everyone in the community," said West End President Barbara Dab. "West End Synagogue is blessed to have these deserving people as part of our congregation and we look forward to a fabulous evening."

Seloff is a Nashville native, having been born, raised and educated a stone's throw from where the synagogue now stands. Following college, she returned to Nashville where she met married Leonard Seloff z"l. Together they raised three children, Sharon Paz, Eileen Rosenblum and Herb Seloff – all of whom have been active in the synagogue.

Seloff has dedicated her life to volunteering in Nashville's Jewish Community, rising through the leadership ranks at West End to become its first woman president from 1982-84. She has also been active in the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee and served for 17 years as development director and director of the Jewish Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

Hecklin grew up in a small Southern town, where his parents made sure he and his sisters had were involved in Jewish life and learning. Religious school, BBYO and Young Judea were a part of his youth. He attended Memphis State University, where he met his wife, Sandra. After he graduated the Medical University of South Carolina College of Dental Medicine, they moved to Nashville. In addition to his professional involvements, Hecklin has been active in the Jewish Federation, serving on its board and as campaign chair. He has been on the Board of West End Synagogue and served as president from 2011-13.

"West End Synagogue has been a tremendous part of my family's life," Hecklin said. "My children went to religious school and were *bat mitzvah* there. My personal commitment to West End Synagogue and Conservative Judaism has been a very fulfilling aspect of my life." He now enjoys watching the next generation of his family, his grandchildren, growing up in Nashville with their parents Carolyn and Adam Hyatt. Daughter Stephanie Soskin lives in Minneapolis with her husband, Jorie.

Trent Rosenbloom is also a Nashville native. After attending Northwestern University, where he met his wife Ellie in Hebrew class, he attended medical school at Vanderbilt University, where he is now an internist and pediatrician and serves as the vice chair for biomedical informatics and director of Vanderbilt's online patient portal, My Health at Vanderbilt.

For nearly 20 years, Rosenbloom has been a Jewish Theological Seminary-trained mohel and has performed the *bris* ritual for many families throughout Tennessee, taking no fee, but directing donations back to West End Synagogue.

Ellie Weiss Rosenbloom grew up in Lido Beach, NY, a barrier island off the south shore of Long Island. She attended Northwestern University and then law school at Washington University in St. Louis. For the last 22 years she has been the program coordinator for the Tennessee Space Grant Consortium, a statewide NASA educational program. She has served on the WES Membership Committee, various roles on the Sisterhood Board, read Torah at Shabbat Services and is currently a member of the West End board.

The Rosenblooms have three children, Shayna, Adena and Max, all of whom have been involved at WES.

Sisterhood will hold BBQ, Booze and the Bible fundraiser on Dec. 11

The West End Synagogue Sisterhood will hold a fundraiser – BBQ, Booze and the Bible – on Sunday, Dec. 11 at the Vanderbilt Hillel Schulman Center for Jewish Life.

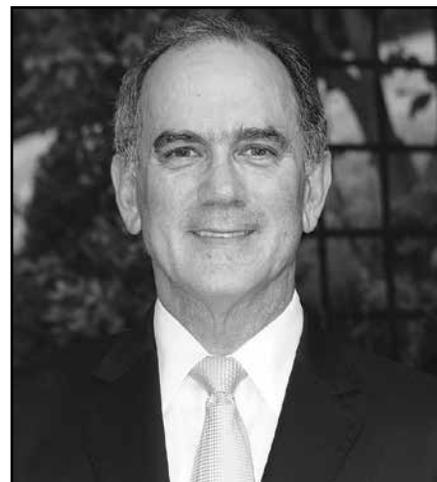
The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and will feature a variety of smoked barbecue and sides prepared by West End member Jason Sparks and Goldie Shepard Catering. In addition Rabbi Joshua Barton will tell stories about the use of alcohol in the Bible, and Stuart Wiston will present a tasting menu of various alcoholic beverages and wine.

The cost is \$36 a person or \$54 a couple, and proceeds will benefit the Jewish Theological Seminary (New York), the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (Los Angeles), the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies (Jerusalem), the Seminario Rabbinico Latinoamericano (Buenos Aires). Donations to WES Sisterhood to support Torah Fund and youth activities and education are also encouraged.

Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by Dec. 6 by calling the West End office at (615) 269-4592 or emailing office@westendsyn.org.



Dr. Trent and Ellie Rosenbloom.



Dr. Steve Hecklin



Charlotte Seloff

Jewish Nashville visits the "real" South



A contingent of Nashvillians poses in front of the famous Obelisk of Buenos Aires during their trip last month to the capital of Argentina. Rabbi Joshua Kullock of West End Synagogue led the group on a weeklong tour of his hometown in the first trip of its kind organized by West End Synagogue. The group traveled around Jewish and non-Jewish sites of one of the world's capitals, in the country that is home to 200,000 Jews, the seventh largest Jewish population in the world. Highlights included a Kabbalat Shabbat service with 900 congregants, a visit to the city's opera house and Argentina's first synagogue, conversations with leaders of some of the Jewish organizations serving the whole Latin American continent, and – of course – outstanding kosher steaks. The Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee is planning a communitywide trip to Argentina next year. Anyone interested should contact Naomi Limor Sedek, assistant executive director, at naomi@jewishnashville.org or (615) 354-1642.



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

@ The Temple

Religious school will hold open house and concert featuring performer Ellen Allard

Parents are invited to join their children at religious school for an open house from 9:30-11 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11, when they can meet the teachers in class and celebrate with a family concert featuring Ellen Allard.

Ellen Allard is an influential composer, performer, and educator in the contemporary Jewish music scene. With over 30 years of experience performing and teaching for young children and their parents, she has 12 award-winning CDs in her catalog and is widely recognized for her appeal to audiences of all ages.

Ongoing series will look at "compassionate communication"

As part of The Temple's ongoing Emotional First Aid Kit series, clinical social worker Felice Apolinsky will facilitate a two-part session on compassionate communication on Dec. 4 and 11.

The first session will focus on how to communicate clearly and directly with appropriate delivery. The second will focus on how to listen fully, without judgment or distraction. Both sessions will run from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Hike and Havdalah set for Dec. 10

The Temple's Worship and Music Committee is sponsoring a Hike and Havdalah on Dec. 10 at Percy Warner Park.

Those who wish to participate should meet at 3:45 p.m. at the top of the steps at the end of Belle Meade Blvd. the 2.5-mile white trail to begin at 4 p.m. The Havdalah will take place at 5:30 p.m. at stone gate entrance to the park.

Other events in December

- The Temple book club will meet at 10 a.m. on Dec. 4 to discuss *Great Reckoning* by Louise Penny.
- Next Dor will hold an informal conversation about interfaith issues and the "December dilemma" on Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. To RSVP, Rabbi Shulman or call The Temple office (615) 352-7620.
- Those interested in going to dinner at a casual restaurant following Shabbat services on Dec 16 should email Rabbi Shulman or call the Temple office at (615) 352-7620.

@ Sherith Israel

Sisterhood consignment sale set for Dec. 4

The Congregation Sherith Israel Sisterhood will hold a consignment clothing sale on Dec. 4 at the synagogue.

The sale will include clothing for men, women and juniors (including accessories like handbags, shoes, belts, scarves, ties and hats) as well as maternity clothing.

For more information, email sisterhoodconsignment@gmail.com or call the synagogue at (615) 292-6614.

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No one will be getting sleepy when hypnotist Ricky Kalmon headlines Big Night Out

By CHARLES BERNSEN

If you go to hypnotist Ricky Kalmon's comedy show, you might see a dozen audience members stand on a stage and, without the slightest inhibition, shred air guitars as if they were Prince. Or you might see an audience member pulling the imaginary strings of an imaginary puppet. You might even see a young man assume the persona of his favorite pro football player, Miami Dolphins wide receiver Jarvis Landry, and then do an earnest interview with a television reporter – who is really the actual Jarvis Landry.

And here's the thing – in each case they seem to believe they are rock guitarists, a puppeteer or an NFL receiver.

Kalmon, a prolific entertainer who uses stage hypnotism as the basis of an interactive comedy show in which “the audience becomes the stars,” will headline Big Night Out on Jan. 21. The annual fundraiser for the Gordon Jewish Community Center begins at 6:45 p.m. with cocktails followed by dinner. In addition to Kalmon's show, the evening includes a silent auction.

“While we certainly hope everyone comes out and enjoys the fabulous auction, dinner, entertainment, and each other's company, we would hope the community supports us regardless,” said Cindee Gold, volunteer co-chair of Big Night Out along with Leeron Resnick. “It is crucial that we all contribute to the GJCC and its meaningful impact on so many people”

Kalmon has been doing live shows for 29 years – he's on the road 150 days a year – and frequently appears as a special guest on television channels ranging from ESPN to the Disney Channel to Comedy Central. And while his unique show is funny and aimed primarily at entertaining, he describes it as more than just a comedy act.

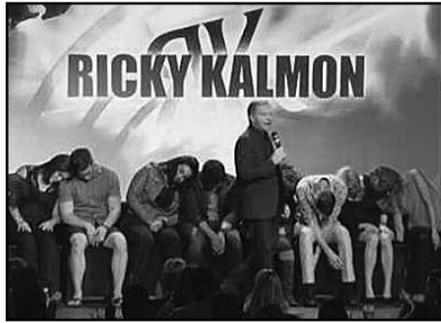
Even in its comedic format, hypnotism can be a powerful tool for demonstrating “how to empower your subconscious to be your friend, not your enemy,” Kalmon said during a telephone interview last month. “It's not about making anybody do anything uncomfortable or embarrassing. You can use hypnosis techniques to do things you want to do.”

Kalmon appears frequently as a guest entertainer on Disney Cruise Line, at corporate conferences and as the headline act for special events like Big Night Out. He has also performed for pro sports teams, such as the Cincinnati Bengals, Arizona Diamondbacks, Anaheim Angels and the St. Louis Cardinals. In addition, he performs a mindset motivation program for corporations around the world.

“My corporate clients want to engage their employees and offer an experience, not just a comedy show,” he said. “My show has a hidden agenda that teaches people to relax and focus.”

Kalmon said he “fell in love with hypnotism” when he was a youth performing magic and “was lucky enough to meet and develop a relationship with some stage hypnotists who showed me their techniques.”

At the center of each of his comedy acts are 12 audience members who are chosen spontaneously and randomly. Forget the trope of an evil manipulator using a swinging watch to put people into a trance, control their minds and make them do embarrassing things they don't want to.



Random audience volunteers are the stars of Ricky Kalmon's live comedy hypnosis show, which will be featured next month at the Gordon Jewish Community Center's Big Night Out fundraiser. (Photo courtesy of Ricky Kalmon)

“It doesn't work like that. It's more like daydreaming,” he said. He described hypnosis as a technique for helping peo-

ple learn to clear their minds, trust their own thoughts “and focus on what they want to do.”

Nor does he worry that he'll get a group of volunteers who aren't susceptible to hypnosis. Most people can be hypnotized, he said, though an individual's susceptibility may vary depending on his or her state of mind.

“At any one moment, a person may

be more or less distracted and able to focus,” he said.

Though fast-paced and funny, Kalmon's act is good-natured, not cutting. He avoids embarrassing the volunteers or making them uncomfortable. In fact, when he seeks volunteers at the start of the show, he often gives the audience a warning: “Your biggest regret will be that you didn't volunteer.”

Big Night Out

What: Cocktails, dinner, silent auction and comedy show featuring stage hypnotist Ricky Kalmon

When and Where: Jan. 21, 6:45 p.m. at the Gordon Jewish Community Center

Cost: \$136 a person (\$60 is tax deductible)

Tickets: Go to www.nashvillejcc.org/big-night-out or call Marylyn Rubin at (615)-354-1679



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CHANUKAH 2016 IN NASHVILLE

Saturday, Dec. 10

- **The Temple** will host a special Havdalah and pre-Chanukah program at 5 p.m. for families with children 5 and younger with award-winning composer, performer and educator Ellen Allard. Come in your PJs!

Sunday, Dec. 11

- **Chabad of Nashville** will partner with Home Depot to offer a free pre-Chanukah menorah Workshop from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Home Depot at 7665 U.S. 70 S. Participants will receive a free worker's apron and then craft their own menorah from wood and other supplies. To make reservations call (615) 646-5750 or visit chabادنashville.com.
- **Beit Miriam**, the religious school at West End Synagogue, will hold "The Chanukah Games," a schoolwide Chanukah team challenge, from 9:30 a.m.-noon. Parents are invited to come at 11:30 a.m. for *zimriyah*, Krispy Kreme *sufganiyot* and latkes made by the students.

Friday, Dec. 16

- **Congregation Micah** will hold a special Kabbalat K'tan with Chanukah dinner and Chanukah contest. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with the weekly WINE-down followed by a special Kabbalat K'tan service with Lisa Silver and dinner. The cost is \$10 adults and \$5 for children ages 3-12. The dinner will include a main dish, drinks, latkes and dessert. Guests are invited to create their own 9-branched Chanukah menorah and bring it to the dinner to be admired, judged, and lit. Votes are cast using quarters and will be donated to tzedakah, with the grand prize winners selecting the Jewish charity that will receive the funds. Detailed information, Chanukah contest guidelines, and payment options are available on the Micah website Events page at congregationmicah.org/events.

Sunday, Dec. 18

- **The Gordon Jewish Community Center's annual Chanukah Festival** begins at 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 a person with a \$30 limit for families. In addition to the musical entertainment by Mr. Steve the Music Man, the event includes a full kosher dinner featuring the famous latkes of Bernie Pargh and his team of assistant chefs, plus games and art projects for kids.

Tuesday, Dec. 20

- Mayor Megan Barry will host a pre-Chanukah celebration at 5 p.m. at downtown's Public Square in front of the Court House. The event will include the lighting of a six-foot menorah, Chanukah songs by children from all of the city's congregations as well as music by a band led by Rabbi Saul Strosberg of Congregation Sherith Israel. Chabad of Nashville will be distributing special Chanukah donuts, gelt and dreidels.

Saturday, Dec. 24-Monday, Dec. 31

- The large Limor Menorah outside **Congregation Sherith Israel** will be lit at about 5 p.m. each evening during Chanukah.
- **Chabad of Nashville's** 17-foot steel menorah, the largest in the state, will be erected on the State Capitol and lit each evening during Chanukah by various dignitaries.
- For those who want to fulfill the sages' edit that "Jews will eat kosher Chinese and see a movie on Christmas Eve," **West End Synagogue** will host a special Chinese dinner catered by the Lucky Bamboo at 6:30 p.m. (A vegetarian, gluten-free option will be available.) The dinner will be followed by a screening of the movie "Frisco Kid" at 8 p.m. that will include popcorn and a drink. The cost is \$25 a person. RSVP to office@westendsyn.org or (615) 269-4592.

Sunday, Dec. 25

- **Congregation Sherith Israel Sisterhood** will hold its annual Latke Supper at 5:30 p.m. in the social hall. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children with a family maximum of \$36. (No charge for children under 3.) Please RSVP by calling the shul at (615) 292-6615 by Monday, Dec. 19.

Monday, Dec. 26

- **Chabad of Nashville** will be host A Country Chanukah at the Gaylord Opryland resort beginning at 6 p.m. with the lighting of a 6-foot, 500-pound menorah carved out of ice by former members of the Israeli Defense Forces. The event will also feature ice skating, Jewish music, latkes and donuts. For more information about the event and ticketing, go to www.chabادنashville.com or call (615) 646-5750.

Tuesday, Dec. 27

- **The Nashville Predators' annual Jewish Heritage Night** at downtown's Bridgestone Arena will include the lighting of a giant "Menorah of Freedom" followed by Chanukah songs played on the arena's Jumbotron. The ceremony will be at 6:40 p.m. and the game against the Minnesota Wild begins 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 29

- **Congregation Sherith Israel** will host a Chanukah party for kids at 5 p.m. at the Krispy Kreme Donut Shop on Thompson Lane. For details call the shul at (615) 292-6614.

Friday, Dec. 30

- **The Temple** will hold a special Chanukah Shabbat service at 6 p.m. followed by a latke oneg.



Learning to lead at the General Assembly

By ARON KARABEL

It is not about dollars; it is about development. It is not about giving; it is about investing. It is not about me; it is about us, Jews with a diverse voice and shared purpose and mission.

These are the central themes that permeated the Annual General Assembly (GA) for the Jewish Federations of North America held last month in Washington.

The content and programming was unmatched. From donor engagement to diversity training to civil rights conversations to relationship building to political discourse – the GA had it all. Every program was designed to tap into the needs of the varied communities represented and engage everyone, to help us explore our collective and individual Jewish journeys. I was particularly impressed with the panels on young leadership and how they focused on the power and generosity of millennials. Each panel made it a point to deconstruct the belief that millennials are from Mars and everyone else is from Venus.

On the networking side, the opportunities for sharing ideas between and among cities, professionals and board members was limitless. Every introduction was a learning experience and an opportunity to make a new friend.

For me, the GA started and ended with my *chevre* from National Young Leadership Cabinet, many of whom led programs that taught us how Federation works with local, national, and international Jewish communities, and how Federation is invested in us – young Jewish adults who want to do right by their *bubbes* and *zaydes*, who want to lead by example, and who want to learn from others who care more than words can describe by representing the gold standard for doing good.

We spent several hours with a former White House aide who discussed how to be an influencer and how to effectively convey a message in relatable and simple terms. It hit home for me when the speaker ended with “engagement takes practice, practice, practice.”

We had the pleasure of learning from Andy Cohen, of BravoTV fame, who highlighted the importance of getting active early on and committing to making Jewish issues a central component of your life. His Yiddish is perfect, by the way.

We also had the pleasure of spending time with Chuck Todd who started the morning with Meet with the Press and ended the day with Federation. He and his distinguished guests shared their insights on the recent election and how it will impact Jewish issues locally and abroad, and in Israel.

We had the great honor of hearing from the first Jewish female appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, the Notorious RBG (also known as Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg). She was graceful, eloquent, and timeless. She shared her Jewish story, what it meant to live and learn as a Jew and why she chose the law. For a lawyer whose dream is to one day argue before Justice Ginsburg, her story was something I will remember for the rest of my life.

Ted Deutch, a former member of the National Young Leadership Cabinet, the current member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Florida’s 21st District and a champion of Jewish interests, spoke candidly about how Jewish issues are addressed in Congress and how many share his same conviction for these issues and, especially, the security of Israel. There was

also a good bit of kibitzing – see contagious!

The conference ended with a thoughtful and encouraging televised message of hope, courage, and cooperation from the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu.

I am more energized, hopeful and anxious to share what I’ve learned from the GA, what I’ve learned from my *chevre*, and what the Nashville Jewish community can do to strengthen our internal bonds, help those in need, and welcome newcomers who want to start or continue their Jewish journey. •

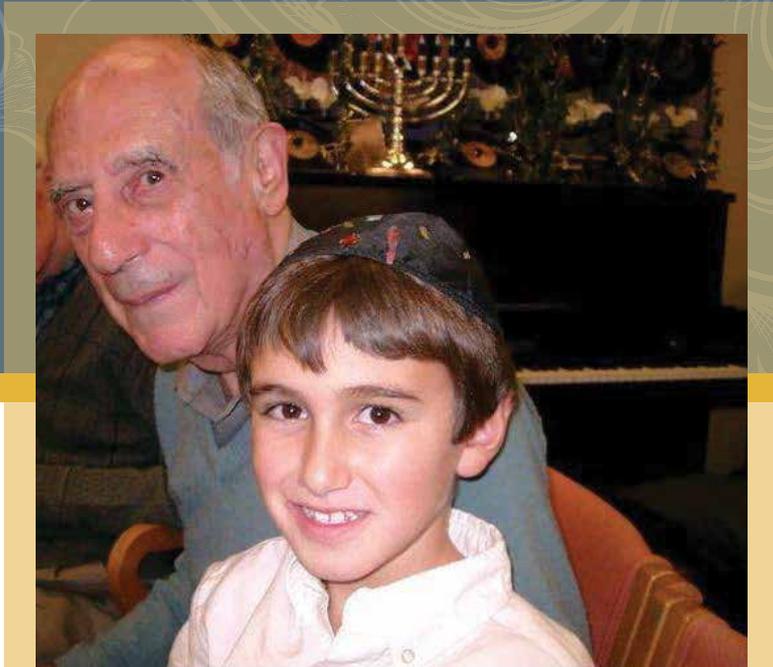
Aron Karabel is a board member of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. He and his wife, Batia, received the Federation’s 2016 Young Leadership Award, and both also were selected for the Young Leadership Cabinet of the Jewish Federations of North America. Karabel joined other local Federation leaders at last month’s JFNA General Assembly.



Members of the Nashville contingent to last month’s JFNA General Assembly got the opportunity meet and talk with Benny Kashriel, the mayor of the West Bank settlement of Maale Adummim. From left are JFNA Trustee and Nashville Jewish Federation board member Fred Zimmerman, Kashriel’s assistant Rachely Vassal, Federation President Lisa Perlen, Kashriel, Federation Executive Director Mark S. Freedman, and Aron Karabel, Federation board member and 2016 Young Leadership Award recipient.

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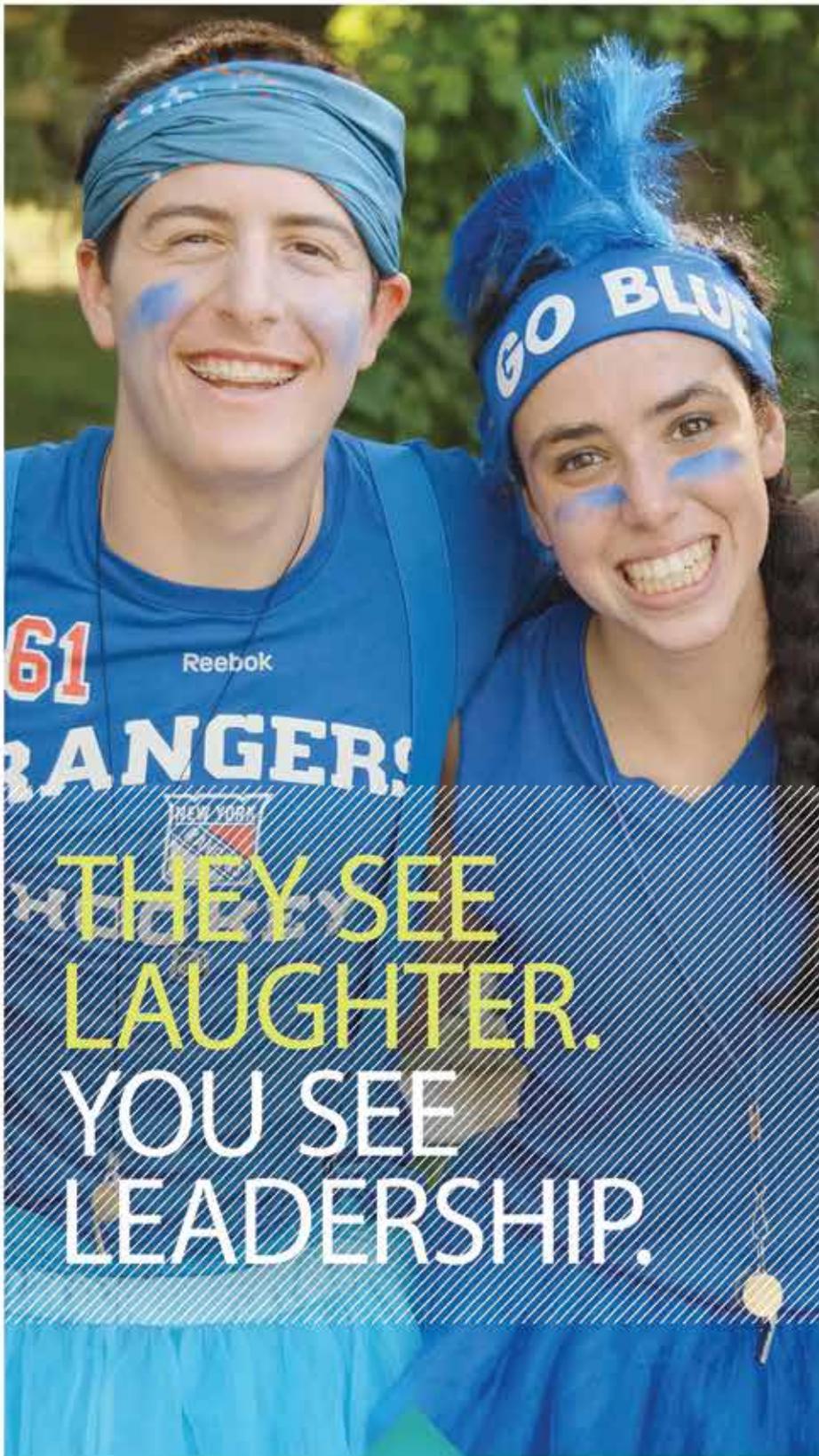
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The Jewish Federation and Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee has partnered with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to promote after-lifetime giving that will benefit ALL of our local Jewish organizations. The LIFE & LEGACY program will help to ensure that the traditions and institutions that mean so much to you today continue to thrive for future generations.



For information: Risa Klein Herzog, Director of Foundation Development
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Akiva School students help prepare a meal in the Nashville Food Project Kitchen last year during one of their regular monthly visits.

Akiva 5th and 6th graders named outstanding partner by Nashville Food Project

The fifth and sixth grade students at Akiva School – along with those who graduated last spring – have been presented the Outstanding Community Partner Award by the Nashville Food Project for their ongoing work growing food and helping to prepare meals for needy families.

“A school with 75 students being named outstanding community partner ... Awesome and humbling,” said Akiva Principal Daniella Pressner in congratulating the students and the lead faculty member on the project, Rena Malkofsky-Berger. “This is a reflection

of our school's interest and commitment to reach out and serve as a partner in the greater Nashville community.”

Two years ago, the fifth and sixth grade students designed and built their own garden. In addition to learning about gardening, food and nutrition, they have been visiting the food project kitchen and garden each month and helping to prepare meals for needy families.

The Nashville Food Project is an independent non-profit whose mission is to bring people together to grow, cook and share nourishing food, with the goals of cultivating community and alleviating hunger in the city. •

Financial Aid available for Jewish Overnight Summer Camp



Many of us remember those summers at camp that inspired our connection to Judaism – the 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 from camp with stories, memories and friendships. For many of them it is the first time they're surrounded by all things Jewish. Overnight Jewish camping is wonderful way to introduce children to the joy and celebration of Jewish traditions.

The Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee realizes the importance of building Jewish life and makes financial assistance available on a need basis 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 Tania Bukengolts at the Jewish Federation at tania@jewishnashville.org or 615-354-1668 and send completed applications to campscholarships2017@jewishnashville.org.**

All inquiries are confidential. The deadline for submitting applications is March 15, 2017.



THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
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Vanderbilt Hillel will celebrate Ben Schulman next month as he turns 100

By **DEBBY WISTON**

Vanderbilt Hillel will host a 100th birthday celebration the weekend of Jan. 19-22 for Ben Schulman, the benefactor who spearheaded the development of the university building that bears his name and is the center of Jewish life on the Vanderbilt campus.

Schulman, who lives now in San Diego, CA, grew up in Nashville and graduated from Vanderbilt's School of Engineering in 1938. An unstinting supporter of Vanderbilt Hillel, he provided both the funds and leadership that led to the construction in 2002 of the Ben Shulman Center for Jewish Life across the street from Memorial Gymnasium. More recently he has underwritten the cost of the new Dor L'Dore Donor Wall that honors contributors to Vanderbilt Hillel.

"By providing the initial funding for our building, Ben forever changed the Jewish experience on campus," said Hillel Executive Director Ari Dubin. "The community of Jewish students grew from just a few dozen to thousands in just over a decade, which meant not only was there an exponential increase in the number of students but also an incredible expansion in programming as well."

Said Barbara Mayden, president of the Hillel board, "The Schulman Center is the heart of everything we do at Hillel. It is Hillel's home, our foundation, and has been the catalyst for the remarkable transformation and growth of the Jewish community at Vanderbilt. We are thrilled to honor Ben on his 100th birthday and to celebrate with him just how far we have come since 2002."

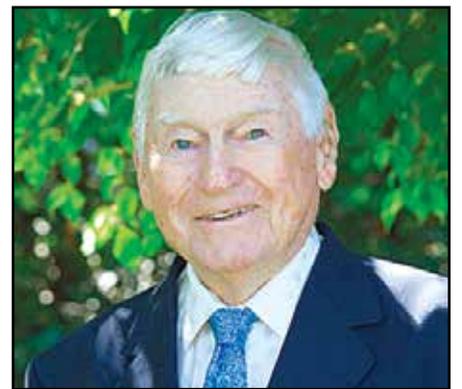
The Hillel celebration, "Thanks to Ben!", will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 22 at the Student Life Center. The event will feature tributes to Schulman and recollections of Jewish life at Vanderbilt before and after construction of the Schulman Center. A kosher luncheon catered by Goldie Shepard will be served. Tickets can be purchased from Vanderbilt Hillel and are available at three different levels, beginning at \$100 and include listing in the commemorative birthday book. Those who are unable to attend and wish to place their names in the birthday book

may do so for a \$36 tax deductible contribution to Vanderbilt Hillel.

In addition to the Sunday luncheon, Schulman, his family and friends will be honored at a number of other events throughout the weekend, including a Hillel Shabbat dinner and a celebration hosted by Vanderbilt Chancellor Nick Zeppos at his residence.

For more details, check the Hillel website at www.vuhillel.org.

Debby Wiston is director of operations at Vanderbilt Hillel.



Ben Schulman



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Festival serves up Nashville hot chicken – kosher, of course – to 500 at GJCC

By CHARLES BERNSEN

Reva and Gene Heller decided to err on the side of caution when choosing which samples to taste during the second annual Nashville Kosher Hot Chicken Festival last month at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. Good thing.

“I’m eating the mild but it tastes very hot,” said Gene. “Maybe when I was younger it might have been mild.”

“We’re too old to eat the hot,” chimed in Reva.

Mild or hot, the competitors in the festival’s hot chicken-cooking contest handed out north of 70 pounds of the deep-fried, mouth-scorching, sweat-inducing treat that has become Nashville’s culinary trademark. And that doesn’t count the meals sold by the two pro vendors from Bolton’s Spicy Chicken & Fish and Slow Burn Hot Chicken who didn’t compete.

Organized last year by a group of four friends, the hot chicken event is part of the burgeoning phenomenon of kosher food festivals and cooking competitions that have become a way for American Jews to express their Jewish identities while participating in a distinctively American cultural form.

This year’s festival, sponsored by the GJCC and underwritten by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, added live music and, more important, an actual cooking competition featuring seven teams with names like 613 Degrees (representing West End Synagogue) and the Hebrenero Peppers (representing NowGen Nashville, the



Robert Kashani was one of the chefs for the Hebrenero Peppers, which took the prize for best booth at the second annual Kosher Hot Chicken Festival. (Photos by Charles Bernsen)

Federation’s young adult group).

There were a dozen volunteer judges – after all, you can only eat so much hot chicken – including Good Ol’ Boy Mike, the producer and host of the podcast Sips, Suds & Smokes.

The grand prize – a new \$150 deep fryer – went AZchArif (Hebrew for “how hot”), a team representing AZA Athens of the South, the local BBYO youth group for boys. Holy Flock, a team representing Congregation Sherith Israel, won the top prize for the best mild version of hot chicken, and 613 Degrees won the award for the best hot version (and for most creative name). The People’s Choice Award went to the Hebrenero Peppers.

For Michael Wolf, head chef for Holy Flock, the win validated what has become a culinary obsession.

“I love hot chicken, and I’ve been working on a hot chicken recipe for a year a half,” he said. “So this is a dream come true for me.”

In order to ensure that the food was kosher, organizers provided the teams – as well as the two non-competing vendors – with all of the ingredients and utensils, including the fryers.

The weather was sunny and unusually warm for early November, and Stuart Wiston, one of the founding organizers, estimated attendance over the course of the three-hour festival at 500, almost double last year’s inaugural festival.

“It’s been a great event,” Wiston said. “We went from no competition last year to seven teams this year. Next year I expect we’ll have 15 or 20. Other cities have already said they want to come to the next one.”



Judges Jason Sparks (center) and Good Ol’ Boy Mike (right) of the Sips, Suds & Smokes podcast sample some of the hot hot chicken under the watchful eye of Stuart Wiston, one of the festivals founders and organizers.



Members of Holy Flock cheer the announcement that they won the prize for best mild hot chicken.

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Global Day lesson: Studying Torah together “gets everyone involved in the game”

By CHARLES BERNSEN

Visiting scholar Rabba Yaffa Epstein began the lunch-and-learn session during last month’s Global Day of Jewish Learning event in Nashville by asking everyone to engage in 12 minutes of *chavruta*, the traditional rabbinic mode of Talmudic study in which a pair of students read and discuss a particular text together.

In this case she wanted them to consider a passage from the Babylonian Talmud in which the rabbinic sages consider the question: Which is greater, learning or action, Torah study or righteous action? The passage concludes, “Everyone answered that learning is greater because learning brings you to action.”

The word “everyone” is the key, said Rabba Epstein, director of education in North America for the Pardes Institute of Jewish Learning in Jerusalem.

“Torah study gets everyone involved in the game,” she said “One of the ways it brings us to action is through the creation of community.”

She might have been talking specifically about the annual Global Day of Jewish Learning itself, which brought together thousands of Jews in hundreds of places around the world on Nov. 20 to study the same sacred texts. Among them were 140 people who gathered at West End Synagogue for Nashville’s Global Day event, which was sponsored for the fifth year in row by The Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

The local event began with a plenary presentation led by Rabba Epstein that picked up on the Global Day theme – Under the Same Sky: “The Earth is Full of Your Creations – by focusing on the ethical implications of the Biblical pronouncement that every human being is created in the image of God.

That was followed by six breakout discussion led by local moderators, each focusing on a topic related to the Global Day theme. Rabbi Phil Lieberman, also a professor of Jewish studies and law at Vanderbilt University, moderated a session that looked at the “green wisdom” in the Torah. A group led by Shlomo Rothstein, director of the Chabad House at Vanderbilt, discussed humankind’s sometimes contradictory roles in regard



Visiting scholar Rabba Yaffa Epstein speaks to about 140 people during the plenary session of the Global Day of Jewish Learning event at West End Synagogue. Her presentation focused on Talmudic passages exploring the moral implications of the Biblical concept that each human being is created in the image of God. (Photos by Charles Bernsen)

to nature – ruler, steward and servant – while another led by Rabbi Aaron Finkelstein of Congregation Sherith Israel examined the implications of *shmita*, the “Sabbath year” during which Jews are to let their land to lie fallow.

Dr. Frank Boehm, vice chair of obstetrics and gynecology at Vanderbilt Medical School, led a discussion about what the rabbinic view about whether the source of medical healing is human or divine. Risa Klein Herzog, development director for the Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, moderated a discussion about “planting seeds” for the Jewish community’s future, and Federation Executive Director Mark S. Freedman led a session that examined the role of rain, both positive and negative, on human existence.

After the kosher lunch session led by Rabba Epstein came a new feature for the local Global Day lineup – a series of five-to seven-minute “TextTalks” by Jack Simon, director of children’s programming at the Gordon Jewish Community Center; Dorie Bolze of the Harpeth River Watershed Association; Diana Sullivan of the U.S. National Co-Housing Board; Abbie Wolf, Federation director of community relations, and Rabbi Laurie Rice of Congregation Micah.

The day ended with a roundtable discussion – Meet the Rebs – with West

End Rabbi Joshua Kullock joined by Rabbis Epstein, Rice and Finkelstein. The moderator was West End President Barbara Dab.

Rabba Epstein’s visit to Nashville was underwritten by Libby and Moshe Werthan. Global Day partners included Akiva School, the Gordon Jewish Community Center and the GJCC Early Childhood Learning Center, Jewish Family Service, NowGen Nashville, Get Connected, PJ Library, Vanderbilt Hillel, Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad, Congregation Micah and the Micah Children’s Academy, Congregation Sherith Israel, The Temple-Congregation Ohabai Shalom and The Temple Preschool, West End Synagogue, B’nai B’rith Youth Organization (BBYO), Chabad Jewish Student Center at Vanderbilt University, Hadassah Nashville Chapter, National Council of Jewish Women Nashville Chapter, B’nai B’rith Social Unit and B’nai B’rith Maimonides Lodge #46. •



Rabbi Phil Lieberman leads a discussion about “Green Torah Wisdom,” one of six breakout sessions on the Global Day theme: Under the Same Sky: “The Earth is Full of Your Creations.”



About 140 people attended the Global Day event in Nashville. Here they participate in *chavruta*, the traditional rabbinic mode of Torah study, during a lunch-and-learn session led by Rabba Epstein.

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Coming back from broken leg, Nashville teen will run for Team USA at the 2017 Maccabiah Games in Israel

By **ANDREW SCHULMAN**

Two years ago, Tyler Jacobs of Nashville was getting ready to drive from his summer camp in Northern Wisconsin to the Milwaukee, where he was to compete in the JCC Maccabi Games, the national Olympics-style competition for Jewish youth.

Then heartbreak struck. Well, actually, something broke – his leg – during a water skiing accident just three days before the opening ceremonies. Jacobs was devastated at losing the chance to help his team win the gold in flag football that had eluded them a few years earlier when they settled for silver.

Jacobs will get a shot to compete in an even bigger Jewish sports arena next year as a member of the U.S. track team that will be taking part in the 20th quadrennial Maccabiah Games in Israel.

“This is such a special experience. It will be my first time in Israel, so that’s exciting,” said Jacobs, a 17-year-old junior at University School of Nashville who is active in the local BBYO chapter and serves on the regional BBYO council.

Competing in the long jump – and possibly some sprint events – Jacobs will join more than 75,000 Jewish athletes from 75 countries will be taking part in 42 sports over the course of three weeks

next July. Among them is at least one other Nashville area resident, 25-year-old Maren Angus of Henderson, who will be playing first base on the U.S. women’s softball team.

For Jacobs, whose family are members of The Temple, it has been a long road back from the devastating leg injury that sidelined him two years ago. Sitting in wheelchair and wearing a big smile, he was at the airport to greet his teammates when they returned from Milwaukee. Then he spent months in rehab.

His patience and determination paid off. This year Jacobs was a member of USN’s city champion track team. In the state championships, he placed third in his division in the long jump and also ran the anchor leg the school’s 4x100-meter relay team, which holds the Nashville record in that event.

Being familiar with the international Maccabiah Games through his participation in the JCC national sports competition, Tyler applied to be part of the U.S. track team. He waited six months for an answer after the committee extended the application process to cast a larger web for other applicants. He received the letter last month welcoming his to the team.

“Just being able to compete is great because a year ago I wasn’t sure I would be able to walk again, much less compete in track,” Jacobs said. •



Tyler Jacobs of Nashville competes in the long jump for University School of Nashville. The 17-year-old junior will be a member of the U.S. men’s track team at the 2017 Maccabiah Games in Israel, competing in the long jump and possibly some sprint events.

Info meeting set for Dec. 4 on 2017 Maccabi Games

An information session for Nashville area teenagers interested in competing in the JCC Maccabi Games next year in Birmingham will be at 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 at the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

Those who attend will hear from Andrew Schulman, the GJCC sports and recreation director, as well as past Maccabi participants and their families.

The annual Olympic-style event allows thousands of North American Jewish youth between the ages of 13 and 16 to compete in dozens of team and individual sports. Next year’s games will be from Sunday, July 30 through Friday, Aug. 4. The teenagers are hosted by local Jewish families and, aside from athletic completion, participate in a morning of local community service, “JCC Cares,” as well as planned social events. They also spend one night with their host families checking out the sites of the host city.

For more information contact Schulman at andrew@nashvillejcc.org. •

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

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JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

Pareve Nutella, Passover s'mores among new foods at Kosherfest

By JOSEFIN DOLSTEN

SECAUCUS, N.J. (JTA) — At Kosherfest, the world's largest kosher trade show, Yiddish and Hebrew is heard alongside English. Some 6,000 kosher-food insiders packed the massive hall, chatting, networking and tasting samples.

The annual two-day expo, held last month at the Meadowlands Exposition Center here, is a food mecca for those who observe Jewish dietary laws. Among the more than 325 exhibitors were vendors touting everything from the kosher staples — beef salami, latkes and Israeli wines — to new and unexpected foods, such as a line of Korean products.

Here are some exciting and unique kosher products that are new to the market or will be hitting stores soon.

Passover s'mores and pizza kits

Manischewitz is launching a line of matzah-themed treats that will make Passover a bit more fun for kids — and maybe adults, too. Before Passover begins in April, the company will introduce two



Parvella, a non-dairy form version of Nutella, was named best new produce at Kosherfest

do-it-yourself food kits: matzah s'mores and matzah pizza.

"This year at Manischewitz, it's all about kids," the company's president and CEO, David Sugarman, told JTA. "We



sat around and thought about what fun items can we come up with for Passover that would get kids engaged in Passover."

The s'mores kit, which won Kosherfest's award for best new kosher-for-Passover product, comes with all the necessary ingredients — mini matzahs, chocolate and marshmallows. The pizza kit contains just triangle-shaped matzah and sauce; moms and dads must provide the cheese and any other toppings.

"We think there's going to be a lot of adults with kids that are going to be sneaking these items while their kids are off at school," Sugarman said.

Faux-crab cakes

Dyna Sea is a pro in the world of imitation shellfish — "surimi," as it is called in Japanese — having been in business for nearly 20 years. The kosher food company even has Japanese consumers buying its products, according to owner Daniel Berlin.

These imitation crab cakes, which won Kosherfest's best new frozen-food

product, are made with imported Alaskan pollock. Berlin said they taste very close to the real deal.

"It has such a beautiful, rich, seafood flavor and a texture, a mouthfeel, that really simulates the real thing," he said.

Pareve Nutella

Kosher-keeping chocoholics know the pain of overly sweet pareve (non-dairy) chocolate-hazelnut spreads that lack the richness of Nutella — and never quite hit the spot.

But this new Italian-produced spread — tapped the best new product at Kosherfest — is a game changer. Parvella CEO Gabriele Zarrugh worked for two years to develop the spread, saying he was motivated by the desire to make a delicious kosher product that was accessible to those with dietary restrictions. Parvella is gluten, dairy, egg, peanut and palm-oil free.

Marzipan rugelach from Israel

The Marzipan shop in Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda market has been for decades nearly as much of a tourist destination as the Western Wall.

Once you're in the shuk, the bakery isn't hard to locate. The rugelach's sweet, chocolatey scent wafts its way through the market, enticing visitors to pay a visit and buy a pastry — or maybe 10.

Now the rugelach is available for purchase in the United States. The chief marketing officer for M Bakeries, its distributor in America, said the company was inspired to get on board after learning that Americans would bring home suitcases full of the pastry from Israel.

"[T]hey got so addicted to this particular rugelach that it is considered the best in the world," Milton Weinstock said.

The rugelach, which is made according to a secret family recipe, is best served warm, according to the person working the Marzipan booth. •

Warm Welcome for Jewish Newcomers



More than 50 people were on hand for a recent reception for Jewish newcomers to Nashville at the home of Linda and Lenny Sisselman. The event was part of the ongoing Welcoming Ambassadors program of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, which pairs newcomers with community members who have volunteered to help them ease into Jewish life in Nashville. (Photos by Barbara Schwarcz)



Among those at the reception were newcomer Matt Stein (from left), Sophie Rapoport, newcomers Caroline Voisine and Dana Heyman, newcomer-turned-Welcoming Ambassador Marissa Wertheimer, and Rabbi Joshua Barton of West End Synagogue.

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5 of Leonard Cohen's most Jewish songs

By **BEN SALES**

(JTA) – Leonard Cohen, who died last month at the age of 82, was one of the most explicitly Jewish popular songwriters since King David, whose Psalms Cohen's compositions emulated over a five-decade career.

Cohen was the grandson of two distinguished Canadian rabbis, one of whom helped found many of Montreal's central Jewish and Zionist institutions. The other, who wrote a thesaurus of the Talmud, was known as "Sar HaDikdukim," the Prince of Grammarians.

Even after becoming a practicing Buddhist, Cohen never stopped thinking of himself as a Jew, telling an interviewer, "I'm not looking for new religion. I'm quite happy with the old one, with Judaism." But he was ecumenical in his range of subjects and references.

Cohen's first hit, "Suzanne," speaks of a famous Jew, Jesus, saying, "he himself was broken, long before the sky would open. Forsaken, almost human, he sank beneath your wisdom like a stone."

Cohen, a master of language, saturated his lyrics with the Biblical imagery and Jewish liturgy he knew intimately. His songs adapted well known Jewish prayers and retold Judaism's central stories. Here are five of his most Jewish songs:

Hallelujah

Covered dozens of times, Cohen's most famous song is an explicit allusion to the Psalms and stories from the Jewish prophets, from King David to Samson. The song opens:

*Now I've heard there was a secret chord
That David played, and it pleased the Lord
But you don't really care for music, do you?*

The second verse melds two Biblical stories. It opens with the story of David seeing Batsheva, his future wife, bathing on a rooftop, and ends with imagery of her tying him down and cutting his hair — an allusion to Samson and Delilah.

Who by Fire

Another of Cohen's most well-known songs, "Who by Fire" is an adaptation of "Unetaneh Tokef," the central High Holiday prayer. The prayer's verses narrate the Day of Judgment, describing the various ways people will live, die, succeed and suffer over the coming year. Cohen adapts the language almost word-for-word:

*And who by fire, who by water
who in the sunshine, who in the night time
who by high ordeal, who by common trial
who in your merry, merry month of May
who by very slow decay
and who shall I say is calling?*

You Want It Darker

One of Cohen's last songs, "You Want It Darker," was released in September, and in it, Cohen talks about preparing for death. The very Jewish lyrics include a chorus in which Cohen says, "Hineni, I'm ready my Lord." *Hineni*, Hebrew for "here I am," is the word Abraham uses to respond to God when called to sacrifice



Leonard Cohen performs at a 2009 concert in Ramat Gan, Israel. (Photo courtesy of Marko/Flash90)

The Story of Isaac

One of Cohen's more obscure songs is a retelling of the sacrifice of Isaac. Speaking from Isaac's perspective, the song questions the morality of the story:

*You who stand above them now
Your hatchets blunt and bloody
You were not there before
When I lay upon a mountain
And my father's hand was trembling
With the beauty of the word.
And if you call me brother now
Forgive me if I inquire
Just according to whose plan
When it all comes down to dust
I will kill you if I must
I will help you if I can.*

If It Be Your Will

This song's title is a translation of "Ken Yehi Ratzon," a Hebrew liturgical phrase directed to God. The song is also addressed to God, and includes lyrics evoking imagery of nature from Kabbalat Shabbat, the Friday evening prayer service welcoming Shabbat:

*If it be your will
If there is a choice
Let the rivers fill
Let the hills rejoice.*

We'll miss you, Leonard. •

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Ewan McGregor's directorial debut is a challenge: adapting Philip Roth's novel, "American Pastoral"

By CURT SCHLEIER

(JTA) — Ewan McGregor has spent the past two decades building a considerable reputation as an actor. Starting with his brilliant portrayal of heroin addict Mark Renton in "Trainspotting," he has starred in well-received independent films such as "Salmon Fishing in Yemen" as well as blockbusters like the three "Star Wars" prequels, where he portrayed the young Obi-Wan Kenobi.

Now McGregor is proving the old Hollywood adage that every actor really just wants to direct. And for his move behind the camera, he has picked a project that might daunt even the most experienced director: He's adapting a Philip Roth novel for the screen.

"American Pastoral," based on the Pulitzer-Prize winning novel of the same name, will be the eighth movie made of Roth's work — nearly all of which have been critically panned and commercial failures. "Goodbye Columbus" was the exception, achieving both critical and commercial success on its release in 1969. More recently, "Indignation" received positive notices, but failed to gain traction with audiences.

And if that wasn't tough enough, in addition to directing, McGregor also plays the lead role of Seymour Levov — a handsome, goyish-looking Jewish athlete-turned-successful businessman known as the Swede.

Yet none of this deterred the 45-year-old Scottish-born actor.

"I didn't think it was dangerous at the time," McGregor said. "I thought John Romano's script was beautifully written and got right to the heart of the story ... And if you're going to start your directing career based on a novel, why not make it an amazing novel?"

"American Pastoral" is considered among the best of Roth's works. In addition to winning the Pulitzer, it made Time magazine's list of the 100 greatest novels of all time.

Like some other novels by Roth, the book is narrated by his alter ego, Nathan Zuckerman, and is centered on American and Jewish identity. Zuckerman returns to Newark, New Jersey for his 45th high school reunion to discover that the Swede, his best friend's larger-than-life big brother, has just died.

The Swede had seemed destined for greatness: He was a multi-sport star, a Marine Corps officer and heir to the family's Newark glove factory. Over the objections of his father, he marries Dawn (Jennifer Connelly), a former beauty queen who was not Jewish.

"Perfect wife, perfect house, perfect baby," Zuckerman (David Strathairn) narrates. "Something was smiling down on him. This is the way I always thought it would be for him. He was the Swede."



Ewan McGregor on the set of the film "American Pastoral," which is based on the Philip Roth novel. (Photos by Richard Foreman)



Ewan McGregor stars as Swede Levov in "American Pastoral."

But it wasn't to be. His daughter, Merry (played as a teenager by Dakota Fanning), is a stutterer with emotional problems. She becomes radicalized, plants bombs that kill three people and is forced to go underground. The Levov family disintegrates just as the nation around it erupts into riots, violent demonstrations and domestic terrorism.

McGregor said he was familiar with several other Roth novels but did not read "American Pastoral" until after he had been offered the script. He agreed to the role, but as often happens in Hollywood, years went by and nothing happened.

"We got close to the film disappearing, so I threw myself into the mix and offered to direct," he said.

McGregor threw himself into the book, reading and rereading portions every day. He listened to Ron Silver's audio recording while driving. "My goal was to sop it up and sear the book into my soul," he said.

And he largely succeeded. While some might disagree with what he put in and what he left out, McGregor captured the book's essence — that nothing is what it seems, that beneath the seeming tranquility of postwar American life simmered anger, subterfuge and lies.

He also elicits extraordinary performances from his cast, particularly Fanning, whose emotional turmoil and its impact on her family is heartbreaking.

But not everyone is impressed — recent reviews have ranged from tepid to damning. The response from critics following the premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in September was decidedly mixed, most often suggesting his direction was uninspired.

The reviews may be part of the reason McGregor so actively promoted the film before its opening in October — he made the rounds these days on TV with appearances on "The Today Show," "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" and the like.

He's been talking to the press, too — sometimes with unexpected results.

"I was reminded this morning [in

another interview] that the Swede is not my first Jewish character," McGregor said. "I played Jesus in "Last Days in the Desert."

It raises the issue of how comfortable he was playing a Jewish character. Very comfortable, it turns out.

"I'm married to a Jewish woman," he said of wife Eve Mavrakis. "My children are Jewish and we brought them up as such. It is sort of the only religious experience I've ever had, so I was very proud to be telling this story since half my family is Jewish."

McGregor said he attends synagogue from time to time with his family,

which includes four daughters ranging in age from 5 to 20. Each of the older three have had a bat mitzvah.

Perhaps because he himself is not Jewish, McGregor took extra care with Jewish tradition in the film, a touch he added at the movie's denouement.

"I wanted the Mourner's Kaddish at the end of the film [at Swede's burial]," he said. "It was not of great importance to him, but I think it's part of what Roth was exploring, if we can turn our backs on who we are."

"American Pastoral" opened in 15 cities across the country on Oct. 21 and nationally in the following weeks. •

OPINION

letters to the editor

Dear editor,

When I passed my 15 year anniversary at Jewish Family Service, I began to reflect on what my experience has been like working as a non-Jewish social worker in a Jewish community.

The Jewish community has been good to me in many ways. They accepted me as an "honorary tribe member" right away. As a single person in a town without any family, I gained many Jewish mothers looking after me and giving me advice along the way. And when I adopted my daughter, Anna Kate, she inherited many bubies to love and care for her. She has grown up surrounded by this community and the love it has to share with us.

Jewish Family Service is behind the good work I do. It has given me the flexibility and creativity to meet the needs of my clients and the greater community in a way that I would not be able to if I was at another social service agency. I love that I can go the extra mile for my clients. It is important to me that the work of the agency continues for many years to come.

I decided to create a named fund

at JFS for several reasons. The first is because it warms my heart when people make a contribution to JFS in my honor so I wanted to give people a way to do just that. The second is that I wanted to set an example for my daughter and give her something to be proud of. I hope that one day my grandchildren will contribute to my fund and remember the good work I have been able to do at JFS. The third reason is that I care about the services that JFS provides and I want it to continue for many years.

I named my fund the Toni Jacobsen, Psalm 103.2, Greatest Need Fund. Psalm 103.2 reminds us to "never forget a single blessing." My family will contribute to the fund to honor the blessings we have received from this community. Anna Kate and I would like to say thank you to the entire community for embracing both of us and for sharing your love with us.

Toni Jacobsen

Toni Jacobsen has been a clinical social worker with Jewish Family Service of Nashville since 2000.

Submission Policy

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

To access the Community Calendar,
go to www.jewishnashville.org
and click on "Calendar."

The Observer is online at
www.jewishobservernashville.org

"Missing in the Movies"

By: Yoni Glatt, koshercrosswords@gmail.com • Difficulty Level: Manageable • Solution on page 24

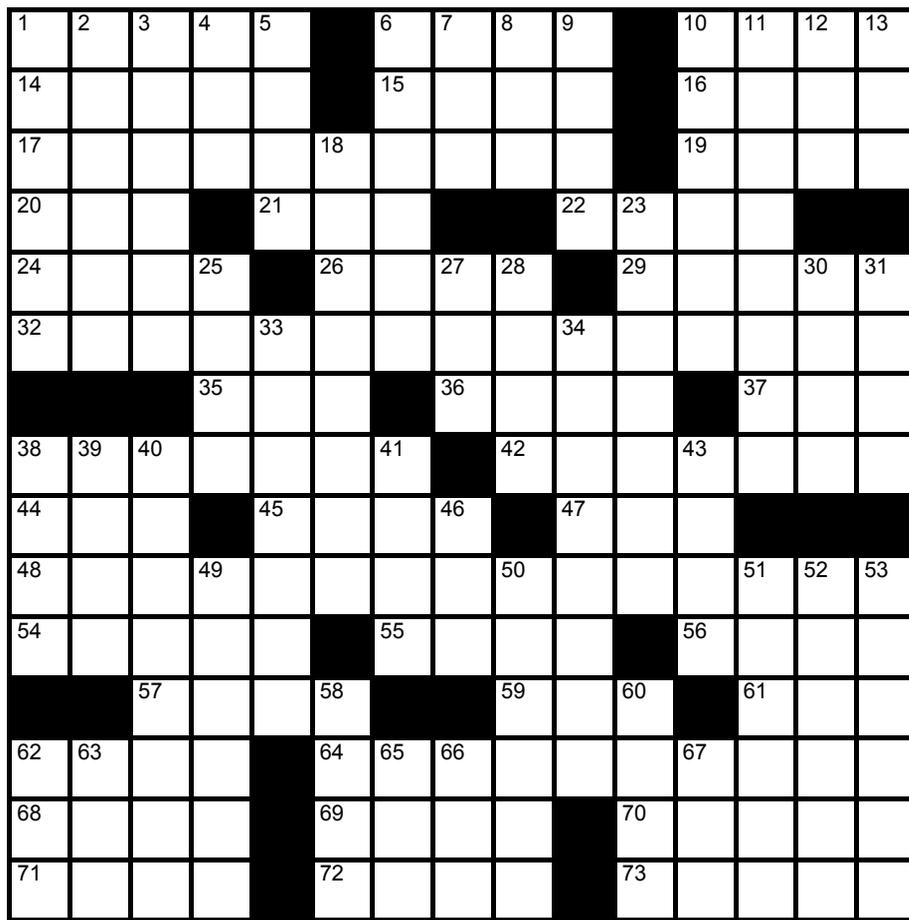
Across

1. ___ tova
6. Uzi filler
10. H or R for Greenberg
14. Bibi's gofers
15. Stern (nautically)
16. One in Rome shows the Menorah
17. 1983 Jerry Bruckheimer hit
19. Quote Rashi
20. Org. for Pe'er or Ram
21. Misplay by Ian Kinsler
22. Singer Haza
24. Nino who composed the score of a Brando/Caan classic
26. School with "Urim and Thurrim" on its seal
29. Makes like one in mourning, to cloths
32. 1999 Matthew Broderick title role
35. Jewish rights org.
36. One who might fight Magneto
37. Actress Michele
38. Pas ___ (bread choice)
42. Metal transformation Bezalel supposedly understood
44. ___ out a living (73-Across, perhaps)
45. First graphic novel to win a Pulitzer
47. ___ long way (hike from Tsfat to Jerusalem)
48. 2005 Isla Fisher hit
54. Bob from "Fuller House"
55. Where to store a sukkah
56. How Genesis is always started
57. Make like David after Jonathan's death
59. "And mine eyes shall ___ spare thee" (Ezekiel 7:4)

61. Canaan or Gold
62. Yesh ___
64. Missing Jews...or what can be found towards the end of 17, 32, and 48-Across
68. "Chariots of Fire" event
69. "Night" writer, to friends
70. "Uncircumcised" fruit
71. Bloomberg, to his friends
72. Last month, on some calendars
73. Those who need tzedakah

Down

1. Expedition where one might see unique kosher animals
2. Hotel with a Queen of Sheba resort
3. Makes a film based on the Bible, e.g.
4. "Contra" letters not related to Iran
5. "Stadium" man who beat (Tom) Okker to win the US Open in 1968
6. Noah's landfall
7. Most biblical prophets
8. "Big" item known for being tref
9. Hydrox or Bloomeos alternative
10. Jerusalem, to the Jews
11. One of many in a Star of David
12. Perform like Portman
13. Start of Kafka's best known works
18. What many do to Shabbat clothing
23. Acting brothers James and Dave
25. On ___ with (like a good chavrusa)
27. Nova, e.g.
28. Name inside Sherman and Wasserman
30. Make a call, like Kagan
31. Lisa Loeb's #1 hit
33. Descendant of Esau
34. Star of "Keeping Up with the Joneses"
38. Trees that sound like many of this paper's readers?
39. Big furniture retailer in Netanya
40. Actress Kyra
41. Schleps
43. Response to a bit by Brooks
46. BIU, e.g.
49. Original Ramone who was not Jewish
50. One paying a flat fee just for Passover?
51. Authorize, like Pharaoh to Joseph
52. Go over Torah again
53. Like net sounds when Casspi gets hot
58. "Guilty", from Madoff
60. Disney sci-fi film directed by Steven Lisberger
62. Give a Galil to
63. ___ chi (Krav Maga alternative)
65. Methuselah, for sure
66. Singer with a lackluster Tel Aviv performance in August of 2016
67. Ahasuerus emotion towards Haman



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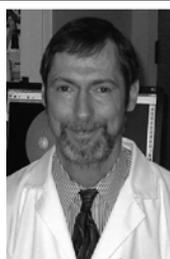
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B'nai Mitzvah

Jaden Kaufman Levin will be called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10 at West End Synagogue. Jaden is the son of Daniel and Kristine Levin. His grandparents are Alan Levin and Marilyn Levin, both of Hollywood FL; Richard and Pat Kimberley of Scottsbluff, NE, and the late Lois H. Kimberley, may her memory be a blessing.



Jaden Kaufman Levin

Jaden, an Akiva School graduate, is a seventh grader at Grassland Middle School, where he is a straight-A student, and enjoys the coding club. In his spare time, Jaden enjoys being an active member of Boy Scout Troop 135 and spending time with his family and friends. Jaden has relished his time preparing for his *bar mitzvah* with Rabbi Joshua Kullock, Rabbi Josh Barton, and Sharon Paz, director of lifelong learning.

For his *mitzvah* project, Jaden drew on his passion for reading and spent 12 weeks working in partnership with Gigi's Playhouse in Brentwood. Gigi's is an achievement center where kids and young adults with Down syndrome take part in educational and therapeutic programs that help them maximize self-confidence and achieve their greatest potential. Jaden spent his time helping a 10-year-old learn to read.

Asher Stephen Rice will be called to the Torah a *bar mitzvah* at Congregation Micah on Dec. 10 at Congregation Micah. Asher is the son of Rabbis Philip "Flip" and Laurie Rice, the grandson of Dr. Thomas and Audrey Rice, Larry and Sue Hochberg, and Stephen Neuman (z'l), and the brother of Shai (14) and Eden (10).



Asher Stephen Rice

A former Akiva School student, Asher is currently a seventh grader at the University School of Nashville. He loves sports of all kinds, especially basketball, football, soccer, lacrosse, and golf. He enjoys spending time with his family and looks forward to the summer months when he reunites with his buddies from Camp Barney Medintz in Georgia. A natural mensch, he is excited to read from the Torah, lead his community in Shabbat prayer, and revel in being surrounded by loved ones.

The Rice family invites everyone to share in this simcha.

Joseph Dattilo will be called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* at 11 a.m. on Dec. 3 at The Temple. Joseph was born in Nashville on Dec. 8, 2003. His parents are Jeffery and Karen Dattilo. His grandparents are Richard and Rosalyn Slifka of Boston.



Joseph Dattilo

Joseph is in the seventh grade at Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville. He enjoys playing drums in a rock band, rock climbing, swimming for fun and competitively, biking, technology, hanging out

with his brother, and watching movies.

For his *mitzvah* project, Joseph organized a coat drive for the The McNeilly Center for Children. He has also volunteered his time reading in their classrooms and playing with his band, Second Planet, at McNeilly's 100th anniversary celebration this summer. He plans to partner with The Temple preschool to collect gently worn Halloween costumes to donate "dress up" clothes to the children's classrooms.

Sympathy

... to the family and friends of **Gerald Averbuch**, 94, who died Oct. 19 at Richland Place in Nashville.

Gerald was preceded in death by his daughter, Helaine 'Laine' Fuldauer; son-in-law, Paul Michael, M.D.; brother, Sydney Averbuch, and sister-in-law, Juliet Averbuch.

His survivors include Blossom Averbuch, his beloved wife of 70 years; son, Mark Averbuch (Shelley); daughter, Susan Michael; son-in-law, Larry Fuldauer; six grandchildren, Adam Michael, Brooke Michael Kain (Will), Jared Averbuch (Mackenzie), Jeff Fuldauer, Kacey Fuldauer Millard (Tony), and Cutler Averbuch (Liza); six great-grandchildren; niece, Shirley Zeitlin, and nephews, Jerry Averbuch and Larry Averbuch.

A lifelong resident of Nashville, Gerald graduated from West End High School and Vanderbilt University, where he served as president of his college freshman class and fraternity. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve during World War II, serving on sea duty in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters and attaining the rank of lieutenant.

After the war, Gerald became a leader in the Nashville real estate community. His projects included subdivisions, motels and apartments in Nashville, Knoxville, and Huntsville, AL. Gerald was a founder and chief financial officer of General Care Corporation, an acute care hospital company listed on the New York Stock Exchange. General Care merged with Hospital Corporation of America in 1980.

After the merger, Gerald enjoyed a long retirement in Ft. Lauderdale, FL and subsequently Amelia Island, FL. He pursued his many hobbies, including golf, lap swimming, fishing and playing master bridge. Gerald was a member of Coral Ridge Country Club in Ft. Lauderdale and Hillwood Country Club in Nashville.

Gerald was active in the Nashville civic and philanthropic community. He was vice president of the Metropolitan Nashville YMCA Foundation and received the YMCA Member of the Year award. He played an integral role in the establishment of the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University, where he served on the initial steering committee and was fundraising co-chair for the Owen building. He was awarded the Associates Chair for outstanding service to Vanderbilt. He also co-founded the endowment fund of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee and later served as its chairman.

Gerald was a member of the boards and executive committees of the Jewish Federation and the Gordon Jewish Community Center. He was a founding member of Congregation Micah and served on its board. Gerald also served on the boards of The Temple and Woodmont Country Club. He chaired the tourist and visitation committee of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce.

Gerald will be remembered by his

family and friends for having a zest for life in work and play, his business acumen, the confidence he had in his abilities, and how he enjoyed the company of his family and friends. He never met a stranger, loving to hear about others' lives by interviewing them like a journalist.

The family would like to acknowledge and thank Martha Morrow, Frances Phillips, Mary Neely, Julia Jones, and Deborah Armstrong, the dedicated caregivers during the last two years of Gerald's life.

... to the family and friends of **Sandra 'Sandy' Rosenblum Averbuch**, 72, who died on Nov. 3.

She was preceded in death by a son, Jonathan, and her parents, Sidney and Elizabeth Rosenblum. She is survived by Larry Averbuch, her beloved husband of 50 years; son, Sam Averbuch (Jessica); daughter, Cynthia Albin (Seth) of St. Louis; four grandchildren, Toby and Dustin Averbuch and Sydney and Ethan Albin; brother, Jerry Rosenblum (Ellen Sherberg) of St. Louis; brother-in-law, Jerry Averbuch (Arlene), and sister-in-law, Shirley Zeitlin.

Sandy was born on Aug. 7, 1944 in Nashville and remained a resident here throughout her life. She graduated from Peabody Demonstration School and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. She later received a master's in social work from Tennessee State University.

Sandy married Larry Averbuch in 1966 and joined him while he practiced as a dentist in the U.S. Army in Savannah, TN and then Panama. She raised her children, Cynthia, Samuel and Jonathan, then pursued a career in social work at Family and Children Services of Tennessee and Gilda's Club.

Sandy was deeply committed to Jewish life. She immersed herself in Jewish education and dedicated herself to service and leadership in Jewish organizations including West End Synagogue, the Jewish Federation and Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, and Akiva School. She served as president of Jewish Federation and Akiva School and chaired the Jewish Foundation committee. In 2012, she was the first recipient of the Jewish Federation's highest honor, the President's Award.

Sandy will be missed by her family and many friends. They will lovingly remember her love of shopping, painting, reading, volunteering and spending time with her grandchildren. The community will remember Sandy's strong values and commitment to living a Jewish life.

Services were on Nov. 6 at The Temple followed by burial at West End Cemetery. Pallbearers were her nieces and nephews.

Donations in Sandy's memory may be made to Jonathan Averbuch's fund at the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, 801 Percy Warner Blvd., Nashville, 37205, or to Gilda's Club, 1707 Division Street, Nashville, TN, 37203.

... to the family and friends of **Eric (Yosef ben Chaim) Rosenfeld**, who escaped Nazi Germany in 1941 and died peacefully of natural causes on Nov. 7 at the age of 91.

Eric is survived by his wife, Eva Ruth, his four children, David Rosenfeld (Anne), Vera Feldman (Jess), Emily Collier (Craig) and Ken Rosenfeld (Debby), as well as seven grandchildren: Tamara Rosenfeld, Julie Feldman Algieri (Steve), Will Feldman, Nathan Collier (Amy), Eli Collier, Ryan Rosenfeld and Zack Rosenfeld. His only brother, Herbert, died in Chicago in 2011, at age 89.

Eric was born in Seeheim, Germany. After escaping from Nazi Germany, he

went to live with relatives in New York and joined in the U.S. Army in 1944. Because he could speak German, he served in the counterintelligence corps of the 103rd Infantry Division. Despite the traumatic experience in Germany, Eric always held on strongly to his Jewish faith, and was consistently involved in local Jewish activities and causes.

The funeral was on Nov. 11 at West End Synagogue will burial in KKAJ cemetery. Those who wish to make a donation in his memory are asked to consider three worthy causes that touched his life: The Tennessee Holocaust Commission, Safe Haven Museum, and West End Synagogue

...to the family and friends of **Judith 'Judy' Margaret Cram** who died in Nashville, Nov. 11 at the age of 66. Judy is survived by her husband, Ronald Soltman, and children, Daniel Soltman, Sarah Soltman and Joel Soltman.

Judy was born in 1950 in Minneapolis to Yetta and Leo Cram as the fourth of five siblings. She graduated from the University of Michigan in 1972 with a degree in mathematics and from New York University in 1976 with a law degree. As a lawyer, Judy worked for the firm Reid and Priest in New York City, where she met Ron, and then she joined Chase Manhattan Bank in 1978. Judy married Ron in 1980, and then she moved to Nashville to join him to start a family. In Nashville, she worked for Commerce Union Bank and its successor banks, including Bank of America.

Judy had a passion for helping others. Whether volunteering for the foster care review board, tutoring math at Nashville State Community College or teaching English to recent immigrants, Judy always tried to make the world a better place.

In keeping with Judy's wishes, there was no funeral or memorial service. Donations in her honor can be made to the ALS Association.

... to the family and friends of **Sylvia Norma Ostrow**, 97, who died on Oct. 30. Born and raised in Nashville, she later lived in Englewood, NJ and Fort Lauderdale, FL. She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Goldye Goldstein, and her husband, Norman Ostrow (deceased). She is survived by two children, Andrew Ostrow of Miami Beach and Sally Kolitz Russell of South Miami; her sister, Joyce Faye of Nashville; three grandchildren, Brent Kolitz, Meredith Kristall and David Ostrow; four great grandchildren, and three nephews.

Sylvia was a realtor and a travel agent, who worked in the travel field well into her 80s. She traveled the world, from Siberia to Easter Island, and these travels were truly her passion.

Sylvia recently celebrated her 97th birthday with her family. Contributions in her memory can be made to the Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald, Tennessee (www.elephants.com). •

Crossword solution

1	S	H	A	N	A	6	A	M	M	O	10	S	T	A	T			
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Life in Israel

Anglos and Arabs

By **LIBBY WERTHAN**

As I have written previously, it is difficult to find a more diverse country than little Israel; Eastern Europeans, Yemenites, Ethiopians, and many more. Presently, there is an increase in immigration from Western Europe, especially France, as anti-Semitism and violence escalates there. There are so many different people, so many different languages and cultures. I am devoting this article to two more: the Anglos and the Arabs.



Libby Werthan

We were part of the Anglo (English-speaking) community. Most of our close friends were from America, Canada, Australia, Great Britain and South Africa. Even within the Anglos, there are differences in accents and cultures. I learned the proper way to prepare tea, how to appreciate "football," how to pal around with lords and ladies, the best way to protect yourself from the cold, miscellaneous facts about kangaroos, the proper dress for the Ascot races and many others.

We lived in what the locals call "the Anglo Bubble," an area in South Jerusalem where you can hear as much English as Hebrew. The menus are written in both languages (sometimes the English is written phonetically and is humorous). The clerks and waiters all speak English. You can buy books in English in the bookstore. There is even a clinic with all English-speaking doctors. Most of the movies are in English. The Jerusalem Post is in English, the street signs are in English, and there is an Israeli news broadcast in English once a day (in addition to CNN, Star News, and BBC). There are even Fourth of July parties and Thanksgiving dinners. Nevertheless, the Anglos are a very small part of the population.

A much larger part of the population of Jerusalem are Israel's Arabs. Many are Israeli citizens and live in Israel proper; others come in each day from the areas under the control of the Palestinian Authority. There are many Arab doctors and nurses in the two major hospitals, and there are Arab members of the Knesset (Israel's parliament). And while a minority are professionals, most work in restaurants, factories, and the building industry. Most are Muslim; a few are Christian.

Our house cleaner, Norma, of blessed memory, was a Christian Arab from Bethlehem. I say of blessed memory because our memory of her is blessed, but also we heard a few weeks ago that she had died suddenly. Norma worked for us for about 20 years. She came every Friday

about 6:30 a.m. Why so early? She wanted to get to the checkpoint before the crowd and because she cleaned the house of one of our friends after ours.

Christian Arabs face religious discrimination, and the Christian Palestinian population in Bethlehem has dwindled.

When there was violence or a suspected threat, the checkpoints were closed and Norma could not come to work. Norma was a lovely woman and a good friend. She spoke four languages – Arabic, Hebrew, English and French. When we traveled and were away, sometimes more than a month, she had a key and our alarm code and would look after our home for us. Norma and I might discuss the best way to cook a turkey, but we never discussed politics. During tough times, we would just shake our heads. When we were leaving the last time and had to say a final goodbye, neither of us could hold back the tears.

The one population I have left out is that of the sabra, a Jew born in Israel. That is a subject far too vast and complex to tackle in an article. So in broad generalizations, I will say that over the 25 years that we lived there, I saw many changes in Israeli social behavior. When we first moved there, the behavior of clerks, salespeople, even doctors, was sometimes abrupt, unpolished and off-putting. One example was when we went to buy our first car. The salesman sat behind a desk. We said we would like to buy a car. He remained seated and asked which one we wanted. We said we did not know and asked if we could test drive one and he looked at us like we were crazy.

What we did not understand is that for an Israeli to buy a car (or almost anything, for that matter,) was a very big deal. Before they had walked into that showroom, they would know everything about every car on the market and they would know exactly what they wanted. What we took as rudeness was really the way the way things were done.

But all that has changed. Western culture has taken over. The salespeople are as smooth as car salesmen in American (maybe even smoother). The society has become more sophisticated, more customer-friendly. A government worker or bank teller might still argue with you over a detail, but if you look like you are tearing up, she (usually) will come out from behind her desk and give you a hug. That trick got me through a lot of bureaucracy.

Next time: Spirituality. •

Libby Werthan and her husband, Moshe, lived in Israel for 25 years before returning in 2014 to their native Nashville. "Life in Israel" is a regular column about what it was like living in the Jewish homeland.

around the town

BBYO alumni happy hour set for Dec. 28

The Nashville BBYO chapter will hold happy hour for alumni of all ages from 6-8 p.m. on Dec. 28 at Crow's Nest in Green Hills.

The cost is \$18, which includes free appetizers and a drink.

"This is a great way for alumni to come together and socialize with one another," said Sheri Rosenberg, local and regional BBYO director. "This is the first time in many years that the local community is bringing together past participants of the program."

Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by Dec. 20 to Rosenberg at sheriroseberg@bbyo.org.

GJCC will hold Zumba sessions for special needs kids and teens

The Gordon Jewish Community Center will hold free Zumba classes from 3-4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4 for special needs kids and teens ages 11-18.

This sessions is open to those of all abilities. Music City BBG, the local girls' chapter of BBYO, will be participating.

Parents are invited to come and stay while their child is participating in the class. Please RSVP to Sheri Rosenberg at sheriroseberg@nashvillejcc.org.

Panel on inflammatory bowel diseases set for Dec. 12 at the GJCC

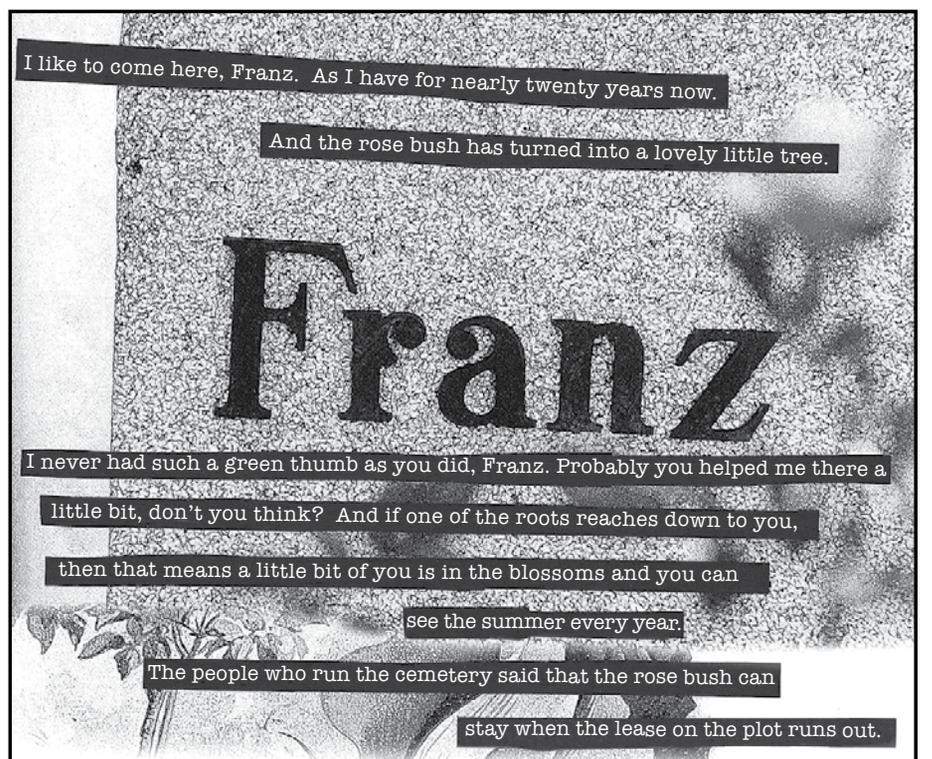
The Gordon Jewish Community Center will host a panel on inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) next month as part of a series on health and wellness.

"IBD: What Everyone Needs to Know," will be from 6-7:30 p.m. on Dec. 12 and is free and open to the public. The panel will include Dr. David A. Schwartz, a gastroenterologist and professor at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and director of its Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center, and social worker Caitlin McGinnis.

Known collectively as inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD), Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are painful, medically incurable conditions that attack the digestive system.

They afflict about 1 in every 200 people, and American Jews of European descent (Ashkenazi) are four to five times more likely to develop IBD than the general population.

To access the Community Calendar, go to www.jewishnashville.org and click on "Calendar."



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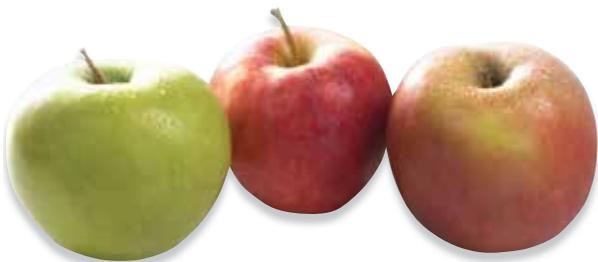
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