

the Jewish Observer

Inside:

Please say YES

... if you are randomly selected to participate in the demographic survey of the Nashville area Jewish community that begins this month. Those selected will receive email notifications about how to complete the survey either online or by phone, which will take 20-30 minutes. The survey, conducted by Brandeis University and funded by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, is a chance to have your voice heard about the quality of Jewish life in Middle Tennessee. A full story is on page 5.

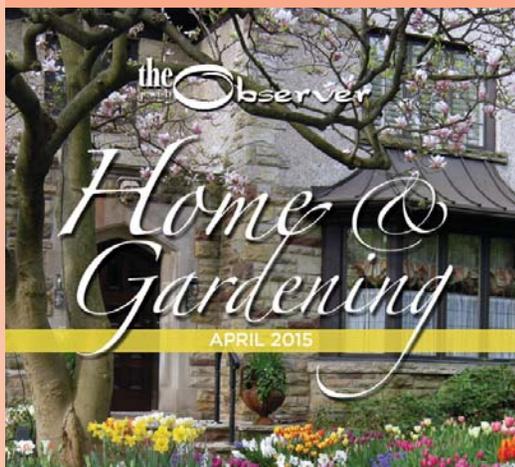
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Remembering, Honoring, Celebrating

Child survivors will tell their stories at Yom Hashoah commemoration on April 12

By CHARLES BERNSEN

The little girl in the middle of the photo stands rigidly, arms straight at her sides, scowling into the camera.

"I was most unhappy," Frances Cutler Hahn recalls, looking at the old black-and-white photo of almost 30 toddlers taken in 1941 at a children's home in Paris.

She had been placed there by her parents, Cyla and Shlomo Kahane, to protect her from the impending Nazi deportation and eventual murder of French Jews. Though she would eventually come to understand the courageous sacrifice her parents made to save her life, at the time the photo was taken, the 3-year-old girl knew only that she had been left with strangers.



Frances Hahn, holding a scrapbook of old photos, has been telling the story of her lost childhood for more than a decade.

"You're so young you can't understand," Hahn says. "All you know is your mother is not there, and you feel lonely, abandoned and angry. And then, once you do understand, you feel guilty because you are angry at someone who made such a sacrifice for you."

Frances Hahn and Edith Schifan, the mother of The Temple's Rabbi Mark Schifan and another child survivor of the Holocaust, will be the featured speakers at the annual communitywide Holocaust commemoration that begins at 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 12 at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. The event is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

In keeping with this year's theme focusing on the "lost childhoods" of

Continued on page 2

Israel Independence Day celebration will follow recognition of 3 fallen Israelis

By CHARLES BERNSEN

Yom Hazikaron is a time to honor all of Israel's fallen soldiers and terror victims. But when members of Nashville's Jewish community gath-

er this month to mark the Israeli equivalent of Memorial Day, they will hear about three individuals in particular.

Several Nashville teens participating this year in the Get Connected program have spent the last several weeks in communication

with the families of Carlos Yerulshalmi, Shai Shalom Cohen and Uri Salomon in preparation for presenting their stories at a communitywide gathering that begins at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 23 at the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

Continued on page 3

An early Latino seder



Led by the Jewish folksinger Batsheva, volunteers hold cue cards as 275 audience members sing "Quén Supiesse y Entendiesse" – a Ladino version of the traditional Passover song "Echad Mi Yodea" ("Who Knows One") – at the annual Community Relations Seder sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. The March 24 event – "Sacrifice and Hope: A Jewish/Latino Seder" – featured remarks by honorary chairman Henry Cisneros, the former mayor of San Antonio and U.S. secretary of housing and urban development. Story and additional photo on page 8. Photos by Rick Malkin

Child survivors

Continued from page 1

survivors like Hahn and Schiftan, local synagogues are sending students in grades 7-12 to the event. Rabbi Michael Shulman of The Temple said the Nashville Jewish Educators Network has prepared a special learning tool that will be handed out to students during a light breakfast before the program.

The tool includes “questions and opportunities for reflection to help them focus on the process and the presentation of the two survivors,” Rabbi Shulman said. “Our goal is to make this Yom Hashoah program meaningful and relevant for our students.”

The commemoration will also include a service conducted by the community’s rabbis and the traditional candle-lighting ceremony involving

Holocaust survivors.

Hahn says she wrestled for decades with the emotional trauma of a childhood lost to the Holocaust and it took many years to understand and deal with it. Joining a child survivors group in Florida almost 25 years ago was a healing experience, says Hahn, whose mother died in Auschwitz while pregnant with her only sibling. Her father fought in the resistance and died of tuberculosis shortly after the war.

Though it’s difficult, Hahn has been telling her story to various groups for more than a decade.

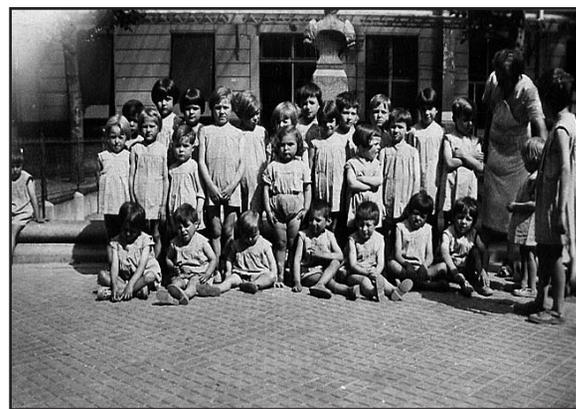
“Many people have little if any background on these events, and I want to do what I can to make sure my personal history doesn’t become ancient history,” she said. Her story and those like hers are also a good way to get people, especially children, “to think about how bullying and hatred can escalate



Like Hahn’s story, Edith Schiftan’s has been preserved on video by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

and that it’s important to nip such acts early.”

But beyond that, telling her story is therapeutic. It has helped her better



The angry toddler in the middle of this 1941 photo is Frances Cutler Hahn (her name then was Fanny Kahane), whose parents placed her in a children’s home in France to shield her from Nazi persecution. Her mother died in Auschwitz and her father, a resistance fighter, died shortly after the war. Only later did she come to understand the difficult sacrifice her parents made.

understand and deal with her own feelings. □

Sewanee orchestra will debut piece based on Landa’s Holocaust memoir

The world premiere of composer James Carlson’s “Carrying the Remains: A boy’s promise to the children of Terezin” will be take place on April 2 at the University of the South as part of the school’s three-day Holocaust commemoration.

Carlson’s piece, a collaboration of Sewanee’s music and theater departments, tells the story of Holocaust survivor Tom Lenda, who was imprisoned in the Terezin

concentration camp. The 50-minute performance by the Sewanee Symphony’s Chamber Orchestra begins at 6:30 p.m. in Guerry Auditorium. It will include narration, dance and projected media.

“Carrying the Remains” is based *Children on Death Row*, a memoir by Landa, who will make some brief remarks at 6 p.m. in advance of the performance. The event is free and open to the public.

“It has been a powerful journey working on this project,” said Carlson, a

visiting assistant professor at Sewanee. “I found it especially striking the way in which Tom’s story starkly juxtaposes the traumatic with the childishly playful.”

The premiere of “Carrying” is part of Sewanee Remembers, a three-day Holocaust commemoration that also will include presentations of student research as well as a keynote address by Professor Dagmar Herzog of the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Herzog, whose presentation begins

at 4:30 p.m. on April 1 in Gailor Auditorium, will discuss the emotionally charged conflicts among medical professionals in West Germany, the United States and Israel from the 1950s to the 1970s over reparations for Holocaust survivors’ damaged mental health that led to the creation of the concept of “post-traumatic stress disorder.”

Information about Sewanee Remembers, is at <http://yomhashoah.sewanee.edu>. □

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Yom Hazikaron

Continued from page 1

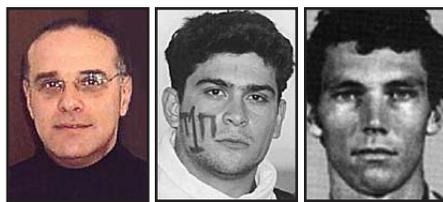
Riley Fobare will tell the story of Cohen, 22, an Israel Defense Forces commander who died during a military operation in 2001. Silas Gelman will tell the story of Carlos Yerushalmi, a 51-year-old husband and father who died in a 2002 bombing at Haifa's Matzah restaurant that killed 14 others and injured dozens more. And Gal Crouvi will tell the story of Uri Salomon, 23, a military flight instructor who died in 1980 during a training exercise.

"I grew up in Israel and hope to establish a stronger connection between Jews here in the U.S. and Israel," said Gelman, a 17-year-old junior at Ravenwood High School.

Crouvi – like Gelman, a dual U.S.-Israeli citizen – said she plans to serve in the military someday, and the project has helped her better appreciate the sacrifices of Israel's defenders and their families.

"They have such a big heart to protect the people that live in Israel that they don't even know, and every one of them should be remembered," said Crouvi, a 16-year-old student at the University School of Nashville.

Though it will begin with a somber observance of Yom Hazikaron, the April 23 gathering will conclude with a joyous celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, which will include



Carlos Yerushalmi

Shai Shalom Cohen

Uri Salomon

an Israeli-style dinner and music by three IDF veterans who are members of the musical troupe *Halehaka* (The Band). In that respect, the evening will simulate the emotions experienced by the citizens of Israel, where the two national holidays occur within 24 hours of one another. (This year, Yom Hazikaron is on April 22 and Yom Ha'atzmaut on April 23.)

The event is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. The cost is \$18 for adults and \$7 for children under 15 with a family maximum of \$50. Reservations can be made by following the links at the Federation's website, www.jewish-nashville.org, or by contacting Barbara Schwarcz, Federation events coordinator at barbara@jewishnashville.org or (615) 354-1630 or Liron Finkelstein, community shlichah, at liron@jewishnashville.org or (615) 354-1632.

Highlighting the Yom Hazikaron portion of the event will be the presentations by the Gelman, Crouvi and Fobare. The three teens have talked via Skype with the families of the Israelis

they will honor and will get to meet them in person later this year on their Get Connected trip to Israel.

"It is always sad having to hear a loved one talk about the death of a child," said Fobare, a 16-year-old junior at Centennial High School, recalling her conversation with Cohen's father, "They have to live with the loss, and Mr. Cohen was willing to share his son's story, so the least I can do is share the story."

In addition to the meal and music, the Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration will include a ceremony in which area residents will be given the honor of lighting torches in recognition of their efforts to strengthen ties between Nashville and Israel. The ceremony, which was incorporated into the local Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration three years ago, is modeled after one in Israel in which 12 citizens who have contributed to Israeli society light torches on Mount Herzl symbolizing the 12 tribes of Israel.

Although the complete list of torch lighters is still being planned, among those who will receive the honor are:

- Silas Gelman, Riley Fobare and Gal Crouvi, the Get Connected teens making presentations for the Yom Hazikaron commemoration.
- Rabbi Joshua Kullock of West End Synagogue, Rabbi Mark Schifitan of The Temple and Rabbi Laurie Rice of Congregation Micah accompanied by members of each congregation who visited Israel in the past year for the first time.
- Teachers who were on a Partnership2Gether exchange mission to Israel in December.
- Ludmila and Felix Lubarsky, who are making *aliya* this year.
- Mary Shelton, a member of the Federation's Community Relations Committee, for helping with Israel advocacy programs.
- Moshe and Libby Werthen, who returned to Nashville recently after living for many years in Israel.
- Vanderbilt Hillel Executive Director Ari Dubin and several students representing Hillel/Dores for Israel for their work in advocating for Israel. □

Micah will host Dachau liberator on April 17

Jimmy Gentry of Gentry's Farm in Franklin will give a first-person account of the liberation of one of Nazi Germany's most notorious death camps at Congregation Micah's *Kabbalat Shabbat* service on Friday, April 17.

All are welcome to a 5:30 p.m. "preg," which leads into services at 6 p.m. Gentry was a 19-year-old soldier in

1945 when he arrived at Dachau with General George Patton's 3rd Army. He has often commented that even fighting in the Battle of the Bulge did not prepare him for what he encountered.

"No one told us what we would find," he says, "No one explained what our mission was. We saw a wall and that was the entrance to a prison camp like I have never seen." □

Learn secrets for great challah at Chabad Mega Bake

Want to know how to knead good dough and fill your home with the aroma of Shabbat? The secrets will be revealed on Sunday, April 26 when women from across Nashville gather at Chabad of Nashville for the Mega Challah Bake.

The event, which is from 3-5 p.m. in the Bernard Social Hall, "has been tried in cities from Los Angeles to Miami and even internationally, but this one is a first for Nashville," said Esther Tiechtel, educator at Chabad.

The Challah Bake is for women and girls 10 years and older. Tickets are \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. The cost of sponsoring a table is \$180. For reservations go to Chabadsnashville.com and click on Mega Challah Bake or call (615) 646-575.

The event is for women only because baking challah is a mitzvah for women, Tiechtel said.

"When a woman prepares *challah*, all channels are open for her to ask for the blessings she needs in her life and in

others' lives," Tiechtel said. "There are many little known customs that give layers of meaning to this custom – like removing a piece of dough for the kohanim with a blessing. Breaking off a piece of our dough symbolizes taking from everything we have and sharing with others."

Co-chairs Tamar Ginzburg and Orit Zamir said the event represents a "gathering of sisters. There is so much unity and inspiration when so many women

are doing this together,"

Among those who intend to participate is Liron Finkelstein, *shlichah* of the Jewish Federation., "It's something I've always wanted to do," Finkelstein said.

The ballroom will be elegantly set with round tables, premeasured ingredients and a mega Challah bake apron for each participant. While the loaves are rising there will be refreshments and music as well as six and eight braid demonstrations by Melissa Sostrin from Chabad Challah. □



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Tell us your defining Jewish moment

By **NAOMI LIMOR SEDEK**

It's that time of year again, when we clean our house of all leavened bread and eat the bread of affliction, the dreaded matzah. It's the time of year when we retell the story of our people's exodus from slavery to freedom, a defining moment in our Jewish journey. Defining moments like this one create the shared history, journey and traditions that bind us as a people.

This is the mission of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee – to strengthen the Jewish people in Nashville, to care for the neediest among us here and in 70 countries around the globe, to rescue those oppressed or in fear, and bring them to Israel.

We asked members in our community to recall their personal defining moments as Jews. These are the moments that are supported by the generous gifts to the Federation's annual campaign. Here are some of the responses we received.

- "Teaching and learning with my students."
- "The day I was born ... my life was set into [a Jewish] motion even before I was born."



Naomi Limor Sedek



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- "Going to Israel and being able to thank the Federation for giving me the ability to do so."
- "The day I moved from a community of 80,000 Jews to one of about 5,000 in 1985. It made me appreciate the importance of a close-knit community that is lost, at least for me, in a large community."
- "Leading a Shabbat service at a senior home with only a handful of Jews. They were very grateful for us being there."
- "Visiting Israel and feeling like I'd been there before. It felt like home."
- "Going to the JCC to be part of a youth group."
- "The moment I stepped through the gates upon my first visit to Dachau

when the spirit of Jewish determination and survival overwhelmed me."

- "Rosh Bash 2012 – my first NowGen event and I met friends for life."
- "Being a part of the Partnership2gether Hadera Eiron educator delegation ... This connection has made a significant impact on my feelings, beliefs, and the love I feel for Israel and my family on the other side of the world. I am forever grateful, appreciative and blessed."

Each of us has his or her own defining moment. If you wish to add to this list please share your response to the following: "A defining moment for me in the Jewish community was..." You can share these responses by emailing me at naomi@jewishnashville.org.

The defining moment of the Exodus retells our story as we sit around our Seder tables, where we also ask the four questions. On Passover, kids (and sometimes adults) rarely stick to asking just the four questions.

This year we at the Jewish Federation are asking an extra question too: Will you help us make a difference in the lives of Jewish children, here at home and around the world? Will you help others with their defining moments of their Jewish life? By giving to the Federation, you feed hungry children. You connect children to Judaism – through after-school programs, Jewish summer camps and Birthright Israel trips for young adults. You provide counseling to troubled teens. You help children with special needs. And more.

So this Passover, our fifth question is, "Will you help make a difference in the lives of Jewish children?" Please answer "yes" and give as generously as you can by going to our website at www.jewishnashville.org or by calling me at (615) 354-1642. □

Naomi Limor Sedek is the director of the annual campaign for the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

President's Memo

Federation plays crucial role in building a vibrant Jewish community

By **CAROL HYATT**

When my husband Larry and I moved to Nashville more than 10 years ago – knowing no one in the area – we were warmly embraced by the Jewish commu-



Federation President Carol Hyatt

nity. This experience contrasted with previous experience elsewhere. Knowing how difficult it can be to relocate, I am so glad that the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee is developing plans to ensure that this welcoming attitude continues.

Since becoming involved with the Federation, I have come to understand just how crucial a role it plays in building and sustaining our vibrant Jewish community. Like federations across the country, Nashville's does so much that it can be difficult to convey the many ways our dollars make a difference. Last year our board grappled with how to better communicate what Federation does. It was recently suggested to me that by writing a monthly column for The Observer, I could share with you some of the good work that is being done thanks to your generosity.

I was pleased to help launch the Federation's Best Jewish Nashville initiative that began in 2010 and systematically gathers grassroots feedback that helps identify needs, fund new programs and improve existing services for our community. As the first chair of the Grants Committee, I was able to learn even more about how the Federation plays a role in improving the lives of Jews in Middle Tennessee and around the world every day. I hope you share the pride I feel in all that has been accomplished to address the three main priorities: meeting the needs of seniors, finding more ways to involve young adults, and providing education about and advocating for Israel.

I have been especially impressed with the way the network of Jewish federations cares for those who are most vulnerable and is able to mobilize communities, uniting resources and people to assist where the need is critical. It is uniquely positioned to do this.

Serving as president of the Nashville Federation board is both an honor and a privilege, and I continue to learn every day. We have such a wonderful community, with so many volunteers as well as professionals dedicated to making it the best it can be. It is incredibly rewarding to connect with others who share a commitment to supporting our Jewish community while ensuring its future strength.

Clearly word is getting out about how great Nashville is, and we believe our community is growing, although we can only guess where or by how much. To gain a better understanding of who lives here, where they live and what their needs and interests are, the Federation is about to launch a demographic study of the local Jewish population. The last study was done in 2002.

We are always looking for ways to engage people in the Nashville Jewish community. Do you have a suggestion? Please contact me and let me know your thoughts about how we are doing. I love hearing about how the programs and services we fund have had an impact. If you know of such a story, please share that with me. We cannot succeed without you. Together, we make a world of difference! □

Carol Hyatt is board president of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. She can be reached at carolhyatt@comcast.net.

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Editorial Submissions Policy and Deadlines

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

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

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

Community Relations Communiqué

A time to weep...a time to laugh

By **ABBIE WOLF**

“A time to weep and a time to laugh. A time to mourn and a time to dance.” These poignant words, from Ecclesiastes 3:18, are very apt this month.

April is an emotional rollercoaster. We begin with the celebration of Passover as we recount the story of the Exodus. The Jews moved from the darkness of slavery to the lightness of freedom.



Abbie Wolf

We know how important it is to tell that story, year after year.

Only a few days later, we move back into the darkness. On Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day – we mourn the six million lives lost during the blackest period in our history. We grieve our mothers and fathers, our brothers and sisters. We mourn them all. There is no light at the end of Yom Hashoah, for there were no flickers in the darkness for those who perished – and for those who didn’t.

More days pass and we reach Yom Hazikaron – Israel’s Memorial Day and another somber time of remembrance. We light candles in honor and memory of the young, brave men and women of

the Israel Defense Forces who have died. They died protecting their homes and country, the spiritual and cultural homeland of all Jewish people.

In Israel, everything comes to a brief halt during the moving observance of Yom Hazikaron. For two minutes, cars stop on the freeway, and people get out and stand while sirens wail. For two minutes, every Israeli stops out of respect for those who gave their lives fighting for us. We remember them all, and in our grief, we hope their sacrifices were not in vain.

As the sun sets, Yom Hazikaron transitions into Yom Ha’atzmaut, Israel’s Independence Day. Within minutes, the music on the radio changes from songs of loss to songs of joy. Ironically, on this day, the darkness is full of light.

The message of linking these two days is clear. Israelis owe their independence – the very existence of the state – to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for it.

These days aren’t just for our Israel brethren. These days are for us, too. It isn’t “us” and “them”. We’re all bound together as Jews, and we share our sorrows and our joys with one another. We all walk out of the same darkness, and we all emerge into the same light.

Join us on Sunday, April 12 at 10 a.m. as our community commemorates Yom Hashoah. Frances Cutler Hahn and Edith Schifftan will share their stories and their memories as they recount the

childhoods they lost as children of the Holocaust. The program will end with a brief service and candle lighting by survivors and their families.

Let us come together again on Thursday, April 23 at 6 p.m. as our community experiences Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha’atzmaut together, as is done in Israel. In our memorial service to commemorate Yom Hazikaron, we will remember the lives lost while defending Israel. Teens from our community have been talking via Skype with teens in Israel, and will share their experiences with us.

Havdalah, with its beautiful candlelight, will move us from sorrow to joy. We will celebrate Yom Ha’atzmaut with a festive dinner, torch lightings, and dancing to the music of the Israeli band “Halehaka.” The evening, which begins in darkness, will end in elation as we celebrate the birth of Israel 67 years ago.

As Psalm 18 says, “For You light my lamp; the Lord, my God, does light my darkness.” □

Abbie Wolf is the director of community relations for the Nashville Jewish Federation. She also staffs the Community Relations Committee, which presents programs throughout the year on important issues for the Jewish community. Liron Finkelstein, community shilcha, contributed to this column.

Survey of local Jewish population begins this month with letters and e-mails

By **CHARLES BERNSEN**

Thousands of Jewish households in the Nashville area will be receiving e-mails early this month inviting them to participate in the first demographic survey of local Jewish population in more than a decade.

Matthew E. Boxer, the Brandeis University social psychologist leading the survey, said he expects it to launch during *chol ha’moed Pesach*, the intermediate days of Passover.

In addition to determining the size and demographics of the Nashville area Jewish population, the survey will provide information about its attitudes on a wide range of topics, including services and programs provided by local Jewish institutions and agencies. The survey is funded by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, and its results will be available to all communal organizations as a planning resource.

“If you care about the quality of Jewish life in our community, the demographic survey is your chance to have your voice heard in an entirely confidential forum,” said Harriet Schifftan, planning and Partnership2Gether director for the Federation. “We hope everyone who is selected for the survey will take the time to weigh in and give us your feedback. Every organization, congregation, and group is hoping to learn about the makeup and needs of the Jewish households in Middle Tennessee.”

Boxer said there will be two samples for the survey. The primary sample will be drawn randomly from a master list compiled from the membership rolls provided by various Jewish organizations. It has been augmented with eth-

nic Jewish names from Nashville area telephone directories.

Those selected for the primary sample will receive a pre-notification letter during *chol ha’moed* or shortly after Passover ends that will include a link to a Website where they can complete the survey online. It will also include a telephone number to call if they would rather do the survey with a trained interviewer. After several weeks, those in the primary sample who don’t complete the survey, either on online or by telephone, will receive a call from a trained interviewer.

“The goal is to get 750 completed surveys from the primary sample,” Boxer said.

General information about the Nashville survey and Brandeis University’s Steinhardt Social Research Institute is available at www.brandeis.edu/ssri/communitystudies/nashville.html.

There also will be a secondary sample drawn from households not selected into the primary sample. These households will be contacted only by email, and the data they provide will be weighted and used to help analyze relatively small subgroups within the Jewish population – young adults, for example.

There are about 500 questions on the survey, but Boxer said it is unlikely anyone will be asked nearly that many.

“Many of the questions are contingent on answers to questions earlier in the survey,” he said. “If you give this response, you get question 1. If you give that response, you get question 2. If you give another response, there is no follow-up question.”

The format and technology make it possible to ask more questions while keeping the survey from getting too long. Though the time to complete the survey will vary widely, Boxer said the average should be 20 minutes online and 30 over the phone. □



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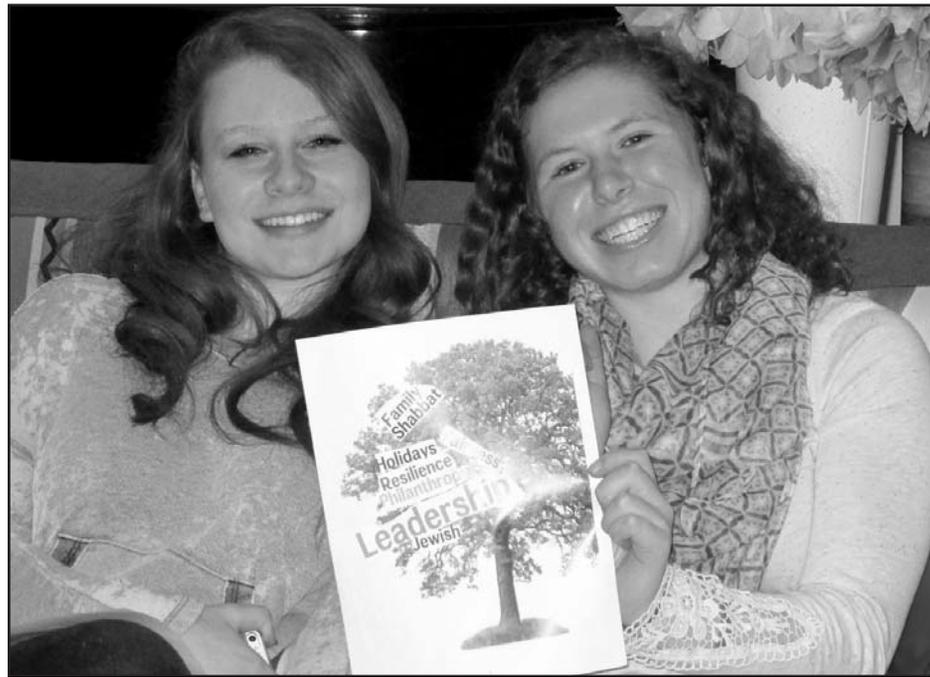
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Annual B'nai Tzedek gathering focuses on giving, receiving and gratitude

More than 30 young B'nai Tzedek fund holders with the Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee gathered for their annual dinner last month and a lively discussion about philanthropy, relationships and their experiences as givers and receivers.

After enjoying an Israeli-style dinner, the participants read Shel Silverstein's *The Giving Tree* for context, and then broke into groups in which they wrestled with questions such as "Have you experienced a time when you gave/received without giving/receiving in return? How did this make you feel?"

Following the discussion and maintaining the tree theme, the participants selected from among various values and concepts that are particularly important to them – leadership, Shabbat, resilience, Israel, voluntarism, Jewish holidays, family, etc. – and then placed



Talia Stein (left) and Michelle Biesman display one of the "giving trees" created by B'nai Tzedeks to illustrate the values and ideals they hold dear.

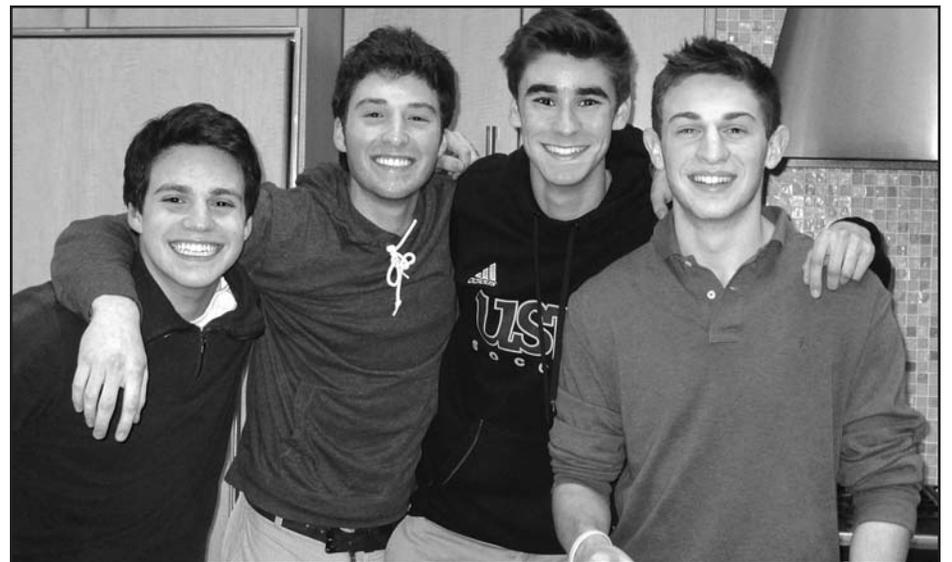
them on a tree and identified the sources. Guided by Liron Finkelstein, community *shlichah*, and Risa Herzog, director of foundation development, the B'nai Tzedeks then wrote letters of gratitude to family members and others who have inspired them.

The dinner was held on March 8 at the home of B'nai Tzedek fund holders Ian and Alli Jacobs and their parents, Nancy and Raymond.

The B'nai Tzedek program was established to encourage Jewish teenagers to begin a life of philanthropy. Each year bar and bat mitzvah-age teenagers create a fund with the Jewish Foundation by making a donation, which is then matched through the generosity of the Feldman/Hassenfeld Fund, along with additional Foundation funds. Since its inception in 2000, the Nashville program has helped more than 300 area teenagers learn the value of *tikkun olam*, repair of the world. □



Anna Schwarcz (from left), Gaby Viner, Rebecca Viner, Alli Jacobs and Ellie Hornick enjoy an Israeli-style dinner, which was followed by a discussion of values, the people who have inspired them, and the importance of giving and receiving.



Ian Jacobs (from left), Jordan Fishel, Matthew Jacobs and Jeremy Seloff were among 30 youths at the annual gathering of B'nai Tzedek fund holders at the home of Nancy and Raymond Jacobs.

Steely Dan, Chicago tribute band Twelve Against Nature to perform at annual Micah fundraiser

Twelve Against Nature will cover the songs of Chicago and Steely Dan, creating a rockin' musical night for Congregation Micah's annual fundraiser at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 11. The event begins at 7 p.m. and will include a full open bar, hors d'oeuvres from Chic Pea Catering, fun and of course, great music.

Twelve Against Nature (TAN) is an

authentic tribute band to Steely Dan that was founded in 2004. The band members pride themselves on being painstakingly accurate in their transcriptions and arrangements of classic Steely Dan tunes. They have 46 songs in their repertoire spanning the entire discography of Steely Dan, as well as Donald Fagen's first solo album, "The Nightfly." TAN's bandleader, Scott Sheriff, and a few of the other members



Twelve Against Nature Photo supplied by artists

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are also part of Make Me Smile, a Chicago tribute band. For their evening at Micah, they will perform a mix of songs from both bands.

Tickets are available at Micah for \$50 per person. Patron Levels are also available at the following prices and include two tickets to the show: \$250

(Hey Nineteen), \$500 (25 or 6 to 4), \$1,000 (Rikki Don't Lose that Number) \$5,000 (Saturday in the Park).

For more information, contact the Micah office at 615-377-9799 or online at office@congregationmicah.org. □

GJCC will institute new check in system beginning in April

The Gordon Jewish Community Center will institute a new check-in procedure beginning this month for members entering the facility.

All members will be issued barcode cards that can be attached to keychains or barcode stickers that can be adhered to the back of existing ID cards. These barcodes must be presented and scanned at the front desk each time a member visits the facility. The new procedure will be quick and easy. Members will simply hold the new barcode up to a scanner set up on the front desk and wait for the sound.

The new procedure is being instituted so that the GJCC can get a better understanding of its members and their use of the facility. Currently members have security cards that allow them to enter the building. While this allows the security system to know who is in the building, the security system software and the GJCC membership software do not talk to one another. The new system will allow the GJCC to better track facility usage.

For several weeks this month a table will be set up at different times of the day in the front lobby where new photos will be taken and barcodes issued quickly.

"We hope to make the process as quick and easy as we can for our members," said Erin Wilde, GJCC membership and marketing director.

Emails will be sent to members early this month with more details, she said.

FAQs on the new system

Will these barcodes be replacing my current GJCC card or key fob?

No, they will be in addition to the card or key fob you already have. You will need to use your current ID card or key fob at the front door like you already have been doing, then use the new barcode at the scanner on the front desk.

What if I forget my ID card or key fob?

The new system makes it easier. Instead of signing in, simply give your

name to the front desk associate, who will then check you in.

How old do I have to be to get a key fob and barcode card?

The age is not changing. Members need to be at least 12 before they can be assigned their own key fobs and barcode cards – and even then this is only for children who will be in the building unaccompanied. If your child

is over the age of 12 and only uses the facility with a parent, they do not need their own key fob and card.

Is the GJCC still issuing ID cards?

No. The GJCC is no longer printing ID access cards. All new members – and current members who lose their ID card – will receive a key fob and barcode card on a blue keychain that can both open the front doors and be scanned at the

front desk.

Will I have to check-in when I drop my child off at preschool?

No. You just need your ID card or key fob to open the preschool doors to drop your child off. If you are using the GJCC after dropping your child off, you are asked to come in through the front door in order to check-in before heading to preschool. □

Works by more than 50 artists will be featured at Art on the West Side exhibition and sale

Art on the West Side returns this month for a second year with more than 50 regional artists displaying and selling their works at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. The event, sponsored by the GJCC, will take place on Saturday evening, April 18, and Sunday, April 19.

This year's show and sale will be filled with an eclectic group of artisans from painters to glass, jewelry and sculpture," said Rhonda Polen Wernick, event co-chair. "My face lights up and I can't quit smiling when I tell people about the art they are going to experience. It is my passion to help provide art programming for the J, and I am so proud to be a co-chair of this event with artist and gallery owner Ron York."

The juried show will feature painters, sculptors, jewelry makers, clay and fiber artists, wood turners and glass artists who will be on hand to chat with attendees about their works. Attendees can purchase the art which will be available at a wide range of prices.

The two-day event begins with an opening cocktail reception and preview sale on April 18 from 6-9 p.m. for a suggested \$10 donation. This year's tastings will be provided by Corner Market, Crumbdelacrumb, Dessert Design, Bobbi Limor, Padrino's Pops, Publix, Carolyn Rosen, Goldie Shepard, Sova, Sweet

16th Bakery, Whole Foods, Kroger Belle Meade, highways 70 and 100, and Friends of the GJCC.

The Sunday sale is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. In addition to the exhibit and sale, there will be children's activities with the Frist Center for the Visual Arts.

The featured artists for the 2015 Art on the West Side is David Nichols, a member of the Mountain Brook Art Association and an associate member of the American Impressionists Society.

His paintings can be found in private and corporate collections in the United States and abroad. He will lead a workshop, Landscape Impressions, for intermediate and advanced painters on from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, April 17 at the GJCC for up to 12 participants. Registration is required.

A percentage of all sales will benefit art programming at the GJCC. For information about the show or to register for the David Nichols workshop, call the GJCC at (615) 356-7170 or go to nashvillejcc.org. □

12-year-old piano prodigy to perform on May 3 for West End Synagogue's 2015 Concert & Cultural Series

Daniela Liebman is only 12, but she has already toured the world performing some of classical music's most complex and sophisticated works. On May 3 she will be in Nashville performing a solo recital as part of West End Synagogue's 2015 Concert and Cultural Series.

The recital – which will feature works by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Rachmaninov and Filippenko – is at 2 p.m. at the Noah Liff Opera Center. Tickets are \$18 for those 18 and up, \$9 for students and children five to 18, and free for children under 5. A limited number of reserved seats will be available at \$36. Tickets can be purchased online at www.westendsyn.org.

Aside from being one of the world's most exciting young classical pianists, the native of Guadalajara, Mexico has a special connection to Nashville and West End. Although she and her family now live in Fort Worth, TX, they were members of the Guadalajara synagogue when it was led by Rabbi Joshua Kullock, now the rabbi at West End. Daniela is preparing for her *bat mitzvah*, which will take place later this year at West End.

"Daniela and her family are friends of mine, and I have watched her grow and develop," said Rabbi Kullock. "It gives me great pleasure to bring her remarkable talent to the Nashville community."



Daniela Liebman will perform a solo piano recital next month in Nashville. Photo supplied by artist

Daniela began her piano studies at the age of 5 and at 8 became the youngest soloist in the history of Mexico to appear with a professional orchestra when she played Mozart's 8th piano concerto with the Aguascalientes Symphony. Other opportunities soon followed in Mexico and the United States and Kyrgyzstan. She recently made her Carnegie Hall debut playing Shostakovich's piano concerto no. 2, with the Park Avenue Chamber Symphony.

Daniela also has won first prize in several international piano competitions and this year was recognized by Forbes Magazine as one of the "Forty Most Creative Mexicans in the World."

For more information about the concert, call Marcia Stewart at (615) 269-4592 ext. 13.

Joshua Barton will become WES's first assistant rabbi on July 1

West End Synagogue's first ever assistant rabbi is a familiar face – Joshua Barton, the assistant director of Vanderbilt Hillel.

The West End board selected Rabbi Barton in February and he will assume his duties on July 1. Rabbi Barton, 30, has been with Vanderbilt Hillel since receiving his ordination in 2012 from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

In a letter to the congregation, WES Rabbi Joshua Kullock and board President Sue Schwartz said, "This marks a significant milestone in the life of West



Rabbi Joshua Barton

End Synagogue, as it will be the first time that we will have two rabbis."

Noting that Rabbi Barton has been successful in boosting membership and student leadership at Vanderbilt Hillel, they said

he will not only help extend the scope of services, programs and classes provided by clergy but also provide a link to Jewish youth in Nashville. □

See what's happening in the community. Go to www.jewishnashville.org

Nashville's Jews and Latinos celebrate connections at annual Community Relations Seder

Jewish and Latino Nashville came together last month for an early Passover celebration that had a distinctly Latin flavor.

About 275 people were on hand on March 24 at the Gordon Jewish Community Center for the annual Community Relations Seder sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. The service was conducted by Rabbi Joshua Kullock, the Argentina-born spiritual leader of West End Synagogue, and the honorary chairman of the event was Henry Cisneros, former mayor of San Antonio and U.S. secretary of housing and urban development, who spoke about the deep affinities between Jews and Latinos in America and the importance of building bridges between them.

Central to both communities, Cisneros said, is "the story of the immigrant ... the traveler, the sojourner ... As our community makes it way upward in America, it looks to others like the Jewish community who have made it without forgetting where they came from."

The theme of the seder – "Sacrifice and Hope: A Jewish/Latino Seder" – was carried throughout a 32-page haggadah

created especially for the event by Mary Shelton, a member of the Federation's Community Relations Committee and chair of the event, and Abbie Wolf, the Federation's community relations director. The haggadah focused on the similar histories of migration to new places in search of a better life and the sacrifices made for future generations.

After reading the traditional 10 plagues with which God afflicted the Egyptians, for instance, the haggadah highlighted "other plagues ... that both our communities have endured throughout the years as we have yearned to have better lives for our families." Among them were "the plague of being 'the other'" and the plagues of "leaving behind family members who were unable to make the journey and watching our children leave us behind."

The Latino theme was present in the meal, which featured a light dinner of Sephardic dishes, as well as the live music, much of which was in Spanish and Ladino, the traditional Hebrew-Spanish language of Sephardic Jews.

The music was arranged and led by Lisa Silver, Congregation Micah's music director and cantorial soloist, who was



West End Synagogue Rabbi Joshua Kullock, a native of Argentina, lead the annual Community Relations Seder, which featured a haggadah created especially for the event focusing on similarities in the history and cultures of Latin Americans and Jews

joined by Jerry Kimbrough on guitar, Sam Bocca on percussion and the Jewish folk singer Batsheva.

The final song of the night was "Quén Supiesse y Entendiesse" – a Ladino version of the traditional Passover song "Echad Mi Yodea" ("Who Knows One"). Batsheva brought 10 volunteers from the crowd and each held up cue cards in Ladino for the audience to read as the song progressed. By the end of the last verse, the crowd was laughing, clapping and whistling.

Along with Cisneros, honorary co-chairs were Fabian Bedne, a member of both the Metro Council and the CRC, and José González, co-founder of Connexión Américas, a local group that helps immigrants adjust to life in Middle Tennessee.

"The evening was an important step in building a solid bridge between the Latino and Jewish communities," said Wolf. "Our two communities will build on this foundation to create a close, supportive working relationship." □

Vandy's Goodman honored with a volume in Brill's library of important contemporary Jewish philosophers

By CHARLES BERNSEN

Vanderbilt University will honor Professor Lenn Goodman this month on the occasion of the publication of a volume about his work in Jewish philosophy in the Brill Library of Contemporary Jewish Philosophers.

"Goodman's Jewish philosophical contribution is unparalleled in its depth, rigor, range, and spiritual imagination,"

said Alan Mittleman, professor of philosophy at the Jewish Theological Seminary and author of an intellectual portrait of Goodman included in the new volume, *Lenn E. Goodman: Judaism, Humanity, and Nature* (Brill, 2014). "It will surely stand the test of time."

Mittleman will be in Nashville to deliver brief remarks at a reception for Goodman hosted by the Vanderbilt Philosophy Department that begins at 4:30 p.m. on April 20 in the Buttrick Hall atrium. Also speaking will be

Daniella Pressner, principal of Akiva School, who studied with Goodman while earning a master's in Jewish studies at Vanderbilt. Their presentations will be followed by a short response from Goodman and a question-and-answer session. The event will conclude at 7 p.m.

Goodman is professor of philosophy and Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Vanderbilt. He joins the likes of Moshe Idel, Jonathan Sacks and eight other living Jewish thinkers whose achievements are showcased in volumes of the Brill Library of Contemporary Jewish Philosophers. In addition to the intellectual portrait by Mittleman that introduces the volume, it contains four essays that illustrate important aspects of Goodman's philosophical work as well as an interview with him by Hava Tirosh-Samuels, who co-edited the volume with Aaron W. Hughes.

"These are exciting times for Jewish philosophy," Goodman said. "It's rare in our history to have a respite that allows us the opportunity to do philosophy as Jews. But today we have that moment."

"Hava Tirosh-Samuels and Aaron Hughes have been able to identify active Jewish thinkers whose work can take a place alongside the still living arguments and ideas of the Jewish philosophers of ages past. Jews today can write philosophy or fiction, poetry or music, in an undisguised Jewish voice, bringing to bear on universal human questions the rich and distinctive experience and tra-

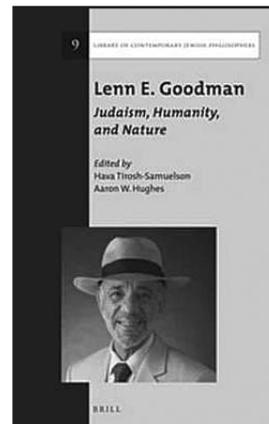
dition of Israel as a people who love thought."

Mittleman describes Goodman as a "constructive Jewish philosopher" who has undertaken "a systematic effort to bring Judaism into a principled, mutually enriching conversation with other traditions – particularly those of philosophy and science." In that sense, Mittleman says, Goodman "is not content to be a scholar of the historical Maimonides and other medieval Jewish rationalists – although he is one of the best – but to carry on their work under our vastly changed philosophical, scientific, indeed, existential conditions."

In his intellectual profile, Mittleman identifies several of Goodman's most important contributions to both Jewish and general philosophy. Among them is a "formidable challenge" to the moral theories of John Rawls and other philosophers who contend that justice merely reflects the rules and conventions of human cultures. Goodman argues that the natural order itself is a good and that human justice builds on "natural justice."

Pressner, who has studied both formally and informally with Goodman, described him as "an unusual professor" whose impact extends beyond this philosophical work.

"He is unwavering in his desire to spread a greater understanding of philosophical thought is infused with profound kindness, humility, and a genuine commitment to his colleagues, his students, and community," she said. □



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JFS will honor Trachtman and Zimmerman at annual Chesed Dinner

Chesed means “loving kindness,” and “boy, do Alice Zimmerman and Diane Trachtman personify the very essence of chesed,” says Pam Kelner, executive director of Jewish Family Service.

Trachtman and Zimmerman will be honored on Thursday, April 20 at the 2015 JFS Chesed Dinner. The dinner is held annually to acknowledge the contributions of individuals to both the Jewish and broader Nashville community.

A reception begins at 6:15 p.m. at the Gordon Jewish Community Center with the dinner to follow at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$150 per person. For more information or to make reservations, contact Janet Parr at (615) 356-4234.

“I am thrilled that the entire community can learn what these two amazing women have done to impact the quality of life for so many in our community,” said Kelner. “We can all be inspired by their accomplishments.”

According to JFS President Sandra Hecklin, Trachtman “can always be counted on to be there for the community because it is the right thing to do; we need more people in the world like Diane.” Trachtman’s greatest impact has been at the GJCC, where she served on the board from 1972-2012 in many capacities. She likes to say that she was the “oldest incoming president of the



Alice Zimmerman

20th century and the first woman president of the 21st century” as her presidency of the GJCC board straddled the turn of the millennium when she oversaw the dedication of the newly renovated building.

Trachtman also has served on the boards of Hadassah, the sisterhood of Congregation Sherith Israel, the National Council of Jewish Women, United Way and JFS. Along with Lisa Small, she also spearheaded a major fundraising effort for JFS during the most recent economic downturn in



Diane Trachtman

2009. In the broader community, Trachtman has helped raise vital support for Komen and the Dan Rudy Cancer Center.

Zimmerman has led her life according to her motto – be the change you wish to see in the world. She was the co-founder and first board chair of the Mary Parrish Center for Victims of Domestic Violence, and she also established the Special Advocate of Victims of Violence Program at Nashville’s night court. She fought to have an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission law changed

to count volunteer hours as half of a gainfully employed person for experience purposes.

A major influence in the Nashville arts world, Zimmerman was the executive director of the Metropolitan Arts Commission, where she began the Summer Lights Downtown Arts Festival. She and Nancy Saturn (z”l) owned Zimmerman/Saturn Gallery, one of the first art galleries in downtown Nashville. She co-founded Artrageous and was an integral part of the Temple Arts Festival.

Organizations benefiting from Alice’s leadership on their boards include JFS, Meharry Medical College, NCJW (for which she served as president), American Craft Council, and the National Advisory Board of the Whitney Museum. Alice hosted JFS’s inaugural fundraiser with the GLBT community, raising funds for Adoption Journeys.

The Chesed Dinner is the primary fundraiser for JFS, one of Nashville’s oldest agencies. Last year JFS helped more than 1,800 individuals through its 18 services and programs in the areas of adoption, counseling, psychotherapy, financial assistance, senior services, information and referral, and family life and community enrichment. For more information about JFS, contact Kelner at (615) 354-1644 or visit the JFS Website at www.jfsnashville.org. □

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Music2Gether

U.S.-Israeli CD project features contributions from 7 Nashville artists

By CHARLES BERNSEN

Though they live half a world apart and have never met, singer/songwriters Etzy Tal and Robby Hecht are now musical partners, so to speak.

Tal hails from the Israeli town of Pardes Hanna-Karkur. Hecht is a Knoxville native who now calls Nashville home. They are among the dozens of contributors to Music2Gether, a CD of original music by Jewish artists from communities in the U.S. Southeast and the Hadera-Eiron region of Israel.

Music2Gether (M2G) is an eclectic mix that includes folk, country, jazz, klezmer and other ethnic genres – even hip-hop and a full-on rock version of Shalom Alechim. Many of the artists are professional and some are quite well known, though the contributors also include a couple of teenage amateurs.

The release of the CD this month will mark the culmination of a project initiated last year by Nashville singer/songwriter/producer Russell Wolff and Ofer Ben-Zion, a well-known Israeli musician and producer who owns two music schools. Aside from producing M2G, Wolff and Ben Zion perform together on one of its tracks. All of the artists are contributing their time and talent, and the music they have created will become a resource to Jewish communities in America and Israel.

The CD itself will be released in time for Yom Ha'atzmaut on April 23. It will be made available locally by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, which is helping sponsor the project through Partnership2Gether (P2G), an international initiative that promotes collaborative relationships between Jewish communities in the United States and specific regions of Israel.

There are 16 tracks on the CD, seven composed by Israelis and nine by songwriters from Nashville and other communities in the P2G Southeast region. The songs were chosen from among more than 40 proposals.

"I am so excited about this project and about returning to Israel this spring to complete it," said Wolff. "We got an almost overwhelming amount of submissions. That was the hardest part – selecting the submissions that fit best together for this collection. It has been a very rewarding project to be a part of."

Among the most well-known M2G contributors is Nashville's Larry Weiss, whose successful songwriting career of almost 50 years includes "Rhinestone Cowboy," one of the most famous country hits ever recorded. Weiss will perform an original song called "Forefathers."

On the other end of the experience spectrum are Aaron Abel, a 17-year-old pianist from Jacksonville, FL and Nola Shabach, a 16-year-old Israeli musician who met Abel on an exchange trip to the



Playing with the Israel Chamber Orchestra last year, Etzy Tal (left) and Omri Lahave perform a song written to the words of a poem by the late Israeli poet and songwriter Ehud Manor. Photo by Sharon Maroz

United States. Their contribution to the CD is "K'she egdal" (When I Grow Up), a song of hope for which Abel composed the music and Shabach wrote the lyrics.

"I've written a few songs before, but I've never recorded anything," said Abel. "So this is pretty cool."

It was this union of diverse Jewish musical talent that attracted Hecht to the project.

"It's one thing to make an album of 'Jewish music' but entirely another to make an album that is defined only by its contributors having a common singularity in their background," said Hecht, a 36-year-old mostly self-taught singer/songwriter who moved to Nashville 10 years ago to pursue a musical career that now includes three CDs in the folk/Americana genre. His contribution to the CD is "Real Someday," a song about hope and optimism.

Tal's music is a mix of rock, blues and funk. The 58-year-old Israeli guitarist said he has struggled for more than 30 years to make a living writing and performing his own music. In fact, "Look," the song he performs on M2G, is about how difficult that has been.

"This is a great opportunity to meet other musicians – to be exposed to their music and at the same time let others get to listen to mine," said Tal, who teaches music and acting to support his family and is currently working on an original musical for children that he hopes to take on tour.

Despite the inevitable cultural variations, Ben-Zion said "music is an international language. I believe that through its internationality, we can create a bridge that merges all those differences in to an amazing statement of unity which is so important for both our communities. This is a great project and I hope more will come in the future."

Other Nashville contributors to include:

- Lisa Silver, the cantorial soloist at Congregation Micah, who performs "Sim Shalom," a song she wrote several years ago after a discussion with Micah religious school students about the capacity of every individual to create peace. Professional musician Jerry Kimbrough plays all the instruments for the recording, and Silver is accompanied on vocals by her daughter, Olivia; Kimbrough's daughters, Julia and Zoe, and Ailie and Brandon Green.
- Cantor Tracy Fishbein of The Temple, and Michael Ochs, composer in resi-



Robby Hecht Photo by Jordan Brooke Hamlin

dence at Micah, perform "Modim," which they began writing a year ago. The song sets a version of the traditional prayer *modim anachnu lach* (We are grateful to you, God) to an original melody. It debuted at The Temple during the High Holy Days, Cantor Fishbein said, and has since "woven itself into the musical landscape of our congregation."

- Suzahn Fiering performs "I Remember You," a song she said was inspired by old photos and stories of the Holocaust. "I am hoping it will inspire anyone who has experienced similar atrocities anywhere in the world so that generations to come will never forget," said Fiering, a Nashville vocalist, guitarist, composer and teacher who plays jazz, blues and Americana music internationally.

Other songs by U.S. artists include the rock version of "Shalom Alechem" by Ruach, a 10-member band from Charlotte, NC, and an instrumental niggun by the Knoxville klezmer band Tennessee Schmalz.

The other Israeli contributions include Yishei Ben Yaakov's "Svita C'naanit" (Canaanite Suite) performed by his ethnic jazz ensemble Terra Rosa; "Baruch Habba" (Welcome) by Erez Keynan, who specializes in world spiritual music; "Tarnegol Kratshi" (Karachi Rooster) by the international music band Alila; "You Master" a funk-hip hop collaboration featuring Israelis Sangit Segal and Noa Golan along with U.S. rapper Thief de High Priest; Sharon Azary's "H'osher Hagadol Miday" (The Happiness that is too Great) and Jonathan Linav's "Sheket" (Silence). □

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These are only a few of the reasons that members of the Herb Society of Nashville (HSN) are passionate about all things herbal. Stop by our herb sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 18 at Tennessee Fairgrounds Sports Arena to find out more. But be forewarned, the love of herbs is contagious!

The herb sale is by far HSN's biggest community event. Over 10,000 plants typically are sold, including hard-to-find herbs, herb varieties that are particularly well suited to the middle Tennessee climate and even some heirloom vegetables.

HSN was formed in 1973 to promote the knowledge, use and delight of herbs. With a dynamic membership of almost 100 active participants, HSN has exceeded early expectations. The members maintain two public herb gardens. One, behind the Art Center at Centennial Park, is a favorite for small weddings and informal events. The second, the Herb Study Garden at Cheekwood, consists of a series of creatively planted beds that enchant and inform visitors.

HSN's commitment to promote knowledge of herbs goes far beyond the gardens. Members give talks in the community, guide tours at Cheekwood, and even sponsor a scholarship for one lucky college student.

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The Temple Pre-school: Garden project exemplifies Jewish-center, curiosity-driven focus

At Temple Preschool, we view children as capable, curious, and competent citizens of our community. Communication and asking questions are at the heart of our approach, and we are committed to involving children in decisions and processes that directly affect them. A perfect example of this belief in action is our Shalom Garden.

The children in Classroom Shalom wanted to plant a garden in our school round-about. The procedure involved writing a proposal and presenting it to The Temple's Beautification Committee. Undaunted, these 3- and 4-year-olds spent weeks working on every step of the process, from drawing a layout of the proposed garden, to preparing the soil, to creating a proposal, to practicing introducing themselves. Their proposal included such important items as "we wait for their vote and if they say 'no,' we say okay with a very sad voice and face, but if they say 'yes,' we say thank you and hurray."

Once they received the unanimous go-ahead from the Beautification Committee, Classroom Shalom weeded, raked, planted, and watered their garden. They created fairy houses and stepping-stones to make it "more beautiful for all the people." They waited for what seemed like an eternity for that first flower to finally bloom.

The resulting wildflower garden brought joy to all the preschool families for months, with children of all ages tromping through the "wildflower forest" and visiting the fairy houses daily.

The whole school eagerly anticipates what will grow there this year.

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100 attend NowGen Purim Masquerade to have fun and support the Federation

The 100 or so young Jewish adults who turned out last month for NowGen Nashville's third annual Purim Masquerade not only enjoyed *hamantachen*, a kosher falafel bar and music by a young Jewish duo newly arrived in Music City, they also gave a boost to the annual fundraising campaign of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

This year's event was held in the spacious upstairs lounge at downtown's City Winery. The huge pile of *hamantaschen* was provided by the local United Synagogue Youth group from West End Synagogue while the kosher falafel bar was courtesy of Sova Catering. Even the music was Jewish – or at least provided by the Jewish guitar and vocal duo of Josh Benus and Matt Kass, who call themselves Modern Inventors.

At the center of every table, were framed testimonials from NowGen members and explanations about the impact of Federation programs, a clear



NowGen's annual Purim Masquerade party featured plenty of food, music, fun – and masks, of course. Photo by Sharon Benus

indication that this was more than a party. As Lauren Mielziner, the Federation's community engagement associate, reminded the crowd during one of the band's breaks, "This is the one time of the year we gather to raise money

for the Jewish Federation."

Mielziner was followed to the microphone by Batia and Aron Karabel, who urged those attending to "get involved in NowGen and help the Federation."

And they did. Including ticket

sales, donations and in-kind contributions from sponsors Reliant Bank, Franklin Pargh of Synergy Reality Network, the law firm of Lefkovitz & Lefkovitz and Sova Catering, the event raised about \$4,000 for the Federation's 2015 annual campaign, Mielziner said.

NowGen is the division of the Nashville Federation for young adults ages 22-40, and the Purim Masquerade exemplifies its "welcoming, non-judgmental approach to creating relationships among young Jewish professionals regardless of affiliation or level of observance," said Batia Karabel, who was on the planning committee.

The Karabels said that since moving to Nashville from New York two years ago to be near her family, NowGen and the Federation in general have played key roles in both their professional and personal lives here. That's one reason they have volunteered to co-chair the young adult division during the Federation's 2016 annual campaign.

"For me, the next step is how to make sure the NowGen division generates a big push for the Federation," Batia Karabel said. □

Despite snow, NowGen Nashville and Teach For America share Havdalah experience

Last fall, Arik Shur and Lauren Mielziner met for coffee.

Shur, managing director for growth, development and partnerships for Teach For America (TFA), was looking for a way to connect its teacher corps and alumni to the Nashville Jewish community. Mielziner, community engagement associate for the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, had an idea: a Shabbat dinner with NowGen Nashville, the Jewish Federation's active group of young Jewish professionals ages 22-40.

With help from Mielziner, TFA alumni Carly Bluestein and Harry Lopez secured a micro-grant for the event, which was set for the evening of Friday, Feb. 20 at the home of a NowGen member.

What they hadn't counted on was the worst winter storm in more than 10 years.

But several inches of ice and snow



More than 40 members of NowGen Nashville and Teach For America participants and alumni attended a Havdalah service and dinner at the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

did not deter these two groups from getting together for a traditional Jewish

experience. Instead of the Friday Shabbat dinner, more than 40 young Jewish adults gathered the following afternoon at the Gordon Jewish Community Center for a Havdalah service and dinner. Among them were TFA alumni from New York, Chicago, New Orleans, and Atlanta.

The event was funded through a micro-grant from REALITY Experience, a program of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation that pays for trips to Israel for alumni of TFA and its global counterpart, Teach For All.

"We wanted the Shabbat dinner to be open to all Teach For America corps members and alumni in the Nashville area, regardless of whether they identify as Jewish, with the purpose of educating others about Shabbat traditions," said Bluestein "With a warm and welcoming Shabbat experience, Teach For America corps members and alumni had the opportunity to learn more about the local Jewish community and all that it

has to offer."

Said Shur, "We want to make sure all our corps members and alumni feel a sense of community and belonging in Nashville. Some come from cities where the Jewish population is large and has a big presence, so we are excited to plug them in with the Jewish community here in Nashville."

After some schmoozing and welcoming remarks, NowGen member Emily Siner led a Havdalah service, which was followed by a kosher dinner by Sova Catering.

"By bringing together young adults currently active in the Nashville Jewish community and Teach For America corps members and alumni, many of whom have not been involved Jewishly, the possibilities are endless," said Mielziner. "We are hoping that a simple, yet important Havdalah dinner experience, will enable the start of friendships, team building, and potential leadership roles within the Jewish Nashville community for Teach For America corps members and alumni who are looking to become engaged."

Teach For America is a non-profit organization that recruits, trains and develops individuals to teach in high-need public schools and become lifelong leaders in education. In Nashville, there are currently nearly 700 TFA corps members and alumni teaching tens of thousands of children in the city. REALITY is aimed at getting Teach For America and Teach For All alumni a chance to reflect on their values and commit to making a difference in their communities.

For more information about NowGen Nashville, Teach For America, and the REALITY Experience, visit www.nowgennashville.org, www.teachforamerica.org, and <http://www.schusterman.org/realityexperience>. □



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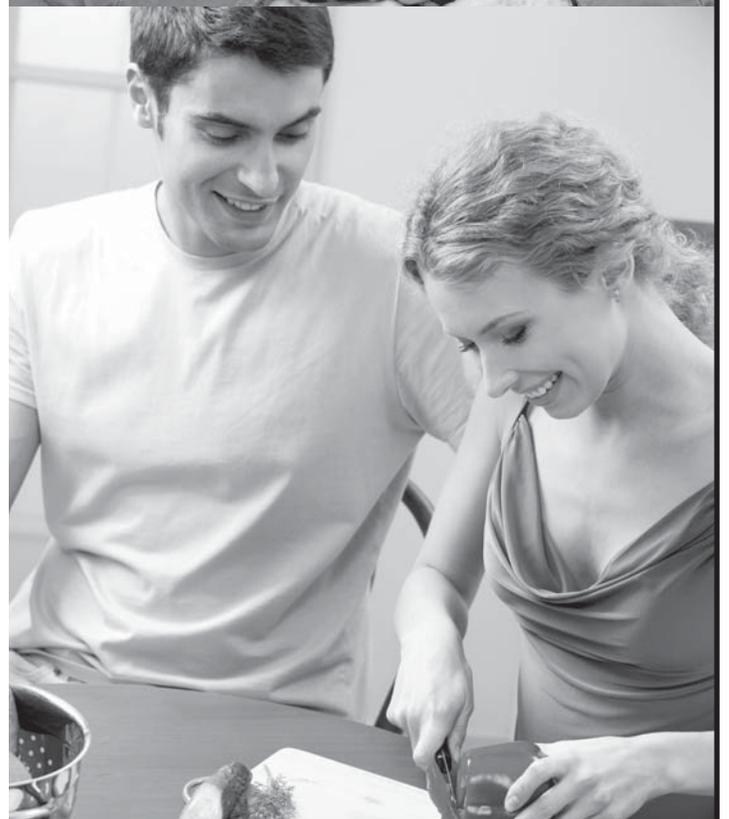
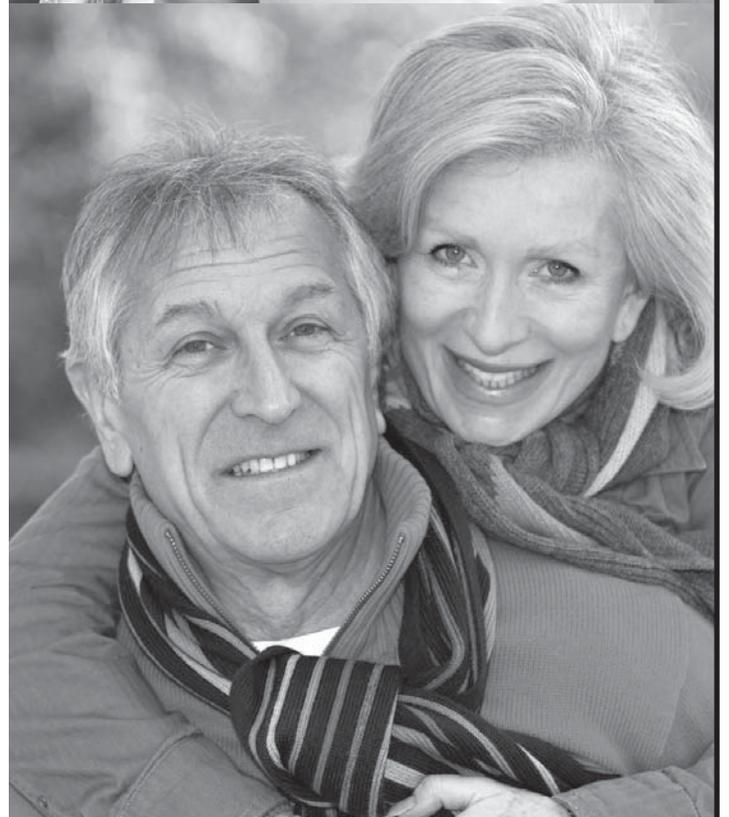
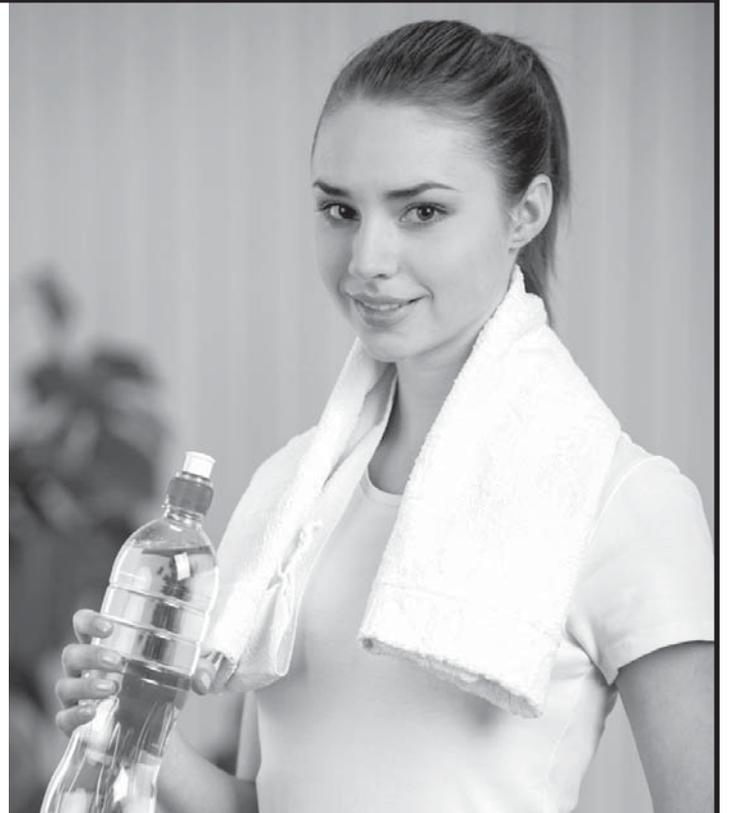
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And the winner is ... hopefully us!

By LIRON FINKELSTEIN

On March 17, about 72 percent of Israel citizens voted in the election of a new parliament (the Knesset) and gave Benjamin Netanyahu a new four-year term as prime minister.

Because no single party has ever won a majority of Knesset seats (at least 61 out of the 120 total seats), Israel's multi-party system typically results in coalition governments. Elections for the Knesset are held at least every four years, although most governments collapse before then due to disagreements within the coalition.

Before trying commenting on the results of last month's elections, I would like to offer an explanation of what motivates Israeli voters (with the help of Makom, the Israel education center working with the Jewish Agency for Israel).



Liron Finkelstein

Consider these familiar words: *Lihiyot am hofshi b'artzenu* (To be a people, free in our land). As part of "Hatikva," the Israeli national anthem, they not only reflect our hopes and dreams but also help explain the main concerns of Israeli voters. When elections come around, we look for a party that best addresses these concerns.

1. להיות (*lihivot*, to be)
People vote for a party that will look after their security. Here the relevant criteria is extent to which the parties answer their needs for security, for the short run and long run. Which party can handle the security threats, offer a political solution that will protect them and more?
2. עם (*am*, people)
People vote for a party that reflects their Jewish values and Jewish faith, solidarity and accountability, a party which, in their opinion, represents their ideas about who is part of the Jewish people and the Jewish state.
3. חופשי (*hofshi*, free)
The concept of freedom is embodied

in the creation of the state of Israel and in its Declaration of Independence. People vote for a party that cares for democracy, freedom and human rights as much as they do.

4. בארצנו (*b'artzenu*, in our land)
People vote for a party that reflects their views of the borders of Israel and its holy places.

The interesting yet confusing thing about Israeli politics is that for most of us, the various parties don't address all of these concerns in the way we want. We agree with their views on some of these major concerns but not on others. As voters we have to compromise and decide which party best reflects our views, even if not on every issue.

In the same way, parties have to compromise in order to form a coalition. Eventually the parties will be judged by the public in light of the compromises they make.

A few days before last month's election, I was asked to name the major concern of voters. Was it security and related international issues or domestic

issues such as affordable housing, equal rights and civil marriage, equal obligations such as army service or national service.

For many years, the overriding issue of Israeli elections was security. However, in last month's election, the focus was less on security and more on socio-economic issues such as income inequality.

While the people who voted showed that security is indeed still the most important issue for them, the parties that emphasized social and economic issues got a lot of seats as well.

The nation has spoken and we need to recognize that the outcome is our choice. I believe that these elections represent a genuine democracy and that the most important thing we need to learn is that our strength lies in our unity. Now more than ever we need to find the best way forward – and the government should work hard to not prove us wrong. □

Liron Finkelstein, a native Israeli, works at the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee as the community shilcha (Israel emissary).

The new Knesset by the numbers

By BEN SALES

JERUSALEM – (JTA) We all know Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu won another term and that the shape of his new right-wing coalition seems clear.

But what happened in the rest of the Knesset? What does the full, 120-seat picture look like? And is it actually that different from last time?

Here are some interesting number breakdowns to help make sense of the 20th Knesset.

A slight shift to the left

On the Israeli left, there's been a fair amount of hand-wringing over what went wrong in this election. After all, a prime minister thought to be vulnerable to defeat instead increased his Knesset delegation by 12 seats. But a look at the overall right-left split shows the left gained in this election, even as it lost the vote. Here's a list of parties after the 2015 and 2013 votes, organized by ideological bloc.

Right Wing

2015: 44 seats (Likud 30, Jewish Home 8, Yisrael Beiteinu 6)
2013: 43 seats (Likud-Yisrael Beiteinu 31, Jewish Home 12)

Center-Left Wing

2015: 29 seats (Zionist Union 24, Meretz 5)
2013: 27 seats (Labor 15, Hatnuah 6, Meretz 6)

Center

2015: 21 seats (Yesh Atid 11, Kulanu 10)
2013: 21 seats (Yesh Atid 19, Kadima 2)

Haredi

2015: 13 seats (Shas 7, United Torah Judaism 6)
2013: 18 seats (Shas 11, UTJ 7)

Arab

2015: 13 seats (Joint List 13)
2013: 11 seats (Hadash 4, Ra'am-Ta'al 4, Balad 3)

That's a net gain of two seats for both the center-left bloc and the Arab bloc. Those gains were provided primarily by a loss of five for the haredi bloc.

So why is Netanyahu exultant? His strong Likud showing gives him much more power within his bloc. Last time, he was constrained by the surprisingly strong showing of Yesh Atid and Jewish Home, which forced him into a coalition he didn't want.

So left wingers can appreciate their bloc's increased size and unity. Right-wingers can continue to appreciate that their bloc is bigger, and will lead the next government.

Fewer religious MKs, more women and Arab lawmakers

The 20th Knesset, according to charts released by the Israel Democracy Institute, will have a record number of women lawmakers, more Arabs and fewer religious members.

Nearly a quarter of MKs will be women — 29 as opposed to 28 in 2013. Eight of Zionist Union's 24 MKs are women (including four in the top 10), followed by Likud with six out of 30, and Kulanu with four out of 10. The only two parties with no female representation are the haredi Orthodox Shas and UTJ.

The next Knesset will also see 16 Arab MKs, four more than in the outgoing Knesset. A dozen of those come from the Joint List (Dov Khenin is the party's sole Jewish member). But Likud, Zionist Union, Israel Beiteinu and Meretz each have one Arab MK as well.

Religious MKs, meanwhile, saw their numbers drop from 39 all the way down to 25. Much of the decline comes

because the three religious parties — UTJ, Shas and Jewish Home — lost a total of nine seats. Now, those parties hold a combined 21 seats, and two of Jewish Home's MKs are secular. Likud, Yesh Atid and Kulanu also have religious members.

Religious and right-wing in Jerusalem, secular and leftist in Tel Aviv

More Israeli voters — 4.2 million, or about 72 percent of the electorate — cast ballots on Tuesday than in any election since 1999. But unlike in 1999, high turnout did not bring the left to power.

Despite the efforts of the anti-Netanyahu camp to boost turnout in the left-wing stronghold of Tel Aviv, a higher percentage of voters cast ballots in right-wing bastions like Jerusalem, Ashdod and Petach Tikva. And cities conformed to their ideological

stereotypes. A majority of voters in Tel Aviv voted for left-wing parties, though the southeast of the city, populated largely by Middle Eastern Jews, voted Likud and Shas. Many of Jaffa's votes went to the Joint List. Nearly three-quarters of Jerusalem voters, meanwhile, voted for right-wing or religious parties.

But there were a couple of interesting statistics from the electoral map: Kfar Chabad, a small town populated mostly by Chabad families, voted overwhelmingly for the far-right Yachad, which didn't pass the Knesset threshold. Kibbutz Nirani, deep in the West Bank, gave all of its grand total of 55 votes to left-wing or centrist parties. And if the election were held only in the resort town of Eilat, the pro-marijuana legalization Green Leaf party would have entered the Knesset. □



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The Rabbis' Corner

This Pesach, let's join together and stop violence against women and girls

By **RABBI AARON FINKELSTEIN**

In the past few weeks, I've been plagued by a persistent and basic question about Pesach and the Israelite experience in Egypt: What was slavery like for the women? Perhaps they were treated just like the Israelite men, subjected to the same persecution. On the other hand, in conflict or abusive situations, women often bear the brunt of the violence, and maybe this was the case in Egypt, as well. It's hard to know exactly, and both the Biblical text and the *haggadah* are silent on the topic.

I was stumped. Could it be there was no violence against women during our people's slavery in Egypt? It seems unlikely. Thinking back upon many years of seders, I was hard-pressed to recall a text or discussion that answered my question.

To my relief, I discovered that our rabbi did address this question, reminding us that sometimes a single story can portray the horror endemic to a larger situation. Recall that early in the Exodus story, Moses sees an Egyptian striking an



Rabbi Aaron Finkelstein

Israelite man. Rashi, citing the Midrash Tanhuma (Exodus 2:11), explains that the taskmaster had set his eyes on an Israelite woman, exiled her husband, raped her in the night and continued beating her husband the next day. That was the beating Moses witnessed. Our sages wisely intuited a disturbing truth: In settings rife with abuse and oppression, women and girls are likely among the greatest victims.

Unfortunately, we in Nashville are no strangers to the topic of gender-based violence. Many of us were horrified to learn about the recent sexual assault and rape of a Vanderbilt woman by four Vanderbilt football players.

The statistics both in Tennessee and around the world are distressing indeed: In 2013, over 75,000 crimes of domestic violence were reported in Tennessee alone, where women are almost three times as likely as men to be victims. Globally, the United Nations Development Fund for Women estimates that at least one out of every three

women globally will be beaten, raped or otherwise abused during her lifetime.

These numbers impel us toward a stark realization: It's time to end the scourge that is violence against women and girls. This Pesach, we have an opportunity to do just that.

Congress is currently considering the International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA), a bipartisan bill to combat gender-based violence and protect the rights of women and girls around the world. If passed, IVAWA would ensure that American foreign aid and diplomatic work has a strong focus on ending gender-based violence worldwide. Our Tennessee Senator Bob Corker recently assumed chairmanship of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which will review the bill.

Join me in letting Senator Corker know that the Jewish community of Nashville supports IVAWA. Call his office at (615) 279-8125, send him an email on his website at www.corker.senate.gov or tweet him @SenBobCorker to ask him to co-sponsor the legislation. I am writing about this issue because I am part of American Jewish World Service's *We Believe* campaign, which is working

to end violence against women and girls. I hope the Nashville Jewish community will join me and other Jews around the nation in doing our part to help women and girls stand up for their rights.

As a Jewish community, we know all too well the horrific violence that has been and continues to be inflicted upon people of certain religions, ethnicities, races, sexual orientations and genders. This Pesach, as we remember our own slavery in Egypt, let us commit ourselves to ending this epidemic and ensure that women and girls around the world are finally freed from gender-based violence.

To learn more about this issue, to read moving stories of women affected by gender-based violence and their organizing efforts to stop it, and to sign a petition supporting the IVAWA, visit www.ajws.org/webelieve. □

Aaron Finkelstein is assistant rabbi at Congregation Sherith Israel and a Judaic studies teacher at Akiva School. The Rabbis' Corner, a monthly commentary on current events or contemporary cultural trends through the lens of Jewish values, rotates among Nashville's congregational rabbis.

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letters to the editor

To the editor,

As part of an exciting Akiva School project, we are gathering data about alumni to be used to market the school. Once we get e-mail addresses, we will be sending out a short survey to collect the data. We also plan to set up Akiva alumni Facebook and Linked-In pages to help us in the process. Please send your (or your son/daughter's) e-mail address to me, Evelyn Koch, at kochevelyn@hotmail.com to be part of this project. Since texting is often the communication of choice for some, we ask that you send a cell phone number as well.

As an unexpected bonus of networking for the project, I have had many delightful e-mails from alumni whom I taught at Akiva or knew in some other context many years ago. Many have commented on how happy they are to take part in the project and that they have many wonderful memories of Akiva.

Eliana Ramage (Class of 2003), married and now living in Israel, wrote, "Love the idea of a survey! When I first came here after high school (six years post-Akiva), I was amazed that I understood most of the Hebrew around me, even though it took longer to get the confidence to speak well. Since then,

I've wished there was a way to let preschool parents know how important Akiva was."

Sincerely,
Evelyn Koch

To the editor,

A recent transplant from the Northeast, I have been seeking my Jewish home in Nashville. Coming from a *shul* where kids are a priority, I wanted a congregation where kids participate in Shabbat services. I found what I was looking for on a recent Shabbat at West End Synagogue. After a last minute decision to attend Friday night services, we were treated to a *kabbalat* Shabbat service led by a confident and enthusiastic group of 5th grade students. Saturday morning I came back for more; the older children lead the Torah service and apparently the youngest kids led *Havdalah*. Perhaps most telling was that there was no special announcement or extra large attendance. I took it as a very positive sign that the involvement of kids in Shabbat services is a regular, no-big-deal thing at West End.

Marc Fried

Submission Policy

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

B'nai Mitzvah

Matthew Kaplan will be called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 18 at Congregation Micah. Matthew is the son of Drs. Hillary and Mark Kaplan and the brother of Aaron and Andrew Kaplan. His grandparents are Dr. Herman and Irma Kaplan of Nashville and Renee and the late Richard Zellner of Beachwood, OH.



Matthew Kaplan

Matthew is in seventh grade at Montgomery Bell Academy, where he runs the cross country and track teams and enjoys participating in theater as well. He loves spending his summers at Camp Winnebago in Maine. Because of the great impact that camp has had on Matthew, for his *bar mitzvah* project, he will support Camp Sizanani, a camp in South Africa for children at risk for HIV/AIDS.

Sydney Laura Saul will be called to the Torah as a *bat mitzvah* at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 25 at Congregation Micah. Sydney is the daughter of Laura and Andy Saul and sister to older brother Daniel. She is the granddaughter of Jim and Ann Padgett of Hartfield, VA, and the late Phyllis Tenenbaum Cohen and Ralph Saul of Atlanta, GA.



Sydney Laura Saul

Sydney is a seventh grader at Grassland Middle School, where she is an excellent student and member of the GMS Dance Team. Sydney has excelled in dance at both GMS and Bellevue Dance Center, where she has been dancing since age 3 — studying ballet, tap, jazz, hiphop, and contemporary. Sydney also enjoys softball, snow skiing, and a variety of water sports including swimming, water skiing, wake boarding, and wake surfing. Sydney loves spending her summers on the lake and looks forward to her time at Camp Barney Medintz with friends (going on 6 years).

Sydney recently has participated in fundraising for Bridges Domestic Violence Center with a group in her Sunday School Class. She hopes to incorporate her love for dance and helping others into her *mitzvah* project.

Mazel Tov

... to **Tzivi Tiechtel**, daughter of Rabbi Yitzchok and Esther Tiechtel, on her engagement to **Rabbi Berel Namdar** of Gothenburg, Sweden. He is the son of Rabbi Alex and Leah Namdar of Gothenburg. A *l'chaim* celebration was held last month in Brooklyn, NY, and a celebration in Nashville will be held on Lag B'omer, May 7, at Chabad of Nashville. A June wedding is planned in Nashville. Tzivi is an alumna of Akiva School and studied in New York for four years and then in Israel for two years. She served as head counselor of the Youth Camp in Berlin, Germany and as advisor to Jewish teens at the UnCamp in Iowa. Currently Tzivi is the programming coordinator at Chabad of



Mazel Tov to the West End Synagogue Consecration Class of 2015, which celebrated on March 8 by sharing what they have learned this year. The class members are Alex Saurav Abramson, son of Rick and Vandana Abramson; Jordan Schaen Brod-Glinter, son of Shawn Glinter and Nicole Brod; Grant Harrison Cloutier, son of Marc and Valerie Cloutier; Ellis Harmon Prichard, son of Jonathan and Deena Prichard; Micah Isaac Rosenbloom, son of Trent and Ellie Rosenbloom, and Sawyer Benjamin Stein, son of Bryan and Danielle Stein.

Nashville. Born and raised in Sweden, Rabbi Berel Namdar studied at the Rabbinical College of America in New Jersey and is pursuing his advanced rabbinic degree at the Central Yehivoh of Chabad Lubavitch in New York. He directed the European camp for Tzeirei Hashluchim in Sweden and is one of the senior leaders of the international Committee of The Chabad Students Union from around the world.

Sympathy

... to the family of **Jerald Homer Doochin**, 84, who died unexpectedly on Feb. 23. He was born January 10, 1931 to the late Nathan and Minnie Jacobs Doochin. He is survived by his loving wife of over 38 years, Dee Shofner Doochin; brother, Robert (Alberta); sister, Elinor (Rudy) Saperstein; sons, Michael (Linda) Doochin, Larry (Janice) Doochin and Adam (Crystal) Doochin; daughter, Teri Doochin (A.G.) Kasselberg; grandchildren, Jonathan, Arielle, Jeremy, Sarah, Thomas, David, Hannah and Sebastian Doochin; Douglas and Megan Kasselberg, Jill (Matt) Kasselberg Williams, Matthew (Sarah) and Andrea Wolf; and great-grandchildren, Hayes and Carter Williams, and Anna Wolf.

A Nashville native, Jerry graduated from West High School in 1948 and from Vanderbilt University in 1952. Since 1981, Jerry split his time between Nashville and Naples, FL, loving every minute in the warmth of the sun and the independence the sidewalks in the Park Shore community provided him.

A successful business leader and entrepreneur, he began his career at American Paper & Twine Company before founding White Bluff Box Company, and later Interstate Packaging in 1969. Under Jerry's guidance, Interstate Packaging became an internationally recognized flexible packaging and label provider, continuing in its third generation of family leadership today.

Jerry was a pillar of Nashville's Jewish community. He initiated and was one of the three principal founders of Congregation Micah, a reform synagogue in Brentwood established in 1992. He also was a founding member of the Vanderbilt Bridge Club of Nashville. As a philanthropist and activist, Jerry supported countless organizations and causes including Artis of Naples, Empower Me Day Camp, the Frist Center for the

Visual Arts, the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, Kids First, Lighthouse of Collier (Naples), the Nashville Symphony, Possibilities Inc., University School of Nashville and many, others.

Those who had the privilege of knowing Jerry will remember him as a kind-hearted, generous leader in every aspect of his life. Recently during a dinner in his honor, Jerry's spirit was encapsulated with a story about a frequent visitor to Congregation Micah whom he learned was living in her car with her young daughter. The next day he made a gift to cover several months' rent for her — just one of many examples of kindness and concern for others that defined him.

Funeral services were held at Congregation Micah on Feb. 26. A burial service followed at the Congregation Micah Cemetery, one of Jerry's most gratifying achievements. Pallbearers were Douglas Kasselberg, Matthew Wolf, Jonathan Doochin, Jeremy Doochin, Thomas Doochin, and David Doochin. Honorary Pallbearers were James H. Brown, Joe Cruse, Ben Doochin, Richard Eskin, Bob Garlock, Harris Gilbert, Craig Heimark, Kenneth Jacobs, Alan Kirshner, Ted Klontz, Howard Stringer, and Dick Williams.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to: Congregation Micah, 2001 Old Hickory Blvd., Brentwood, TN 37027.

... to the family of **Miriam Birnbaum Halachmi**, 70, who died Feb. 28 at her home in Nashville. She was born April 11, 1944 in Israel to Mordechai and Yonina Birnbaum. She attended school in Binyamina, Israel, where she grew up, and went to The David Yellin Academic College of Education in Jerusalem. Upon graduation, she married Arie Halachmi and furthered her education in learning disabilities and behavior modification, receiving a degree in counseling from Hebrew University. She and Arie spent four years in Buffalo, NY, where she got a bachelor's degree in psychology and Arie received a Ph.D. in public policy sciences.

Miriam is survived by her loving and adored children, Dr. Shlomit Halachmi of Boston and Alan Halachmi (Andrea) of Rockville, MD; granddaughters Nina Lilly Birnbaum and Lia Erin Halachmi.

She is also survived by her father; three sisters, Drora (Gary) Rimer, Ofira (Yehuda) Baumel, Urit (Hanan) Shapira, and many nieces and nephews.

Miriam was the beloved director of the West End Synagogue Religious School from 1979-2011. The school was recently named Beit Miriam Religious School in her honor. She also taught Hebrew in the Department of Religious Studies at Vanderbilt University. She was recently honored there as well with an award to be presented yearly in her name. Her students spoke of her warmth, her love, her sense of humor and the challenging way she had of teaching text. A fellow teacher and congregant called her a "text person." Miriam nurtured her students and always looked at them as individuals with diverse needs. She was so proud of her students who chose to pursue Jewish Studies in college and of those who were active leaders in their respective Jewish communities wherever they lived.

The funeral service was on March 1 at West End Synagogue. It was conducted by Rabbi Joshua Kullock, and pallbearers were Dr. Sanford Herman, Joel Isenstein, Kenneth Kraft, Dr. Michael Levitt, Dr. Stanley Lee, Dr. Larry Lubow, Moises Paz, Dr. Gene Sacks, Dr. Rob Stein, Dr. Paul Sternberg, Rabbi Saul Strossberg, Dr. Bob Workman, Rami Weismark and David Yaffe. Memorial donations may be made to the Halachmi-Birnbaum fund at West End Synagogue, 3810 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205.

... to the family of **Shirley Litt**, who died peacefully on March 8 at the age of 96. She was preceded in death by her husband, Girard Litt; parents, Henry and Fannie Suloway, and daughter, Bonnie Litt. She is survived by her son, David (Beatrice) Litt; daughter, Leslie J. (Mark Freedman) Klein; sister, Irene Steiner; grandchildren, Jennifer, Andrew, Holly, Scott, Barbara and Giorgio; great-grandchildren, Hannah, Teya, Alexis, Michael, Aurelia, Luca, and all of her beloved family. A shiva minyan was held in Nashville on March 12 and a memorial service the next week in her native Chicago. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hadassah Nashville, 801 Percy Warner Blvd., Nashville, TN 37205.

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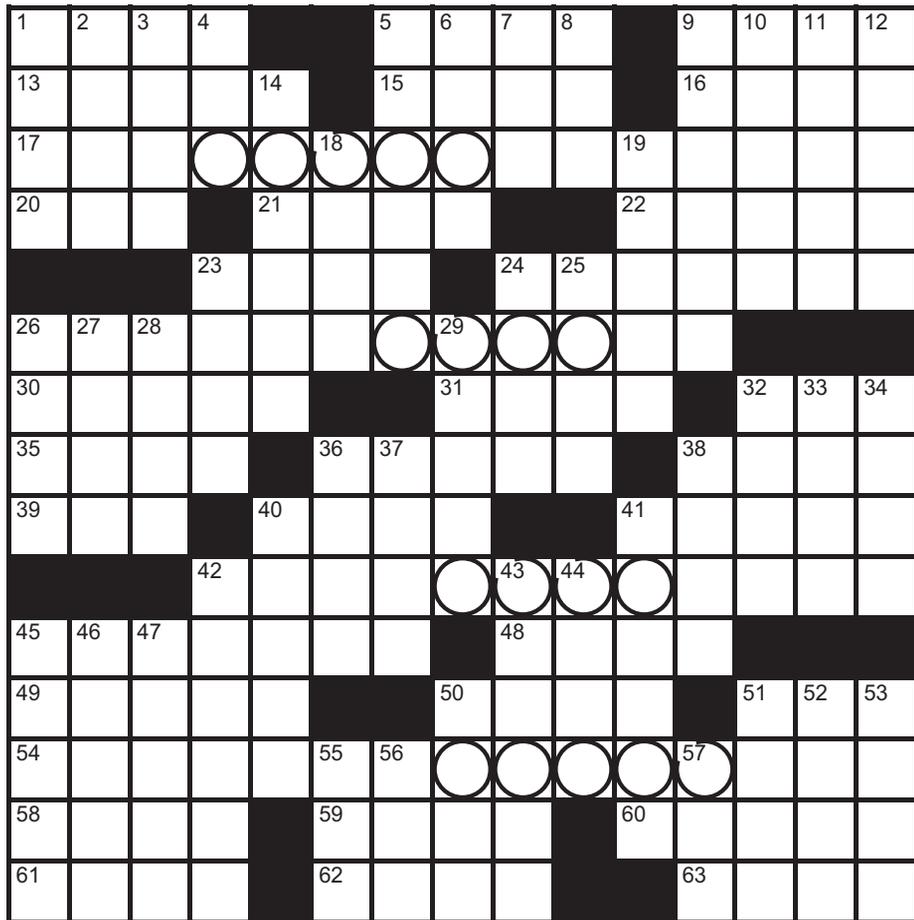
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"Tanach Ties" By Alan Olschwang

Editor: DavidBenkof@gmail.com

Difficulty Level: Medium • Solution on page 21



Across

1. "The Crucible," e.g.
5. Ed who portrayed Mingo on the "Daniel Boone" TV series
9. The Red Sea, to the Israelites
13. Gulf of Aqaba port
15. PBS show that included the special "The Bible's Buried Secrets"
16. Tot's mishap that might elicit an "oy vey" from his mother
17. El Al had them until 1999

20. "And the priest shall put the oil ... upon the great ___ of his right foot" (Leviticus 14:28)
21. Horseradish, for one
22. Barbra Streisand has enjoyed it
23. He had two Marx brothers
24. It begins in the beginning
26. Amram's mother?
30. "La Dolce Vita" actress Anouk
31. "Bond Smells ___" (tune on the soundtrack for the Harry Saltzman-produced "Diamonds Are Forever")

32. Site with easy access to Facebook
35. Lentil bowlful that 25-Down exchanged for his birthright
36. Shalom in Strasbourg
38. He costarred with Winkler in "Happy Days"
39. Latke maker's need
40. Shank bone's place
41. Promotions for 22-Across shows
42. Sandy Koufax often pitched here
45. Payot place
48. Prime Minister Olmert (2006-2009)
49. Actress Garson directed by William Wyler in "Mrs. Miniver" (1942)
50. "But when the ___ comes in, give a fifth of it to Pharaoh" (Joseph's instruction to the Egyptians)
51. Emulate Zac Efron
54. What Goliath may have said to David before David slung that stone?
58. Ill-advised interjection during the sermon
59. Gomorrah resident, most likely
60. Essene community attribute
61. Kibbutz visit souvenirs, perhaps
62. Lamentations
63. "What is this you have ___?" (God's question to 7-Down)

Down

1. Locust, for one
2. Transport for a first-class-all-the-way bar mitzvah
3. Plant mentioned in the 45th Psalm
4. A yenta yearns to do it
5. National Front for the Liberation of ___ (African revolutionaries Israel supported in the '60s)
6. First word of Al Rosen's 1953 award
7. See 63-Across
8. Levittown feature
9. Rabbi Elliot N. Dorff's "Jewish Choices, Jewish ___"
10. The Israeli Military Police Corps is

11. Exodus peak
12. Abraham had to endure ten
14. Over-the-top Sabbath sermon
18. Carla served him on "Cheers"
19. Each of Maimonides's 13 principles of faith
23. "___, in the Biblical sense"
24. Lieberman's 2000 running mate
25. See 35-Across
26. React to a really good David Blaine trick
27. Comic Rudner
28. Prayer ender
29. Linda Lavin lived there
32. Linda Lingle lived there
33. "Bind them as a ___ upon your hand..."
34. Robert Knox described the Jewish one as "large, massive, club-shaped, and hooked"
36. Jezebel's husband
37. Eilat activity
38. Rothschild of Tel Aviv: Abbr.
40. Like hair after Lag Baomer, often
41. Object of tzedakah
42. Shoes for Lyle Alzado
43. Bupkis, bupkis, and more bupkis
44. Resh letters, in Greek
45. Exodus exodus place
46. "And there ___ not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses . . ." (Deuteronomy 34:10)
47. Conserve water like many kibbutzim
50. When smoked, it's an alternative to lox
51. Alan Arkin's 2012 Oscar nomination came from this film
52. Words regularly repeated by Len Berman on ESPN: "___ man!"
53. Jezebel's father's kingdom
55. Salk and Sabin, to name two: Abbr.
56. Pursue a shidduch
57. Hadassah provides it to some in need

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Nourish Your Mind at the J

April 2015

Mind, Body & Spirit Day

Sessions on meditation, relexology, makeovers, fitness and yoga, Wednesday, April 1 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., \$15 for all programs including lunch and snacks

Design on a Dime

A crash course on basic interior design principles Mondays, April 13, 20, 27 and May 4 7-9 p.m. \$95 (\$120 for non-members) including trip to a redesigned home Instructor: Designer Arlene Gold of Nashville Tech

Israeli Cooking Class

Tuesday, April 14, 6:30-9 p.m. \$25 (\$36 for non-members) including dinner Presenters: Chef Kevin Alexandroni, community shlichah Liron Finkelstein

Ballroom Dancing

Wednesdays, April 15, 22, 29 and May 6 and 13, 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$75 (\$90 for non-members) includes party on May 13 Instructor: Competitive dancer Lisa Burghardt

Landscape Impressions

Workshop with artist David Nichols Friday, April 17, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$125 (\$150 for non-members) including supplies and snacks

Art on the West Side

Fine arts exhibition and sale Cocktail reception on Saturday, April 18, 6-9 p.m. Show and art activities on Sunday, April 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

\$10 per person for Saturday reception, Sunday show is free.

Sudoku for Beginners

Friday, April 24, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. No charge (\$10 for non-members) Instructor: Howard Pink of the Sudoku Professor Club

Cookie Decorating

Monday, April 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. \$25 (\$36 for non-members) including supplies Presenter: Carol Clark

Tour of Nashville

Bus tour of new neighborhoods and tourist developments Tuesday, April 28, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$36 (\$50 for non-members) includes lunch

Nourish Your Mind is a program of adult education events and classes sponsored by the Gordon Jewish Community Center and underwritten by the Sol Stern and Rose Stern Adult Fund, the Leah Rose Werthan Designated Fund, the Meryl Kraft Discretionary Fund and the Jewish Federation and Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. All events take place at the GJCC unless otherwise noted. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting Carrie Mills at carrie@nashvillejcc.org or (615) 354-1699 or online at www.nashvillejcc.org. Reservation forms also are available at the GJCC. For more information about February classes or ongoing events such as the GJCC Book Club, oil painting classes and bridge lessons, contact Meryl Kraft at 615-354-1623 or meryl@nashvillejcc.org or visit www.nashvillejcc.org.

around the town

Forward lists Schiffman and Guttman among America's most inspiring rabbis

The Jewish Daily Forward has named Rabbi Mark Schiffman of The Temple and Rabbi Fred Guttman, a Nashville native, among America's most inspiring rabbis.



Rabbi Mark Schiffman

The list of 33, which features rabbis from all streams of Judaism, includes a blurb about each from a congregational member.

"What I find most inspiring is his teaching by example," Temple member Michael Ginsberg says about Rabbi Schiffman. "This includes providing shelter for homeless women at our *shul* every Monday night, reaching out to the imam of a new mosque that faced prejudice from its neighbors and arranging for our congregations to visit each other's places of worship, and devoting this whole year to programs on mental health after a member's suicide."

Rabbi Guttman, who grew up in Nashville as a member of The Temple, leads Temple Emmanuel in Greensboro, NC, and is widely respected as a voice for social justice.

"He is rabbi to our entire community, leading interfaith events, taking clergy to Israel, and holding forums on expanding Medicaid," says Temple Emmanuel member Neil Belenky. "He

organized a Jewish program for the official 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday in Selma, AL at Temple Mishkan Israel. Keynote speakers included Dr. Susannah Heschel and David Goodman, brother of slain activist Andrew Goodman, among other Jewish leaders.

Also named was Rabbi William Tepper of the Reform Mezpah Congregation in Chattanooga, meaning Tennesseans account for almost 10 percent of the list.

Akiva School hosts expert from Vandy for talk on technology and education

Melissa Gresalfi, associate professor in mathematics education and the learning sciences at Vanderbilt University, will speak at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29 at Akiva School on the subject of technology and education.

Dr. Gresalfi, whose recent work has focused on how immersive activities and interactive technologies support learning of mathematics and computational reasoning, will share research about the educational potential of technologies such as games and apps. She also will review ways to distinguish the good from the bad from the merely distracting. There will be lots of time for discussion, questions and brainstorming.

The event, which is made possible by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, is free and open to the public.

To access the Community Calendar,
go to www.jewishnashville.org and click on "Calendar."
Every community event is listed for your convenience.

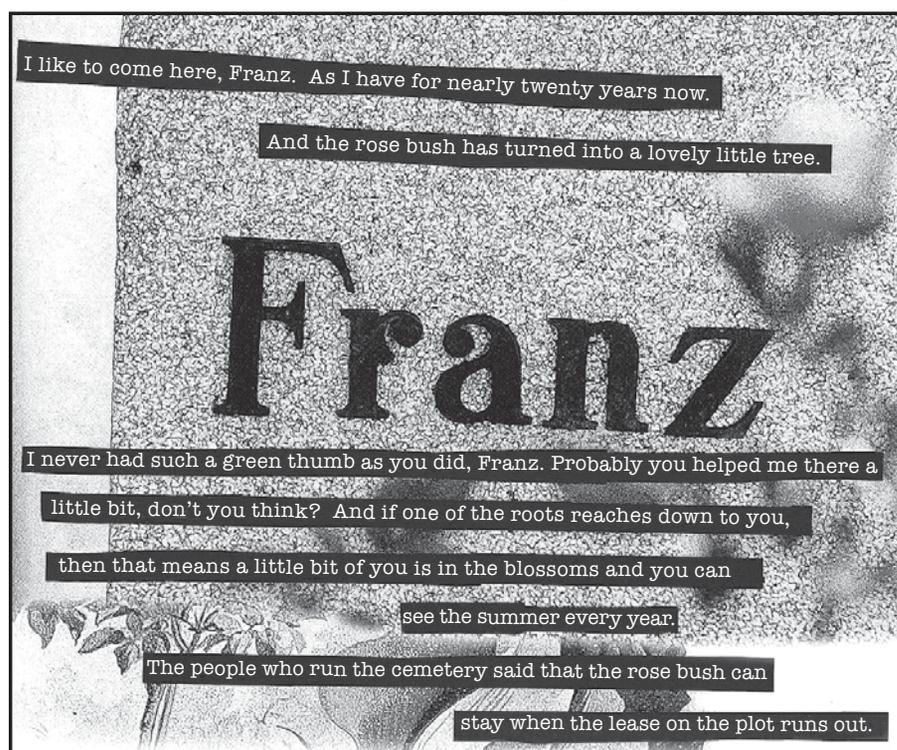
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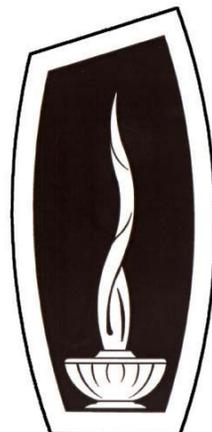
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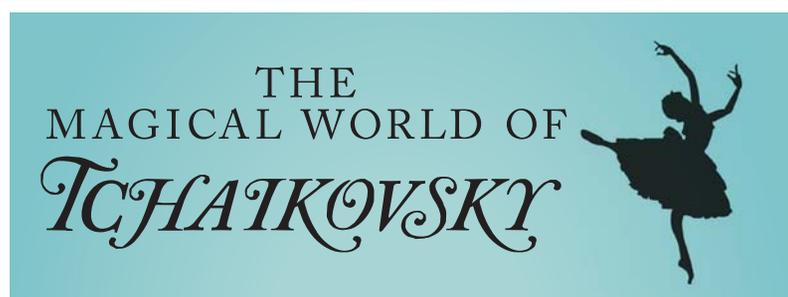
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“a time to mourn, and a time to dance”

(Ecclesiastes Chapter 3)

עֵת סְפִיד וְעֵת רִקוּד (קהלת 3)



**THURSDAY, APRIL 23 at 6pm @ Gordon Jewish Community Center
(801 Percy Warner Blvd.)**

Join us for a community event -

YOM HAZIKARON, A Memorial Service

featuring the stories of our partnership's fallen soldiers and victims of terror told by Get Connected 2015 teens.

To be followed by Havdalah, dinner, torch lighting, and the celebration of

YOM HA'ATZMAUT- Israel's Independence Day.

Featuring a performance of the Israeli band “Halehaka” - former IDF singers

(Barak Levy, Stav Kurtzberg and Lior Peretz).

Prices:

For registration online (early bird discount - until 4/22)
\$18 adult, \$7 child under age of 15, \$50 maximum per family

At the door (on the day of the event)
\$25 adult, \$10 child under age of 15, No family rate

To RSVP and buy tickets go to <http://nashville.fedweb.jewishfederations.org/israel-event>, or contact Barbara Schwarcz at barbara@jewishnashville.org, or 615-354-1630. For more information contact Liron Finkelstein at liron@jewishnashville.org.



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