



Photos by Rick Malkin

Steven Hirsch makes President's Award presentations to Charlotte Seloff and Gil Fox III

Seloff, Fox honored at President's Award event

Avraham Infeld speaks about importance of Jewish unity

By LARRY BROOK

At the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee's President's Award event on Nov. 17, guest speaker Avraham Infeld promoted the necessity of worldwide Jewish unity, while the Federation honored two individuals with a long record of devotion to the Nashville Jewish community and beyond.

The event, which filled the Pargh Auditorium at the Gordon Jewish Community Center, honored Charlotte Seloff and the late Gilbert S. Fox. The President's Award was instituted in 2012, and in 2014 was moved to the kickoff of the Annual Campaign.

Federation Executive Director Eric Stillman noted that at last year's event, when he spoke about greater outreach and engagement, he quoted Infeld on Jewish peoplehood.

In the past year, the Federation has emphasized "being welcoming to all members of the community," including interfaith families, the LGBTQ community and those of differing abilities. "I believe we are making strides in all these regards," Stillman said.

Moises Paz said like Infeld, the evening's honorees "dedicated their lives to promoting Jewish identity, Jewish communal life and devotion to Israel."

Herb Seloff introduced the video tribute of his mother, saying she is "an iconic woman" who just celebrated her 85th

birthday, for whom "family — immediate family and communal family" were most important.

Three cornerstones of importance to her are Jewish pride, marry Jewish and love Zion, he said. Her goal was "ensuring the continuity of the Jewish people, starting with her own immediate family, and working outwards." It was noted that all 12 great-grandchildren are Jewish Day School students.

A Nashville native, Charlotte Seloff returned to Tennessee after her husband, Eugene Seloff, was decommissioned from the U.S. Navy.

She chaired the telethon division of the Federation's women's campaign in the mid-1960s, then became president of West End Synagogue Sisterhood, later becoming the congregation's first female president.

In the 1970s she chaired the Federation's women's division campaign, and in the 1980s she became the Endowment Fund development director, retiring in 2001.

Charlotte Seloff said she was "very grateful" for the award and being able to share the evening with the Fox family.

After recounting numerous historical milestones from the last few decades, she said "the Jewish world today is not the Jewish world of my volunteering," recommending the book "We Stand Divided" by

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Capacity Crowds Hear Holocaust Survivor

Irving Roth speaks to about 1,000 at Gordon JCC, Micah

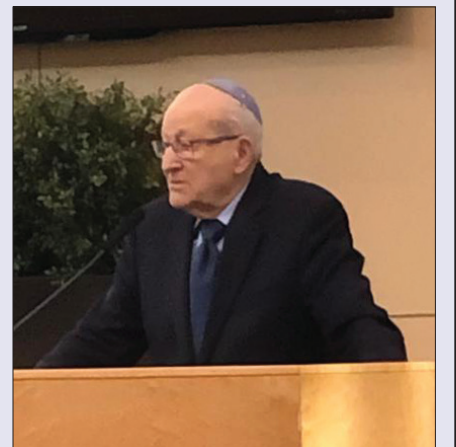
By KATHY CARLSON

Irving Roth is a survivor and a thrifter; a husband, father, grandfather and four-time great grandfather. A young 90-year-old, he blends wisdom, spirit and humor to tell how he lived through the Holocaust and what people today can do to stop hatred and keep Judaism and the Jewish people alive.

He spoke to a sold-out audience of 500 people on Nov. 14 at the Gordon Jewish Community Center, an event sponsored and organized by Chabad of Nashville along with presenting sponsor Regions Bank.

Roth and his wife, Myrna, travel frequently as he continues to educate audiences of all ages and religions about his Holocaust experiences. That week in November, for example, Mr. Roth had spoken in Los Angeles, returned home to New York, then arrived in Nashville for additional presentations through the following Sunday.

He not only talked about his personal history as a Jewish youngster navigat-



ing a world suddenly filled with hatred of Jews, but also gave broader perspective in an interview session with Esther Tiechtel, director of the Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool and Rebbetzin at Chabad of Nashville.

Asked for his thoughts on forgiveness, Roth replied, "I'm not crazy about

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Reimagining Innovation

Federation workshop to reset brainstorming, collaboration and grant-making process for new programs

For several years, the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee has encouraged innovative thinking through a grants-making process for new community programs.

Like everything else, said Adam Bronstone, the Federation's Director of Planning and Israel Partnerships, "it's time to refresh" with the next evolution of the grant-making process, to encourage new ways of looking at community priorities and how to fill unmet needs.

The terms new, innovative and collaboration mean different things to different

people, so Bronstone said they are bringing in Erika Borg, consultant and founder of Civic Allies Consulting, to lead a workshop on Design Thinking.

The community workshop will be held on Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. It is especially targeted toward organizations which are current or prospective grant recipients, to emphasize innovation and collaboration in their grant requests.

Design thinking encourages the solving

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MARY AND HARRY ZIMMERMAN YOUTH EXCHANGE ENDOWMENT FUND HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE AGE STUDENT INCENTIVE GRANTS



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.



THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
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Awards

Continued from front page

Daniel Gordis as an explanation of some of the changes that have occurred.

Also a Nashville native, Gilbert S. Fox returned to Nashville after serving in the Navy, working in the family's chain of retail stores.

In introducing his tribute video, Joyce Fox spoke of her father-in-law's commitment to the community.

She explained he was following in the footsteps of his mother's 50 years of service in the Nashville general community, and his father's presidency of the JCC and commitment to other organizations.

He began volunteering with the Boy Scout troop at the JCC in 1946, she said, and both the JCC and Federation soon became the focus of his involvement.

"He was considered a workaholic in his business career... and upon his retirement in 1981, became a volunteeraholic," she said. He worked with numerous organizations in the Jewish and general communities, including being an officer of the National Jewish Welfare Board.

Gil Fox, who accepted the award for his father, said he wished his father had been able to accept it "as he planned." When Gilbert Fox was approached by the Federation just over three weeks before he died, he told them to honor someone else, "there were younger people who are involved, and he felt they should be the ones recognized," Gil Fox said. "But he did accept once he found out he was going to share it with Charlotte."

Infeld, president emeritus of Hillel, founded numerous Jewish educational institutions, starting in 1970 with Melitz, which fosters Jewish identity in a pluralistic understanding of Jewish life and the centrality of Israel.

Paz said Melitz played "a major role in bringing the J back in the JCCs."

Among other roles, Infeld was director general of Gesher Educational Affiliates and the Shalom Hartman Institute, and was director of the Jewish Agency's Youth Department for English-Speaking Europe in London.

He served as the first international director for Birthright Israel, and continues as president emeritus of Hillel.

Infeld said he was raised in a very Jewish home, where he was taught about Jewish memory, but it was not a religious home. His father used to proclaim, "I'm an atheist, baruch HaShem (praise God)."

He was the first student of the first Jewish Day School in Johannesburg, South Africa, and recently visited to find that just the high school now has 2,000 students. "It all began because I turned 6," he quipped.

Then he added that "You never know when you set out on a Jewish journey where it is going to lead you... when you stick to it, we can build amazing things."

In 1967, he was introduced to the American Jewish community as an emissary to Baltimore. On the way, he saw a billboard saying that "Families who Pray Together Stay Together," sponsored by the Council of Protestants, Catholics and Jews, "and I almost had an accident. I couldn't for the life of me understand why Jews were on that sign," because he had been raised in Jewish peoplehood, not religion.

When he had moved to Israel, his family lived on the kibbutz that was the country's biggest breeder of pigs. When he expressed surprise, a cousin told him he was in Israel now, not South Africa, he could "stop being so Jewish and become Israeli."

In traveling the world, he said, "it was



Avraham Infeld

amazing, all the different kinds of Jews I met. All define being Jewish in different ways."

He said "there is no uniformity among us," but "we cannot survive without unity." He cited the story of Ruth, quoting her response to Naomi, her mother-in-law, "your people are my people, and your God is my God."

"It is not accidental that 'your people are my people' precedes 'your God is my God,'" he said.

Saying he knew Fox and knows several other Nashville leaders, Infeld said "these are leaders leading a people, leading am yisrael. It's vitally important we learn to educate our children and others that what we are is an am," a people.

He said it is difficult to teach the concept of a Jewish nation around the world, where Jews think of themselves as a religion, and similarly difficult to teach Israelis "who think Jews are a nation" about religion. "We are neither, and we are both."

The purpose of Jewish education is "to have every single Jew link his memory to the collective memory of the Jewish people."

The American Jewish community is living in a difficult time, he said. No community in history has been more welcoming to Jews, but it is a society where intermarriage "has become a fact of life."


While no one in the world is more against assimilation than Infeld, he said, he now works with Honeymoon Israel, which works with intermarried couples. "For the sake of our future, we have to determine that intermarriage is not necessarily assimilation. If you ignore it, it will be." He isn't condoning intermarriage, but he is acknowledging that it exists.

All over the world, he gives the same message — that Jews who say we are a religion and Jews who say we are a nation "have got to begin to talk to each other much more seriously" and not just speak about each other. There needs to be more direct conversation between Israel and the diaspora, not centered on who is right, but "maybe we're both wrong and together we can build the real Jewish people the way it should be."

The evening was sponsored by Recovery Unplugged. Co-founder and CEO Andrew Sossin said after being told about the evening's honorees, "I thought of no better way to introduce ourselves to the community than to sponsor tonight."

It was a reunion of sorts, as he had met Stillman in South Florida 16 years ago, when Stillman was head of the Jewish Federation in Broward County and Sossin was a board member.

Recovery Unplugged began in South Florida as a drug and alcohol addiction treatment center that uses music therapeutically, and opened its Nashville center in mid-November.




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Roth

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the word forgiveness" because it implies that people once at odds are starting over with a clean slate. "I don't believe that's possible or desirable."

On the other hand, he said, he doesn't want to live in a state of hating those who wronged him. He prefers the idea of reconciliation, in which people who did evil come to understand that what they did was wrong, make amends, and change their ways. "To forgive and say nothing happened, no," he said.

Roth's Holocaust story started 81 years ago, on the eve of World War II. He was 9 and living with his parents and older brother in a town of 7,000 — including 2,100 Jews — in Slovakia. One November day, he said, "The face of my father betrayed something. It betrayed fear. Would he be able to protect his two sons?"

It was Nov. 10, 1938, Kristallnacht, when Jewish stores in Nazi Germany were looted and Jews were killed or arrested simply for being Jews.

"The whole world knew about Kristallnacht," he said, noting the New York Times ran photographs of the destruction. "You would think the whole world would look on it and say something must be done... It was a test that the whole world failed. Nobody cared."

In coming months, Roth learned that "Jews and dogs were forbidden" from parks and beaches in his town. A Christian classmate told him her father didn't want her to have anything to do with him because he was Jewish and Jews were evil.

Later, he was thrown out of school after Jews were forbidden from attending. His father would lose his lumber business to a non-Jew thought to be a friend who first agreed to put the business in his name while his father continued to run it and earn a livelihood. The so-called friend later demanded that he actually own the business and take all the profits.

Non-Jewish people continued to believe in G-d, go to church, and follow the Ten Commandments, "except for those Jews, of course," he said.

In the summer of 1942, most of the Jews in his small town had been rounded up and sent to concentration camps. By 1943, Roth and his family had fled to Hungary, a country with a long history of anti-Semitism. Hungary wasn't yet killing Jews but instead using them for slave labor.

His family was able to work for a while. As the war wound down, the Hungarian government decided it was time to start sending Jews to Nazi concentration camps.

Roth, his older brother and other family members first were sent to Auschwitz. His father had been seeking work in Budapest and neither he nor his mother were part of the group.

"My brother and I were lucky," Roth said. "We survived Auschwitz," only to join other survivors in a death march to Buchenwald. Once they reached Buchenwald, his brother was taken away. "I never saw him again."

By April 1945, Roth he knew that if he was going to outlive the war, he needed a miracle. When guards at Buchenwald came to round up prisoners, he hid in a crawl space. Guards came with a dog and found him and others. "Get out or we'll shoot you," the guards said. As he and the others emerged, sirens went off for a nearby air



Tommy Bernard, Irving Roth and Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel at the Nov. 14 presentation

raid. The sirens saved his life, he said.

The next day, Roth and the remaining prisoners realized the guards were nowhere to be found. That afternoon at around 3 p.m., two American soldiers appeared at the camp. The prisoners were free. Mr. Roth was 14.

At age 15, he made his way back to the town in Slovakia. Against all odds, his parents had survived the war. He showed up at their old house and greeted his mother, who fainted. His father had been hospitalized for typhus and survived with the help of a nurse who kept watch over her patient and then hid him and his wife in her tiny apartment.

"My parents survived because someone was willing to help them," Roth said.

Even after the war, other countries were unwilling to take in Jewish refugees. It took the birth of Israel before Jews could feel a sense of security and control of their own destiny.

Today, more than 70 years after the end of World War II, anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment threaten Jews. They call it anti-Israel sentiment, anti-Zionism, but it's the same old anti-Semitism, Roth said.

In the United States, an "unholy alliance" of the extreme political right and the extreme left want to destroy Israel, he said. At many colleges, professors propagandize against Jews in the name of freedom of expression, he said. He called on the audience to speak out on behalf of Israel, to write letters to Congress to counter anti-Israel sentiment.

He said he kept his faith through the Holocaust because he realized man's actions — not those of God — had caused the Shoah. "Man failed God; that's what happened," Roth said. "It's told in the Torah very clearly: I give you a choice — life or death." Those who perpetrated, abetted or were indifferent to the Holocaust chose death.

After his talk at the JCC, a middle-school age student said she had never realized there were so many concentration camps where Nazis killed Jews; before hearing Roth, she thought there was only one.

To prevent another Holocaust from happening, Roth urged people to seek the truth, learn from history, have the moral courage to act against evil and leave the world better than how you found it. "Don't believe lies," he said. And if someone is speaking hatefully and promoting destruction and murder, that's evil. Once you know that, act on it, he said.

After the first event sold out, Chabad of Nashville hosted an additional event with Roth on Nov. 17, at Congregation Micah, and the event was also sold out. "There is a thirst of knowledge from the younger generation who want to learn about the Holocaust and its meaning today," said Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel.

Akiva School Recognized as Spiritual Model

Nashville's Akiva School was honored at a spirituality conference in New York as one of 12 model schools in the nation, for the "profound impact of spirituality on children."

"The Next Wave in K-12 Education: The Spiritual Core of the Whole Child" was held at Teachers College, Columbia University, on Nov. 3 and 4, hosted by The Collaborative for Spirituality in Education.

Akiva Head of School Daniella Pressner said the Collaborative looked for about a dozen "leadership schools that demonstrated strength in the way in which they cultivated spirituality in their children."

The Collaborative is led by Lisa Miller,

a psychologist and professor at Columbia University, Teachers College. Miller's book, "The Spiritual Child," was published in 2015 and is a leading work exploring children and spirituality.

"Over the past two years, they have come into our schools to note their observations and hear from students, parents, past parents, alumni, faculty and board members," Pressner said.

Last year, Miller and the professional leaders of the Collaborative travelled to each of the 12 schools, including Akiva, to tease out the essential characteristics of a "spiritual" school.

In October 2018, the heads of the participating schools met with the staff of the Collaborative in a workshop setting. There were two retreats for heads of schools —

one at Columbia and one at the Pocantico Center, a conference center for issues related to the Rockefeller Brothers Fund's mission.

The project is funded by the Rockefeller and Fetzer Foundations.

"The goal of these meetings was to think together about the factors that go into creating schools that help build strong spiritual cores in our children," Pressner said.

Of the 12 schools nationally, Akiva was one of just two Jewish Day Schools, the other being the Brandeis School of San Francisco.

Pressner said the learnings of the Collaborative will enhance the Akiva experience and will further its already successful mission of providing its students the tools they need to succeed in life.



Lisa Miller and Daniella Pressner at the conference in New York

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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@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 can-not be e-mailed, submissions should be sent to 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.

Corrections Policy

The Jewish Observer is committed to making corrections and clarifications promptly. To request a correction or clarification, email editor@jewishnashville.org

The Jewish Observer (ISSN 23315334) is published monthly for \$25 per year by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, 801 Percy Warner Blvd., Nashville, TN 37205-4009.

Periodicals postage paid at Nashville, TN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE JEWISH OBSERVER, 801 Percy Warner Blvd., Nashville, TN 37205

This newspaper is made possible by funds raised in the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign.

The Jewish Observer is a member of the American Jewish Press Association and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

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The Changing Face of Anti-Semitism

By **DEBORAH OLESHANSKY**

The most recent Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents compiled by the Anti-Defamation League indicates that almost 80 anti-Semitic incidents happen every month around the country, many of them involving children, teenagers and young adults. Incidents range from verbal and written taunts promoting anti-Semitic stereotypes to threats of violence and physical assaults. Many more incidents go unreported.

Sometimes these actions happen at school, and students and parents are not certain how to best address the issue. On Nov. 17, David Hoffman, Southeast Region associate director for the ADL, presented "Words to Action: Tools for Parents to Address Anti-Semitism." Organized by the Federation's Community Relations Committee, the program was held at Congregation Micah.

We are grateful for the efforts of program co-chairs Sara Melamad and David Cooper, both parents of students in Williamson County Schools. They realized the need for parents to learn and have tools on how to address issues of anti-Semitism that affect their children. Working with CRC, the co-chairs organized the program for parents of school-age children. This presentation allowed Jewish parents to share personal examples of these situations, and to learn that they are not alone. For some families, their child may be to the only Jewish student in the class, or even in the school. By connecting with CRC, we can hope families work collaboratively and amplify voices when dealing with school educators and administrators.

Words to Action helps Jewish families address the changing face of anti-Semitism by:

- Increasing their understanding and awareness of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bias in their lives;
- Countering anti-Semitic stereotypes and anti-Israel myths with accurate information;
- Providing resources and skills to

strategically respond to anti-Semitism in any form, from insensitive or biased comments to hate-motivated incidents.

Confronting and addressing anti-Semitism in all forms is part of the core mission of the CRC, and several more programs are planned to provide information and tools for constructive and effective responses. These include a workshop specifically for current juniors and seniors in high school to prepare for Jewish life after high school graduation, to include information on anti-Israel bias they may see on college campuses.

On March 31, we will host Deborah Lipstadt in Nashville. She will present about her newest book, "Antisemitism Here and Now."

If you or your child is confronted with anti-Semitism or anti-Israel bias, we can help. We are here to support you and your family in finding positive, effective and ultimately successful resolution of these incidents.

For more information or to get more involved, please contact Deborah Oleshansky deborah@jewishnashville.org.



David Hoffman, ADL Associate Southeast Regional Director, presents the Words to Action program to parents of school aged children. The program was held at Congregation Micah, organized by Jfed Community Relations Committee.

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Anti-Jewish messages painted on Ga. church

By **MARCY OSTER**

(JTA) — A Georgia church was vandalized with messages targeting the Jewish community.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta said on Nov. 18 that it would leave the graffiti — a crossed-out Star of David and the words "God will not be mocked" — on the building for at least a week, the local CBS affiliate WRDW reported.

"It's important for the people of our community to know that this exists, to take a stand," said its president, Andy Reese.

Reese told the Augusta Chronicle that the church has previously received bomb threats after working on special projects with the Jewish community. He said it is the first time that the building has been vandalized.

The Chronicle reported that the graffiti was painted on the building after a church event that ended late on the night of Nov. 16 and before services the next morning.

Nashville Philharmonic Offers Free Concert at The Temple

Meet two Jewish members of the orchestra

Those who love classical music, and those who want to learn more about this musical tradition, are in luck, as The Temple is hosting a free public performance by the Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra on Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.

The all-volunteer community orchestra of over 80 amateur and professional players will perform a classical, symphonic concert of orchestral dances, featuring musical classics from Ginastera, Prokofiev and Beethoven.

"This is a 'welcome back' event for The Temple," said President Joyce Friedman. "The Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra played at The Temple 10 years ago, and as a past board member of the NPO, I have been trying to get them back ever since. We are delighted and honored that the management team of NPO chose our Jewish house of worship as one of its venues for its December concert series."

As a non-profit organization, the Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra selects diverse houses of worship as its central venue for performances across Middle Tennessee, supporting one of its missions to perform high-quality symphonic music free of charge to a wide variety of audiences.

Among the 80-plus members of the NPA, two Jewish musicians, Alex Shor and Rachel Teukolsky, volunteered to share their experiences and musical influences. "Their participation and stories of their musical journeys... will inspire and resonate with many members and families in our Jewish community," Friedman said.

Shor is most familiar to members of The Temple, because he recently won second place in the March 2019 Temple's Got Talent show. He earned the recognition for his performance on an accordion playing classical music by Gart, entitled "Scherzo." The accordion is an instrument that is unusual in the United States, but popular in other parts of the world, especially Europe. It is used, he says, in a surprising number of different styles, from Klezmer to Polka to French Musettes to Argentinian Tango and Cajun.

While Shor will be playing his primary instrument, the cello, at The Temple, his day job is being a software developer for Cigna. But his talents and passion for music are personified in his compositions. He recently won the Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra's 2019 Composition Competition award for his classical piece, "Scenes from a Symphonic Stroll." That piece arose from improvising on the piano, he said, and represented a year's worth of work of composing for the entire orchestra to play on many diverse instruments from horns to percussion to strings.

The piece is an episodic collection of his experiences walking around Nashville, "where I would observe all kinds of crazy shenanigans, including parties, art festivals, even random pop-up thunderstorms," said Shor. Another composition work by



Rachel Teukolsky and Alex Shor

Shor was recognized by a small chamber orchestra that played his film score composition live alongside a silent film.

Teukolsky moved to Nashville 10 years ago to become a professor of English literature at Vanderbilt University. After being awarded tenure at Vanderbilt in 2012, she decided to return to some of her hobbies outside of work and joined the orchestra to return to violin-playing and to find a community of other classical musicians in the area, to advance her skills, another mission of the NPO.

Music and work may consume most of her time, but Teukolsky does find time to periodically attend services at West End Synagogue and Shabbat dinners with an East Nashville group of young Jews. She said Judaism has deeply shaped her as a person. "Jewish history and culture have always been woven into my life, and I'm always aware of how my roots in Russia, Poland and Lithuania point towards a very different world from that of modern America."

They both cite renowned Jewish composers and musicians for inspiring their love and passion for music. Shor has been particularly influenced by Leonard Bernstein; film composer Elmer Bernstein who was known in his day as Bernstein of the West; Gershwin, Mahler and Stephen Sondheim, and so many others. "I feel part of a great musical tradition," said Shor, "Though it is a little daunting, it's also inspiring. I know I have so much to live up to."

Teukolsky admires and finds inspiration from some of the great Jewish violinists of the 20th century. Itzhak Perlman was her favorite player when she was a

Continued on page 10



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Philharmonic

Continued from page 9

child, “especially his appearances on the children’s show, ‘Sesame Street’.”

Both Shor and Teukolsky also credit the Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra’s music director and conductor, Chris Norton, for his inspiration to them and all those in the orchestra. “He lavishes his attention on the NPO while also serving full-time as a percussion faculty at Belmont University and playing percussion regularly in concerts with the Nashville Symphony,” said Teukolsky.

Norton has put together an array of lively and robust symphonic pieces for the Dec. 8 concert, including Ginastera’s “Danzas Del Ballet Estancia;” Prokofiev’s “Suite No. 3” from “Cinderella;” and Beethoven’s “Symphony No. 7.”

A common thread with Shor and Teukolsky is that their parents introduced them to music at a very young age, and it has always been a part of their lives.

Teukolsky’s parents played records of Beethoven and Vivaldi in her house, and they attended classical music concerts. “My mom saw small children playing the violin on TV and thought they were adorable,” said Teukolsky. “It turns out that my hometown of Ithaca, N.Y., is a center of Suzuki violin teaching, so my sister and I signed up for lessons at a very young age.”

Shor, on the other hand, started play-

ing piano when he was only five years old, “because my mom forced me to play, and same with the cello when I was eight,” he said. Yet his mother’s voice was one of appreciation and love as a music teacher for violin and viola. Additionally, his father also played viola and piano, and his sister played violin. To this day, they all still play string quartets as a family.

For parents of a child with an interest in music, Shor and Teukolsky provided insights from their own experiences growing up.

With Teukolsky noting that music is a passion in her life, she advised, “Try not to force anything. See if you can find ways to make it fun; or make it social with other kids. Playing in a youth orchestra or band can be really inspiring.”

Shor advised, “Find an aspect of music your child will enjoy and is passionate about, like improvisation or playing a certain type of music, or songs that he or she really likes.

“But most importantly, don’t let them quit! At least not until they’re 18! Just do it!”

The Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra is a nonprofit organization that is comprised of players from throughout Middle Tennessee. These performances are funded in part by the Metro Arts and the Tennessee Arts Commission.

JCC Commits to Balance and Fall Prevention Training

As Tennessee’s population ages, the prevention of injuries from falls is becoming a serious public health challenge. The Gordon Jewish Community Center is committed to offering our membership the best in fall prevention programs. This focus on senior health and balance has been recently augmented with the addition of Tai Chi River and the nationally-acclaimed Stepping On Fall Prevention program.

In 2019, the JCC was selected to host a complete 7-week program of Stepping On. Facilitators Denise Bellardo and Laura Denison have been at the JCC every Tuesday morning providing instruction and training to improve balance and minimize the risk of falling. Bellardo explains that “It is very important for seniors to be aware of where their body is in space while they are walking or moving about in their homes and the community. We discuss strategies to decrease falls risk in their environment with respect to their medications, footwear, vision and home layout.”

Stepping On Fall is a proactive evidence-based program that is effective in reducing falls in the senior population. The program incorporates positive lifestyle changes, education, and balance and strengthening exercises to keep older adults active, upright and safe in their mobility. The Stepping On Falls Prevention program is proven to reduce falls and build confidence in older people. People who are at risk for falling, have a fear of falling, or have fallen one or more times can benefit from these interactive classes.

As part of the 2018 Stepping On program, Bellardo invited Peter Hodes of Tai Chi River to facilitate a session on movement and balance at the Green Hills Library. Since the Gordon JCC is the home of Tai Chi River, it was only natural for Hodes to facilitate another session. During this session, the focus was on correct posture and a continuing awareness of the foot’s connection to the ground. A number of easy exercises were done and everyone agreed that it was fun, easy and helpful.

Tai Chi River began classes at the Gordon JCC in 2017, and continue weekly with five morning classes. Beginners are always welcome, and it is great for building strength and recovering from injuries and illnesses. Hodes has been practicing Tai Chi for almost 30 years and says “Tai Chi is great for everyone. Most people have no idea what it is... but it is old, powerful, proven and easy to do. These easy exercises have a profound impact on your health and balance.”



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At Our Congregations...



The Shadowboxers In Concert

West End Synagogue's Concert and Cultural Series presents an acoustic set by The Shadowboxers, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m., at Third and Lindsley.

Band member Scott Tyler's family has belonged to WES throughout his life, and he attended its religious school and had his bar mitzvah here 17 years ago.

Tyler, Matt Lipkins, and Adam Hoffman (all Jewish) met in college, instantly recognized their musical compatibility, and have been writing, recording and performing together ever since. At a Passover Seder during college, Tyler met one of the Indigo Girls, who heard him sing the four questions and asked him on behalf of the group to tour with them as both their opening and backing band for over two years, giving them invaluable experience and confidence performing for large audiences. Justin Timberlake discovered them soon afterwards and invited them to open alongside the superstar on his recent Man of the Woods tour throughout the U.S. and Europe.

Tickets are available through the synagogue's website. A meet and greet for patrons and sponsors will be at 6 p.m.

Averbuch leads Tot Kabbalat Shabbat

Shira Averbuch, Artist in Residence for Families with Young Children at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in Manhattan, will be leading WES Family Tot Kabbalat Shabbat services, Dec. 13 at 5:30 p.m.

The musical Kabbalat Shabbat with songs for Chanukah will be followed by Shabbat dinner. Dinner is \$25/family, and advance paid reservations are required.

Averbuch was born in Rochester, N.Y. to Israeli parents, splitting her time growing up between Israel and the States. She moved to New York City for college and has lived there ever since.

Averbuch was cast in a few Off-Broadway shows, including "Solitary Light" at Axis Theater Company, where she met Paul Carbonara, former music director and guitarist of the seminal band Blondie. After their work on "Solitary Light," they became musical partners. Together, they recorded Averbuch's debut, "Till the Sun Comes." The album is

Inspired by artists like Joni Mitchell, Johnny Cash, Ingrid Michaelson, Glen Hansard and The Weepies, an authentic fairy folk album with a touch of country jazz. All the tracks were written by Averbuch and produced by Carbonara.

Kids' Open Mic Night

West End Synagogue's second annual kids' open mic night will be on Dec. 14 at 7:00 p.m. Students ages 5 and up are invited to perform — a song, a dance, poem, monologue, play an instrument, the list goes on. All repertoire must be either written or composed by a Jewish author or composer; Cantor Sarah Levine is happy to offer some repertoire ideas to those who aren't sure where to start.

Levine is thrilled to offer this free event for parents, family and friends to watch the talented kids from the West End Synagogue community! Contact her to reserve a slot to perform, cantorlevine@westendsyn.org.



Hike & Havdalah

Join us at Percy Warner Park for an event presented by The Temple's Worship and Music Committee. Meet at the top of the steps at the end of Belle Meade Boulevard at 2:45 p.m. on Dec. 21, with the hike of the 2.5 mile white trail to begin at 3 p.m. Meet at the stone gate entrance to the park at 4:30 p.m. for Havdalah. All ages welcome; bring friends and family; if you are not hiking, please meet us for Havdalah.

Golden Lunch Bunch

Join the Golden Lunch Bunch for lunch, entertainment and fun at 11:30 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at The Temple. This month's gatherings are Dec. 3 and 17. On Dec. 17, The Temple Preschool will sing to help celebrate Chanukah. To reserve, call Anna Sir, 354-1686.

Tot Shabbat

Come help us celebrate Shabbat on Dec. 7 at 10 a.m., for children up to 6 years old and the big people who love them! We'll have songs, crafts, a story and yummy treats with a Chanukah theme!

"Friday Night Lights" Tailgate Shabbat

Wear your favorite team colors and join us for Shabbat Services on Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. We will have a Tailgate Pre-Service Oneg at 6 p.m. before our late service.

Adult Ed Class with David Barton

"Sacred Questions — A Discussion: What Does God Expect of Us and What do We Expect of God?" The class will be led by David Barton on Dec. 8 and 15 at 9:15 a.m., with additional commentary by Rabbi Mark Schiffan.



Shabbaton with OU Director

Join us for a special Shabbaton of learning with Rabbi Steven Weil, managing director of the Orthodox Union, the weekend of Dec. 6. There will be a Friday night program and dinner on Dec. 6. Dinner reservations are \$18 for adults, \$12 for kids. He will deliver a d'var Torah during the 9 a.m. Shabbat service on Dec. 7. After Havdalah, join us for a melave malke at the shul.

Weil, the son of German "Viehhändler," grew up on a cattle farm in Upstate New York. His love for learning began early, and as a teenager, he prevailed upon his parents to send him away to Yeshiva. He continued his education at Kerem B'Yavneh and Yeshiva University, concurrently completing his ordination at the Rabbeinu Yitzchak Elchanan Theological Seminary and a master's in Business Administration from NYU's Stern School of Business. Rabbi Weil began his career teaching, then began pulpit work, first at the Young Israel of Oak Park, Mich., and then at Beth Jacob Congregation in Beverly Hills, Calif. In 2009, he became the chief executive officer of the Orthodox Union.

Weil is a popular teacher and lecturer, having delivered invocations for former President George Bush, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Speaker John Boehner, and the House of Representatives, among others. He has served internationally as scholar-in-residence on land and on sea, and is a passionate advocate for Israel and for Jewish education.

Rabbi Weil resides in New Jersey with his wife and seven children.

West End Synagogue honoring Jim Handler at Social Action Shabbat

On Dec. 7, West End Synagogue will hold a Social Action Shabbat to recognize the lifetime contributions to the Nashville community by Dr. Michael Mehlman, and honor the Volunteer of the Year, Jim Handler.

The Michael Mehlman fund was established in 2010 to honor Mehlman's extraordinary voluntarism in the greater Nashville community. He made enormous contributions at West End Synagogue, serving as vice president and also chairing the Adult Education and High Holiday committees. However, he felt that it was equally important to engage a broader arena as well.

Mehlman volunteered with several community-wide organizations, including the Literacy Council, Room in the Inn and Habitat for Humanity. His desire to serve continues to be an inspiration to all who seek to lift up fellow Nashvillians.

Mehlman wanted to make a difference in the city in which he lived, and he did.

Handler has spent many years volunteering in the greater Nashville community, leading to the West End Synagogue Social Action Committee recognizing his work by naming him the Volunteer of the Year. The award will be presented at the Social Action Shabbat service, which starts at 9:30 a.m.

Handler said his parents inspired him to help others. Volunteering, he noted, "was a family thing."

He grew up in Oak Ridge and made his way to the Nashville area when he found a job with Donnelly Printing Company. Right away, his boss tapped him to get involved with the new Sumner County United Way as the company's representative. The first year, United Way raised \$30,000, with \$12,000 from Donnelly. After that, the United Way took off and funded many local initiatives.

In the late 1970s, Handler was instrumental in running Temporary Residence for Adolescents in Crisis as a volunteer. "We housed and counseled abused and neglected kids. We even built a 10,000 square-foot facility to house 24 young girls in Gallatin." He served in various capacities for 20 years.

In 1996, Handler moved to West Nashville.

He has coordinated Room at the Inn activities for the synagogue over a number of years, making sure facilities are set up, lining up volunteers to spend the night and spending the night there, as well. He also helps stock shelves at the Martha O'Brian food bank.

On Christmas morning, Handler can be found in the Vanderbilt Hospital leading volunteers in handing out doughnuts and coffee to families visiting loved ones and to staff working on their holiday.

Along with the recognition, the volunteer awardee receives funds to distribute to charities of his choice, courtesy of the Michael Mehlman Fund. Handler has chosen Room in the Inn and Court Appointed Special Advocates of Rutherford County.

At Our Congregations...



Confirmation Shabbat Service

On Dec. 6, we will have a Shabbat service honoring our confirmation students. They will help lead this meaningful service. Wine-Down begins at 5:30 p.m., with service following at 6 p.m.

Shabbat Shal-Om

Calling yogis of all ages! Join us for a Yoga class on Dec. 7 at 10:30 a.m., led by Rabbi Laurie of Congregation Micah and a yoga teacher from Shakti Power Yoga. No matter where you are in your yoga practice or Judaism, we are inviting you to reconnect body and soul through gentle flow yoga and Jewish learning.

Room in the Inn

Room in the Inn is a national program that provides food and shelter for the homeless in houses of worship throughout participating cities in the United States. On Dec. 15, help us prepare food, serve the evening meal, set up the sleeping area or overnight as hosts with our guests. To volunteer, sign up on our website via our Social Action Projects page.

A Woman's Circle

A monthly opportunity to grow your soul, meet with other women and engage with sacred text. Rabbi Laurie challenges your intellect through study and conversation on Jewish and other relevant topics. All are welcome on Dec. 20 at noon. Bring a friend. Lunch is provided. RSVP to Rabbi Laurie Rice at lrice@congregationmicah.org.

Bagels, Love and Torah

Come have a B.L.T. with the rabbi... That's Bagels, Learning and Torah! Torah Study starts at 9 a.m. on Saturdays. Join us for fresh bagels and coffee! Bring your friends for some nourishment of both mind and body – Jewish style!

Schmooze and Views

Join us on Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. for a lively current events discussion with the rabbi; snacks and coffee provided.

Mah Jongg

Meets Tuesdays from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. For beginners (lessons at 12:30) and established players. Questions? Contact Paula Kirwan at pgkwn@comcast.net.

New Singles Group Forms



On Nov. 18, a new group for singles age 50 and over met at the Gordon Jewish Community Center to brainstorm future activities, as part of the Federation and JCC's efforts to build community through a wide range of activities and shared-interest groups as Nashville continues to grow. Michal Eskenazi Becker, Adult Outreach Coordinator for the Federation and JCC, said the event "emphasized how much need there is in the community for such a group." Anyone who wishes to join can email outreach@jewishnashville.org.



Jewish Montessori Preschool holding 50/50 Challenge fundraiser

Nashville's Jewish Montessori Preschool will be hosting a year-end fundraising campaign, "Tomorrow Begins Today – 50/50 Challenge" which will kick off Dec. 3 at noon, and will continue until Dec. 5 at 4 p.m. If \$50,000 is raised in 50 hours, it will be matched by \$50,000 from several matchers in Nashville.

"Tzedakah (charity) is equal to all the other commandments combined." This meaningful fundraising campaign will provide the Nashville community with 50 hours of tremendous opportunity to support the influential and far-reaching work that the Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool does, by providing scholarships to families in the Nashville Jewish community at large. These funds will enable children to receive scholarship grants, and receive a Montessori Jewish education at the Revere Montessori Jewish Preschool.

Tomorrow begins Today. Today is the time for the Jewish community to unite efforts to strengthen Jewish education in Nashville, build a bright future and to ensure Jewish continuity in Middle Tennessee. There is no better time than "today" to support the Montessori Jewish Preschool Scholarship fund.

For every \$1 that will be donated during the campaign, the preschool will receive an additional \$1, so all donations will effectively double in value. Essentially, each \$100 charitable donation will be doubled and will translate into \$200. No donation is too small and each one is appreciated.

The award-winning Revere Montessori Jewish Preschool has become known as a model school in the Jewish community and beyond. Teachers at the Montessori Jewish Preschool are known for their dedication, creativity, and their passion for teaching.

The Jewish values of the Montessori Jewish Preschool drive the curriculum, environment and school culture, and models and encourages kindness, respect, compassion, confidence, and responsibility. The formative years of early childhood are vitally important. Each child is like a seed, which must be nurtured with the utmost care. The seed's every experience will shape and color the quality of its matured self.

For more information about the Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool 50/50 Challenge and to learn about how you can make a difference, visit www.chabadnashville.com/match during the challenge, or call (615) 646-5750.

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Nashville's congregations

Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad, www.chabadnashville.com

Congregation Micah, www.congregationmicah.org

Congregation Sherith Israel, www.sherithisrael.com

The Temple – Congregation Ohabai Sholom, www.templenashville.org

West End Synagogue, www.westendsyn.org



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MENsch Society plans 3rd program

After two successful evenings featuring speakers exploring the Mossad, Israel's national intelligence agency, as well as the history of Jewish comedy, the MENsch Society welcomes a timely conversation with the Anti-Defamation League.

Jeremy Bloomstone, assistant regional director in the ADL Washington office, will be the guest speaker at the third gathering of the MENsch Society, Dec. 16 at 6 p.m.

The MENsch Society is a fellowship of dynamic Jewish men — brothers, fathers, sons, and friends — who inspire each other through Jewish values and commitment to community. Through business and social networking, leadership, philanthropy, and leveraging its collective power, the MENsch Society provides the community with assistance when needed, and support for Jews here at home, Israel, and around the world.

Participation in the MENsch Society, an individual donation to the Jewish Federation of \$2,500 to the annual campaign, represents a resurgence of Jewish philanthropic pride in Nashville's past, present and future. A three year "step-up" option is also provided to those interested in joining immediately and increasing their support over time.

Having previously held positions at the Democratic National Committee and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Bloomstone brings unique insight, perspective and experience at the intersection of progressive politics, pro-Israel activism and American Jewish life. A graduate of Vanderbilt University, Jeremy fostered a love of community engagement through his involvement with Vanderbilt Hillel, and continues to leverage his interdisciplinary research and studies from his time in Nashville.

For the event, the MENsch Society also invites the men of the Ben-Gurion Society, Federation's philanthropic leaders under 40. BGS is a national giving society founded on the principles of David Ben-Gurion, the first prime minister of Israel. His single-minded passion for the Jewish people is as much a part of his legacy as is the State of Israel itself. BGS members make an individual contribution of \$1,000 or a family gift of \$2,000 or more.

The evening will include an open bar and casual dinner, and there is no cost to attend. To register or for more information, contact Joel Abramson, joel@jewish-nashville.org, (615) 354-1643.

Grants

Continued from front page

of problems by incorporating voices and needs of individuals within a community or institution. Each participant is encouraged to consider what innovation and collaboration mean to them, and what they want to see happen in the Nashville Jewish community.

An evening meeting is also being held with lay leadership to discuss the grants process.

Many new programs come from other communities, and Bronstone said it is easy to adapt such programs for Nashville without having to reinvent them. But even with a "huge network of support" for ideas, there is still a need for local innovation and ideas that have not been thought of elsewhere.

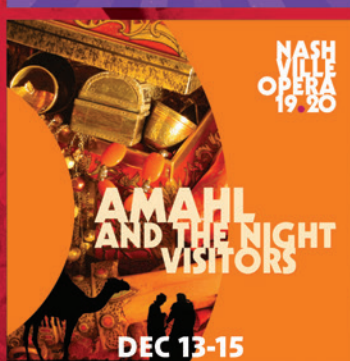
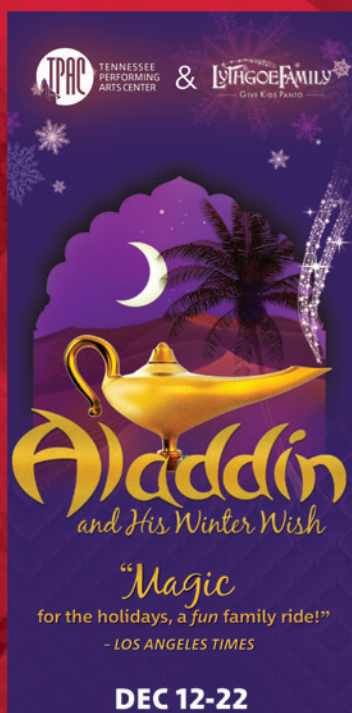
In the Best Jewish Nashville 2.0 process, "there were groups identified where we weren't doing enough in certain areas of Jewish life," he said. The workshop, "hopefully will lead us to some ideas no one has thought about."

Bronstone said he has no idea where the process will lead, "but we'll never get to that point if we don't start."

The previous process started many successful programs. "There have been some really good things that have come out of it," Bronstone said.

Among the success stories is the Federation's NowGen network for young Jewish professionals; the Gordon JCC's PJ Library that provides free children's books and music to over 450 participants, as well as numerous social activities for the families; Shalom Taxi for seniors; Akiva Tools for Life adult learning; Jewsic City Shabbat experiences outside the synagogue, with services modeled on the summer camp experience; The Temple's One Voice concerts for social justice; Congregation Michah's inclusive Women's Seder; and many more initiatives.

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Chanukah Around Nashville

Chabad of Nashville

During the weekdays of Chanukah, there will be the lighting of the State Capitol Menorah at Charlotte and 6th, and the lighting of the Metro Menorah at the Public Square. Check out chabadnashville.com for the exact date and times. One of the evenings will include a special celebration with dignitaries, community leaders, music and gifts.

The State Capitol Menorah has been a tradition since 2003, and at 17 feet, the steel structure is the tallest menorah in the state. It is located near the six cedar trees that were planted in memory of the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust.

During the week of Chanukah there will be several large public Menorah displays around Nashville, including local supermarkets, the Nashville airport and other public venues, to display Jewish pride. These Menorahs are being sponsored by Chabad of Nashville. Chabad will also be distributing free Chanukah kits that include a menorah, candles, a Dreidel, and a Chanukah gift to all who need one. Feel free to come by the Chabad Center to pick one up.

On Dec. 24 at 5:30 p.m., Chabad of Nashville will be hosting Chopstix Chanukah, a Chanukah celebration with a kosher Chinese buffet dinner and desserts. Aside from the tradition of Chinese food on Christmas eve, games of chess and checkers are also traditional, and will be available. See chabadnashville.com for more details and to reserve by Dec. 19.

On Dec. 27 at 6:30 p.m., Chabad will be hosting a special Chanukah edition of the TGIS Shab-

bat celebration. This event will include a spirited Chanukah Kabbalat Shabbat, and will be followed by a sit-down Shabbat dinner that will include various Chanukah delicacies like Sufganiyot, latkes and more. There is no charge to participate in this dinner, reservations to chabadnashville@gmail.com are requested.

On Dec. 28, there will be a class for women, at 1 p.m. at Chabad, celebrating the role of Jewish women in our homes, and sharing the story of the famous female heroine of the Chanukah story, Yehudit, who killed the Roman general that wanted to annihilate the Jewish people, and other Jewish heroines throughout the ages.

Chabad of Nashville will also be hosting the Big Mesibah, a Chanukah celebration for the Israeli community, that will include lots of Israeli spirit, Chanukah songs in Hebrew, and Sufganiyot. Check out chabadnashville.com for more details.

Chabad of Vanderbilt

Chabad of Vanderbilt will be hosting a public Menorah lighting on campus, and will be also be celebrating the holiday with several Chanukah events across the university campus during the week of Chanukah.

Gordon Jewish Community Center

The Gordon JCC's Annual Hanukkah Festival will take place Dec. 15 from 4 to 7 p.m.

There will be a carnival from 4 to 6 p.m., with kids' art projects and games, a dreidel tourna-

Continued on page 19



From the 2018 Gordon JCC Hanukkah Festival



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Chanukah Around Nashville

ment, and a chance to win a free week of Camp Davis 2020. Dinner will be served at 5 p.m., featuring Bernie Pargh's famous latkes, a full kosher dairy dinner, and of course, jelly doughnuts.

At 6 p.m., there will be entertainment by Mr. Jack.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 per child, with a \$40 family maximum. Tickets are available at <https://hanukkahfest19.eventbrite.com>.

Micah

The Festival of Lights Dinner and Service begins on Dec. 13 at 5:30 p.m. with a family-friendly WINE Down. At 6 p.m., the special Kabbalat K'tan Shabbat Service will be held in the sanctuary. Following services, join us for our Festival of Lights dinner, bring your family Chanukiah and a non-dairy side dish that serves 8-10 people. We will provide the main dish, drinks, latkes, and dessert. For more information and to purchase dinner tickets, visit www.congregationmicah.org/events. Reservations are required for this event by Dec. 6.

The Micah Children's Academy Chanukah Festival will be held on Dec. 20. There will be latkes to eat, doughnuts to decorate, and games to play. Parents, grandparents and family are all invited. Interested in attending the Chanukah festival? Email Theresa LePore at tlepore@micahchildrensacademy.org for details.

NowGen

The annual NowGen Hanukkah Happy Hour will be on Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at

Smith and Lentz Brewery. Celebrate with Ugly Sweaters, latkes and beer.

Sherith Israel

Sherith Israel will hold a Happy Haimish Hanukkah Party on Dec. 22. The beautiful Limor menorah will be lit in front of shul at 5 p.m., followed by a 5:30 p.m. delicious meal of comfort food, from latkes to chili and more. Suggested donation is \$12 for adults, \$8 for children, free for ages 3 and under.

There will be a Kids Hanukkah Party at Krispy Kreme on Thompson Lane, Dec. 26 at 6:30 p.m. Rabbi Saul Strosberg kashers the location for December. The party will include free doughnuts and some Hanukkah joy.

The Temple

There will be a Chanukah Service and Latke Oneg on Dec. 20 at 6 p.m. We will come together to light the candles and celebrate Chanukah with a Latke Oneg to follow services.

W.E.L.L (Women Engaged in Living and Learning) will meet at The Temple on Dec. 15 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. for "Flipping Delicious: A Latke Workshop and Pre Chanukah Party."

The Preschool Chanukah Shabbat will be Dec. 20 at 10 a.m. The Preschool candle lighting will be at 5 p.m.

Next Dor - Events for Young Adults will have Interfaith Conversation and Lat-

ke Making, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. There will be information and honest conversations about interfaith issues while cooking and enjoying latkes. The group welcomes singles, couples and young families, ages 22 to 40. To RSVP, email Rabbi Michael Shulman at rabbishulman@templenashville.org.

West End Synagogue

West End Synagogue will have Hot

Chicken and Latkes, Dec. 27 following the 6 p.m. Shabbat Chanukah service. The menu includes chicken (hot, mild or plain), latkes, salad, fruit, dessert and drink. A vegetarian option is available upon request. The chicken is prepared by Slow Burn Hot Chicken of Madison. Reservations are \$15 for adults, \$10 for ages 12 and under, free for 3 and under, with a \$40 family maximum. Reservations are requested to office@westendsyn.org or linda@westendsyn.org by Dec. 23.

Chanukah Party is Debut of Jewish Murfreesboro Group

Chanukah will bring a new gift to Jews living in the Murfreesboro area. Jewish Murfreesboro will have its first event, a Chanukah party, Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at The Club Room at Vintage Gateway.

Barri Schatten came up with the idea for the new group. A Michigan native, she recently moved to "The Boro" from Boynton Beach, Fla. "I fell in love with Middle Tennessee and Nashville proper a few years back when I was traveling here for work and found it to be the perfect blend of my Midwestern and Southern roots," she said.

Murfreesboro is listed as one of the 10 fastest-growing U.S. cities of over 100,000 residents. "That's awesome, but it also can make it harder to connect," she said. "A Jewish collective in Murfreesboro will support growth, diversity and a strong community locally. It will increase

our ability to support and grow with the Nashville Jewish community as well."

Michal Eskenazi Becker, director of adult outreach for the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, said "The Jewish community has geographically expanded in recent years and that created some challenges in connecting people to the community and each other. For the people who live a farther distance from the community, it's not always easy to do the drive to programs and services around Nashville."

Often, Jewish residents of those areas don't know other Jews nearby. "We hope to support distance communities in forming their sense of community around their area," Becker said. "We're starting with Murfreesboro" andutherford County, and the Chanukah party will be "a beginning, we hope, of a very active group."

*A little bit of light
dispels a lot of darkness*

- Rabbi Zalman

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New information service

Observer readers who wish to receive email notification of obituaries as the newspaper receives the information may be placed on a new e-mail list being created for this purpose by the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. Please send your request via e-mail to obits@jewishnashville.org.

"Rabbi vs. Priest" fundraiser leading up to Boston Marathon

Rabbi Laurie Rice challenging Father Mike Tobin

A rabbi and a priest sign up for a marathon...

What sounds like the start of an old joke is no laughing matter, as Congregation Micah Rabbi Laurie Rice and Father Mike Tobin from Church of the Annunciation in Shelbyville, Ky., are not only running in the Boston Marathon, they are holding a "rabbi vs. priest" fundraiser for their chosen charities.

"Father Mike and I are so honored to have been chosen to run for our respective foundations, so much so that we have decided to turn it into a competition," Rice said.

Rice has been running since age 18, and this will be her 13th marathon. "I am a recreational runner but absolutely love it," she said.

The coordinator of the charity run program introduced Rice and Tobin, who did not know each other previously, and they decided to make a competition out of the charitable angle. "Whoever loses has to go and preach at the other's pulpit, he in Hebrew and me in Spanish... which I haven't spoken since about 12th grade," Rice said.

Rice is one of 12 running for the Heather Abbott Foundation's Team Limb-It-Less. Rice said the foundation was

started in 2014 to help amputees in need of prostheses. In 2018, the foundation formed the Krystle's Kids Fund in honor of Krystle Campbell, who was 29 years old when she was killed in the Boston Marathon bombing. The fund allows children with limb differences, who live in the Boston area, to attend camps designed for kids like them.

She has already surpassed her initial goal of \$15,000, with \$15,741 as of press time, placing fifth in individual fundraisers.

Tobin is running as one of 22 team members for the David Ortiz Children's Fund, which provides essential support for children in the Dominican Republic and in New England who cannot afford the critical cardiac services they need. At press time, he had raised \$2,089 toward a goal of \$12,400 — but last year he raised over \$47,000.

They are asking community members whether they are on Team Rabbi or Team Priest, or "if you are pluralistic of faith, support us both." They have set a Dec. 31 deadline for the contest, which is accessible on the Boston Marathon's GoFundMe page.

"Words of My Father" author speaks at Gordon JCC

As the final program of the Fall Author Talks of the Nashville Jewish Book Series, "unlikely peace builder" Yusef Bashir will speak on "Until This Is Over," at the Gordon Jewish Community Center on Dec. 3 at 7 p.m.

A Palestinian-American activist, Bashir recalls stories of his late father in "Words of My Father," and shares his hope for peace between Israelis and Palestinians. He will be in conversation with David Plazas, award-winning journalist and Opinion and Engagement Director for the USA Today Network Tennessee.

Bashir's memoir talks about the devastating brutality that almost left him paralyzed from the waist down, and his consequent treatment in Israel.

Michal Becker, Adult Outreach Coordinator for the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee and the Gordon JCC, knows Bashir and experienced his story firsthand. She met him many years ago, for a few hours, when he was hospitalized in Tel Hashomer, a hospital in the Tel Aviv region. These were "only" a few hours

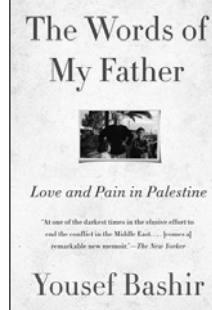
of her life, but these hours were engraved in her memory for many years later.

The story of Yusef and his admirable family embeds so many complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the way the Bashir family, and Yusef in particular, have decided to deal with their personal experience can fill one with great hope — a word that becomes increasingly rare in the region.

Originally from Gaza, Bashir made his way to the United States where he earned a BA in International Affairs from Northeastern University and an MA in Co-existence and Conflict from Brandeis University. Bashir has worked on Capitol Hill, and served as a member of the Palestinian Diplomatic Delegation to the U.S.

The event will also feature music by The Pursuit of Harmony, with Michael Ochs, songwriter and Composer in Residence at Congregation Micah.

Admission is free, and a book signing will be held afterward. A \$36 VIP ticket includes a reception before the talk, a signed copy of the book and reserved seating.



Predators Hosting Jewish Heritage Night

The Nashville Predators will have their 10th annual Jewish Heritage Night at the Dec. 10 game against the San Jose Sharks. Each ticket purchased includes a \$10 donation to the Jewish community organization of the purchaser's choice.

Tickets also include either a limited-edition Predators kippah, or earmuffs.

While faceoff is at 7 p.m. at Bridgestone Arena, at 6:45 p.m. there will be a video menorah lighting ceremony.

Groups of 15 or more can also have their group name on the new FangVision center ice scoreboard during the game.

Tickets are available at nashvillepredators.com/jhn19.

Obituaries

Stephen Angus

Stephen Angus died on Oct. 21. He was the husband of Wendie Angus, father of Maren Angus and Cam Angus. A memorial service was held at Congregation Micah on Nov. 3. Memorials to Congregation Micah.

Jeffrey Kassman

Jeffrey Kassman, 87, died on Oct. 27. He was the husband of Denese Kassman, father of (Larry) Sacks, Richard Kassman, and Larry (Nina) Kassman. A graveside funeral was held on Oct. 29 at Sherith Israel Cemetery.

Marlene Frajman Karp

Marlene Frajman Karp died on Oct. 31. She was the mother of Jeff (Brenda) Karp, grandmother of Rachel and Adam. A memorial service was held in Massachusetts. Memorials to Congregation Micah.

Rosalind Levitt

Rosalind Levitt, 98, died on Nov. 6. She was born Oct. 13, 1921, in the Bronx, N.Y. She had a marvelous life. She and her husband, Jack, who predeceased her, worked together in the family business and traveled the world. Roz was proud she was able to set foot on all seven continents. She enjoyed reading, community involvement, the symphony and opera, and her cat, "Pretty Kitty."

She is survived by her two sons, Harvey (Mara) of Atlanta and Michael (Ellen) of Nashville, as well as grandchildren Katie (Daniel) Greene, Gideon Levitt, Manny Levitt, Dana (Aaron) Sugar; and great grandchildren Madelyn and Delilah Greene, and Jacob and Rebecca Sugar. She was an example of a life well lived.

Funeral services were held on Nov. 8 in the Schott Family Chapel at Congregation of Reform Judaism in Orlando with Rabbi Steven W. Engel officiating.

Stephen Pellar Melkin

Dr. Stephen Pellar Melkin, 78, passed away on Nov. 13, after a long illness. He is remembered by his family for his sense of humor and love of practical jokes, and for the love he had for his family.

Born and raised in New York, Melkin graduated from Hamilton College and New York Medical College. He interned at the University of Texas in Galveston. While a resident at Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital in New York, he met the love of his life, Barbara Hochberg, and they were married in April 1968.

After completing a year of his residency at Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital, Melkin joined the Navy as a commissioned officer. He served as the medical officer on the George Washington Carver, a Polaris class subma-

rine, during Vietnam. He spent time as a diving officer at the naval base in Norfolk, Va. Melkin was honorably discharged as a lieutenant commander, and he carried his pride of serving with the U.S. Navy through the rest of his life.

Upon discharge from the Navy, Melkin completed his residency at Vanderbilt University. For the next 40 years, he practiced as an OB/GYN in Nashville. At the end of his career, he had in locum tenens positions in Rotorua, New Zealand, and at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Tex. He estimated that he delivered over 5,000 babies during his career.

Melkin lived in the Nashville area for the majority of his life. He was a member of West End Synagogue. Six years ago, he and Barbara retired to the Phoenix Area.

Melkin is survived by his wife of 51 years, Barbara; his daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Michael Weinberg of Sandy Springs, Ga.; his son and daughter-in-law, David and Carrie Melkin of Peoria, Ariz.; his daughter, Deborah Melkin of Sommerville, Mass.; and five grandchildren, Sammy, Aaron, Isaac, Sarah, and Ryan.

Funeral services were held in the Phoenix area on Nov. 15, and shiva was observed in Phoenix.

Donations can be made to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (www.lls.org) and The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation (www.crohnscolitisfoundation.org).

M. Lawrence (Larry) Berman

Dr. M. Lawrence (Larry) Berman passed away suddenly on Nov. 18 at the age of 90.

He was born in Stamford, Conn., on July 13, 1929. He was preceded in death by his parents, Evelyn and Harry Berman. He is survived by his wife, Leah, his sons, Lawrence (Lani) and Michael (April), grandsons, Lawson and Gavin, and granddaughter, Emilia.

Berman received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Connecticut in 1951 and 1954, his Ph. D. from the University of Washington in 1956, and his M.D. degree from the University of North Carolina in 1964. Before medical school, he served as a Captain in the United States Air Force, working on Project Mercury.

Following appointments as an assistant professor and associate professor of anesthesiology at Northwestern Medical School, he began his career at Vanderbilt University in 1974 as a professor in anesthesiology and associate professor of pharmacology. Until his retirement from Vanderbilt in 1999, Berman provided distinguished service as a scientist, practicing anesthesiologist, and mentor and trainer of outstanding individuals and resident physicians. Among his achievements are many firsts in research and clinical studies, the introduction of several clinical innovations, and pioneering work in the use of certain drugs in neurosurgical procedures.

In his retirement, Berman continued his lifelong love of learning, was a devoted Tar Heels fan, treated his wife like a queen, loved his family, and charmed everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him with his gentle smile and twinkling eyes.

Funeral services were held on Nov. 21 at the Temple Congregation Ohabai Sholom. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to KIPP Nashville or The Temple Congregation Ohabai Sholom.

Board: Memphis judge's posts not anti-Semitic

Jim Lammey reprimanded by Board of Judicial Conduct for partisan statements

By **MARCY OSTER**

(JTA) — A judicial board in Tennessee cleared a judge who linked on social media to articles saying the Jews should "get the f*** over the Holocaust" of being anti-Semitic, racist and anti-immigrant.

Shelby County Criminal Court Judge Jim Lammey, who had also called Muslim immigrants "foreign mud," was reprimanded by the Tennessee Board of Judicial Conduct for violating judicial codes by making partisan statements.

"After a complete and thorough investigation and under the limited and specific facts of this case, the Board acknowledges that there is no proof that you made any statements that were anti-Semitic, racist, or anti-immigration," the board said in a letter dated Nov. 15, the news website Commercial Appeal reported. "However, during the investigation it appears that some of your Facebook posts were partisan in nature, which is a clear violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct."

Lammey is required to complete an educational program addressing ethical issues and use of social media.

The judge has agreed not to make any future comments or social media posts that could be perceived as prejudiced or biased, the board said.

The article about the Holocaust was written by David Cole, who is considered by historians to be a Holocaust denier. He has claimed that Auschwitz was not an extermination camp and has disputed the 6 million Jews killed figure as too high. He says he prefers to be called a Holocaust revisionist.

According to the judicial board letter, "The investigation revealed that the author is not a Holocaust denier."

The Shelby County Commission had voted in May to censure Lammey before passing the case to the judicial board.

The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee was part of a coalition of groups that called for his censure earlier this year.

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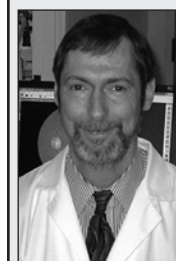
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Interactive Music City experience part of Gordon JCC December art

On Dec. 11, the Gordon Jewish Community Center will present a vibrant evening of paintings, crafts and performance art, in honor of the December art exhibits.

Artist Will Schumm's exhibit in the Janet Levine March Gallery, titled Music City, includes several paintings depicting Nashville musicians' hands playing their instruments.

An interactive music and art performance will take place at 7:30 p.m. during the reception.

The performance includes the use of staging, lighting and a sound "ConsArt." In the interactive performance, 12 of Nashville's top award-winning musicians will be playing instruments while the original art work is projected. Each musician will interactively entertain the audience with a solo performance. The performances will continue as each painting has been represented by the musicians, culminating in a crescendo of music and art.

Along with the musician series, Schumm's exhibit also includes iconic Nashville landmarks, including Cheekwood Estate and Gardens, Union Station Hotel, Ryman Auditorium, and other local points of interest. His work, individually and collectively, captures everything indelible about Nashville's history as well as its thoroughly contemporary energy.

The Sig Held Gallery will feature the art and craft work of several local artists and craftworkers, including Bayard Saunders, Lexie Millikan, Toni Lynn, Kathleen Lynam, Ezra Whitson, Carrie Mills, Amber Sands and Eileen Wallach. The walls and hall will include everything from paintings, pottery, hand crafted jewelry, wall hangings, hats, scarves, finger puppets, calligraphy and more.

The house gallery will continue its feature of the Under One Roof annual exhibit. This year's theme is "Repairing the World," a collective of pieces from various Nashville organizations reflection on the theme.

The exhibitions run from Dec. 3 to 31. The reception on Dec. 11 will run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. There will be henna by Seemi and music by DJ Joseph, along with complimentary food and beverages. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the Gordon JCC at (615) 354-1699, Curator Carrie Mills at carrie@nashvillejcc.org, or go to www.nashvillejcc.org.



Akiva Benefits from Delek Golf Tournament

By **RABBI PHILIP RICE**

Golf is a simple game with Jewish implications. Like practicing Judaism, playing golf requires diligence, humility, honesty and hard work. There are a mere 34 rules in golf, with more than 100 subsections to these regulations. In addition, there are more than 2,000 explanatory decisions needed to illuminate the original 34. Sound like the Talmud yet? Recently, Golf and Judaism were a perfect match.

Raising funds for Akiva and educating golfers about the school,

Head of School Daniella Pressner and Director of Admission and Outreach Julie Fortune expressed deep appreciation for the continued support of Uzi Yemin, Avigal Soreq, and Tony McLarty for their roles in the Delek For Hope Golf Tournament.

The two-day competition included an auction under the direction of current Akiva parent Amy Henry, and faculty member Annie Douthit. Said Pressner, "Recently the Delek team helped us replace our entire WiFi system and rewired the whole school for quicker and more efficient learning! We are so thankful that Delek US raises philanthropic funds for the entire Nashville community and for the special love and care they put into our Akiva school."

Building on this year's success of two teams, the hope is to have even more teams compete next year in order to have fun and bring in even more money.

This year, out of 30 teams during the afternoon session on Sept. 26 at The Grove, the Akiva #2 team tied for fourth at -13, and Akiva #1 tied for eighth at -8.

Playing golf, like being a Jew, the objective is to best yourself. Golf, of course, can only be practiced on the course. At Akiva, we teach our kids to practice Judaism everywhere. Pursuing excellence, fostering critical inquiry and inspiring informed Jewish living, learning at Akiva — like a good game of golf — is spirited, rigorous and fun!

The Delek Fund for Hope was established in 2008 as a way to maximize Delek's support for charities within the communities where their employees and customers live and work. The fund raises money through special events, donations from employees, and gifts from Delek US Holdings.



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Tennessean is Righteous Among the Nations

Newly-released "No Surrender" tells story of Knoxville soldier credited with saving American Jewish lives during the Holocaust

By LARRY BROOK

Pastor Chris Edmonds says that "the difference between a regular person and a hero is two seconds," and he hopes that the spreading of his father's story inspires people to become that hero, should they be faced with such circumstances.

Edmonds is promoting "Roddie's Code" through the release of the book "No Surrender: A Father, a Son, and an Extraordinary Act of Heroism That Continues to Live on Today," the story of how his father, Master Sergeant Rod-

die Edmonds, ultimately became the first U.S. serviceman to be honored by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations for saving Jews during the Holocaust — and the only person recognized for saving American Jews.

Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Authority, made the designation on Dec. 2, 2015. He is only the fifth American so recognized, with Varian Fry, Waitstill and Martha Sharp, and Lois Gunden. The next month, there was a ceremony at the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

Roddie Edmonds died in 1985, and it wasn't until several years later that Chris Edmonds, pastor of Piney Grove Baptist Church in Maryville, Tenn., just outside of Knoxville, knew what his father had done — only those who were with him that day in Germany knew the story.

In 2009, Chris Edmonds Googled his father's name to see what he would find about his service. To his surprise, his father was mentioned in a 2008 New York Times article about Lester Tanner, a New York attorney who sold a

Continued on page 25

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home to President Richard Nixon in the 1970s, when nobody wanted the disgraced former president as a neighbor.

In the article, Tanner spoke about being a POW during World War II and how Roddie Edmonds had saved his life, and the lives of many others.

Astonished, Chris Edmonds got in touch with Tanner to find out what he was referring to.

Roddie Edmonds left Knoxville to join the Army in 1942, and trained troops. In late 1944 he was sent to the Ardennes Forest as part of the 422nd Regiment, 106th Infantry Division, in what was considered an easy posting — but instead, it was where the Germans launched a surprise attack on Dec. 16, leading to the Battle of the Bulge.

His regiment was captured on Dec. 19 and marched through brutal conditions to Bad Orb, a prisoner of war camp, arriving on Dec. 25.

A month later, he and the other non-commissioned officers were sent to Stalag IX-A with over 1200 other soldiers. He was the senior noncommissioned officer among them, so he assumed the leadership position.

On the first day, an order came out over the intercom — after roll call the next morning, only the Jewish prisoners were to fall out. It was well known that it was a death sentence to be a captured Jew — even a Jewish American soldier — in Europe, and some Jewish soldiers had swapped dog tags with dead comrades because of the identifying “H” for Hebrew.

Roddie Edmonds instructed his men that the next morning, everyone would fall out, saying that the Geneva Convention states they need give only name, rank and serial number.

The next morning, Jan. 27, 1945, all of the American soldiers were standing in front of the barracks. According to those close enough to witness the exchange, the German commander, Major Siegmann, angrily went to Roddie Edmonds and insisted, “All of you can’t be Jewish!”

Edmonds replied “We are all Jews

here.”

The commander ordered him to have the Jewish soldiers step forward, but Edmonds replied that under the Geneva Convention he was not entitled to that information. Siegmann pressed his gun

to Edmonds’ forehead and repeated his order, to which Edmonds answered that “If you shoot, you’ll have to kill all of us, and you will have to stand for war crimes after we win this war.”

Instead of shooting, the commander put his gun away and stormed off.

It is estimated that there were 200 Jewish soldiers among the prisoners, one of whom was Tanner. Chris Edmonds was able to meet some of the others, some of whom have died in the last couple of years.

This wasn’t the end of Roddie Edmonds’ heroism. As Allied troops neared, the Germans told the prisoners that the next day they would be leaving and marching further into Germany. With the prisoners near starvation, Edmonds instructed them that they would not leave with the Germans on a death march — act sick, get sick, run to the barracks, just do not go with them.

Despite being threatened with being shot, they followed Edmonds’ orders, until the Germans finally threw up their hands and left the Americans behind, taking the French and British prisoners with them.

Once the Americans were alone in the camp, Edmonds had to convince them not to leave, that they could not survive on their own beyond the gates. The next day, they were liberated by the Third Army.

Since the story first came out a few years ago, there have been two documentaries by the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, one of them a 14-minute piece that received Honorable Mention at the Academy Awards. It was narrated by Ted Koppel, and Chris Edmonds said “he was so gracious to be part of it.”

There is also interest in a major motion picture, he added, and efforts continue for Medal of Honor and Congressional Gold Medal recognition.

Chris Edmonds established Roddie’s Code as “a way to help me share Dad’s message and extend his legacy” by inspiring heroes everywhere.

Long before he knew of his father’s World War II heroism, Chris Edmonds said he knew his father had a strong moral code, including “doing what is right for others, opposing what’s wrong or evil, dignify life and humanity, express love for everyone.

“That’s years before I knew any of this. He just lived his life by that code.”

Tanner also spoke of Roddie Edmonds’ “very deeply held moral code,” based on “his spiritual walk with God and his understanding of God’s truth about how we should treat each other.”

In fact, Chris Edmonds related that Tanner told him his father’s code “is the code I’ve lived by since the day he did what he did.” As a New York lawyer, he added, that was difficult.

He summarizes it as “Do what’s right for others, regardless of the risk and regardless of the circumstances.”

While he has spoken at Yad Vashem and at the national gathering for Christians United for Israel, Chris Edmonds

particularly enjoys speaking to student groups. “I’ve spoken to quite a few fifth grade groups, and they’re some of my best, in terms of attention.”

He was inspired by a fifth grader in Murfreesboro, Tenn., who stood up in April to protest classmates making Nazi salutes when their class was doing a Living History project, and one of the students had been assigned to portray Hitler.

“Why in the world are we having students pushed to be Hitler?” he wondered. “That would never cross my mind in teaching about World War II.”

One recent speaking engagement was at Alumni Hall at the University of Tennessee, on Sept. 11. The film screening and talk was co-sponsored by a Christian group, the Campus House of Prayer, and the campus Hillel, with about 100 in attendance.

Later that night, someone vandalized The Rock, a central campus feature where messages are painted, posting a conspiracy theory about Israel’s supposed involvement in the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attack.

“That was horrible,” Chris Edmonds said. “That’s where I went to school. That’s not the heart of our student body. That’s not the heart of the campus.”

He said students “need to get courage in their hearts and report stuff like that” whenever they see it.

“We’ve got to take a stand against the blatant anti-Semitism that is happening across the country and around the world. Good people need to stand up and speak out,” Chris Edmonds said. “I hope Dad’s story will inspire lots of folks to do just that.”

By coming out with a book, he is able to tell “so much more of the story than we can share in short time slots,” including the story of the men who were with him.

While he was working on the book, Harper Collins decided they also wanted a Young Readers’ Edition, “so I wound up writing two books.” There is an audio version, and a CD edition for school libraries, he added.

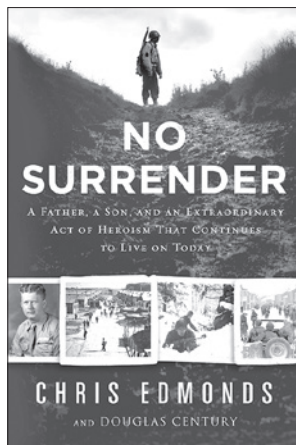
“I had written hundreds of sermons, but that’s a different animal than writing a book,” he said. When looking for a co-author, he prayed for a Jewish writer to work with him, because “I felt like I really needed the Jewish voice and Jewish heart in the book. I would bring my father’s perspective and the Christian perspective.”

He found his partner in Douglas Century, a New York Times bestselling author whose works include “Brotherhood of Warriors,” about Aaron Cohen and his work in Israel’s Special Forces Duvdevan unit; “Barney Ross,” a biography of the Jewish boxing legend and World War II hero; and the biography of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Jack Jacobs, “If Not Now, When? Duty and Sacrifice in America’s Time of Need.”

Chris Edmonds said Century “was the guy. I felt God connected us.”

In addition to speaking to students, Chris Edmonds was invited to become the chaplain for the 106th Division veterans’ group. In August, they held a reunion in Providence, R.I., with eight World War II veterans in attendance. “It was wonderful to be able to spend time with these gentlemen, experience their stories, enjoy their personalities,” he said.

He reflected, “You think about what the world would have been like had we not won. It would have been very different, very ugly.”



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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 Becky Gunn at the Jewish Federation at becky@jewishnashville.org or 615-354-1624 and send completed applications to campscholarships2020@jewishnashville.org.**

All inquiries are confidential. The deadline for submitting applications is March 15, 2020.



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Big Night Out Committee hard at work at their kickoff meeting in September

Big Night Out to be Magical Evening

Big Night Out, the Gordon Jewish Community Center's largest annual fundraiser, is coming up on Jan. 25. This year's event will feature a magic-inspired theme with live entertainment from famed magician Kevin King, a cocktail reception and dinner, as well as a large auction. It will be a magical evening to celebrate the important work of the Gordon JCC, a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that has served Nashville for 117 years.

The event will begin at 6:45 p.m. and tickets are now on sale at nashvillejcc.org/big-nightout. Tickets cost \$150 per person if purchased by Jan. 17, and \$175 afterward.

Kim Lapidus and Tara Mittelberg are chairing the 2020 event and commented, "You are not going to want to miss Big Night Out 2020! We have a great group of dedicated and creative volunteers who are hard at work to make it a magical and memorable evening for all!"

Sponsors of Big Night Out 2020 include American Paper and Twine, Argent Trust Company, City House Title, Delek Fund for Hope, The Dorothy Cate and Thomas F. Frist Foundation, Ghertner and Company, Hermitage Lighting, Kraft CPAs, Sprintz Furniture, and Zander Insurance, with beverages being provided by Best Brands and Tennessee Brew Works.

For more information, contact Dara Freiberg at dara@nashvillejcc.org or (615) 354-1639.

Micah Students Visit NYC

Led by Rabbi Flip Rice and Julie Greenberg, the ninth graders at Congregation Micah recently went on a tour of New York City



Erin Coleman represented the Jewish Federation's Community Relations Committee at the "Dying of Whiteness" book group at the Oct. 29 Community Town Hall sponsored by Vanderbilt Divinity School. The Town Hall featured the author, Dr. Jonathan Metzl, and NPR Journalist Meribah Knight.

Happy Holidays

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