

the Jewish Observer

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Celebrate Israel@65 with song, laughter

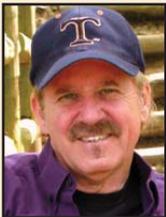
Here's a sneak peek at what's in store as we mark the 65th year of the Jewish homeland on Saturday, April 27, and Sunday, April 28.

Israeli singing star **Dganit Daddo** will perform on both days. Daddo has appeared on theatrical and musical stages as well as on television, and her musical tours have taken her to four continents. Her repertoire includes electronic dance music, original ballads and Sephardic music.



Dganit Daddo

Local and legendary singer **John Ford Coley** will perform on Sunday afternoon. Perhaps best known as half of the Grammy-nominated duo England Dan and John Ford Coley, he continues to write, co-produce and record. John has a strong love of Israel, has traveled there, and follows current events there.



John Ford Coley

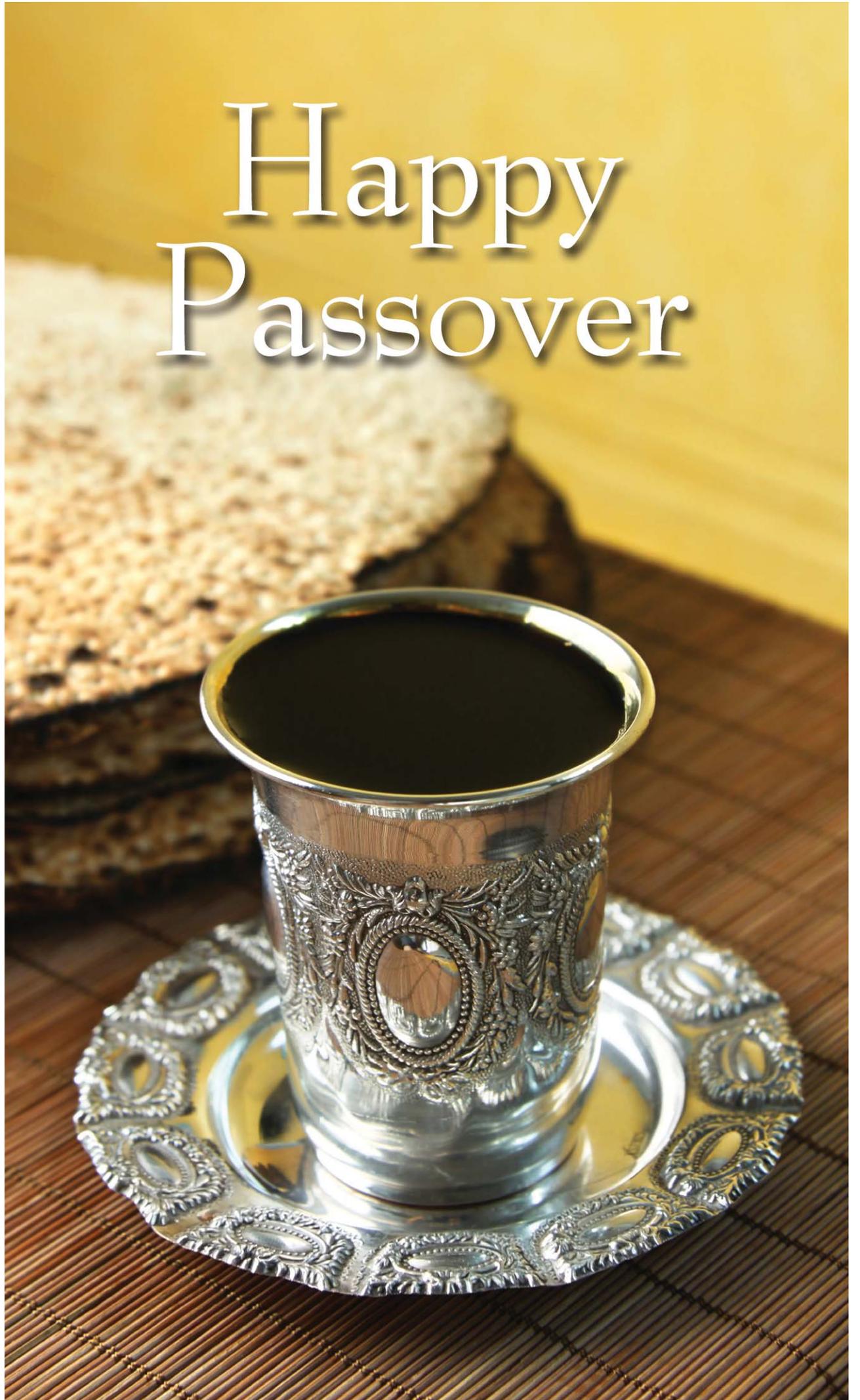
Comedian **Benji Lovitt** will perform only on Saturday night, April 27. Since making aliyah in 2006, Lovitt has performed throughout North America and Israel. His annual Yom Ha'atzmaut list of things he loves about Israel has developed a massive following and he works regularly to promote Israel.



Benji Lovitt

But wait, there's more ... in the April Observer. □

Happy Passover



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MAY YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES ALWAYS CELEBRATE

FREEDOM



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No one goes there any more – it's too crowded!

By **MARK S. FREEDMAN**
Executive Director
Jewish Federation of Nashville
and Middle Tennessee

Last month, at a very well-attended Jewish Federation event, a participant upon arriving for the program informed me that “the publicity for this event was terrible.” Without being defensive, I told this fine and distinguished gentleman that the event was publicized in two consecutive issues of the Jewish Observer (print and online editions); it was the banner item on the Federation website (www.jewishnashville.org) for more than a week; it was a featured item in the *Federation Focus*, our monthly blast e-mail to the community; a postcard was sent to every Jewish household on record announcing the event; it was promoted from the pulpit by our rabbis on the Shabbat prior to the event and last, but not least of all, the event was trumpeted

on Twitter and there were invites on the Facebook pages maintained by the Jewish Federation.

The only promotional strategies missing, it appeared, were posters on Metro buses and skywriting on a crystal-clear afternoon!



Mark S. Freedman

After offering a heartfelt apology my friend added that his friend “didn’t know anything about the event.”

This immediate analogy popped into my head: “If a tree falls in the middle of the forest, does anyone hear it?” The variation in this case might be, “If a tree falls on my house, do I take notice?”

Perhaps with all the sources of information available to us these digital days, it is entirely possible with so much to look at and consider that it is easier to just ignore all of it or set it aside for future

consideration. Okay, tell the truth, how many e-mails do you currently have in your inbox? Have you not, on at least one occasion, forwarded an email to yourself that you had already received as a reminder to look at it again?

How many of us watch a commercial on television again and again, and after viewing this very same commercial for the umpteenth time have no idea what product the ad is pitching?

In a perfect world, marketing in the high-tech era would go something like this: An event promoter has a direct line into the central nervous system of every potential participant. At the appropriate moment we blast a synapse or two with a strong dose of what, when, where, who and why and in our brave new world everyone shows up at our event!

Until that time arrives, and I hope it never will, we are left with the traditional and time-tested methods of getting out the troops.

So, to avoid future mishaps and missed events, here's my advice:

- Please read your monthly print edition of the Observer and check the online edition for periodic updates at jewishobservernashville.org
 - Check the Federation website at www.jewishnashville.org for event announcements and sign up for Federation updates on the website home page so you'll receive the *Federation Focus*
 - Check the Federation Facebook page and tell us you like us! It makes us feel good and you'll get even more updates and invites from us.
 - Don't toss that “junk mail” at home until you've given it a cursory glance to see if there's something interesting from the Federation, like a postcard announcing an event.
 - And finally, if you come across something of interest, tell a friend about it. A little good old-fashioned word-of-mouth communication never hurts. I'll see you at the next event.
- P.S. Many thanks to Yogi Berra for the title of this article. □

Experts offer point-counterpoint on prospect of 2-state solution

By **KATHY CARLSON**

Even in the volcano of their region's politics, Israeli Jews and Palestinians share common ground that can drive peace talks, but in small, achievable steps rather than grand plans, two Middle East experts told a Nashville group.

David Makovsky, director of The Washington Institute's Project on the Middle East Peace Process, and Ghaith al-Omari, executive director of The American Task Force on Palestine and a former official with the Palestinian Authority, spoke on Feb. 17 at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. Earlier in the day, the two met with Vanderbilt University students, both Jewish and Muslim, at Vanderbilt Hillel.

The GJCC event was co-sponsored by the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and by Vanderbilt Hillel.

Makovsky and al-Omari – representing Israeli Jewish and Palestinian views – have spoken together on many other occasions. For an hour at the GJCC, they tackled a series of questions, part of a discussion moderated by CRC Chair Irwin Venick. They examined the recent Israeli elections and their effect on the peace process, the role of Hamas in any peace negotiations, the civil war in Syria, Egypt's role in the region, and President Obama's upcoming visit to Israel.

Baby steps to peace

Regarding common ground between Jews and Arabs, both speakers said Palestinians and Israelis agree on a two-state solution, neither side wants to see the Palestinian Authority collapse, and Israeli and Palestinian security agencies are cooperating with each other. This indicates there is reason to believe progress can be made in small steps.

And even though the peace process wasn't an issue in the January Knesset elections, Israel experienced a shift in power that will affect peace efforts, Makovsky said.

Israelis elected Knesset members based on economic issues and on requiring ultra-Orthodox Jews to share in the

burdens of society, Makovsky said. The Israeli right didn't grow in power, as expected, and two newly formed parties – the centrist Yesh Atid (There is a Future) party of Yair Lapid and the Jewish Home party of Naftali Bennett – made strong showings. That points to changes in Israel's governing coalition.

Any coalition will have to reconcile potentially opposing views on moving toward peace and on the issue of drafting ultra-Orthodox into the military, al-Omari said. The government will have to do something, but will be challenged not to move too far, he said.

The rest of the world also wonders whether two Palestinian factions – Fatah in the West Bank and Hamas in Gaza – will find common ground. In al-Omari's view, Hamas and Fatah can't reconcile. Hamas, he said, supports the use of violence to attain the goal of establishing a theocracy. Fatah supports a two-state solution and a negotiated peace to establish a secular state. “I don't think you can square that circle,” he said.

Defining moment

It's a critical moment for the Palestinians to define themselves. Only one side – Fatah or Hamas – can win, al-Omari said. Israel's actions are critical to the outcome. If it does nothing, the trend favors Hamas, he said.

Makovsky pointed out that the region's political environment tends to favor Hamas. “We're living through a volcano,” he said, and Israel faces a situation more crucial than it faced 1948. The task for Israel is to show Palestinian moderates that moderation pays, he said. “It's like playing a six-dimensional chess game,” he said, because Israel's actions affect not only those it deals with directly, but also with other players that are part of the mix.

Meanwhile, the carnage in Syria continues, with implications not only for Syrian society but also for Iran, Jordan, Lebanon and Israel. President Obama has overruled advisers in his decision not to intervene in Syria's civil war. Regardless of whether that was a good decision, it means the United States will have little leverage to use in molding what emerges from the civil war, al Omari said.



Community Relations Committee Chairman Irwin Venick, at podium, moderates the discussion on Middle East issues with David Makovsky, right, and Ghaith al-Omari, center. PHOTO: RICK MALKIN

Balancing act for Israel

Israel's challenge is to stay out of the fight in Syria but remain vigilant about Hezbollah stepping into a power vacuum or trying to seize Syria's chemical or biological weapons or advanced weaponry, Makovsky said.

And with Egypt, Israel must walk a tightrope between maintaining ties with Egypt's military, who can keep Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi in power and maintain some semblance of stability, and the risk that after 10 years of stability, a strengthened Morsi will turn on Israel. Makovsky said the United States has leverage in conditioning foreign aid on Egypt's stopping the flow of Iranian Fajr 5 rockets into Gaza.

The two speakers shared their visions for a negotiated peace. Makovsky talked about a territorial, two-state solution in

which Israel keeps up to 5 percent of the West Bank, offset by a land exchange of equal value to the Palestinians. Peace would come about in incremental steps that focused on borders and security.

Al-Omari said any deal should be about the future and not the past. Neither side can or should try to rewrite the other's narrative of what happened when Israel came into existence in 1948. Both sides need to make an effort to get to know each other in personal terms, rather than in stereotypes. Negotiators should consider not only their own post-peace deal victory speech, he said, but their opponent's. □

EDITOR'S NOTE: To learn what Makovsky and al-Omari have to say on President Obama's upcoming visit to Israel, turn to page 8.

Wishing you a joyous and peaceful Passover!



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JFS marks anniversary, honors Heller, Lapidus at Chesed Dinner

Jewish Family Service of Nashville will honor Toni Heller and Steve Lapidus with its Chesed Award at its annual Chesed Dinner on Thursday, April 18. Toni and Steve are both dedicated and passionate JFS volunteers, who exemplify the word Chesed, or loving-kindness, the agency announced in a news release.

Heller has been the rock-star lay leader of JFS during some very turbulent times. She was president at the height of the economic downturn which affected both the need for JFS' services as well as donations coming into JFS. JFS responded with additional services, such as the Kosher Food Box program, rather than cutting services because of a decrease in revenue. This was in great part due to her determination to weather the storm.

Heller also initiated some key projects for JFS. With Diane Sasson, Toni co-chaired "Free to Read," through which the Jewish community collected more than 500 children's books that were presented to the Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights agency. The project's goal was to continue JFS' long-standing commitment to help new immigrants adjust to our community.

In addition, she single-handedly wrote and distributed JFS' Personal Emergency Preparedness guide, which can be downloaded at <http://jfs-nashville.org/family-resources/personal-emergency-preparedness-guide>.

When asked about being one of this year's recipients of the Chesed award, Heller said, "It is very humbling to even



Toni Heller



Steve Lapidus

be considered a recipient; to be honored is even more humbling. JFS symbolizes all that Jewish life stands for – helping others achieve a better and more meaningful life. I couldn't be more proud than to represent this organization."

When the staff of JFS thinks about who is JFS' biggest advocate, Steve Lapidus is one of the first people to pop into our heads. He is a discerning leader who questions, examines, and then fully supports the agency. Lapidus has served in various capacities over the past eight years including secretary and executive committee member at large. In addition, he has co-chaired the Annual Campaign as well as serving on the Nominating and Marketing committees. JFS is so grateful

to him for all the behind-the-scenes work he does to help promote and cheerlead for the agency.

When asked about his work with JFS and the Chesed Award, Steve commented, "I have had the distinct privilege to serve on the JFS board for many years. Not once have I ever questioned that decision. Each year, I become more amazed at the talent of the staff and the overwhelming mission to do for others. I am proud to serve on this board and deeply honored and humbled by this recognition."

"Jewish Family Service is so pleased to be honoring Toni and Steve who have not only used their talent and passion to benefit JFS, but also the larger Jewish community and the broader community of Nashville," Kelner said. "Both Toni and Steve are roll-up-your-sleeves-and-

get-the-job-done leaders who have really set the tone for the JFS board. I am very lucky to have a truly working board and that is in great part due to the examples set by both Toni and Steve."

In addition, JFS is celebrating its 160th birthday this year. JFS was originally established in 1853 as the Hebrew/Jewish Relief Society, which distributed clothing to the needy and helped them with rent payments. The Hebrew Relief Society joined with the National Council of Jewish Women in 1903 to offer kindergarten classes for immigrant children. In 1952, the then-Jewish Welfare Federation changed its name to Jewish Social Service and expanded its offerings. In the early 1960s, the name again changed to Jewish Family Service.

Present-day Jewish Family Service has developed into a high-quality social service agency providing the following core services: adoption, case management, counseling and psychotherapy, emergency financial assistance, volunteer match program for seniors, and family life and community enrichment. Additionally, in response to the economic downturn, the following services have been added: Kosher Food Boxes, Chanukah Gifts for Children, School Supply Drives, a Job Network to link employers with job seekers, and the Geshar Fund.

The Chesed Dinner and annual campaign enable JFS to support our community – one child, one adult, one family at a time. Last year, Jewish Family Service served more than 1,700 individuals. Please support our efforts through a generous gift to Jewish Family Service. To find out more about Jewish Family Service or the Chesed Dinner, contact Kelner at (615) 354-1644. □



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A moment of truth in Israel's recent elections

By **HADAR MOSKOVITZ**
Nashville community shlicha

Early elections for the 19th Knesset (Israel's parliament) were held in Israel on January 22. On that day, evening time in Israel, I got a text message from my brother. He said that he went to vote in our area's ballot in our hometown Shoham and that our names were the last ones on the voters list. After he voted, my name stayed the last one on the list. It wasn't because I didn't want to vote, it was because I couldn't.

You're asking yourself, why? I was asking the same question and was really surprised to find out that I couldn't vote this year. How come my country sent me to be an emissary, but in "Regah Ha'Emet - The Moment of Truth" I am denied my right to vote? The answer for that is the



Hadar Moskovitz

election law states that the only Israeli citizens abroad who are entitled to vote are the ones that receive their salaries directly from the government of Israel, the Jewish Agency, the World Zionist Organization, or the Jewish National Fund. The Young Shlichim (participants in the program sponsored by the Jewish Agency for Israel that has brought me to Nashville this year) do not receive salaries from JAFI but receive stipends and support from the hosting community. That was the deal breaker. All the shlichim were very upset and disappointed about being unable to cast their votes. As a group we tried to appeal to the Supreme Court in order to change the law. This

issue did receive media coverage in Israel. Our hope was even if we could not reverse the law in time for us to vote, we wanted to make the change for future Young Shlichim. For now nothing has been changed.

Even though I couldn't vote and I am far away, I stayed tuned to the entire election process.

Election Day in Israel is a celebration of democracy. The political freedom in Israel was reflected by the 34 registered parties that competed for representation in the Knesset. Only 12 parties, who passed the 2 percent qualifying threshold, got accepted into the Knesset.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud-Beiteinu joint list received 31 seats, and earned the right to build a coalition. Yesh Atid, a centrist party participating in its first election, was the surprise second-place finisher with 19 seats. Yair Lapid, the

party's leader, is poised join a coalition with Likud.

And what's next? President Shimon Peres announced on February 2 that Netanyahu will be tasked with forming the next government. Netanyahu has six weeks to form a coalition government, with an extension of 14 days if needed. If he succeeds, he will begin his third term as Israeli premier. Netanyahu said he wants a broad governing coalition that will bring stability to the government and allow it to confront the state's challenges.

If you would like more analysis of the election, the Community Relations Committee is hosting a program featuring Gil Hoffman, chief political correspondent for the Jerusalem Post, on March 14, 7:15 p.m., at the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

Please send your comments to me at hadar@jewishnashville.org, or to hear about upcoming programs. □

Speaker Gorenberg aims to offer perspective, nuances on Israel

By **KATHY CARLSON**

When historian and journalist Gershom Gorenberg speaks this month at the Gordon Jewish Community Center, his aim is not to prognosticate but rather to educate.

"I think that it's important for American Jews and other Americans, when talking about Israel, to get a sense of the particulars and nuances of the situation," he said in a recent telephone interview. "I hope to contribute" to that understanding.

Gorenberg normally lives in Jerusalem but currently holds the Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold Distinguished Visiting Chair in Jewish Studies at the College of Charleston. He is teaching a course titled "Writing Israel's History." He has written several books about issues confronting Israel, including his most recent, "The Unmaking of Israel." His talk, set for Sunday, March 10, at 7:15 p.m., is titled "Remaking Israel: The Need for a Second Republic." J Street Nashville is sponsoring the event.

In his talk, he wants to update "The Unmaking of Israel," which was published in 2011. "As I've done in my recent book, I'm looking at trends that could threaten Israel as a democracy and the policies that can be made as a response," he said. Trends include Israeli settlements in the West Bank and the

interaction of synagogue and state.

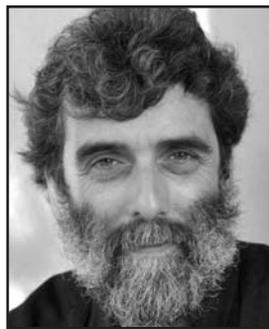
Gorenberg said his "firm policy (is) to report on what happened and not on what's going to happen. Not only do we not know what will happen, he said, but any leak from any side about what they expect can affect public opinion and expectations.

"I've lived in Israel 35 years," Gorenberg said. "The constant theme is to expect the unexpected." The January election results weren't expected and the uprisings spreading through the Arab world over the past two years weren't expected.

He offered an analysis of the January Knesset elections, in which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu retained his position but will have to assemble a new governing coalition.

In the leadup to the vote, the conventional wisdom was that parties on Israel's right - which includes Netanyahu's Likud party and its ally, Yisrael Beiteinu - would gain seats. But the "great right-wing shift of Israel didn't happen," Gorenberg said. Likud and Beiteinu together lost a quarter of their strength as the right wing reconfigured itself with no overall gain in its share of the Knesset seats. This yields a very different balance of power for the two parties in terms of forming a larger coalition and actually governing.

Netanyahu's past inclination has been to form coalitions in which Likud is



Gershom Gorenberg

in the center, so that one party leaving the coalition won't bring down the government, Gorenberg said. It's not clear that can be done now. If Netanyahu's coalition adds elements from the right, it would ignore the fact voters made a "clear shift to parties that were challenging ultra-Orthodox power." Israel's other political parties may agree on specific issues - the drafting of Haredi Jews into the military, for example - but dis-

agree strongly on other key issues, such as the West Bank settlements.

This is part of why Netanyahu was not quickly able to form a coalition, Gorenberg said. "I have no idea what the coalition will look like. It doesn't just matter if you have a majority; it matters what kind."

Ultimately, Gorenberg writes and speaks with the big picture in mind. "Part of the reason I wrote my book - it's important to take a longer-term perspective," he said. "Sometimes when you do that you discover that the initial impressions or people's memories of events are different from what happened." □



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Author shares artistic recipes behind 'Guess Who's Coming To Seder'

The first full Nashville production of "Guess Who's Coming To Seder: A Delicious New Musical" will take place, appropriately enough, during Passover at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. Performances are set for March 28, 30 and 31.

Local playwright/composer/lyricist Randi Michaels Block wrote the book, music and lyrics to "Guess Who's Coming To Seder?", which earned her a nomination for the 2010 Fred Ebb Award for musical theater songwriting. The show was performed as a staged reading at Nashville's Darkhorse Theatre in 2011, but this will be its first full production here in town.

The play tells the story of Sarah Friedman, who decides to hold her first Seder for eight of her friends, none of whom is Jewish. As the Seder progresses and the wine flows, nine people from seven different religions reveal their struggles with personal truths and conflicts about love, friendship, faith and the pursuit of freedom. The contemporary score covers the spectrum of theater, pop, rock and R&B.

Block herself has composed, performed, produced, recorded and toured internationally as a backup vocalist with artists including Gloria Estefan and The Mavericks. She moved to Nashville in 1992, signed a songwriting-publishing deal and saw many of her songs recorded. She has taken an active role in The Nashville Songwriter's Association International (NSAI) for many years, and from 2006-2008 was the Tin Pan South Show producer and booking manager for NSAI.



Randi Michaels Block

She told the Observer the story behind the play in an e-mail interview. Here are some of her ... observations:

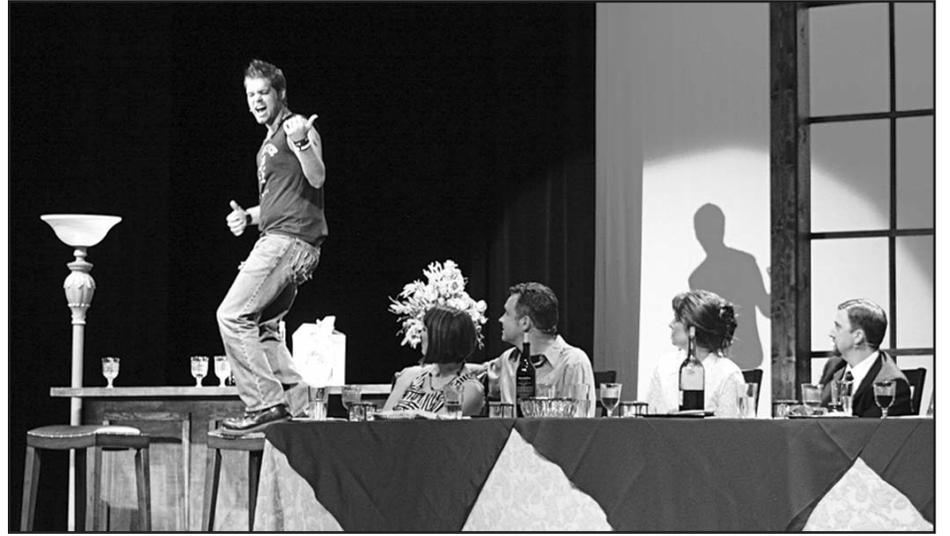
How has "Guess Who's Coming To Seder?" evolved over the course of its life?

When I began writing it, I had four songs, an outline and the character descriptions that I boldly (or crazily) submitted for the 2010 Fred Ebb Award. This is a very auspicious award given to one composer/lyricist each year. When I got the call that I was one of eight finalists, I knew it was time to get serious about it. Soon after, I met ("Always...Patsy Cline" creator) Ted Swindley, who pushed me to finish it, and the rest is history.

I've learned that writing a musical should really be called "rewriting a musical." It's a living, breathing thing and there are always adjustments and changes that have to be made. It's fun...just another part of the creativity process. When that's over (hopefully when it gets to Broadway), I can jump into writing my next show, which is already percolating.

What's the process of writing a musical like? Do you first write the script, then the songs, or do the songs come first, then the story? Or does it kind of go back and forth?

There is no rhyme or reason to how or when I write. I'm probably the most undisciplined writer I know. It comes in spurts and it comes in waterfalls. But when it's flowing, I get out of the way. This show



First-time Seder guest Ricky Rock belts out a song in "Guess Who's Coming To Seder?"

came out so fast, there were days I couldn't type fast enough. When that happens, it's a gift. All I know is, the show has to rhyme and it has to have a reason.

What best prepared you for writing a musical, and why?

Growing up on Long Island, my family went to see Broadway shows on a regular basis and inevitably, I'd become enamored with the music and characters of every show we'd see (and much to the dismay of my older brother, I'd always sing the songs at the top of my lungs as we drove home from the city.) My parents would play Broadway cast albums on our stereo and even as a little girl I would study and memorize the lyrics. So in some ways, I'd just have to say it's in my blood.

Talk a little about the cast of "Guess"...

I'm thrilled with our cast for this production. Each actor and singer is a multitalented, seasoned professional.

They're all very enthusiastic about the show and excited to present it here in Nashville. Lari White, one of Nashville's well-known gems, has starred on Broadway and performs with the Nashville Symphony, and we are very excited to have her in the show. My music director, Dan Serafini, and all of our musicians are highly respected session players and the credits in the playbill will reveal lots of wonderful information about everyone.

What would you say to someone who is planning to see the show? Is a CD of the music available?

I would say be prepared to laugh, cry, be surprised, and have a great time.

There is no cd yet, but it's coming! Maybe there'll be t-shirts? ☐

For more from Randi Michaels Block, go to the Observer web site, jewishobservernashville.org.



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Major events in Israel's history - 1995 to present

This is the second of a two-part timeline of key events in modern Israel's history, covering the years from 1995 to present. Information for 1995 through 2009 is compiled from the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs web page covering facts about Israel and from an ADL timeline. Information from 2010 to present is compiled from the Jewish Virtual Library's Modern Israel Timeline.

1995

Broadened Palestinian self-government implemented in West Bank and Gaza Strip; Prime Minister Rabin assassinated; Shimon Peres becomes prime minister.

1996

Fundamentalist Arab terrorism against Israel escalates; Benjamin Netanyahu elected prime minister.

1997

Hebron Protocol, dealing with security responsibilities in Hebron, signed by Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

1998

Israel celebrates its 50th anniversary.

1999

Ehud Barak elected prime minister.

2000

Pope John Paul II visits Israel; renewed violence (Second Intifada); Prime Minister Barak resigns.

2001

Ariel Sharon elected Prime Minister; forms broad-based unity government; Palestinian-Israeli Security

Implementation Work Plan (Tenet ceasefire plan) proposed.

2002

Israel launches Operation Defensive Shield in response to massive Palestinian terrorist attacks; Israel begins building fence to stop West Bank terrorists from killing Israeli citizens.

2003

Right-of-center coalition government formed by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon; suicide bombings in Israel; Israel accepts the Roadmap for Peace

2005

Israel carries out the Disengagement Plan, ending Israel's presence in the Gaza Strip.

2006

After Prime Minister Sharon suffers a stroke, Ehud Olmert becomes acting prime minister; Gilad Shalit kidnapped by Palestinian terrorists in Gaza; two Israeli soldiers kidnapped by Hezbollah in northern Israel; second war in Lebanon.

2007

Israel declares Gaza "hostile territory" after Hamas takes power.

2008

Israel celebrates 60th anniversary; Israel launches Gaza operation (Operation Cast Lead) in response to more than 10,000 rockets and mortars fired from Gaza.

2009

Benjamin Netanyahu is elected Prime Minister in national elections; city of Tel Aviv celebrates its 100th anniversary.

2010

Israeli naval forces intercept six ships attempting to break the naval blockade of the Gaza Strip, including the Turkish ship Mavi Marmara. When Israeli personnel boarded the vessel, the demonstrators onboard attacked them; nine demonstrators died in the fight. The incident led to a breach in Israel's relations with Turkey.

As a result of the violence, seven soldiers were wounded and there were nine activist

2011

Udi Fogel, 36, and Ruth Fogel, 35, along with three of their children stabbed to death by terrorists in their home in Itamar, in northern Samaria in

the West Bank; Israel's Iron Dome anti-missile system successfully shoots down its first two rockets fired by Hamas terrorists in the Gaza Strip; Israeli civilians marched to protest economic issues; Gilad Shalit released in prisoner exchange.

2012

In response to continuing rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip, IDF launches a widespread campaign against terror targets in Gaza called Operation Pillar of Defense; operation lasts for eight days and ends with cease-fire.

2013

Netanyahu remains prime minister after Knesset elections; Israel turns 65. □

B'nai Tzedeks: We want to see you!

Calling all B'nai Tzedek Fund Holders of the Jewish Foundation: You still have time to join your friends at our annual event on March 3.

Everyone with a B'nai Tzedek fund is invited to attend, hear the latest on the B'nai Tzedek program and decide what the income from your fund will support. Your dollars do make a difference with organizations in Nashville, Israel and around the world.

The event includes dinner and activities with Federation's Israeli Shlichah, Hadar Moskovitz, who will focus on Jewish Identity. One lucky attendee will win \$100 toward their fund.

The B'nai Tzedek annual event takes place from 5-7 p.m. on Sunday, March 3, at the home of Howard and Leslie Kirshner. To attend, contact Risa Klein Herzog, director of Foundation development, risa@jewishnashville.org.

The B'nai Tzedek program helps teens begin a giving future. With a donation, a fund is established in the name of a Bar or Bat Mitzvah-age teen. The donation is then matched through the generosity of the Feldman/Hassenfeld/Rapoport Fund, along with additional Foundation funds. It has proven to be attractive to teens, who are learning the value of Tikkun Olam, the repair of the world. □

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Will Obama's planned Israel visit revive Israel-Palestinian peacemaking?

By **RON KAMPEAS**

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Is President Obama's plan to visit Israel a sign that he's ready to take another shot at Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking?

Obama is set to visit Israel this month, his first trip there as president. (He visited in 2008 as a presidential candidate.) This trip also will include meetings with Palestinian Authority leaders and a trip to Jordan, the White House said.

Obama spoke of the visit in a conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu earlier this year. An exact date had not been announced at press time.

The announcement appears to be a signal that the president is serious about peacemaking, said David Makovsky, an analyst with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, which has close ties with the Obama and Netanyahu governments.

"Part of the problem is that on all sides, there's disbelief that peace is possible," Makovsky said. "He wants to engage both societies about why you can't give up. He wants to engage on the gut level with Arabs and Israelis in a way he hasn't until now."

Perceptions matter

In a region where optics are important, Obama's failure to visit during his first term as president was cast by his opponents as a sign that Israel was not a high priority for him. It did not help Obama's popularity in Israel when he omitted the Jewish state from a June 2009 visit to the Middle East that included a major speech in Cairo and a stop in Saudi Arabia.

As much as anything else, the spring trip may be about reaching out to Israelis.

"I'm excited that President Obama is coming this spring to reaffirm the deep ties between Israel and the United States," Dan Shapiro, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, said in a message in Hebrew on Twitter.



President Obama, shown visiting the Western Wall in July 2008, is expected to make his presidential visit to Israel in the spring. AVI HAYON/FLASH90/JTA

Netanyahu may have his own reasons for welcoming such a visit now. For one, a U.S. president on Israeli soil sends an unmistakable message to Israel's enemies that America stands with Israel.

It also helps Netanyahu politically. Netanyahu emerged weakened from Israel's Jan. 22 elections, and aides have told the Israeli media that they believe voters stayed away from the prime minister over concerns about his rapport with Obama.

The two leaders have had something of a fraught relationship. There have been philosophical differences about Israel's settlement enterprise and the Palestinians, disagreements about the red line for Iran's nuclear program and perceived snubs on both sides.

During a March 2010 White House meeting, Netanyahu was denied a photo opportunity with the president and Obama interrupted their meeting to eat dinner. Last year, Netanyahu gave an enthusiastic reception to Obama rival Mitt Romney during the 2012 campaign.

Moving forward

But the recent elections in both the United States and Israel could mark a turning point.

In recent days, Netanyahu has indicated that he wants to establish a coalition government that tends more to the center than his last government. He also has identified diplomacy with the Palestinians as one of his top priorities.

On the other side of the Atlantic, Obama's choice for secretary of state, John Kerry, said in his Senate confirmation hearing that preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and advancing Israeli-Palestinian peace would be his twin priorities in the job. Kerry has since announced his own plans to visit Israel next month, and among his first calls in his new job were conversations with Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

"It's a new beginning: Obama can have a serious discussion with the Israeli prime minister at a time he's heading a new government," said Dennis Ross, a counsel at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy who was Obama's top Middle East adviser until a year ago.

"The president is interested in connecting with the Israeli public. It allows him to show he cares about the peace issues, but allows him to do so while discussing all the issues, including Iran, Syria and Egypt."

Aaron David Miller, a former U.S. negotiator who now is vice president of the Wilson International Center for Scholars, says both Obama and Netanyahu are being driven to a rapprochement by exigency: Netanyahu by his weakened political position and Obama by preserving his legacy.

"One guy is caught in circumstances which require improvement, and the other guy knows if he wants to get anywhere he's going to have to figure out if he can work with Bibi," Miller said.

Debra DeLee, the president of Americans for Peace Now, said in a statement that Obama's visit will give him an "opportunity to directly address the people of Israel and lay out a compassionate, pragmatic vision for a future Israel that enjoys security and peace, and that it is a respected member of the community of nations."

But Danielle Pletka, vice president of the American Enterprise Institute, said if Obama is going simply to advance

a peace process that many Israelis and U.S. lawmakers believe is stuck because of Arab intransigence, he's running a fool's errand. It would be more useful, she said, for him to use his Israel trip to discuss strategies at a time of Middle Eastern turmoil.

"If he's president of the United States, he's going to talk about Iran and Hezbollah and Syria," Pletka said. "If he's the president of Barack Obama's dream house, he'll talk about the peace process." □

Middle East experts visit Nashville, opine on Obama trip

Recently in Nashville, David Makovsky and Ghaith al-Omari, executive director of The American Task Force on Palestine, spoke at a "Raise Your Israel IQ" event at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. The Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Vanderbilt Hillel co-sponsored the event.

"Obama isn't coming with a grand plan here," Makovsky told the Nashville group. The visit has the feel of Obama passing the baton to newly minted Secretary of State John Kerry in dealing with Israelis and Palestinians and wishing him luck.

Makovsky said Obama would probably prefer to tackle domestic issues in the first two years of his final term and deal with foreign policy issues in his last two years. The rationale would be that success with domestic issues would breed success later in foreign policy.

But one foreign policy area that Obama can't put off is Iran, because of its nuclear program, Makovsky said. Here he must work in synch with Netanyahu, he said. So one of Obama's goals is to reset his image with the Israeli public on the trip, so both Israeli and American public opinion supports the two working together on Iran.

Moreover, Obama needs to connect with both Israelis and Palestinians on a gut level, al-Omari said. "Israelis and Palestinians both are suckers for love," he said. Former President Bill Clinton recognized that both sides need to be addressed emotionally and spent much time and effort to cultivate relationships. The upcoming visit offers Obama a great opportunity to "talk to people on more of a gut level," he said.

America also should curb its tendency to "go big" in foreign policy initiatives, al-Omari said, because with big ambitions can come big failures. When you pick a fight, he said, you had better be sure you can win it, because if you don't your aims are devalued and the other side thinks it can walk all over you.

Before Obama leaves for Israel, he said, the administration "needs to do an honest assessment of how much political capital they want to spend on visit. ... Better to succeed small than to fail big." □

— Kathy Carlson



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Cavs' Omri Casspi courts his opportunity to contribute

By HILLEL KUTTNER

BALTIMORE (JTA) – Even as he sits on the Cleveland Cavaliers bench, watching yet another game proceed without him, Omri Casspi is working to improve.

He studies his teammates and his opponents, focusing on the player he'd likely be defending if he were on the court. Casspi uses the time to prepare for whenever he is summoned to participate -- now or the next game or the one after.

For Casspi, the first Israeli to play in the NBA, his fourth season in the elite league for pro hoopsters has been the most trying. The 6-foot, 9-inch forward doesn't play much -- and he's not sure why.

Casspi believes he's practicing as hard, working as diligently and is as devoted to his sport as when the Sacramento Kings drafted him in the first round in 2009. And the Cavs' front office doesn't disagree.

Last month, when Casspi rarely left the bench, Yahoo! Sports reported that Casspi's agents had requested a trade from the Cavs. But in an interview with JTA, Casspi said he had never made such a request.

"It's not anything that has to do with me, so I have no comment," said Casspi, a native of Yavne, a city in central Israel of some 33,000 people.

The Cavs season began poorly, but they later seemed to stabilize -- but with Casspi mostly on the bench.

"Last time I saw you, I was flying," Casspi, 24, told a reporter, referring to an interview in November.

That was when Casspi played in 14 consecutive games, averaging nearly 16

minutes per appearance. He even scored 15 points in Cleveland's two-point road loss against the defending champion Miami Heat. But the Cavs lost 11 of the next 14, and Casspi soon found himself again planted firmly on the bench, which is where he had been early in the season.

It was an unusual spot for a player who entered the league with such fanfare, Jewish fans turning out en masse at many games carrying Israeli flags and cheering his name.

In two seasons with Sacramento, Casspi had started 58 of the 148 games in which he played and averaged 9.5 points per game. He was traded to Cleveland for the 2011-12 season, switching one last-place team for another.

But some numbers told another story. Casspi's average minutes per game, a good indicator of a player's prominence in a team's rotation, was declining steadily. Over his first three years, his average minutes dropped from 25.1 to 24.0 to 20.6. And his points per game dropped, too, from 10.3 to 8.6 to 7.1.

This year, the bottom fell out and Casspi, the NBA's lone Jewish player, played even less. A Cavs official said that Casspi's inactivity speaks to the success of Coach Byron Scott's current rotation of players.

"It's not so much anything Omri has done. Boobie Gibson isn't in the rotation, either," the official said of Daniel Gibson, a guard. □



Omri Casspi of the Cleveland Cavaliers drives against the Chicago Bulls on Jan. 7. NBA PHOTO

Increase Your Israel IQ with Israel election program featuring noted journalist

Gil Hoffman, chief political correspondent and analyst for The Jerusalem Post, will speak at the Gordon Jewish Community Center on Thursday, March 14, at 7:15 p.m. The program is sponsored by the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee and is funded by a New Initiatives Fund grant from the Federation. Vanderbilt Hillel, which is cosponsoring Hoffman's visit, will feature him at its own events during the day on March 14.



Gil Hoffman

Hoffman's presentation will cover the recent election in Israel and the subsequent coalition-building process. There will be time for questions and answers from the audience. A dessert reception will follow the program, which is free of charge.

Well-connected to Israeli and Palestinian leaders, Hoffman has interviewed every major figure across the Israeli political spectrum. In addition,

he has been interviewed by top media on six continents and is a regular analyst on CNN, Al-Jazeera and other news outlets.

Called "the most optimistic man in Israel" by Israel Television, Hoffman's writing and TV appearances provide a behind-the-scenes look at both the intrigue and humor in the Israeli political arena. Raised in Chicago, Hoffman graduated magna cum laude from Northwestern University's School of Journalism and wrote for the Miami Herald and Arizona Republic before moving to Israel. A reserve soldier in the IDF's Spokesman's Unit, he has lectured in seven countries and 40 US states. □

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Study at odds with years of research on incitement in Palestinian textbooks

By **ALEX TRAIMAN**
JNS.org

A controversial report comparing prejudices in Israeli and Palestinian school textbooks, has raised questions about the states of each ethnic educational system and public perceptions about the two peoples.

The study, titled "Victims of our own Narratives" and initially funded by a grant from the U.S. State Department, concluded that both Israeli and Palestinian textbooks contain negative references toward "the other side," despite the fact that the research itself demonstrated that negative references to "the other side" were much more prevalent in Palestinian textbooks than Israeli ones. It was released early last month.

The conclusions of the study, not the research, have been widely distributed. Those conclusions are at odds with the longtime assertion by Israelis that Palestinian textbooks are inciteful.

Charges of 'moral relativism'

"The report creates a dangerous moral relativism by concluding a completely false equivalence between Israeli and Palestinian textbooks," Brig. Gen. Yossi Kuperwasser, director general of Israel's Ministry of Strategic Affairs, told JNS.org.

Kuperwasser said, "It is a very big pity that the important issue of educating the other side for peace has been abused by this research report."

"Palestinians don't educate their children to establish peace; rather, they teach hatred of Israelis. By contrast, Israelis educate their children toward the establishment of peace and to respect and accept that Palestinians live here with us," he said.

For years, watchdog organizations have been monitoring the rampant incitement and hatred that can be found in Palestinian textbooks. Such incitement and the glorification of terror are said by Israelis to rank high among the principal barriers to peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

"The report is a complete white-washing of Palestinian hatred of Jews and Israel and is one of the worst developments for peace since the early days of the Oslo Accords," Itamar Marcus, the director of Palestinian Media Watch, told JNS.org.

"I totally reject the findings of the report, which are meant to create a symmetry between the Israeli and Palestinian education system that simply does not exist," Marcus said. "Palestinian textbooks are filled with blatant delegitimization and hatred, and this report is doing a great disservice to any future prospects for peace by essentially encouraging Palestinians to continue their curriculum of teaching hatred to their children."

"According to Palestinian textbooks, Israel has no right to exist, and Israel's national narrative is one of occupation, massacre, torture and land stealing," he said. "They teach that all of the land—including land on which Israel established its state in 1948—is occu-

ried. This is a pattern that all but guarantees that the two sides will be unable to make peace in the near future."

Furthermore the textbooks teach that Palestinians "have an Islamic obligation to fully liberate Palestine until eternity," Marcus said.

"Israelis are routinely demonized and dehumanized in the worst ways," he said. "By contrast, examples of demonization or dehumanization of Palestinians are extremely rare. Israel does everything it can to preach tolerance and eliminate the demonization of Palestinians in Israeli textbooks."

Out of context?

According to Kuperwasser, the report "fails to look at the context in which examples are taken."

"For example, the report considers historical textbook references to Palestinian terrorists murdering 11 Israeli athletes during the 1972 Munich Olympic Games in Israeli textbooks as a negative reference toward Palestinians," he said. "While at the same time, Palestinian textbooks that reference 'invading snakes' taking over the land are not considered to be negative references toward Jews because they do not directly reference Jews or Israel."

The study is reported to have received a \$500,000 grant from the State Department in 2008 and was conducted by professors from Yale University, Tel Aviv University, and the University of Bethlehem.

The State Department has not endorsed the findings, but neither has it refuted the conclusions made by the study.

"The State Department should have explicitly come out against this report," Kuperwasser said. "This is an issue we should raise with Secretary of State John Kerry when he comes to Israel, because Palestinian incitement is a main obstacle to peace."

In 2007, a year before the study was initially commissioned, then future Secretary of State Hilary Clinton reviewed a Palestinian Media Watch report on Palestinian high school textbooks that detailed numerous examples of demonization and denial of Israel's right to exist.

At a press conference Clinton stated, "These textbooks do not give Palestinian children an education; they give them an indoctrination... It is dis-

turbing on a human level, it is disturbing to me as a mother, it is disturbing to me as a United States Senator, because it basically, profoundly poisons the minds of these children."

"It is a total contradiction of the Oslo agreements, through which Palestinians are supposed to stop all incitement to violence and hatred and recognize Israel's right to exist," Kuperwasser said. □

Study methodology in brief

(JTA) – The study was launched in 2009 by the Council of Religious Institutions in the Holy Land, a multi-faith body that aims "to prevent religion from being used as a source of conflict, and to promote mutual respect," according to its website. It is made up of the Israeli Chief Rabbinate, the Palestinian Islamic Waqf, and the heads of Christian churches in Israel and the West Bank.

The Israeli government did not formally cooperate with the study; Palestinian Authority officials did.

Yale University psychiatry professor Bruce Wexler convened the study team, which was headed by Daniel Bar Tal of Tel Aviv University and Sami Adwan of the University of Bethlehem. They assigned Hebrew-Arabic bilingual research assistants to plow through more than 3,000 passages from textbooks – 74 from the Israeli side and 96 from the Palestinian side.

The assistants assessed the passages based on criteria developed in part by an advisory panel that included Palestinian and Israel academics and outside experts, including those who have critiqued Palestinian books.

Most of the advisory panel, including several Israelis, signed onto a statement endorsing its findings.

"We agreed that the methods of the study were of the highest scientific standards and agreed on the main study findings," the statement said.

At least one Israeli member, Arnon Groiss, said he has reservations about the methodology and could not attach his name to the final report, which he said he has not seen. □

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Area teens take leadership roles in local, regional BBYO

Five Nashville teens have been chosen to serve on the regional board of the BBYO, the Nashville chapter has announced.

Serving on the regional board are Sam Perlen - Godol (President), Jacob Geltzer - Moreh (membership/ recruitment), Josh Rotker - Mazkir/Gizbor (Secretary/Treasurer), Devo Hanai - N'siah (President), and Abby Biesman - Shlichah (Israel program and community service).

In addition, a new group of teens will take leadership roles Nashville BBYO in the spring term this year. In

Athens AZA they are Godol: Adam Biesman; Moreh: Taylor Asher; Moreh: Matthew Jacobs; Gizbor: Jacob Geltzer; Mazkir: Aaron Kaplan; and Shlichah: Jake McCoy. Serving with Music City BBG are N'siah: Jamie Kirshner; S'ganit: Lauren Levy; MIT Mom: Mimi Hanai; MIT Mom: Gracie Hoffman; Mazkirah: Michelle Biesman; Gizborit: Jordyn Attias; Shlichah: Siona Kalil; and Katvanit: Tali Sedek;

Keep this date open: The Athens AZA annual Spaghetti Supper will be held on March 24 at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. There's a charge to attend. □



Children love Pijama and Partnership2Gether

Community Shlichah Hadar Moskowitz reads a Hebrew story to children at Sifriyat Pijama, a new monthly program presenting Hebrew storytelling and activities for families with at least one Hebrew-speaking parent. After these students read together, they planted herb gardens to celebrate Tu B'shvat. For more information, contact hadar@jewishnashville.org.

Rachel Koch's first-grade religious school class at Congregation Micah prepared a Purim Mishloach Manot package to send to a first grade-class in Hadera, Israel, the city with which Nashville and several other southeastern cities are paired through the Jewish Agency's Partnership2Gether program. Koch serves on the Nashville Jewish Federation's Partnership2Gether committee as its chair along with Harriet Schiffman, Jay Cohen, Sheri Rosenberg, and Leslie Klein. The committee and GJCC after-care students make Purim Mishloach Manot care packages to send to soldiers in Hadera. Many of the soldiers have worked in Camp Davis and been hosted by Get Connected teens when they were in high school. This project lets them know we support them during their military service.



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Boaz Ramon writes the last letter – the 304,805th letter – of the Torah as his wife, Tali, and family look on together with Rabbi Yitzchok and Esther Tiechtel. PHOTO: RICK MALKIN

Chabad Torah dedication draws community together

Members from across Nashville's Jewish community came together to celebrate the conclusion of the writing of the Nashville Community Torah with Chabad of Nashville.

The Torah, written by a scribe in the holy city of Jerusalem and taking over a year for all 304,805 letters to be inscribed, was completed on a crisp and bright winter day.

"The Torah is everlasting, and has been passed down from generation to generation exactly the same as it was

given to Moses at Mt. Sinai over 3300 years ago, down to the last letter," said Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel.

The honor of writing the final letter of the Torah (the 304,805th letter) was given to Boaz Ramon, who together with his wife, Tali, dedicated this Torah in honor of their three children.

As the final letter was inscribed, there was a round of applause and singing. The Torah was then led in a procession under a Chupah, demonstrating how this is like wedding day, where G-d and the Jewish people recommit their vows from Mt. Sinai, committing themselves to study the Torah and follows its teachings. □

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Everyone pitches in for successful 2013 Tzedakah Tzunday

Community members of all ages and descriptions turned out for Tzedakah Tzunday, held on Sunday, Feb. 10, at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. Thanks to their efforts – and the generosity of those they called on – \$116,000 was raised for the Jewish Federation of Nashville's 2013 Campaign, said Naomi Sedek, campaign director.

So far in this campaign, more than \$1.6 million has been pledged to support Federation. That means continuing support for programs and efforts that help fellow Jews here in Nashville, in Israel and around the world. Even after the Feb. 10 event, volunteers were working to reach those they weren't able to contact that day. Tzedakah

Tzunday Chairs Blair Stefanescu, Vlada Melekhin, David Rosenblatt and Craig Zimberg worked the phones and encouraged others along the way. Vanderbilt Hillel students and Get Connected teens also came out to help. This year's annual campaign chair is Steve Hirsch. This year's trainers were Sara Hanai, David Rosenblatt and Brian Schlanger.

Even if you missed Tzedakah Tzunday, you can still make a gift to the Federation's 2013 Annual Campaign. Your gift will help keep people fed, children cared for, and all in touch with their Jewish roots.

To make your pledge or for more information, contact Naomi Limor Sedek, at naomi@jewishnashville.org or at (615) 354-1642. □



Elaine and Frank Parker at training session. Photos: RICK MALKIN



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Jewish Federation Annual Campaign Tzedakah Tzunday 2013



Community members log in a few hours calling others on Tzedakah Tzunday.



At Tzedakah Tzunday, givers of all sizes are encouraged to join in.



Vanderbilt Hillel students, along with Executive Director Ari Dubin, top right, and Assistant Director Rabbi Joshua Barton, lower right, turn out in force to support the Jewish community.



Everyone knows when Get Connected participants are in the house to volunteer.

Congregations offer wealth of choices for meaningful Passover

Nashville's congregations are opening doors to the community so everyone can share in the joy of Passover, which

begins on the evening of Monday, March 25. Here is what is in store at our five synagogues. Please check for any fees to attend and for more details.

Congregation Beit Tefilah - Chabad

Chabad of Nashville invites the Nashville Jewish community to participate in its 14th annual Community Passover Seders and experience the free-

dom of Passover as our ancestors did when they left Egypt. The Seders will take place in the ballroom of the Genesis Campus for Jewish Life in Bellevue.

At Chabad of Nashville, the Passover Seder is interactive and integrated with Chassidic tales and Jewish humor. Dinner is catered by executive chef Kevin from SOVA Catering. We sing together and discuss Passover's relevance today.

On Monday, March 25, at 6:45 p.m., an interactive family Seder will be held. The Seder will last three hours; fees apply.

On Tuesday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m., Chabad offers a full-version Chassidic Seder, with many insights to the Haggadah and various Chassidic tales and melodies, and a traditional Seder feast. This Seder is designed to be an experience for the inquisitive mind and will last four hours in length.

There are charges to attend these events, although children under age 3 can attend at no charge. Reserve your place by March 10; fees go up after that date. Reservations can be made at www.chabadnashville.com.

Congregation Micah

On Tuesday, March 19, Congregation Micah holds a Women's Seder from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This Seder is guided by a specially written Haggadah that uses feminine language for God. Daughters, instead of sons, ask the Four Questions, which help tell the story. Dinner will not be served, but ritual foods will be provided. Please bring your favorite dessert to share afterward. Please contact the Micah office at 377-9799 or

Continued on page 15

YOM HAZIKARON

Memorial Day for Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror

Please join us in commemorating those who gave their lives for the Jewish state



**Sunday, April 14th
5:30-6:30 p.m.**

Location: West End Synagogue
3810 West End Avenue, 37205

*Ceremony appropriate for all ages

For more information please contact
Hadar Moskovitz, Community Shlichah
at hadar@jewishnashville.org 615-354-1632



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Continued from page 14

office@congregationmicah.org to make a reservation. No cost for members; non-members, \$10.

Micah is taking a different approach this year for the first Seder, March 25. As Passover is traditionally a holy day to be celebrated in the home with family, friends, and strangers, this year Micah will not have its communitywide Seder. Instead, we are returning to tradition and encouraging our families to gather around each other's tables.

So this can continue to be a community event, Micah is taking the approach of "Have a Seder? Need a Seder?"

Are you planning to host a Seder meal at your home? Or were you hoping to attend a traditional Seder as a guest? Answer these questions, and then call the Micah office, (615) 377-9799, and let us know if you are either willing to host someone at your Seder meal or in need of a place to go.

Hosts, please let us know how many you can host and if you would prefer to host a Micah member or anyone from the community at large. If you're looking for a place to go, we'll work with you to find a family that is opening its Seder to others. There is a charge for non-members, with discounts available for military and students.

Congregation Sherith Israel

This Pesach, Sherith Israel is proud to present two community Seders.

Rabbi Saul Strosberg, Cantor George Lieberman and SOVA Catering will collaborate on two Seders, with the first-night Seder taking place on March 25 at 7:15 p.m. and the second night's meal beginning at 7:45 p.m. There's a charge to attend; please make reservations by

March 18. After that date, fees rise.

No one will be turned away due to financial hardship. If help is needed, call the Rabbi or Cantor at (615) 292-6614

The Temple - Congregation Ohabai Sholom

The Temple's Passover events begin on Wednesday, March 20, with the Preschool Model Seder.

On Saturday, March 23 at 11 a.m., there will be a special service for members of Cantor Tracy Fishbein's Torah Chanting Class.

Conversion Conversations First Night Seder is set for Monday, March 25, at 6 p.m. and will be led by Rabbi Shana Mackler and Patty Marks. The goal is to provide the opportunity for those seeking to learn more about Judaism to grow as a group and continue their individual journey toward becoming Jewish.

A Second Night Congregational Seder will be held on Tuesday, March 26, at 6 p.m. This Seder is open to members of the community and children are welcome. There is a charge for the Seder. RSVP to Temple, (615) 352-7620, by March 19.

On Wednesday, March 27, a communitywide Sober Seder will be held at 6 p.m. The Haggadah for this Seder was compiled/written by Rabbi Shana Mackler, with special emphasis on the journey out of addictive behavior for both individuals and their family and friends. This Haggadah includes prayers and songs that emphasize the personal and collective journey. This Seder grew from a desire by a group of Jewish men and women who have been meeting for many years every Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Temple to discuss and share the experience of being Jewish and involved

with recovery. A full traditional dinner is served, with attention given to dietary requirements. RSVP by March 22 to attend; there's a charge for all except children under age 7. Please reserve a place by contacting The Temple, (615) 352-7620.

On Saturday, March 30, at 6 p.m., The Temple holds its annual GLBT/PFLAG Seder. The Haggadah, compiled/written by Rabbi Shana Mackler, recognizes the journey of Gays, Lesbians, Bi-, and Transgendered individuals and their family and friends. The Seder explores the journey from oppression, externally imposed and internally imposed... from exile to the freedom of a loving and supportive environment. This communitywide Seder has been held for the past 10 years, and has become a tradition with many households. A full traditional dinner is served, with attention to dietary requirements. RSVP by March 27 to attend; there's a charge for all except children under age 7. Please reserve a place by contacting The Temple, (615) 352-7620.

West End Synagogue

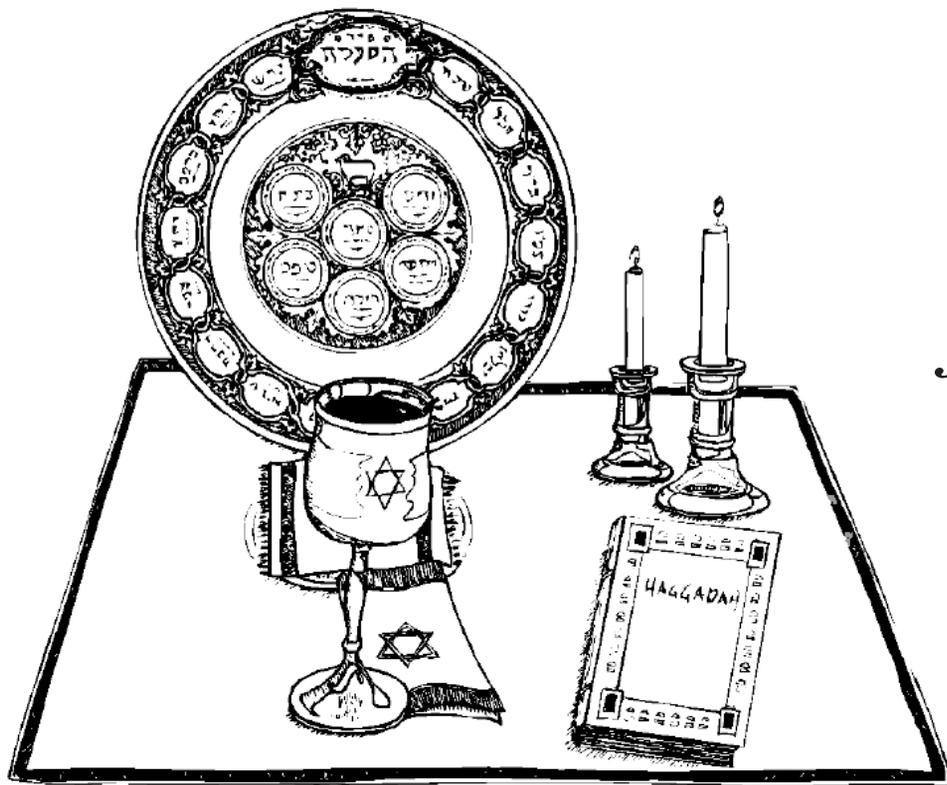
Passover will be marked with the following services:

On Tuesday, March 26, services will be held at 9:30 a.m. followed by Kiddush Luncheon

On Wednesday, March 27, services will be held at 9:30 a.m. followed by Kiddush Luncheon

On Monday, April 1, services will be held at 9:30 a.m. followed by Kiddush Luncheon

On Tuesday April 2, services will be held at 9:30 a.m. Yizkor will be recited, followed by Kiddush Luncheon. □



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On kibbutz, secular seders celebrate freedom, spring's arrival, modern Israel's birth

By **BEN SALES**

(JTA) – The families surround long tables covered by white tablecloths. Festive decorations line the walls, and the kitchen is free of chametz, the leavened foods forbidden on Passover. Seder plates sit in front of hungry participants.

But instead of someone reading the Haggadah or reciting the kiddush over wine, the crowd sings a modern Israeli kids' song about Passover: "Great joy! Great joy! Spring has arrived, Pesach is here!"

So begins the holiday at Ramat Yochanan, an 80-year-old secular kibbutz near Haifa.

Many secular Israelis attend traditional seders on Passover; as with American Jews, the seder is one of Israel's most widely performed religious rituals. Several of Israel's oldest kibbutzim depart from tradition, however, and conduct secular seders according to their own sensibilities rather than the dictates of the traditional Haggadah.

At many secular kibbutzim, the emphasis is on the themes that motivated their founders to settle the land nearly a century ago: freedom, nature and the Jews' return to the land of Israel.

Ramat Yochanan's seder does not "tell midrashim, how many plagues happened at the sea, this and that," said Miri Feinstein, who organizes the meal. "Our conversation about leaving Egypt and guarding the freedom of the other is more important."

Its Haggadah features illustrations of

landscapes and Jewish history drawn by a kibbutz member from the 1940s and includes biblical verses not found in the traditional text – from the book of Exodus as well as from Song of Songs, which traditionally is read on Passover.

Kibbutz's own Haggadah

At Kibbutz Ein Shemer, near the Mediterranean coast, the seder is marked by children's plays, Israeli folk sing-alongs and musical performances. Hundreds of kibbutz members and their guests attend. The kibbutz Haggadah, which it has used for decades, has four sections: spring, from freedom to slavery, peace and the land of Israel. The division is a nod to the sets of four (cups of wine, sons, etc.) that pepper the original Haggadah.

"We see it as the founding holiday of our nation, which we celebrate according to our rules," said Anna Sasson, who has been running the Ein Shemer seder for 15 years. "We give it its own character from our secular world, and we have a lot of love for tradition, homeland, agriculture, spring and freedom."

As at other kibbutzim, Ein Shemer pays homage to the seder's religious roots in its Haggadah by quoting heavily from the Bible, using verses describing spring-time or the Exodus.

Shlomo Deshen, author of "Secular Israelis on Pesach Night," says kibbutzim long have led the way in making Passover a modern Israeli holiday of "Zionism, socialism, humanism."

"The holiday inspired creative cere-

monies whose greatest expression was through the new Haggadahs of the kibbutz movement," Deshen wrote.

Today, even many religious Israelis have incorporated nontraditional elements such as children's plays and modern songs into their own seders. But the kibbutzim take things further.

Blending new and old

At Ramat Yochanan, one of the community's Passover highlights is a gathering on the holiday's first day in a wheat field for a reenactment of a ceremony described in the Talmud: the wheat harvest celebration.

"Is the sun coming?" asks a man standing on a stage. "Is it time for the harvest?"

"Yes!" the members answer. The kibbutz's boys then rush into the field to grab sheaves of wheat and throw them into baskets held by the community's girls. The girls swing the baskets up and down and side to side while a leader reads passages from the Bible about the wheat harvest and settling the land. A choir and band then perform on stage while kibbutz members sing and dance to Israeli folk songs.

Kibbutz Mishmar Haemek, in northern Israel, stages a smaller harvest ceremony.

"Our holiday is based on our being an agricultural town and the spring being an awakening," said Raya Shlomi, who runs the kibbutz's seder. "We also have

the story of the Exodus from Egypt, but unlike a traditional seder, where God performs all the miracles, Moses plays the central part."

As the kibbutz movement has changed in recent decades, becoming less communal, the seders at Ramat Yochanan have shrunk. Decades ago, more than 1,000 people used to turn out for the holiday celebration; today the number is down to 400, according to Feinstein. Most kibbutz members now choose to celebrate at home with their families, she says.

"People need to feel like the seder is theirs and that they're not sacrificing themselves," she said. "The collective used to be in the center. Now the individual is in the center, and he needs to decide what's appropriate for him."

Feinstein isn't ready to give up on the communal meal.

"What I see in the kibbutz seder is 'brothers sitting together,' " she said, quoting a famous biblical verse. "Even when we were poor, we always invested in Passover. People want to safeguard the community." □



Wishing the Entire
Nashville Community
A Very Happy and Kosher Passover

From Linda and Jay Amsel
Michelle, Larry Kogan and Family
Stacy, Coby Hanai and Family

New Passover books reach out to children with rhyme, art

By PENNY SCHWARTZ

BOSTON (JTA) – Years ago, Nancy Steiner set out to make her family seder a bit more entertaining for her own young kids. She wrote a poem that became very popular among family and friends.

“On This Night: The Steps of the Seder in Rhyme,” Steiner’s first published children’s book, is an updated version of that poem with large-format, brightly colored illustrations by Wendy Edelson that will appeal to religiously observant families.

Along with “Lotsa Matzah,” it’s one of two new Passover books for the youngest children to enliven the beloved holiday.

“On This Night” features lively rhymes that follow the 14 steps of the seder, with each section identified by its Hebrew name.

In a phone interview with JTA from her home in Los Angeles, Steiner said she hopes the rhymes not only entertain but also reveal the heart of the holiday and the meaning behind the seder.

Part of the verse reads: “Telling the story each year like it’s new helps us to

feel that it’s what WE went through.”

Edelson’s lively illustrations of the seder night depict a contemporary religiously observant family with a modern aesthetic. Young girls and boys, whose heads are covered with kippot, are shown participating fully in the seder’s activities. A fuzzy yellow duckling tags along for the festival.

“Lotsa Matzah” (Kar Ben), a board book by Tilda Balsley and illustrated by Akemi Gutierrez, sets the beat with lighthearted rhymes about matzah and Moses, and the hunt for the afikomen. One double-page spread offers some tempting ways to enjoy eating matzah -- with “syrup on fried matzah brei. Matzah pizza, cheese piled high.”

“So shout it out! Hurray for matzah! It’s Passover and we’ll eat lotsa.”

Gutierrez’s cartoonlike illustrations will delight kids with lots of smiling faces and a madcap hunt for the

afikomen. The front cover boasts a towering stack of matzah crackers with jam and a friendly dog eager to share in the festivities.

The book will appeal especially to

those ages 1-4.

This year’s winner of the Sydney Taylor Award for young readers, recently announced by the Association of Jewish Libraries, is “The Elijah Door: A Passover Tale” (Holiday House). The Old World-style story was written by Linda Leopold Strauss and illustrated with richly detailed colored woodcuts by Alexi Natchev.

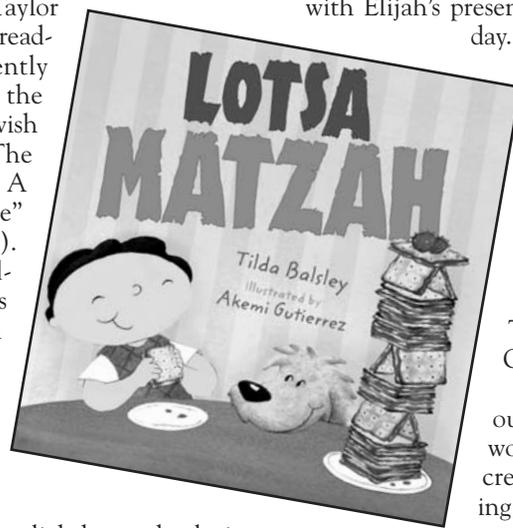
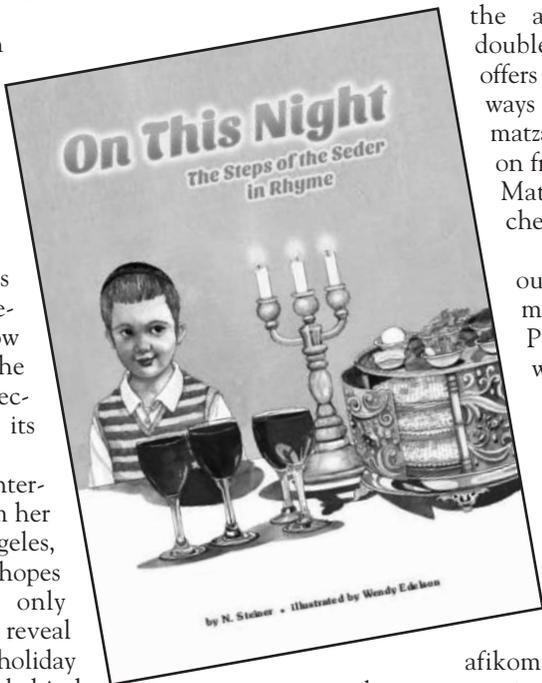
The endearing, lighthearted tale is set in Poland (and sometimes Russia). The grown-ups in the Galinsky and Lippa families start a foolish argument over hens and geese that divides their town. With Passover approaching, the

children of the two families plot a reunion, inspired by the hope that comes with Elijah’s presence during the holiday.

“Who can resist a folktale about star-crossed lovers with a Jewish twist and a happy ending?” said Aimee Lurie, chair of the Sydney Taylor Awards Committee.

The book stands out for its “lovely woodcut illustrations, creative problem-solving and positive Jewish message of loving your neighbor,” writes Lurie,

librarian at the Agnon Jewish Day School in Cleveland. “It all adds up to a story children will want to hear more than once.” □



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- TO SURPRISE WITH A GIFT
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Dr. Erwin Lutzer is senior pastor of the world renowned Moody Church in Chicago. He is also a featured speaker on three radio programs and is an award-winning author.

"Proclaim this to the Nations, prepare for war!" Joel 3:9

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Chris Mitchell
In 2000, Mitchell moved to Israel to establish the CBN News Bureau in Jerusalem. In addition to his reports for *The 700 Club*, Chris is also a regular contributor to *Christian World News*, *CBNNews.com* and produces a bi-weekly show called "*Jerusalem Dateline*."

When: Sunday, March 3, 2013 at 8:30 pm
Where: NRB 2013 Convention and Exposition at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center - Governor's Ballroom AND...
When: Monday, March 4, 2013 at 10 am
Where: Delta Ballroom B
What: Press Briefing - Media ONLY

Admission: (Registration must be completed by Feb. 25, 2013)
NRB participant/Media: No Charge | General Admission: \$25.00
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Passover 5773, By The Numbers

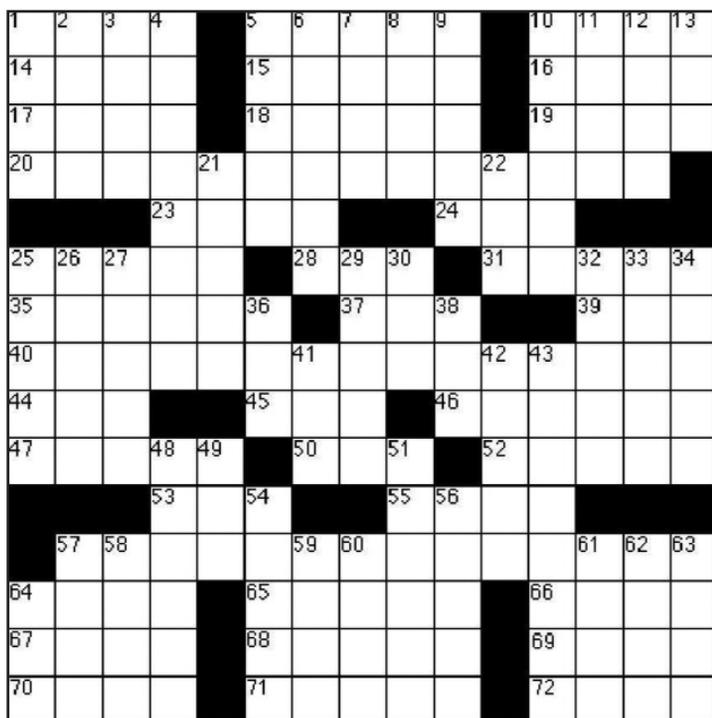
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ACROSS

- Part of a latch
- THE NUMBER ONE LEADER
- AT SEDER'S END, KIDS ____ FOR THE AFIKOMAN
- Berry touted and hawked as a weight-loss aid
- German cars recently owned by Chevrolet
- City famed for its Taj Mahal
- WORD FOR NUMBER OF MATZOT ON CEREMONIAL PLATE
- Replace thin cushion used on yoga floor
- A lighter value of black
- "____!! ____!!" WHAT PHAROAH SHOUTED WHEN HE LEARNED OF PUNISHMENTS METED OUT BY THE LORD (3 words, including a number)
- THE EGYPTIAN TROOPS WHO CHASED MOSES AND THE ISRAELITES CROSSING THE SEA OF REEDS ____ THAT ROUND
- Very large weight
- ____ Haim, late Canadian actor, star of The Lost Boys
- "YOU CAN ____ FOR FOUR OR FIVE MATZOH BALLS IN YOUR SOUP"
- THE GREAT PRIEST
- Province, a former kingdom, of Spain
- "____ MY" (See 4 Down)
- Mineral, in found form
- "IS IT TIME FOR ME TO READ ____?" THE YOUNGEST CHILD MIGHT ASK (3 words)
- Architect I.M.
- THE ____ OF THE YEARS SPENT WANDERING IN THE DESERT WAS 40
- In a farmer's field, storm waters may ____ the lower end
- HE TURNED HIS ____ INTO A SERPENT, AS HAD PHAROAH'S PRIEST
- Ideology word ending
- Tooth-
- Mild expressions of wonder
- CENTURIES LATER, THIS PROPHET RECALLED THE EXODUS
- THESE WE ARE OBLIGED TO BLESS AND DRINK
- Take one a day. Or more.
- River 60 miles west of Buenos Aires
- Your bag needs ____ to be loaded on the plane
- Shape of many an eye
- IT'S THE BITTER HERB
- The phone ____
- FAMILY NAME, TRACES DESCENT FROM 31 ACROSS' TRIBE
- THE ISRAELITES TILLED THEIR ____ IN THE LAND OF GOSHEN
- Ms. Farrow and namesakes

DOWN

- "GO IN UNTO PHAROAH AND THOU ____ SPOKEN UNTO HIM"
- City and ancient port north of Haifa
- It's on the boat to catch the wind
- "MY ____" (See 37 Across)
- Traditional customs and usages
- "PHAROAH! ARE YOU ____ MY DEMAND?!" (paraphrasing here)



- Abbr. of the first word in the name of the Marine Corps anthem
- MODERN-DAY EXODUS FROM MIDEAST LANDS WAS FLOWN BY ____
- "I caught my ____ Heathrow" (referring to now obsolete plane)
- ____ Madre, or other estuary or large lake, Spanish
- EXODUS RETOLD AS A FAIRY TALE? PHAROAH WOULD BE THE ____
- Hebrew girl's name, pl.
- Mary ____ Cosmetics
- "AND HERE'S A L'HAYIM ____ AS WELL!"
- Former Portuguese colony off China's mainland
- THEY SETTLED FROM TIME TO TIME IN ____ IN THE WILDERNESS
- "We haven't seen ____ heard from them."
- OASIS VILLAGE ON COAST, SOUTH OF GAZA, THROUGH WHICH THE ISRAELITES MAY HAVE PASSED
- FRUITS WHICH BEGIN TO SET AT PASSOVER TIME
- Golfer's need
- Old English quarter acre, pl.
- Big League baseball player is either Amer. ____
- Next, in Norwegian
- Approaches. abbr.
- Recipe abbr.
- Who, in France
- WHEN 5 ACROSS REACHED THE ____ SINAI, HE RECEIVED THE TABLETS
- PHAROAH'S PEOPLE WERE CAUGHT ____ OF LOCUSTS
- "Thou played'st most ____ for 't" - Banquo. alluding to Macbeth
- Preposition
- Every football team, and many another group, has its ____
- Mischievous, usually young person
- Charles ____, late American architect
- THE NUMBER OF CUPS OF WINE, IF WE COUNT ELIJAH'S
- Norwegian royal name
- Western Russia mountain range
- But. In Bolivia
- Brave Phillistine exile, who led his colony to defend David against Absalom
- Grandma, often so called
- THEY'RE EATEN IN SMALL BOWLS OF SALT WATER
- Congressman, alderman, whatever, abbr.

Sweeten your Passover table with 'Kosher Baker' desserts

Passover – when families get together for the Seder meal – is one of the most important holidays of the Jewish calendar. Passover baking poses perhaps the greatest annual challenge in the Jewish kitchen. Recipes cannot use flour, yeast, soy milk, or even pure vanilla, and shifting from flour to matzoh cake meal and potato starch is not intuitive, even for experienced bakers. As dessert plays an important part of the Seder meal, you need fabulous desserts to end your evening. This Passover, pastry chef and teacher Paula Shoyer shares delicious and easy desserts from her best-selling cookbook, "The Kosher Baker."

Shoyer's book contains a wide range of dairy-free desserts, from family favorites and time-honored holiday classics to stylish and delicious surprises of Paula's own creation.

Here is one Passover possibility taken from "The Kosher Baker: Over 160 Dairy-Free Recipes from Tradition to Trendy," by Paula Shoyer, Brandeis University Press.

Marble Chocolate Matzoh

Serves 12

- 1/3 cup slivered almonds
- 10 ounces parve dark bittersweet chocolate, chopped or broken into 1-inch pieces
- 1/3 cup parve white chocolate chips
- 3 large or 4 small pieces of matzoh

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Line jelly roll pan with parchment. Spread almonds on pan and toast for 15 minutes, stirring nuts after 10 minutes. When almonds are toasted, remove pan from oven and slide parchment off cookie sheet.

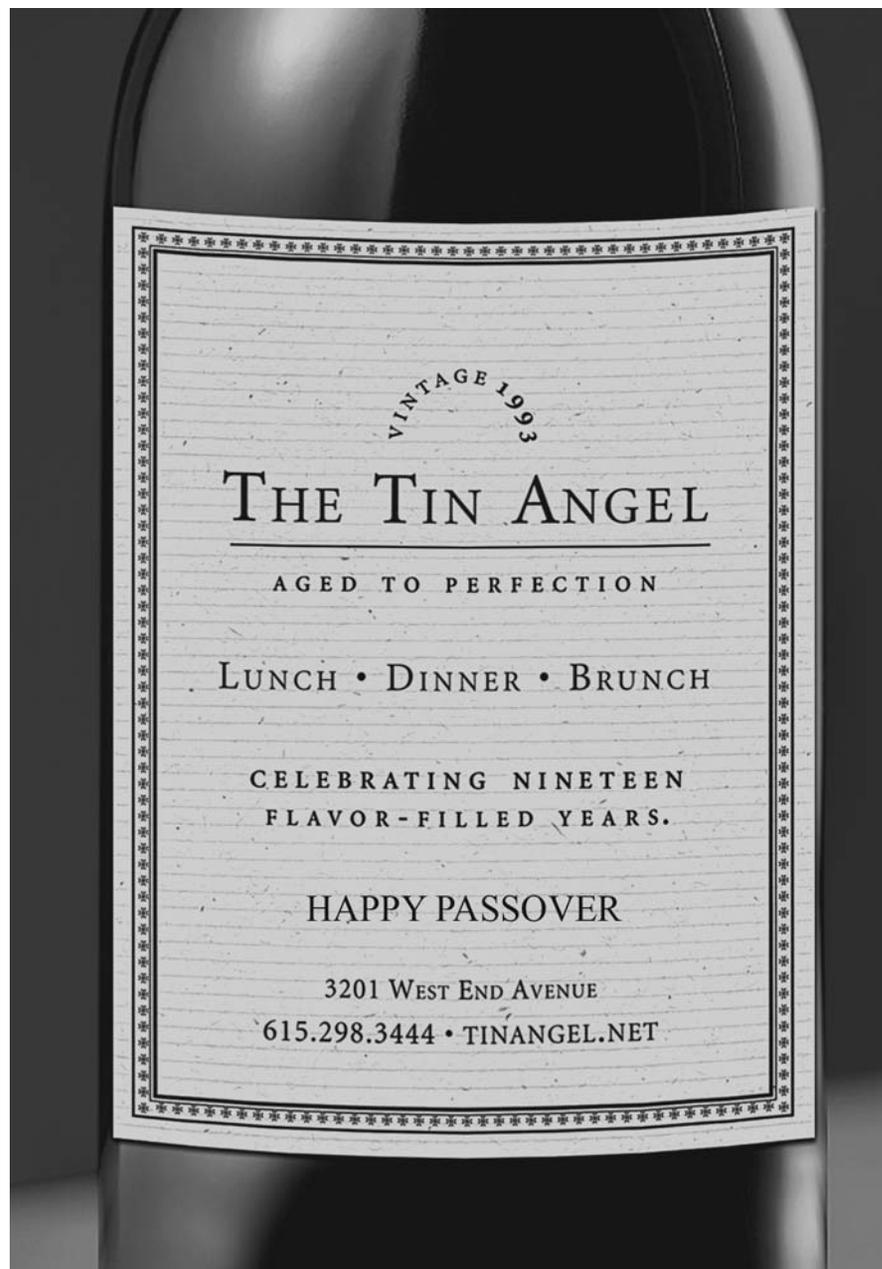
While nuts are toasting, melt the dark chocolate in one heatproof bowl and the white chocolate in another. You can do this either on the stovetop in a double boiler or in the microwave. If you use the microwave method, be especially careful with the white chocolate chips so they do not burn.

When the almonds are toasted, use a large knife to roughly chop them into pieces about 1/3 of their original size. Mix the nuts into the melted dark chocolate.

Line 1 large or 2 smaller cookie sheets with waxed paper and place the matzohs on top of the waxed paper. Spread the dark chocolate and nut mixture all over the matzoh slices to cover them entirely on one side with the chocolate.

Drop clumps of the melted white chocolate randomly on top of the dark chocolate. Use a toothpick to swirl the chocolates to create a marble effect. Place in the refrigerator to set for 1 hour and then break into pieces to serve. Store in the refrigerator for six days or freeze for up to three months. □

Happy Passover



GJCC featured artists examine sacred space, collaboration

March offers a diverse array of art installations at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. The first, "Sacred Space, Landscape and Letter," is a collection from Nashville artists Reesha Leone, Karen Hirschowitz Engel, Betsy Chalal and David Manas. The Nashville Collage Collective's works will also be featured in the exhibition as will those of photographer Trina Blakely.

Leone, a multimedia artist, is inspired by the interaction of nature and civiliza-

tion. Her process incorporates found natural materials and the forgotten and broken remnants of a rapid-turnover culture. She combines printmaking, sewing, and sculptural elements in her work. This melding provides temporary resolution, the objective being to discover beauty in unexpected places and serendipitous, seemingly random juxtapositions.

With the Janet Levine March Gallery installation "Sacred Space, Landscape and Letter," Leone invited artists of a similar sensibility but varying aesthetics and methods (Kaaren Engel, Betsy Chalal, paintings by late David Manas, a meditation soundtrack by composer David Leone) to explore both the spiritual energy inherent in landscape and manmade sacred space as well as the power of sacred letters, which form words of prayer to express our gratitude. These letters are also revelation, an instruction manual on how to responsibly be stewards of all we have been provided. All cultures' sacred texts share these concerns which reinforce the imperative to be vigilant together.

Trina Blakely, whose work is featured in the Janet Levine March Gallery 2, says she finds beauty in the relics of yesteryear. Her art draws attention to the fading rustic American landscape where she hopes to make people aware of these vanishing images -- and therefore help to preserve them. Her wish? That this will do at least a small part in conserving a bit of the bold

and striking American past. Blakely uses infrared photography, flash techniques and a process she likes to call a modern-day Daguerreotype to blend the old and new in her works.

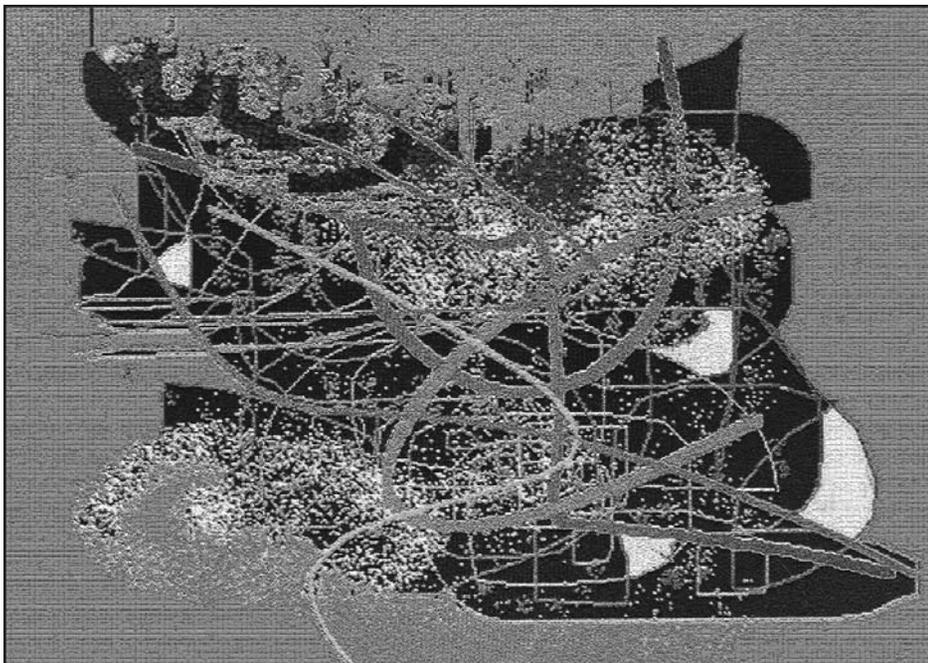
The Nashville Collage Collective will be featured in the Sig Held Gallery. The group came together and almost spontaneously started adding to each other's artwork. This hands-on collaboration has defined their process ever since: working on a piece without focus on the finished product; experiencing marks, papers, text that another collagist handled; sometimes shifting orientation from vertical to horizontal; ignoring wor-

ries about violating someone else's work and then passing the piece along, knowing that each artist's own additions might be covered. With this practice of trust they are growing as individuals and become freer, less controlling and ultimately wiser as artists.

The reception for the artists and the official opening of the exhibit will be held on Wednesday, March 6, from 7-9:00 p.m. at the GJCC, 801 Percy Warner Blvd. Live music, complimentary food and wine will accompany the event. For more information, contact the GJCC at (615) 356-7170, Curator Carrie Mills or go to www.nashvillejcc.org. □



Kaaren Hirschowitz Engel's art evolves from single moments and fragments of emotion.



Reesha Leone combines printmaking, sewing, and sculptural elements in her work.

West End sets March 10 consecration program

The community is invited to join our first-graders for their Consecration Ceremony from 11 a.m. to noon on Sunday, March 10, at West End Synagogue. The Consecration Ceremony celebrates the beginning of their formal Jewish education. The children have been learning the *Hebrew Aleph Bet* this year and will share what they have learned in a skit for the occasion. We

invite you to share this special milestone with our consecrants and their families.

Consecrants are Andrew Berkon, son of Brian and Julie Berkon; Keana Cooper, daughter of David and Suree Cooper; Dana Holt, daughter of Jonathan Holt and Mia Levy; Max Lapidus, son of Brian and Kim Lapidus; Nafeeza McDonald, daughter of Kenneth and Barbara McDonald; and Sophie Stein, daughter of Bryan and Danielle Stein. □

Nashville Freedom Seder

Jewish Federation's Community Relations Committee presents A Nashville Freedom Seder, celebrating Nashville@50 and the stalwarts of our city's civil rights movement, including Rabbi Randall Falk and John Seigenthaler. It is the latest in a

series of annual social justice Seder events presented to the greater Nashville community through the CRC.

The Seder is set for Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m., at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. Look for more details in the next Observer. □

Calling all Israel travelers

We need your photos from your past trip (or trips) to Israel to use in a video for the Jewish Federation of Nashville's celebration of Israel@65 on April 27-28.

Please email them to Abbie Wolf,

Federation community relations director, at abbie@jewishnashville.org.

The first 40 people to respond will get a snazzy Federation t-shirt! □

Crossword solution from page 19

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Births

Shannon and David Lubell of Decatur, Ga., formerly of Nashville, announce the birth of their son, **Isaac Emerson Lubell**, on Dec. 14 in Atlanta. Isaac is the younger brother of Benedict Elijah Lubell. His grandparents are Ingrid Hapgood of Decatur, Frank Hapgood of Locust Grove, Ga., and Martha and John Lubell of Wynnewood, Pa. Isaac was named after his late paternal great-grandfather, Benedict Isaac Lubell, whose father, Samuel Lubell, participated in the founding of the Reconstructionist movement as well as his ancestor, Emerson Hapgood.



Isaac Emerson Lubell

Lauren and Alvin Fox announce with joy the birth of their granddaughter, **Ella Ashlee Fox**, who was born on Feb. 7. Ella is the daughter of Michael and Lara Fox of Hamden, Conn., and the great-granddaughter of Lester and Mildred Hersch of Boca Raton, Fla., formerly of Nashville.

B'nai Mitzvah

Shayna Beyer will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, March 9, at 11 a.m. The Temple. Her parents are Stacy and Bruce Beyer, and her grandparents are Evelyn Beyer of Indian Land, S.C., the late David Beyer and the late Edyth Zuckerman.



Shayna Beyer

Shayna's mitzvah project has focused on raising awareness and money to protect manatees through the Save the Manatee Club. She has raised more than \$2,400, given a speech and slide presentation to further her cause and plans to continue her campaign.

A seventh-grader at Harding Academy, Shayna's special interests include singing, theater, playing the trombone, writing and reading.

Melissa Hannah Rothenstein was called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Feb. 16 at Congregation Micah. Melissa is the daughter of Steve and Bonnie Rothenstein, sister to Alana, and granddaughter of Diane and Arthur Fishman of Pomona, N.Y.; Marlene and Dave Roberts of Westbury, N.Y.; and Stuart

and Fran Rothenstein of New York City; and the late Alan Feinstein.

Melissa is a 7th-grader at Heritage Middle School in Spring Hill, where she plays clarinet in the band and participates in the Model UN and the Youth Legislature. After school she enjoys playing her guitars and getting dinner ready when dad is out of town.

For her Mitzvah project Melissa has been collecting aluminum can tabs to raise money and awareness for the Ronald McDonald House of Nashville. Its mission is to support the programs run by Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville, bringing attention to the mission to keep families close during the critical illness of a child.



Melissa Hannah Rothenstein

Ryan Davis Ghertner will be called to the Torah on March 16 at 10:30 a.m. at Congregation Micah. Ryan is the son of Steve and Patty Ghertner, brother to Ben, grandson to Frank and Barbara Ghertner of Nashville, and grandson to Tom and Judy Murphy of Springfield, Mo.



Ryan Davis Ghertner

Ryan is a 7th-grader at University School of Nashville. He enjoys playing soccer, whitewater kayaking, playing video games, and spending time with friends.

For Ryan's mitzvah project, he volunteered with two friends at Second Harvest Food Bank sorting over 5,000 pounds of frozen meats to be distributed to a 46-county service area to feed needy families. Ryan plans to donate the fresh organic fruit basket centerpieces at his kiddush luncheon to Second Harvest. He also plans to donate a portion of his bar mitzvah gift money to Second Harvest; for every one dollar donated, Second Harvest provides four meals to needy families.

Rachel Haley Karp will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah at 10:30 a.m. on March 23 at Congregation Micah. She is the daughter of Jeff and Brenda Karp and the big sister of Adam Karp. Her grandparents are Barry and Marlene Karp of Chatham, Mass. and Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., and Marion and the late R. David Wood of Sun City Center, Fla.



Rachel Haley Karp

Rachel is a 7th-grade honor student

at Brentwood Middle School. Rachel has achieved the rank of second-degree black belt in Taekwondo, an accomplishment she's been working on since the age of six. In addition to excelling physically in Taekwondo, she also guides the younger members and serves as a role model through her participation in the Academy's Leadership Program.

Rachel is passionate about helping people less fortunate. She also has a flair and fashion sense of her own. As a way to combine these two interests, Rachel has volunteered her Saturday afternoons at ThriftSmart. Unlike many other thrift stores, 100 percent of ThriftSmart's proceeds benefit charities such as African Leadership, The Belize Project, New Hope Academy, and Mercy Children's Clinic.

Nicole 'Nikki' Feldman Sykora will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, April 13, at the Congregation of Reform Judaism in Orlando, Fla. Nikki is the daughter of Floyd Sykora and Valerie Feldman of Lake Mary, Fla., and granddaughter of Rita Feldman of Nashville.



Nicole 'Nikki' Feldman Sykora

Nikki attended The Jewish Academy of Orlando from kindergarten through fifth grade. She is currently in the seventh grade at Greenwood Lakes Middle School, where she maintains a 4-point average. Nikki is a starter on the school's junior varsity girls volleyball team and in her third year playing lacrosse with the CFGYL League. Her other interests include writing, reading and photography.

Sharing the family's simcha will be Nikki's older sister, Allison, along with relatives from Nashville and Milwaukee.

Sympathy

... to the family of **Emanuel Bobby Shepard**, who died on Feb. 11 at age 86. Mr. Shepard was preceded in death by his parents, Rose and Jack Shepard; brothers, Ralph and Alfred Shepard; sisters, Dorothy Goldstein and Frances Lefkovitz.

He is survived by his wife, Sylvia Shepard; children, Mark Shepard (Goldie), Roger Shepard (Debbie), Philip Shepard (Toni); grandchildren, Jennie Zagnoev (Bradley), Polly Shepard, Erin Shepard, David Shepard; great-grandchildren, Caden Donley and Evan Zagnoev; in-laws, Ellen Jacobs (Kenneth), Dotty Jacobs (Buddy), Eleanor Jacobs, Minnette Shepard; and stepsister, Betsy Chernau. In lieu of customary remembrances, memorial donations may be directed to the Donald E. Jacobs Student Loan Scholarship Fund, in care of The Temple, 5015 Harding Road, Nashville, TN 37205, or to Alive Hospice

... to the family of **Eleanor Bloch Small**, beloved wife of the late Jerome Kuhn Small, who died on Feb. 7. Mrs. Small was born on June 12, 1919, in Macon, Ga. She was preceded in death by her parents, Marie K. and Charles J. Bloch, and her sister, Marian Hecht. She is survived by her sons, Stephen C. Small (Lisa), and Jerome K. Small Jr. (Holly); her grandsons, Charles S. Small, Jonathan S. Small and Michael A. Small; as well as niece Kathy M. Hattendorf (Al) and nephew William L. Small (Gloria). A host of dear friends and those who considered her another mother or grandmother will also miss her wisdom, laughter, and seemingly endless stories. The family wishes to thank Teresa Alexander, Judy Martin, and Vickie Elliott, whose care in recent years allowed her to remain independent. In earlier years she found great joy in volunteering, especially for the Temple Beautification committee and the Sisterhood, for the Nashville Council of Jewish Women, Jewish Family Service, Cheekwood Museum and Gardens, the League for the Hearing Impaired, the Red Cross Volunteer Blood Bank and the Vanderbilt Aid Society. A 1941 graduate of Vanderbilt University, she continued a lifelong love of learning, even into her final week of life. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Temple Beautification Committee or the charity of your choice.



Eleanor Bloch Small



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go to

www.jewishnashville.org
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NowGen will clean, cook, collect during Mitzvah Madness

If you enjoyed NowGen Nashville's Mitzvah Madness last March, just see what's in store this year. The community service project for the young adult community of Jewish Nashville begins on March 1 and continues throughout the month. With 10 different activities and two

opportunities to contribute needed products, there's something for everyone this March. The service opportunities take place around the city and help the entire community.

Here's what's planned:

Friday, March 1 – KICKOFF at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital at 7 p.m.,

where volunteers will make activity kits for children being treated there.

Sunday, March 3 – Prepare lunches for Room in the Inn, time and location to be determined.

Sunday, March 3 – Clean and organize resource room, art supplies and more at Gilda's Club, 2-4 p.m.

Saturday, March 9 – Happy Hour to support Jewish Family Service at 7 p.m., location to be determined. Please bring 1-2 Passover non-perishables (not chocolate) to help JFS collect Passover food for those in need.

Sunday, March 10 – Playground cleanups at Congregation Micah and The Temple

Thursday, March 14 – Cook dinner For Safe Haven (serves homeless families), time and location to be determined.

Saturday, March 16 – Serve dinner at Safe Haven, 5-7 p.m.

Sunday, March 17 – Clear and weed

garden space at Abe's Garden, a center for excellence for Alzheimer's care, 1-4 p.m.

Sunday, March 24 – Prepare lunches for Room In The Inn, time and place to be determined

Sunday, March 31 – Cleanup for the collective cemeteries of Sherith Israel, West End Synagogue and The Temple, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Tuesdays, March 5, 12, 19 – Trivia night collections, check calendar for time and location; collecting toiletries to be donated in Nashville and community mission to Cuba

Throughout March – Eyeglasses drive at GJCC, local congregations, Vanderbilt Hillel – donate used eyeglasses so others can reuse.

To learn more or to register for service opportunities, go to the Mitzvah Madness page at nowgennashville.org, and email joel@jewishnashville.org with any questions. □



Repairing the world, one step - or bounce - at a time

By LIZA DANSKY

Akiva Cares is an after-school club that educates and facilitates the students at Akiva in Tikkun Olam, repairing our world. Akiva Cares plans and executes many different community service projects for the Akiva community, the Nashville Jewish community, and the broader Nashville community. Students in third through sixth grade meet once a week to learn about the importance of giving back. Each quarter has a theme on which all projects are based.

During the first quarter, the students engaged in activities that helped other kids who are less fortunate. We discussed the importance of being appreciative of what we are given and how to give to others in need. The students created a team to participate in CureSearch for Childhood Cancer's inaugural walk and then educated the rest of the student body about the importance of this organization and why they chose to walk. The students also sold baked goods they had made as a way to raise money for the Akiva team participating in the walk.

During the second quarter, Akiva Cares hosted a food drive for Second Harvest Food Bank. The students put on a skit to introduce the food drive to the rest of the student body and encouraged their peers to bring in food to help others in need. During the weeks of the food drive, they counted and sorted the food in order to keep track of the items the school collect-

ed. At the end of the drive, the students had collected over 570 cans!

During the third and fourth quarters, Akiva Cares is planning and executing Hoops for Heart. The American Heart Association conducts two major fundraising events for kids. "Hoops for Heart" is an event that raises awareness for being heart-healthy and raises money for the American Heart Association. The students will be team leaders for the event, in which the school will participate in a fun and active afternoon of various basketball activities. The idea of the event is to promote activity in young students as well as to educate our youth on the importance of being healthy. The Akiva Cares representatives will also facilitate different workshops for their peers about the heart and how to be a healthy kid.

All of the activities and events that Akiva Cares take part in build their understanding of the significance of helping the community. The students hone their leadership and organizational skills through participating and planning the different events. The Akiva Cares club is made up of truly remarkable individuals who are driven by the prospect of thinking about, planning for, and looking out for others. In their pursuit of chesed, they demonstrate daily their care and concern for the community in which they live. □

Dansky teaches humanities to 5th- and 6th-grade students and works with Akiva Cares participants.

around the town

Sherith hosts Cafe Simcha Songwriters Night

The community is invited to a songwriters night at Sherith Israel's Cafe Simcha on Saturday, March 9, at 8 p.m. Ticket prices cover the show and light refreshments. Call 292-6614 or email the Shul office, csi3600@comcast.net, for ticket info or to RSVP by March 5.

Titled "A Songwriters Night with the Luck of the Draw," the performance will feature songs and music from some of Nashville's most talented up-and-coming songwriters and musicians. At the event, hosted by Nashville songwriter Jeff Jacob, the audience will hear songs by half a dozen local songwriters. Additional musicians will play backup for the songs, but they won't know which songs until members of the audience pick their names out of a hat. So the audience will have an opportunity to find out just how talented our Nashville musicians are to play music that they have never seen or heard before.

In addition to music, there will be a mini Arts and Crafts Fair showcasing the talent of Sherith members. If you make jewelry or quilts, do photography, paint, sculpt, blow glass, or work in any other

art form, and would like to display your handiwork, please contact Reesha Leone at 297-2477 or reesha@comcast.net. It will be up to you whether you offer your work for sale. Renana Harary will be working with Reesha on this project.

Music at Micah

On Friday, March 8, Congregation Micah welcomes the Austin Peay State University Chamber Singers as part of our 7:30 p.m. Shabbat service.

Under the direction of Dr. Korre Foster, the 37-voice Chamber Singers is the university's premier choral ensemble. Repertoire ranges from Renaissance motets to classical masterworks and highly challenging contemporary literature. In addition to the annual holiday dinner and spring concerts, the Chamber Singers regularly represent the music department on concert tours, at university functions, and serve as a lab choir for graduate conducting students.

"The Chamber Singers will provide the choral music for that service, and the three pieces will be in Hebrew," Foster said. "This offers a worldly experience for our students. They have experienced singing in churches and at Sunday morning services, but the majority have never visited a synagogue."

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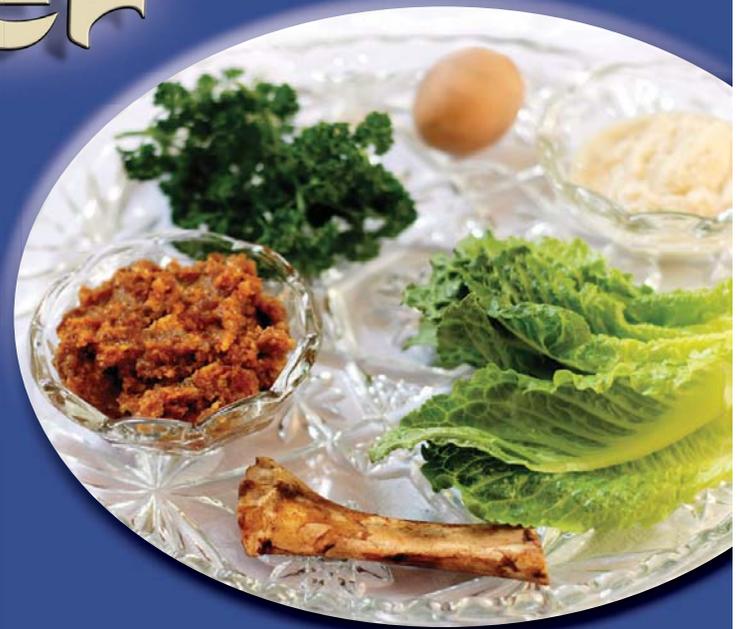


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