

the Jewish Observer

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Jewish Family Service announces 2012 Chesed Dinner honorees

On Thurs., May 3, Jewish Family Service (JFS) will hold its annual Chesed Dinner. This year's honorees are Jan Liff and Michael Gryll. Jan and Michael are both dedicated and passionate JFS volunteers, who exemplify the word Chesed, or loving-kindness.

Jan Liff's impact on Nashville and Israel's nonprofit worlds is felt far and wide. As a graduate of Tufts University, Peabody College, Vanderbilt's School of Nursing and studies at Hebrew University – Hadassah Medical Center School of Public Health, she has used her professional background to help others.

Locally, Jan is currently the secretary of the Jewish Federation Board and volunteers for the JFS Low Vision Program and the Big Brother Big Sister Program. Past board service includes: JFS for 11 years, Vanderbilt Center for Health Services, Jewish Foundation, Nashville Family Shelter, Nashville Respite Caregivers and Park Center. She is on the board of American Associates of Ben-Gurion University and is a founding member of the International Council of the New Israel Fund.



Jan Liff



Mike Gryll

JFS has benefitted through Jan's generosity of time, endless thoughtfulness and the establishment of the Philip & Eva Kopald Berkell Fund for Professional Education at the Jewish Foundation, ensuring JFS has necessary funds for continuing education for the agency's professional staff.

When asked to be one of the recipients of the Chesed award this year, Jan said "The Chesed Award honor is genuinely appreciated. It is a privilege to be part of our diverse community that twinkles with so many acts of loving-kindness."

Michael Gryll has touched many organizations in Nashville. His JFS involvement began in 1997, serving as board member and treasurer. In 2004 he became one of the first Helping Hands volunteers, and loyally visits his senior partner once a week. The story goes that whenever Mike visits the Waterford, one can find a lively game of cards with other residents joining in.

Organizations benefiting from his leadership include: Jewish Federation and Foundation, West End
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French Jewish community shaken after Toulouse attack

By Dana Kennedy

PARIS (JTA) — When Arie Bensemhoun, a Jewish community leader in Toulouse, woke up Tuesday morning, he thought for a moment that the horrific shooting of three children and a rabbi at a local Jewish school might have been just a bad dream.

"Then the reality hit and I knew it was true and it had really happened," Bensemhoun told JTA. "We are living a nightmare. It's hard to describe the shock felt by our whole community. It's worse than you can imagine."

Despite their grief, Bensemhoun and other Jewish leaders in France lost no time in mobilizing their community after southwestern France went to a scarlet terror alert, the highest possible, shortly after the shooting, which occurred just after 8 a.m. March 19 at the Ozar Hatorah school in Toulouse.



Rabbi Jonathan Sandler and his two sons, Arie, left, and Gabriel, were killed in the shooting at the Ozar Hatorah School in Toulouse, France. The rabbi's wife is holding their daughter. (Flash90/JTA)

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Community-Wide Yom HaShoah program to feature 'Life in a Jar'

Over a decade ago, four schoolgirls in Kansas learned about "other Schindlers" – people who risked their own lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. These four students researched the life and actions of a Polish heroine named Irena Sendler. After gathering all the information they could, these young students wrote a play called "Life in a Jar," bringing to life and to light the amazing story of one person's struggle to do the right thing against a background of hate, violence and bigotry.

Sunday, April 15, as the Nashville Jewish community commemorates Yom HaShoah, these students will perform

their play, "Life in A Jar – The Irena Sendler Project" at 10 a.m. at The Temple. The play addresses the power of humanity, the best of human nature and the life-saving actions of this most humble hero.

Sendler took risks to save the lives of over 2,000 Jewish children, according to Rabbi Shana Mackler, who was instrumental in bringing the production to Nashville. "Knowing full well that the children in the Warsaw ghetto would not survive, she and her friends smuggled the children out of the ghetto. Most of those she saved were taken to orphanages or to non-Jewish families and were given non-Jewish aliases. Sendler wrote their true names on thin rolls of paper in the hope that she could reunite them with

their families later. She preserved the precious scraps in jars and buried them in a friend's garden."

"When the war ended," Mackler added, "Sendler unearthed the jars and began trying to return the children to their families. For the vast majority, there was no family left. Many of the children were adopted by Polish families; others were sent to Israel."

Sendler has been recognized by Yad Vashem as a Righteous Gentile. Only after the play was written, and just a year before her death in 2008, she was recognized by the Polish Senate and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. She most grateful her story and that of her partners, who risked their own lives to save others, was now known.



"Every child saved with my help is the justification of my existence on this Earth," she said, "and not a title to glory." She described her actions as "a normal thing to do" and refused always to think of herself as a hero.

The upper grades of religious school students from all congregations, along with broader Jewish community are invited to the commemoration, which will include candle lighting by survivors and their families as well as prayers.

The annual Community-Wide Yom HaShoah commemoration is sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Nashville, The Gordon Jewish Community Center, Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad, Congregation Micah, Congregation Sherith Israel, The Temple and West End Synagogue. □

Toulouse attack

Continued from page 1

Working in concert with emergency protocols put in place by the French government in the event of a terrorist attack, security was increased at Jewish synagogues and schools all over France. President Nicolas Sarkozy and Interior Minister Claude Gueant called for a stepped-up police presence at Jewish institutions in France.

Guards were being stationed at all religious schools and outside Jewish and Muslim institutions.

David Ben Ichou, the social welfare director at the Fonds Social Juif Unifié (FSJU), the country's main Jewish welfare organization, said the Jewish community in France also has a Jewish community protection service consisting of volunteers who guard Jewish institutions in time of crisis.

The main suspect in the shooting attack was in a standoff Wednesday with French police. Mohammed Merah, a 24-year-old French national of Algerian descent who claims ties to al-Qaida, reportedly has been known to French intelligence for many years. Merah's brother was arrested, and two police officers were injured in a shootout outside the home, according to reports.

Merah allegedly told police that he carried out the murders to "avenge Palestinian children."

Gueant was quoted as saying that Merah "has made trips to Afghanistan and Pakistan in the past ... and says he belongs to al-Qaida and says he wanted to avenge Palestinian children and to attack the French army." □

This Passover, create a
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From the matzah ball in the soup at your Seder to the life-sustaining financial contributions you make to the Jewish community, you demonstrate your commitment to Jewish values every year. Thanks to your generosity, the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign helps countless people in Israel and in Jewish communities around the world overcome hunger, poverty and despair. And we continue to support programs that sustain Jewish identity and enrich our Jewish future.

When you create a Jewish legacy, you ensure that we will be able to meet the Jewish community's needs in the future as well. Deliver the gift of hope to Jews who need your help, now and in the years to come.

To find out more about creating a bequest, contact Risa Klein Herzog at 615.354.1651 or risa@jewishnashville.org.

**Jewish Federation
& Jewish Foundation**
OF NASHVILLE AND MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Community professionals urge others to join the Conversations

By Kathy Carlson

The Conversations on Community and Israel have begun, and it's important and easy for everyone age 16 and up to make their voices heard.

The Conversations are facilitated by conflict-resolution professionals and aim to create a consensus in Nashville's Jewish community on how we'll talk with one another about Israel and its future, especially when we disagree strongly. The goal is not to have everyone agree on one opinion about Israel and its future, but to reach consensus on a framework for talking about Israel.

About 25 community members – rabbis from all five of Nashville's congregations and staff from Jewish agencies and congregations – participated in a beta test of the guided conversations process on March 15.

"I feel like everyone who participated really felt like they had a voice in the conversation," said Jewish Family Service Executive Director Pam Kelner. "The facilitator was very good at building a feeling of consensus and buy-in around the goals that the group produced. Even if the participants had different views about Israel, we all agreed on the overarching goals of the community with respect for other viewpoints."

"I appreciated the mix of humor and serious mindedness. ... It was interesting to hear the different points of view," said Carrie Mills, advertising manager for the Observer and gallery curator for the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

"As a result of participating in the beta test, I think members of the community who want their voices heard regarding Israel have a real opportunity here and they should take advantage of it," Federation Executive Director Mark Freedman said. "The community is being offered a platform for voices to be heard in a safe, secure and constructive environment."

Rabbi Laurie Rice of Congregation Micah said, "It was helpful to see that others in our community share the same concerns and needs with regards to healthy conversation surrounding this very sensitive topic of Israel. The test run also made it clear that our community needs this kind of process at this time."

"If you're concerned about your voice being heard, this is your opportunity," said Irwin Venick, Community Relations Committee chair. The Conversations are "open, facilitated, and there's no hidden agenda – only to try to learn how we can best learn from and speak to each other."

Vanderbilt University Adjunct Law Professor Roger Conner leads the process with a team of facilitators. "The decision rule within each group and at the final meeting is consensus. Everyone at each meeting has to agree before the meeting ends," Conner said in an earlier interview. Decisions won't be made by majority or by one group forcing another to adopt its point of view. "The goal is to find common ground where everyone can stand."

The Conversations are sponsored by the Jewish Federation's Community Relations Committee as part of its series, "Increasing Your Israel IQ: From Argument to Advocacy," and are made possible by a grant from the Jewish Federation's New Initiatives Fund. All of Nashville's rabbis and Jewish agency directors have endorsed the

Conversations.

To participate, first assign yourself to a discussion group based on either demographics or a general opinion on Israel. Then, list up to three statements of what the goals of the community should be for talking about Israel, why each goal is important and how it could be achieved.

Participants can provide this information online by using a link on the Jewish Federation of Nashville's web site, www.jewishnashville.org (look for the Israeli and American flags). If you'd prefer to provide the information on paper, the forms are available for download online, by mail, at the Gordon Jewish Community Center and all of the congregations.

All questionnaires must be submitted online, by mail or at the GJCC or congregations by April 8. (Just think of Passover as the deadline.) The answers you provide are kept confidential.

Facilitators will use the participants' goals to guide the conversation in each group, so it's necessary to describe your own goals before you can participate.

Each person will be assigned to a session with those who selected the same statement, one of three, online, that best describes their hopes for Israel's future. Two additional groups will be made up of youth, ages 16-20, and young adults, ages 21-35.

The conversation sessions will last three hours. A light meal will be provided one-half hour before the sessions begin.

Beta test participants got a good feel for how the process works.

"One surprise was the level of detail that went into creating a goal statement" for discussion on Israel, Kelner said. "It showed that everyone was very engaged in the process, when we were debating over every word that went into the sentence. Again, this was done with respect for each other and with the goal of build-

ing consensus."

The GJCC's BBO and teen director, Jessica Leving said, "I thought it was interesting and think it's a very important topic for us to come together and discuss as a community. It seemed like the goal is to get voices from everyone in the community, so it's a good opportunity to make sure your voice is heard as part of that."

GJCC Executive Director Eric Goldstein encouraged community members to participate. "I think it's a great conversation to have," he said. "There should be a dialogue and all sides are very important to share."

And to those who may be undecided about whether to attend, Rabbi Rice said, "I would say that you might well be surprised to learn how others feel and you will appreciate the ability to come together with those who may see things differently and still work together constructively."

Continued on page 4



Summer Fun at the Academy

Two-Week Programs for 4- and 5-Year-Olds

PROGRAM 1: Muddy Mucks June 4–15

What child doesn't love to play in the mud?

In this program, children will practice science, math, and literacy skills through the exploration of mud by digging, mixing, measuring, and creating. Campers will learn to cook organically with the food grown in the Academy planters. They will also keep a journal with their own hypotheses about mud. We'll also collect clay from the Harpeth River to create clay masterpieces baked in our in-house kiln. Your little ones are sure to come home dirty, hungry, tired, and knowledgeable when it comes to mucking around in mud!

PROGRAM 2: Academy 2012 Olympics June 18–29

It's time for the 2012 Olympics HERE in Nashville, TN!

Academy campers will carry a torch to the opening ceremony, kicking off two weeks of Olympic glory. We will start in Ancient Greece with a Kid's Decathlon and work our way up to some of the sights and sports of the London 2012 Games. Campers will create their own country and proudly participate in activities such as archery, soccer, track, a variety of "water experiences," and baseball to name a few. After two weeks of sports and sun, your child will step up on the podium a well-rounded Olympic athlete deserving of a gold medal.

PROGRAM 3: Kindergarten Bootcamp July 9–20

Jumpstart your child for Kindergarten!

Help make your child's transition to kindergarten an easy one. This camp will focus on important literacy, math, science, and social skills through hands-on activities. Students will have the opportunity to practice and review skills they will need for kindergarten (*as identified by private and public school teachers*). They will even be a part of a new offering at the Academy: "If I Had A Hammer Math™," an exemplary program that makes math come alive with real-life experiences. Our goal is for students to have a blast and be ready to enter kindergarten confident and prepared!

- Each two-week program integrates water play, Spanish instruction, art, music, sports, socialization experiences, and computer activities.
- Certified teachers in each program engage children in play while integrating academics.
- Kindergarten Boot Camp targets skills most often asked for by public and private Kindergarten teachers.
- Children will enjoy our state-of-the-art Natural Playscape and our large campus each day.
- \$400 per program.
- Camp days run from 9 to 3—early and late care available.
- Programs open to 4*- and 5-year-olds (*must be 4 by June 1).

Contact Micah Children's Academy to enroll your child for one or more camp experiences by phone (615) 942-5162 or email lheady@micahchildrensacademy.org.

Participants choose own groups, based on common ground

Each person who answers the Conversations questionnaire (go to www.jewishnashville.org) is asked to assign themselves to one of five groups. The idea is to create a safe space for candid dialogue by assembling small groups where people share similar perspectives.

Two groups are demographically based:

1. **NowGen:** Young professionals and students, age 21 - 35.
2. **Youth:** Age 16 - 20.

Groups 3 - 5 are based on the positions people hold about issues related to Israel and its future:

3. **Support Government:** Individuals who identify with this statement: "The best way to assure that Israel survives and prospers as a homeland for the Jewish people is to support the current Israeli government's strategy on settlements, territory and negotiations, or to abandon the peace process as not being in Israel's best interests."
4. **Higher Priority Negotiation:** Individuals who identify with either of these statements: "The best way to assure that Israel survives and prospers as a homeland for the Jewish people is to encourage the government of Israel to give much higher priority to negotiations leading to a two-state solution, changing its current positions as needed to facilitate such negotiations."
5. **Both And . . . :** Individuals who identify with this statement: "I want Israel to survive and prosper as a homeland for the Jewish people and I think the people in both Group 4 and Group 5 above have some good arguments." □

Timeline for Conversations About Community and Israel

Dates for the workshops, which will be at the GJCC, are as follows:

NowGen, age 21 - 35: Tues., April 10, 5 p.m.

Youth: Age 16 - 20: Wed., April 11, 5 p.m.

Group A (Persons who chose Statement A): Mon., April 16, 6 p.m.

Group B (Statement B): Tues., April 24, 6 p.m.

Group C (Statement C): Sun., April 29, 6 p.m.

A light meal will be provided one-half hour before the sessions begin. □

Four artists to be featured in GJCC April exhibit

The GJCC April Art show will feature work from artists Leslie J. Klein [see article on page 2, Eileen Lieberman, Robert Bruce Scott and Cleota Lackey.

Eileen Itka Lieberman majored in art in high school and has taught many arts and crafts classes throughout the years.

Robert Bruce Scott's series' are more about the process of creation than about the finished product. They are all highly abstracted, with the "Blocks" group being the closest thing to having subject matter and obvious symbolic content. His "Blue Palace"



series is about the color blue as a symbol itself, and the action/reaction of the actual painting technique.

Artist Cleota Lackey works in a variety of styles and media. Primarily a painter, she also finds herself working with painting on silk, pierced leather, air brush, collages and punchneedle.

The exhibit will run through the end of April. An opening reception will be held Wed., April 11, from 7-9 p.m. For more information on this and other exhibits, call Carrie Mills at the GJCC, 356-7170, or contact her via email at carrie@nashvillejcc.org. □

GJCC's Camp Davis offers new specialty camps for all interests

Hot sun, cool pool, lots of new friends, and fun activities are all the ingredients for a perfect summer with Camp Davis at the JCC.

This summer promises to be better than ever with the addition of multiple new specialty camps. These camps encompass a wide variety of interests and ensure that all kids will be entertained and engaged throughout the summer. The following camps are new to this year's offerings: Dance, Glee, RockSTAR, Green Thumbs, Cheer, Space, Puppetry, Boarderz, Kids on the Move, and Woodshop.

Camp Davis is able to offer such unique options through its new partnership with Star Education. Star is a California-based nonprofit educational organization that offers recreational programming.

"We're excited to be able to partner with Star Education and be able to offer these unique programs," Camp Davis Director Claire Bernstein said. "Now kids have the opportunity to join us for traditional camp, Rock STAR, dance and Green Thumbs all in one summer, all found in one place."

Besides the specialty camps, there's lots to look forward to at Camp Davis like Color War and Camp Davis Playoffs, two activities that engage the entire camp community.

"We're psyched for an amazing summer," Bernstein said. "It takes a lot of prep and energy, but it's all worth it for a summer of smiles and fun."

For more information, contact Claire Bernstein at 615/356-7170. Registration is currently open and enrollment forms can be found at www.nashvillejcc.org. □



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May 4, 2012

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Apply for Federation-subsidized missions to Israel, Moldova

By Kathy Carlson

For the second year in a row, Nashville's young adults can apply to participate in fully subsidized mission opportunities this summer in Israel and Moldova.

The mission trips grew out of the Jewish Federation of Nashville's 2010 Best Jewish Nashville priority-setting project, which set a goal of encouraging the community's next generation of leaders. As a result, the Federation is sending promising young adults to Israel to strengthen connections with the Jewish homeland and to areas of the world where help and attention are needed.

Young adults can apply to participate in the 2012 National Young Leadership Summer Mission to Israel, July 1-10 or in the Hands-On Mission to Beltsy, Moldova, with the Greensboro, N.C., Jewish Federation, from June 27-July 8.

The Young Leadership program in Israel is open to young professionals, ages 25-45, and the Beltsy mission is geared toward young adults, ages 22-35. Applications are due April 11, 2012, with decisions to be made before the end of April, said Federation Planning Director Harriet Schifftan.

"We want the participants to come back excited about the future of the local and global Jewish Community and energized about their ability to play a role in it," said Sara Hanai, who participated in

last year's National Young Leadership Summer Mission in Israel. This year, Hanai has joined the Federation's Local Global Committee, which has been instrumental in organizing the trips and selecting participants.

The missions give participants a chance to experience very different facets of Jewish life, and then come back and educate the community in Nashville, Schifftan said.

"This is an incredible opportunity," she said. "The Local Global Committee is investing in young leaders and giving them the tools to help educate the community and get involved."

"People who went last year exceeded our expectations of commitment to the community on return," she continued. Participants spoke at Federation events, organized a Gordon Jewish Community Center exhibit of photographs of their experiences, spoke to Nashville congregations, and participated in Tzedakah Tzunday telephone calling. Many are serving in leadership capacities, Schifftan said.

This year, all applications will be made online at www.jewishnashville.org using the Young Adult Missions tab. Applicants will need to submit a letter of recommendation from a Jewish communal professional such as a rabbi or educator, and they're encouraged to submit resumes, Schifftan said. The selection process will include a brief in-person or Skype interview with the Local Global Committee.

"If either of the trips appeal to you on any level, figure out if you can make it work and just go for it," Hanai said. "Both trips provide amazing experiences that most of us don't have access to any other way."

"If you can make your schedule work, you should definitely apply," said Jason Coleman, who participated in the 2011 National Young Leadership

Summer Mission to Israel. "The trip is a great opportunity to experience Israel again or for the first time with a diverse and talented group of people. You'll learn a lot and come away with memories that you won't ever be able to recreate."

If you have questions, contact Schifftan at harriet@jewishnashville.org or call 354-1687. □

'Glee' star, Bill A. Jones to perform at GJCC on April 1

The Gordon Jewish Community Center once again welcomes "Glee" star Bill A. Jones on Sun., April 1, from 3 - 4:30 p.m., followed by a dessert reception.

The concert will feature timeless music with Jones, winner of the 16th annual SAG (Screen Actors Guild) Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series, "Glee." Jones has toured with the Glen Miller Orchestra and sings classics in the style of Michael Buble.

Jones, whose career has spanned 30 years and included work not only as an actor but also as a radio personality, voice over, singer and emcee, has also appeared on "Las Vegas," "The King of Queens," "Just Shoot Me" and "The Drew Carey Show." He has played the character of Rod Remington on the hit Fox show "Glee" since its inception in 2009.

Born in Nashville, Jones grew up in

nearby Cheatham County. In his teens, he established the beginning of his career as a radio personality, and later as a TV host while simultaneously discovering his love of theatre. After graduating from MTSU, he continued to work as a radio personality for various area stations, including WAMB, where he was voted one of Middle Tennessee's top 10 air personalities.

He was simultaneously performing in area theatres, in locally cast commercials and industrial films; and was hosting his own TV show on WFYZ-39. In late 1987 he moved to the Los Angeles area. Every weekend he is a radio personality for Westwood One's Adult Standards format, heard on over 200 stations nationwide.

Performance tickets are available in advance from the GJCC.

For more information, contact the GJCC at 615/356-7170 or go to www.nashvillejcc.org. □



Bill A. Jones

JFS announces Chesed Dinner honorees

Continued from page 1

Synagogue, Maimonides Lodge #46 of B'nai B'rith, Hadassah, The Boulevard Bolt, West End Synagogue Men's Club, and Masonry Institute of Tennessee. He has served these organizations in capacities ranging from board president to Youth Commission chair.

Mike has been honored with the West End Synagogue Volunteer of the Year Award, the Southern Region of Hadassah Associate of the Year Award and Outstanding Associate Award from National Hadassah.

A Nashville native, Mike has been married to Lee for 31 years. Their son, Andy, and his wife, Shira, have blessed them with three grandchildren, Chava, Yisroel and Yocheved.

When talking about receiving the Chesed Award, Mike said "Chesed, loving-kindness, is a way of life for me. To be able to give of myself and know that someone is benefiting from my actions is rewarding. I have gained so much more

than I have ever given."

"Jewish Family Service is so pleased to be honoring Jan and Mike, who have not only used their talent and passion to benefit JFS, but also the larger Jewish community, the broader community of Nashville and Israel," said Pam Kelner, JFS executive director. "Honoring the two of them together is the perfect combination. Both of them are involved in so many organizations in a below-the-radar, quiet, get-the-job-done type of a way. The Chesed award is a way for JFS to thank Jan and Mike for all that they do for the community, in such a selfless way."

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 over 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 Director Pam Kelner at 354-1644. □

National Conference on Jewish Affairs-Nashville

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How to set limits

How to access counseling services

Come and share with other Caregivers!

There is no fee to participate. Call Teri Sogol at 354-1662 for more information or to register.



Living the dream

By Patricia Lutkowitz

"If you will it, it is no dream." — Theodor Herzl

From the time of my first visit to Israel 10 years ago, I have dreamed of meeting my Israeli counterparts, seeing firsthand how medicine in general and radiology in particular are practiced in Israel. Last month, I was able to fulfill that dream, and the experience far exceeded my expectations.

I traveled under the auspices of Partnership2Gether, the successor to Project Renewal and Partnership 2000. Here in Nashville, we are part of a consortium of southeastern Federations paired with Hadera-Eiron area, with the Israeli side organized by the Jewish Agency for Israel and by volunteers.

Our Partnership has previously arranged exchanges of delegations of teachers and firefighters, but had never achieved an exchange of healthcare professionals. This was the Nashville/Knoxville pilot program, which included an internist, a military physician, a radiologist, a former paramedic, a healthcare social worker, and a physical therapist.

Each of us was paired with an Israeli counterpart, and most of us opted for home hospitality.

Radiology, Israeli style

I spent several days in the radiology department at Hadera's 450-bed commu-

nity hospital, Hillel Yaffe. I sat at the workstations with the radiologists, viewing cases, observing their practice, meeting patients, asking questions, and discussing work and life in general. It was truly an eye-opening experience.

There are five levels of health insurance coverage in Israel ranging from the basic coverage, which is universal, to health maintenance organizations and premier health insurance. This system, to a significant extent, determines where people go for their health care.

Because of cost-containment issues, expensive new technology such as MRI units are rationed in public hospitals. Hillel Yaffe has use of a mobile MRI unit once or twice a month. With typical Israeli ingenuity, these radiologists have learned to maximize their available resources to provide the best possible care.

Since dictating reports to a transcriptionist is a rare luxury throughout Israel, and since there is no voice recognition software in Hebrew, doctors have to type their own reports – a rarity in the U.S..

In spite of the 6,000-mile distance between us, I found far more similarities than differences, at least in radiology.

- The radiologists I met were bright, articulate, knowledgeable, and well-trained.
- Most of the radiologists speak English quite well. Even those whose English conversational skills are somewhat limited have good



Raz, Yocheved (Yochi), and Tom Shuker, members of the family that provided home hospitality to Patricia Lutkowitz

command of medical English. Their reference books and articles are the same that we use.

- Like the majority of American radiology departments, the images are digitized and are viewed on high-resolution computer monitors.
- The radiology imaging equipment itself is equivalent or identical to what we have.
- Even given the somewhat limited resources of a public hospital, these physicians – both primary care doctors and specialists – are practicing sophisticated medicine.

Many of the radiologists had as many questions for me as I had for them. It was partnership in the truest sense, an exchange of ideas between peers. What a fascinating and delightful experience!

Medical training

For most physicians, the progression is from high school to army, to six-year combined undergraduate and medical school, to a year of rotating internship, followed by residency. Radiology residency there is five years (four years here). Radiology fellowships (subspecialty training beyond residency) are rare in Israel. Other types of medical fellowships are available in Israel but are competitive because of limited slots.

After regular army service, these folks enter the army reserve and are periodically called to serve. Therefore, most of the doctors I met in civilian life are also army doctors.

Doctors who immigrate to Israel first attend regular Ulpan (immersion language school), followed by several months in a special medical Ulpan, learning medical Hebrew terminology. They then have to pass three exams in order to practice in the Israeli health system. One of the radiologists I met had emigrated from Baku, Azerbaijan, at the age of 40. What enormous courage and fortitude it must take to leave a home and career at that age to come to a new land and learn a new language! I am filled with admiration.

Home hospitality

I admit having had some initial reservations about accepting home hospitality. The Jewish Southerner in me felt awkward about essentially inviting myself into a stranger's home.

I need not have worried. It took less than five minutes in their beautiful home in Moshav Maor for me to fall in love with the Shuker family. Judging from their warm welcome, I would say that the family felt the same. Yocheved – Yochi – is a radiology tech-

nologist from a Moroccan family. Eyal, who was born on the moshav to a Yemenite family, does construction work. Tom, the middle daughter, is 18 and in her last year of high school. Raz, the son, is a typical 11-year-old boy, much like my sons at that age. Mai, the 20-year-old daughter, is in the IDF (Israel Defense Forces), and I did not get to meet her.

This family was the most affectionate, hospitable, and genuine I have ever met. They made me feel entirely at home. Shabbat dinner at their table, surrounded by extended family, was a feast for all the senses.

Yochi speaks English quite fluently, so most of my in-depth conversations at home took place with her. However, the rest of the family understands English better than they realized, and we were able to communicate amazingly well. Besides, a smile and a hug are universal language.

The matzav — the situation

Foremost in my mind in recent months has been the threat from Iran, as well as the constant background threat of terrorism. Yochi tells me that they don't think very much about these issues. They cannot agonize over them and still manage to go about their daily lives. Working; putting food on the table, gas in the car (\$8 per gallon), and a roof over their heads; raising a family – these are the challenges that consume their thoughts.

"Something there is that doesn't love a wall..."

Before I built a wall, I'd ask to know
What I was walling in or walling out."

— "The Mending Wall" by Robert Frost

One of the insights that this trip brought home to me in a visceral way was the proximity of the threat of Palestinian terrorism. From the moshav fields next to the house, I could see the nearby Arab Israeli village on the hill overlooking us and knew that just beyond it, within walking distance, was the Fence.

One afternoon, Eyal drove me to that Arab village, Baqa al Gharbiyye. We wound through the narrow streets of this picturesque hillside village, where beautiful new homes nestle among older structures. After visiting with one of his oldest friends, we drove a few blocks to the Fence. This structure, which currently extends over 700 km, is a barrier of separation between Israel and Palestinian territory. In many places, it is a barbed wire fence with electronic monitoring. In more heavily populated areas, it is a high wall topped with barbed wire. Aesthetically, this is not a pleasing sight. However, the knowledge that this barrier has significantly reduced suicide bombings and protects my new Israeli family brings enormous comfort.

A Taste of Partnership

At the end of my individual travels, I met up with the Taste of Partnership group, 35 other travelers from our Southeastern Consortium group of Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Charlotte, Jacksonville, and Pinellas County (not represented here). This was a celebration of the 10th anniversary

Continued on page 7



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Hands-On Mission to Beltsy, Moldova with Greensboro, N.C. Federation
June 27 - July 8, 2012
(For grad students, young adults, and young professionals ages 22 - 35)

We are thrilled, for a second year, to partner with the Greensboro, N.C. Federation in their 12-year relationship with the Jewish Community of Beltsy, Moldova, in the creation of Camp Delet, a week long camp for children and families. On this trip you will learn about the history of our Jewish people in the Former Soviet Union (FSU) and become an active contributor to the lives of those still living there. Trip participants will be facilitators and will be expected to lead programs and teach a skill (art, sports, dance, Judaic-themed, etc.). Camp is a rich immersion experience and one should be prepared to participate fully. In addition to the camp experience, there are group sightseeing outings. This is a unique travel and immersion group trip for young adults who are adventurous, enthusiastic, hard-working and looking to have an incredible experience.

**APPLICATIONS FOR BOTH TRIPS
DUE APRIL 11, 2012**

The Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee has launched a new initiative to send and fully subsidize promising young adults to the areas of the world where our help and attention is needed most. In addition, we want to encourage those connected with Israel to deepen their connection and share that enthusiasm with our local community.

Application available online
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If you have questions please contact Harriet Schiffan,
Planning Director at harriet@jewishnashville.org
or call 615-354-1687.

Taste of Partnership 10th Anniversary Celebration held in Hadera

A seven-member delegation from the Jewish Federation of Nashville joined with 30 others from the Southeast Consortium who visited the Hadera-Eiron region of Israel in February as part of the 10th anniversary celebration of Partnership2Gether which, links federations in the southeast U.S. with Hadera and smaller regional communities.

The Nashville delegation included Federation Executive Director Mark Freedman and his wife, Leslie Klein, Federation Past President Fred Zimmerman, Federation Planning and Partnership2Gether Director Harriet Schiffan, Dr. Patricia Lutkowitz, Dr. Rochelle Wasserman and Richard Powell from nearby Adams, Tenn. Lutkowitz, Wasserman and Powell participated in a medical track experience prior to the start of the Partnership celebration [See article on page 6].

The four-day Partnership mission concluded with a gala celebration at the Hadera Community Center attended by over 350 individuals associated with Partnership activities over the past decade. The delegation attended the opening reception of the "Windows of Identity" art exhibition at the Hadera Mall which includes works of art by American (including Nashvillians) and Israeli artists.

In Jerusalem, the Joint Partnership Steering Committee allocated a significant increase in financial support for Nashville's Get Connected program, which sends local teens to Israel during the summer.

For more information about Nashville's Partnership2Gether program, contact Harriet Schiffan at 354-1687 or harriet@jewishnashville.org. Partnership2Together activities are supported, in part, through the Annual Campaign of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. □



Fred Zimmerman, second from left, receives a gift from Aviad Sella, Israeli co-chair of the Hadera-Eiron Partnership2Gether steering committee, Dorit Zini, also an Israeli Partnership co-chair, and Bernie Rosenblatt of Knoxville, who serves as the American co-chair of the Partnership. Fred accepted the gift on behalf of his wife, Sharon Bell, who was unable to participate in the mission. She was recognized for her dedicated service as American co-chair for more than three years.



Mark Freedman, Jewish Federation of Nashville executive director, center left, and Jeff Gubitz, executive director of the Knoxville Jewish Federation, join in the festivities marking the 10th anniversary of Partnership2Gether.



Mission participants visited the "Good Deeds" store at Lataf School in Hadera where students who achieve various academic and behavior goals get to select a toy supplied by the Partnership2Gether Southeast Region Consortium.



The Nashville delegation to the Partnership2Gether 10th anniversary celebration braving the elements at Caesarea are, front from left: Patricia Lutkowitz, Rochelle Wasserman, Leslie Klein, Mark Freedman. Back, Fred Zimmerman, Harriet Schiffan, Richard Powell



Leslie J. Klein offers remarks at the opening reception of the "Windows of Identity" artists' project held in conjunction with the Partnership2Gether 10th anniversary celebration. The exhibition at the Hadera Mall contains more than 50 works of art created by American and Israeli artists embracing themes related to Jewish identity, expressions about Judaism and love of Israel. Artists from Nashville represented in the exhibit are Klein, Sharon Charney, Kaaren Hirschowitz Engel, Jerry Klein, Terry Lapidus, Sydney Reichman and Rhonda Polen Wernick.

Living the dream

Continued from page 6
of Partnership 2000/Partnership 2Gether. We divided our time between meeting Israelis in Hadera-Eiron and touring attractions in Hadera, Caesaria, Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem. The entire tour was delightful, especially snow in Jerusalem.

I have to say, though, that the experience of living with an Israeli family and

sitting side-by-side with my Israeli colleagues was by far the most thrilling, gratifying, and memorable privilege of all. I got to live my dream, and it was very sweet.

If you are interested in knowing more about Partnership2Gether, contact Harriet Schiffan: harriet@jewishnashville.org. □

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lifecycles

Bat Mitzvah

Talia Sydney Stein will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Shabbat morning, March 31, at 9:30 at West End Synagogue. Talia is the daughter of Leslie and Ira Stein, the sister of Hannah Stein, and the granddaughter of Evelyn and Martin Snyder of



Talia Sydney Stein

Memphis, Gitta Stein of Chattanooga, and the late Herbert Stein of Chattanooga.

A seventh grader at University School of Nashville, Talia plays tennis and volleyball. Her passions include playing competitive tennis, spending time with family and friends, having Shabbat dinner with her family, leading services on Shabbat morning, listening to music, and reading.

For her mitzvah project Talia has been reading to the children of St. Mary's Villa and will be donating books to Book'em, an organization that distributes books to schools throughout the community. Talia will also be setting up a B'nai Tzedek fund through the Jewish Foundation of Nashville.



ACollective, one of Israel's most extraordinary indie successes and reigning live bands, will be performing in Nashville on Tues., March 27, at The End on Elliston Pl. The event is sponsored by Vanderbilt Hillel and the Jewish Federation. The doors open at 8 p.m. and the performance begins at 8:30 for this 18-and-over show. This energetic seven-piece Tel Aviv band has been playing monthly shows to 1000+ capacity sold-out venues, while headlining some of Israel's leading music festivals.

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WES high school graduation to be held on April 14

West End Synagogue will celebrate the culmination of 13 years of Jewish learning with the Graduation Class of 2012 on Sat., April 14, at 8 p.m. at the synagogue. The community is invited for Ma'a'riv services, Havdalah and a program focusing on "What Being Jewish Means to Me." The services and the program will be led by the 11th grade students. A dessert reception will be hosted by the parents of the graduates.

The students and their parents are: Mattison Asher, son of Jody Mattison and Jordan Asher; Zachary Crowley, son of Helen and Jason Crowley; Alec Eskin, son of Amy Eskin and Billy Eskin; Evan Isenstein, son of Linda Nathenson and Joel Isenstein; Talia Mayden, daughter of Barbara and Ted Mayden; Naomi Neuman, daughter of Ann and Andy Neuman; Jacob Seloff, son of Diane and Herb Seloff; Hannah J Stein, daughter of Leslie and Ira Stein; and Margaret Rose, daughter of Joanna Brichetto and Michael Rose. □



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'The Black-Jew Dialogues' will be presented at Vanderbilt April 11

The Black-Jew Dialogues" will be in performance at Vanderbilt University's Commons Center in the Multipurpose Room on The basic facts are that it will take place on Wed., April 11, at 7 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Commons Center.

What's so funny about two American minorities that have slavery,

the KKK, and chicken livers in common? That's what you'll find out in this two-actor play on the history and absurdity of prejudice and racism and the power of diversity. "The Black-Jew Dialogues" combines fast-paced sketches, improvisations, multimedia, puppets and a game show to create a show that has gained praise across the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. The program was presented at West End Synagogue last September.

In "The Black-Jew Dialogues", Emmy-award winner Ron Jones and veteran performer Larry Jay Tish take the audience on a hysterical and poignant ride through three days they spent together in a cheap hotel room discussing their own experiences, the history of their people, and why there has been a growing rift between the two groups since the early '70s. Through their dialogue the audience gains insight to the true nature of prejudice and how our inability to face our own biases separate us in ways that we may not even think about.

The event is co-sponsored by The Vanderbilt Program in Jewish Studies, Department of English, Program in African American and Diaspora Studies, Bishop Johnson Black Cultural Center, Office of Leadership Development and Intercultural Affairs, and Office of the Dean of the Ingram Commons

For additional information contact Lindsey Bunt at lindsey.bunt@vanderbilt.edu; 322-5029). □

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Special events set for Jewish Songwriters Exhibit in Murfreesboro

Linebaugh Public Library will host a special event in conjunction with the traveling exhibit "A Fine Romance: Jewish Songwriters, American Songs, 1910-1965." On Tues., April 3, Dr. Bill Levine, associate professor in the English department at Middle Tennessee State University, will speak on "From Tin Pan Alley to Minton's Playhouse and Back," at this free and open event which also includes a performance by the Riverdale Jazz Band, led by director, Mike Aymett.

Levine's topic is, "From Tin Pan Alley to Minton's Playhouse and Back: Collaborations between Jewish Songwriters and African-American Artists during the Height of the Great American Songbook Era," which will present deeper understanding of the influences on the composers featured in the exhibit.

"A Fine Romance: Jewish Songwriters, American Songs, 1910-1965" was developed by Nextbook, Inc., a nonprofit organ-

ization dedicated to supporting Jewish literature, culture and ideas, and the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The national tour of the exhibit has been made possible by grants from the Charles H. Revson Foundation, the Righteous Persons Foundation, the David Berg Foundation, and an anonymous donor, with additional support from Tablet Magazine: A New Read on Jewish Life.

On Thurs., April 19, at 7 p.m., the Oakland High School Chamber Choir, led by director John McDonald, will perform a selection of songs featured in the exhibit. Following their performance, Dr. Paul Fischer, professor in the Department of Recording Industry at MTSU, will speak, on "Jews in the New Tin Pan Alley: Sounds of the Sixties," focusing on the later dates covered in the exhibit's scope.

For information, contact Carol Ghattas at Linebaugh Library, 615/893-4131, ext 119, or at cghattas@linebaugh.org, or visit www.linebaugh.org for more information. The exhibit runs until April 20. □



From left: Karen Yazdian, Ellen Levitt, Jan Liff, Gretchen Goldstein and Alyse Sprintz are absorbed in their artwork at the Jewish Federation Lions of Judah luncheon and workshop on March 9 with artist Rachel Kanter, right. They added their personal touches to a national community wimple, the traditional Torah binder that is wrapped like a belt around the scroll. Photo: Barbara Schwarcz.

around the town

Papercutting Workshop

On Sun., April 22, Congregation Micah will offer a class in the traditional Jewish art of papercutting, from 1 to 4 p.m. All materials will be included in the fee. The workshop will be taught by local artist and Congregation Micah member Kim Phillips and is open to anyone age 15 or over. Participants will receive a free e-book upon completion of the workshop. To register for the workshop, contact Congregation Micah at 615/377-9799 or email office@congregation.org for more information and fees. The registration deadline is April 6; seating is limited.

Israeli dancing

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

Anne Frank Ballet to be performed at Cumberland County Playhouse

The Tennessee Holocaust Commission, in coordination with the Nashville Ballet and Cumberland County Playhouse, announces special performances of the Anne Frank Ballet for students, educators and community members. Two performances are scheduled to take place on Mon., May 7. There will be an 11 a.m. performance for school groups to include an exhibit of "Living On - Portraits of Tennessee Survivors and Liberators," a performance of the ballet production, followed by a "talk-back" session featuring local survivors and liberators. Educators may apply for a grant through the Tennessee Arts Commission to help with the cost of the performance at: http://www.tn.gov/arts/Student_Ticket_Subsidy.htm

The Tennessee Holocaust Commission also offers educational materials and student workshops to prepare students for the performance. For more information, contact Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky by email at Danielle.kahane-kaminsky@vanderbilt.edu.

The evening performance will begin with a 6 p.m. reception prior to the show at 7. The reception will be held in the

Adventure Theater featuring the "Living On" exhibit. Robert Heller, photographer; Susan Knowles, curator, and Will Pedigo, filmmaker for the exhibit and documentary, will speak about their experiences working on the project and with local survivors.

The performance begins with dramatic readings and dance by the Cumberland County Children's Theater, followed by the ballet production with five dancers portraying Peter van Pels, Margot Frank and three metaphorical "sides" to Anne's personality. The evening will conclude with a "talk-back" session featuring, Felicia Anchor, who was born in Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp; Frances Cutler-Hahn, a hidden child survivor; Art Pais, a survivor of the Kovno Ghetto and Dachau Concentration Camp; and Jimmy Gentry, a liberator of Dachau Concentration Camp.

Tickets may be purchased by calling Mandy at the box office at 931-484-5000 ext., 252. All proceeds will go toward the Tennessee Holocaust Commission's Digital Legacy Project and Annual Seminar at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for Tennessee Educators. □

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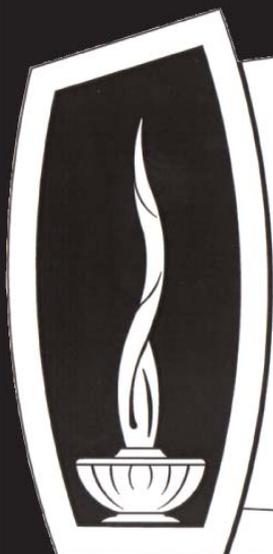
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Everyone in the community, ages 16 and over, will be invited to go to a special Website beginning in late March to answer a quick survey.

In April, everyone who participated in the survey will be asked to come to one of five guided group conversations in which **ALL** opinions are welcome.

The goal is finding common ground on how we talk about Israel in our community.

These Conversations are sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Nashville's Community Relations Committee as part of its series,

“Increasing Your Israel IQ: From Argument to Advocacy”

and made possible by a grant from the Jewish Federation's New Initiatives Fund. The Conversations have been endorsed by all of Nashville's Rabbis and Agency Directors.

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Fiber artist Klein explores Holocaust themes in exhibition

By Kathy Carlson

For artist Leslie J. Klein, the fabric of our lives as Jews informs the Holocaust-related pieces of her exhibition, a collection of garments and fiber-art works titled “All that Remains.”

The exhibition will be on display at the Gordon Jewish Community Center from April 3-30, not coincidentally during the month in which Yom HaShoah falls this year. A reception is set for Wed., April 11, from 7-9 p.m. at the GJCC Gallery for Klein and the month's other artists, Robert Bruce Scott, Cleota Lackey and Eileen Lieberman.

Klein's exhibition includes works

she began to create in 2000. Her first piece, a purple velvet and organza robe titled “A New Queen in Shushan,” was made for a fiber arts exhibit at San Antonio's Witte Museum. It won the Warrior Artist Award.

“When I did the piece (it was) kind of an accumulation of art with philosophy and emotion,” she says. “Since the 1970s I had been doing work alluding to the Holocaust and the Jewish experience, (though) not exclusively.”

At the time she created “A New Queen in Shushan,” Klein's husband, Nashville Jewish Federation Executive Director Mark Freedman, headed the San Antonio Federation. The city is a center for surface design, a general field encompassing all art techniques done on



a piece of cloth, she says. Creating the Holocaust-themed fiber art works there was a natural fit.

“From the time I was in high school I made my own clothes,” she says. “My mother taught me to sew. Sometime in the eighties I wanted to put together my

love of fabric and creative sewing with my artwork. That genre exploded in the United States at that time.”

Klein's fiber art meshes cloth, drawings, artwork, embellishments such as braiding, wires, and beads – plus history, Jewish practice and Jewish ritual objects – to create layers of detail and meaning.

The idea for a piece “grows as I'm working on it,” she says. “I do a lot of research on the images and concepts that inform the work.” In San Antonio, she got to know Harry and Jerry Mazal. Mr. Mazal, who died last year, amassed the largest private Holocaust library in the world, Klein says, and his mission was to answer the Holocaust deniers and combat anti-Semitism. She did much of the research for Holocaust pieces at the Mazals' library.

All of the pieces in the exhibition share one fabric for a lining or undergarment, a linen blend with blue stripes that evoke concentration camp prisoners' uniforms. The “A New Queen in Shushan” piece depicts the tension between the outward appearance of a queen and the hidden story of persecution and anti-Semitism.

On another piece, what appears to be decorative ribbon is actually a sort of film strip, a sheer organza fabric on which photographs of Holocaust victims have been reproduced through a photo transfer technique.

A geometric detail seen on several works turns out on further examination to be a collection of eyeglasses, all that remained of many Jews killed in concentration camps.

“Each of Leslie's unique installations portrays a quality of life and normalcy, yet as we inspect the garments and individual pieces of artwork, there is an understanding of a deeper, most urgent message woven in each piece,” said Beth Dotan, director of the Institute for Holocaust Education in Omaha, Neb. Klein's Holocaust works were first shown together as an exhibition at Omaha's Jewish Community Center in 2008.

“In the Jewish community we live in our cocoon in which the events of the Holocaust are givens, but in the rest of the world there are deniers who are putting the most vitriolic (material) on the Internet,” Klein said. “It was due to their influence that I realized this isn't just a marginal thing.”

She urges those who view her works to “look very carefully all around on all the different pieces and parts of the garment. They all have symbolic elements to them.” Her only caveat: Please don't touch the delicate works.

Through her work, Klein answers the Holocaust deniers to ensure the Holocaust isn't forgotten.

“One of the great themes of the show is resistance,” she says. “In many cases, contrary to what is often said, Jews were amazing in the ways they concocted to offer resistance.” □

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