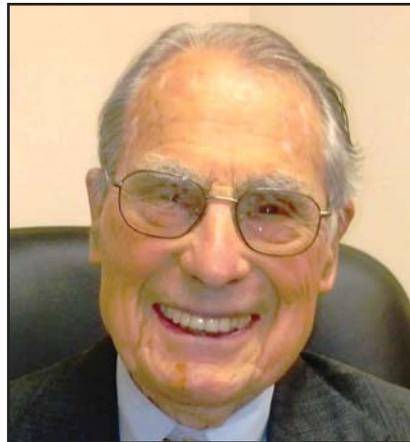


the Jewish Observer

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Robert Eisenstein



David Schwartz



Andrew May

Jewish Federation's 77th Annual Meeting to be held on June 19

The membership of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee will gather for the organization's 77th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 19, at 7 p.m. at the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

The event includes recognition of community members, election of new officers and members of the Federation Board of Directors, and voting on an amendment to the Federation Constitution that deals with the Community Relations Committee.

Presiding over the meeting is Federation President Andy May. He will present the Federation's President's Award to Robert D. Eisenstein. Eisenstein is a past president of the Jewish Federation and the

Gordon Jewish Community Center. He has served on the boards of many local, regional and national Jewish organizations. The President's Award, the Federation's highest and most prestigious honor, recognizes significant achievement on behalf of the Nashville Jewish community, to Israel and to worldwide Jewry.

David Schwartz will receive the Federation's Young Leadership Award. Schwartz was a founding co-chair of the Federation's NowGen Division. He currently serves on the Federation's Annual Campaign Cabinet and is a member of the Federation Board of Directors. Schwartz has played a key role in assisting the Federation in marketing and branding initiatives that have enhanced Federation's visibility and helped to attract scores of young adults

to Federation activities and programs.

The annual meeting will also feature the election of new officers and members of the Federation Board of Directors. Martin Ted Mayden, immediate past president of the Federation and Chair of the Nominating Committee, announced that Andrew May has been nominated to serve as president; Carol Hyatt, vice president; Lisa Perlen, secretary and Leon Tonelson, treasurer. Federation officers are elected for a one-year term.

Mayden also announced that Dianne Berry, Daniel Biller, James Mackler and Michael Simon have been nominated to serve three-year terms on the Federation Board. In addition, Rabbi Saul Strosberg of Congregation Sherith Israel will

Continued on page 2

Metro firefighter meets Israeli, American peers in P2G exchange

Some things seem the same wherever you go, Nashville firefighter Jay Cohen learned over nine days in Israel in a Partnership2Gether professional delegation of firefighters.

He and seven other American visitors had gathered in a rappelling practice area at the Haifa Fire Department to watch Israelis show how they'd rescue someone from a burning high-rise. In the middle of the demonstration, a "jumper call" went out over the radio, asking for help with a suicidal person on top of a building.

The Americans joined in on the call and Cohen rode up front with the fire truck driver.

Continued on page 3



Visiting the Western Wall are American firefighters (from left) Richard Intartaglio, Ft. Myers, Fla.; Derryl O'Neal, Madeira Beach, Fla.; Jeff Dulin, Kevin Gordon and Garry McCormick, Charlotte; Mark Morris and D.J. Corcoran, Knoxville; and Nashville's Jay Cohen.

COUPON SECTION PAGE 7

the Jewish Observer
Coupon Issue
2013



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Jewish Federation's 77th Annual Meeting, June 19

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FEDERATION CONSTITUTION

The general membership of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee shall consider an amendment to the Federation Constitution at the 77th Annual Meeting to be held on Wednesday, June 19, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Gordon Jewish Community Center, 801 Percy Warner Boulevard, Nashville, TN 37205.

The proposed amendment was reviewed and unanimously approved for recommendation to the Federation general membership by the Federation Board of Directors at its meeting held on April 23, 2013.

Article IX, Section 9.1 A. is amended to read (new language in boldface, deleted language with strikethrough):

THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

A) The Community Relations Committee (CRC) shall be composed of a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and ~~at least nine other~~ members representing each of the local Jewish congregations, local beneficiary agencies of the Federation, other local Jewish organizations or local chapters of national Jewish organizations and at-large members. The mission of the CRC, in partnership with its affiliate the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), is to advocate for Jewish interests and values, dedicate itself to the safety and security of the state of Israel, and to foster constructive relationships within the Jewish community and among people of all faiths and cultures in order to promote a just, democratic and pluralistic American society. The chairperson and vice-chairperson shall be appointed annually by the President of the Federation. CRC members shall serve two-year renewable ~~its object is to centralize the direction and control of, and to terms.~~ The CRC shall carry out, a unified program of community relations. It shall represent, and act on behalf of the community in matters of Jewish interest ~~as~~ concerning local, state, national and international affairs.

Continued from page 1

begin his service as the rabbinic representative to the Federation Board.

Outgoing officers and board members will also be recognized for their service on the Federation Board at the annual meeting. Leaving the Board are current Federation Secretary Jan Liff, Treasurer Adam Landa and Board Member Adam Leibowitz. Rabbi Philip (Flip) Rice's term as rabbinic representative concludes with the annual meeting.

Federation members attending the annual meeting will also consider an amendment to the Federation's Constitution that will restructure the

Community Relations Committee. The proposed amendment can be reviewed on page 2 in this issue of the Observer or at the Federation website, www.jewish-nashville.org.

For more information about the 77th Annual Meeting or to RSVP for the meeting please contact Barbara Schwarcz at Barbara@jewishnashville.org or by phone at 354-1630. A complimentary dessert reception will follow the meeting (dairy laws observed.)

The 77th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation and the Jewish Foundation has been generously underwritten by SEI Investments. □

Save the date, Oct. 26, for the Blue J Café

By KARA MEYER

JCC Membership and Marketing
Director

The lights dim and the flicker of small lights bounces along the face of a finely crafted guitar. Musicians take their seats and relax into a familiar environment. The room goes silent as if someone has suddenly removed all of the air. And then it happens.

The first few notes of a song you immediately recognize drift through the room and you are transported. To a memory, a different time...and to the Blue J Café, the Gordon Jewish Community Center's Main Event theme for 2013.

The Blue J Café will delight you on Saturday, Oct. 26, with an evening of songs you know by the people who wrote them. This year's event will be an intimate and twinkling atmosphere with performances by Fred Wilhelm and friends. Wilhelm has written songs recorded by Faith Hill, Rascal Flatts, Trace Adkins, Kellie Pickler, Randy Travis, Little Big Town, The Oak Ridge Boys, Lori McKenna, Mindy Smith and many others.

So mark your calendars today and be sure to not miss this unforgettable experience. Details on the musician lineup and the always amazing auction are to follow.

Underwriting and auction donation opportunities are available. For more information, contact Renee Geltzer at (615) 354-1640. □

Apply for young adult subsidies to CommUNITY Mission before it's too late

Time is winding down to apply for Young Adult Mission trip subsidies from the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee for the CommUNITY Mission to Israel from Nov. 3-11. Deadline for application is Monday, June 3.

This subsidy includes land and air costs to Israel plus hotel/registration for Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) General Assembly in Jerusalem November 10-13.

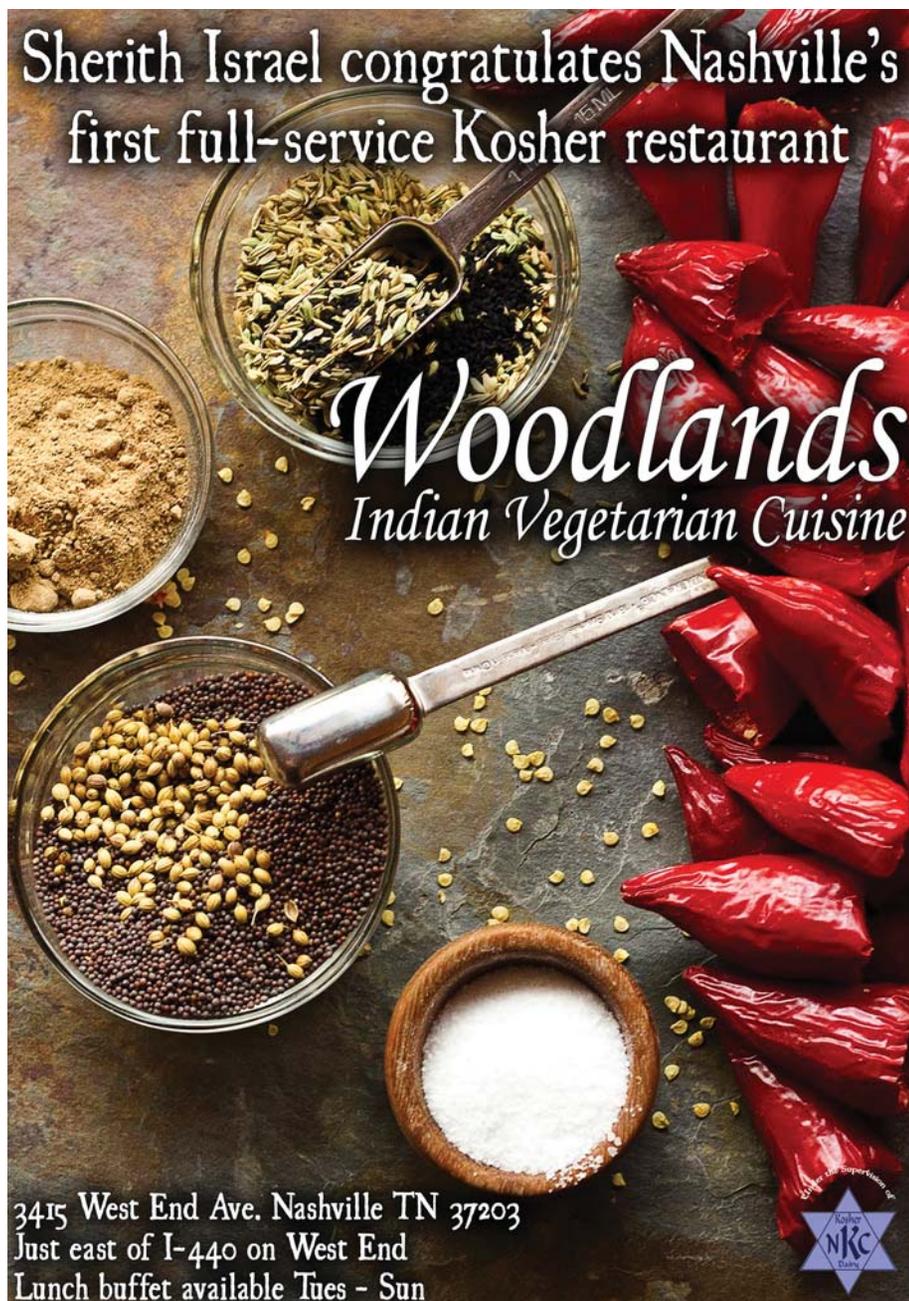
The Federation is offering the financial assistance as part of a new initiative to send and fully subsidize promising young adults to the areas of the world where our help and attention is needed most. In addition, we want to encourage those connected with Israel to deepen their connection and share that enthusiasm with our local community.

Do you qualify?

- Are you a Jewish young adult age 27-40 whose primary residence is Nashville?

- Are you motivated to participate fully in the group mission to Israel?
- Will you, upon return, be willing to educate the local community about your experience? (For example, but not limited to, social networking, speaking engagements, and/or written materials)
- Will you make a contribution to the 2014 Annual Campaign of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee?
- Are you available to travel on November 3-11, 2013?
- Do you have a U.S. Passport valid until at least May 2014?

If you've answered "yes" to all questions, contact Federation Planning Director Harriet Schifftan for an application and complete and return it to her by Monday, June 3. Applications can be emailed to her at harriet@jewish-nashville.org or c/o 801 Percy Warner Blvd., Suite 102, Nashville 37205. If you have questions or would like a full itinerary please contact Schifftan at harriet@jewishnashville.org or at (615) 354-1687. □



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GJCC taps Leslie Sax as executive director

The Gordon Jewish Community Center has selected Leslie M. Sax as its new executive director, GJCC President Howard Kirshner announced.

Sax "comes to us with a background in JCC leadership as well as an extensive career in public health administration and the nonprofit sector," Kirshner said in an e-mail to the community. "We are very excited about the many ideas she brought to the table during her interview process and the wealth of knowledge her career has provided her."

"I am very excited to be joining the Gordon Jewish Community Center. The warmth and charm of the people of Nashville, the talented Center staff, and the beautiful Pargh campus create tremendous opportunities," Sax said in an e-mail. "I look forward to building on an already strong base to bring the Gordon Jewish

Community Center to the next level of programming and services for the Nashville community."

Sax has served as interim executive director for the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. Before that she worked as assistant executive director and program director with the Jewish Community Center of Greater Rochester, N.Y. Since 2005 she has been a nonprofit and healthcare consultant. She earned her M.B.A. from the University of Cincinnati and holds an Education Master of Public Health degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

"I first encountered a JCC when I enrolled my son in preschool at the JCC in Cincinnati in 1987," she said. "I found it to be so welcoming, like a second Jewish home, where I felt comfortable in my 'Jewish skin' that wasn't



Leslie Sax

my family home or a synagogue. ... One of the things I love most about a Jewish community center is that it welcomes people of all ages and all denominations in a very open and non-threatening way. I also think JCCs can serve a powerful role in educating the community at large about Jewish values and traditions, which can promote a greater understanding of Judaism and break down barriers caused by ignorance."

Sax is relocating here from Los Angeles. "We anticipate that Leslie will be present at the 110th Annual Meeting of the GJCC on June 2 when we welcome in our new officers, re-elected board members and newly elected board members," Kirshner said. He thanked the search committee, chaired by Frank Gordon, for its work, and interim executive director Jared Book for his service. Book will continue in his role as the GJCC's chief financial officer. □

Learn about CommUNITY Mission Trip at June 11 meeting

Jews from around the world are traveling to Israel this year to commemorate the 65th anniversary of independence for the modern State of Israel. What better way to honor this momentous event than by joining your family, friends and neighbors on the Jewish Federation of Nashville CommUNITY Mission 2013 in Israel from November 3 through 13. Designed to engage both first-time trav-

elers as well as seasoned travelers to Israel, this mission promises to be an exciting 10 days of exploration, community and Jewish spirituality as we connect with the people and the programs supported through the annual Federation Campaign.

Our trip is more than a mission: It's a personal journey. We hope that you will be a part of it. Together, we will meet the new Pioneers in the Negev, experience the diversity in Israeli socie-

ty, and examine the security challenges in the area. We will experience home-hosted dinners in our Partnership2Gether region of Hadera-Eiron as well as in the young community of Yeruchim, tour the geological phenomenon known as Mitzpe Ramon, view the ancient ruins of Caesarea, Jerusalem and explore modern Tel Aviv. We will visit the new Yad Vashem Holocaust museum, and experience Shabbat in Jerusalem. We hope you will be able to

join us on this journey!

There will be an information/recruitment session on Tuesday, June 11, at 7 p.m. Contact Federation Campaign Director Naomi Limor Sedek for RSVP for the mission meeting and for location information at (615) 354-1642 or naomi@jewish-nashville.org. More information about the mission can be found on the Federation web site, www.jewish-nashville.org/communitymission.aspx □

Nashville contributes to Oklahoma tornado relief

The Jewish Federations of North America has started a national fundraising appeal for the victims of the devastating tornado that tore through the Oklahoma City area in late May. The Federation umbrella group is coordinating with the relief efforts of the Jewish Federation of Greater Oklahoma City. One hundred percent of funds donated will go for relief efforts on the ground.

The Jewish Federation of Nashville has made a donation of \$1000 from its emergency reserve fund and members of our Jewish community have made additional donations.

The executive director of the Greater

Oklahoma Federation, Edie Roodman, wrote to JFNA: "Still shaken from the images of the deadly monster tornado, we are all just trying to catch our breath. Our spirits have been lifted by the hundreds of caring phone calls, dozens and dozens of compassionate emails, and countless concerned texts inquiring whether members of our Jewish community were directly affected, asking how to help, or wanting to make contributions."

Donations can be mailed to:
JFNA Oklahoma City Tornado Relief Fund
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New York, NY 10268 □

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7 area athletes compete for United States in Maccabiah Games

By KATHY CARLSON

There's a brother and sister, a mom and son, a couple of teammates and someone who has started in sports at age 3. Four swim and three play soccer. They're the Nashville-area athletes who will represent the United States in the 19th Maccabiah Games, set for July 18-30 in Israel.

This year's USA Team includes 1,132 athletes and coaches, the largest American delegation to travel from the United States to compete in an International Olympic Committee-sanctioned event, Maccabiah organizers said in a news release. Seven are from the Nashville area: swimmers Spencer and Logan Klinsky, swimmers Chris and Matt McPherson, Vanderbilt women's soccer teammates Alexa Levick and Dana Schwartz, and Ravenwood High School soccer player Dylan Rose. Three are returning to Maccabiah competition.

The soccer players

Both Levick and Schwartz played in the Maccabiah Games four years ago, although not on the same team. Levick, then a rising high school senior, played on the junior soccer team and Schwartz on the open women's team. They became friends while playing for Vanderbilt, Levick as a goalkeeper and Schwartz usually at center midfield. Both will play in the Open Women's Soccer division this year.

"It's such an honor to have been chosen for this and to represent not only my country but my religion," Schwartz said. "...I'm just looking forward to meeting a new crew, a new crowd of peo-



Aly Raisman, who led Team U.S.A. to overall gold in the 2012 London Olympics, will represent the United States in the 19th Maccabiah Games this summer in Israel. PHOTO: FACEBOOK VIA JNS NEWS

ple and making new friends."

Dylan Rose will play on the Maccabi USA youth soccer men's team. He has played forward, outside midfield and center midfield for Ravenwood High School in Williamson County. He'll play soccer at Birmingham-Southern College this fall.

"I have never been to Israel before, but I am very excited for this opportunity," he said in an e-mail. "I look forward to learning more about my Jewish heritage as well as touring the country and going to Jerusalem." He'll practice for two weeks before the games, when his father will join him in Israel. (By the way, he started kicking around in soccer as a 3-year-old.)

The swimmers

It's also a second Maccabiah experience for Chris McPherson, who swam with the American team in 1985. This summer her son, Matt McPherson, will

swim in the games in Israel for the first time. Both swam in the 2011 Pan Am Maccabi Games in Brazil.

"I love that fact that Matt enjoys swimming as much as I do," Chris McPherson said in an email. She and her husband, John McPherson, swam in college, and daughter Meghan also swims, though no longer competing year round. "It is kind of a family hobby," she said. Chris McPherson will swim in the Masters category, while Matt will swim in the Opens.

Chris practices from 6:30-7:30 a.m. three times a week with the Nashville Aquatic Club Masters, and then coaches the Masters practice two hours later. Matt works out from 5-6:30 a.m. two mornings a week, from 4-6:30 p.m. five days a week and has two weekend workouts. "In the mornings when we have practice, my husband John has to get up extra early to get the dogs fed, etc., before going to work at Vanderbilt Hospital, she said. "In the evenings, we delay dinner until 7:15 p.m., so that we can all eat together when Matt gets home from practice."

The Klinsky family of Brentwood also works around the swimming schedules of Spencer, an 8th-grader at Brentwood Middle School, and Logan, who just graduated from Brentwood High School. Logan will compete in the freestyle in the Open Swimming event. Spencer specializes in the butterfly – in which Olympian Michael Phelps excelled – and will compete in Juniors Swimming. The Klinskys be in individual matches as well as relays. Logan will swim at Miami University in Ohio in the fall.

"I like racing; it's fun to compete," Logan said. "... Practice can be boring but friends make it work." Swimming with friends also is important to Spencer.

Spencer looks forward to experienc-

ing the Dead Sea during his first trip to Israel this summer. Logan plans to catch up with friends she met last summer with the Get Connected student trip to Israel's Hadera-Eiron region. The tours are part of the Partnership2Gether program of the Jewish Agency for Israel, which pairs Diaspora communities with communities in Israel. Get Connected is subsidized in part by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

The games

The Maccabiah Games offer "an opportunity for Jewish athletes from around the world to convene in Israel for an elite athletic competition and to explore their common culture and heritage in the historic Jewish Homeland," according to Maccabiah USA organizers. Open, Juniors and Youth divisions of Team USA arrive in Israel one week before the Games to participate in Maccabi USA's Israel Connect cultural and educational program. Through the IC program, the athletes tour Israel's historic and religious sites "so they can bond with each other, their culture and heritage," the organization said.

"We take athletes that happen to be Jewish to compete in the Maccabiah Games," said Jeff Bukantz, general chairman of the USA Maccabiah Organizing Committee. "But we return home with Jewish athletes who have a renewed sense of pride in their Judaism and increased support for the State of Israel."

Competing in a Jewish athletic event holds importance to Vandy soccer players Alexa Levick and Dana Schwartz.

"You're playing for something more. There's a bond you know you're sharing with your opponents. They're there for the same reason. It adds a little more meaning to the games," Schwartz said.

In college athletics, Levick said, there aren't many Jewish players and it's interesting to her to see a competition with only Jewish athletes. For her, these games "will be more personal, more meaningful" because she has decided "religion is something I want to continue" in her life.

"Go over for the experience and don't let the sport take over," Levick said. "... Be competitive on the day of the game but realize it's the experience that really counts." □



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Hadassah installs new officers

The Nashville chapter of Hadassah installed a new slate of officers at its Spring Fling held on May 19 at the home of Karen Weissman. Pictured, from left, are Rinah Hamburger, recording secretary; Ruth Klar, corresponding secretary; Victoria Cohen-Crumpton, president until Dec. 31; Leslie Klein, president-elect and vice president education/programming; Jill Melody Pankowsky, vice president communications and immediate past president; Yifat Crouvi, education/programming coordinator; and Denese Kassman, vice president membership. These incoming officers were not pictured: Marisa Mayhan, vice president fundraising; Keren Levy-Rotem, education/programming coordinator; Ellen Hirsch, treasurer; and Arlene Lapp, assistant treasurer.



Friends reunite at WES 50 years after B'not Mitzvah

Ellen Corenswet (center) and Illene Gross (right) celebrated the 50th anniversary of their B'not Mitzvah on May 4 at West End Synagogue. It had been exactly 50 years since they were Bat Mitzvahed there. The idea for the celebration had originally come from Illene's family and she said she would only do it if Ellen would share the day with her. Although Ellen now lives in New York, she agreed immediately. So the two lifelong friends embarked on a yearlong labor of love, joy, and a great deal of fun with the assistance of Cantor Marcia Lane (at left in photo) to celebrate their B'not Mitzvah anniversary. PHOTO: RICK MALKIN

Metro firefighter meets Israeli, American peers

Continued from page 1

"We're approaching an intersection," he recalled in a recent interview. "They don't run like we do – Code 3, hot," meaning with lights flashing and sirens blaring. The Haifa truck had the lights, but not the sirens.

One car pulled over to let the fire truck pass but another "pulled right in front of me," Cohen said. "It doesn't make a difference where you are – people still pull out in front of you."

The call ended well, with the distraught man safely brought down from the roof and taken to a psychiatrist. Back at the fire station, young boys on a class trip wearing kippahs and tzitzit checked out the emergency vehicles. Everywhere, kids seem excited to see a fire truck, Cohen said.

Different view of Israel

It was the Metro Nashville firefighter's second time in Israel, having visited with his wife, T.J., as part of a Federation-sponsored trip 18 years ago. This time, he was the only Jewish person in the U.S. group and the only active firefighter among the American fire chiefs and administrators. The other

American firefighters hailed from Charlotte, Knoxville, and Pinellas County and Ft. Myers, Fla.

"We were so happy that Jay could represent the Nashville Jewish community on this trip," said Harriet Schifftan, planning director with the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, who coordinates Nashville's P2G activities. "The firefighters exchange has been going back and forth between our communities for several years and has had such a positive impact. One fire chief gave the keynote address at his federation's campaign kickoff. Strengthening relationships within our communities and with our friends in Hadera is what Partnership is all about. Jay has been an active member of our Partnership committee. We are grateful for his involvement."

Partnership2Gether, a program of the Jewish Agency for Israel, links federations in Nashville and other cities in the southeastern United States with the Hadera-Eiron region in Israel. It is one of the programs that donations to the Nashville Federation's Annual Campaign support.

At home in the firehouse

The Israeli and American firefighters learned how much they have in common.

They work the same shifts – 24 hours on, 48 hours off. The atmosphere in the communications room was similar, Cohen said. The firefighters cooked in the firehouse and a pot of coffee was brewing.

But not everything is the same. Because of differences in construction, some American practices, such as punching a hole in a roof to get rid of smoke, aren't followed in Israel. Israeli firefighters aren't trained as medical first responders, as they are in Nashville. They put out fires; Magen David Adom handles medical situations.

Firefighting has only recently begun to attract Israeli women; only two female firefighters serve in Jerusalem. That surprised Cohen since many women serve in Israeli police

departments and in the military.

Cohen described two special experiences in Israel: one as a firefighter and the second as a Jew.

Seeing his group embraced by Israelis as fellow firefighters meant a lot. "The connection was just incredible," he said. "They had so much for us to do. All the meals were taken care of; it was just fantastic. I'm thankful – very, very appreciative. Everyone was very hospitable."

Cohen talked about Saturday night at the Western Wall after having seen Masada and the Dead Sea. At mincha services, he was called to make the Kohen's Aliyah, a spiritual highlight for him. "It doesn't get any higher than that for a Kohen." □

For more information about Partnership2Gether programs or activities, please contact Harriet Schifftan at harriet@jewishnashville.org or 354-1687.

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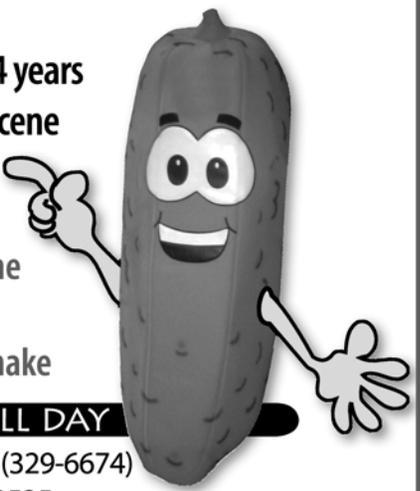
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Tzofim Caravan, at Micah June 7, gives Americans taste of Israel

By **HADAR MOSKOVITZ**
Community Shlichah

Many people ask me about the reasons I became a Shlichah (an emissary) in the U.S.A. There are a lot of reasons, but it all started from an amazing experience I had exactly 10 years ago.

As a child I was active in the Tzofim (the Israeli scouts). The Tzofim is the largest youth movement in Israel with more than 60,000 students and counselors and over 300,000 graduates. It is a nonpolitical movement.

Out of 60,000 Tzofim throughout Israel, only approximately 100 are chosen annually to participate in either the Tzofim Summer Camps Delegation or the Tzofim Friendship Caravan. When you become 17 years old you know it's your time to try and be accepted to this incredible adventure.

When I first applied, I doubted my chances. So many great and talented teens apply, so what makes me more special than them? But still, I'm the kind of

a person that likes to take risks and go through challenges.

I started the intensive interviews and highly competitive selection process. The more interviews I attended the more I wanted to be selected. In order to succeed you need to prove leadership experience, a broad knowledge of Israeli and Jewish history, strong communication skills and more. But most of all, you must have a love for the country and its people and a desire to share that love. I was really lucky to be accepted to the 2003 Friendship Caravan. It was definitely the most moving, beautiful, exciting adventure of my life.

The Caravan is made up of five girls, five boys and two Caravan leaders. Prior our arrival in the U.S.A. we worked with professional choreographers and musicians to create a show that brings Israeli culture, music and dance, and a message of peace. Every year there is a new Caravan group and new show.

We rehearsed for 6 months on weekends. We had to sacrifice our social life and family time on weekends, as well as studying time. But it was worth every second. At the end of the month of May, it was time to say goodbye to everyone



Hadar Moskovitz

and start the journey. I was a 17-year-old girl, going to America for the first time.

During that summer I visited more than 20 states and was hosted in many Jewish communities and summer camps in the Southeast and Midwest. Our two counselors drove the van miles and miles

a day in order for us to visit all of these places and perform more than 100 times! I definitely learned a lot about myself. Being away from home for three months, seeing so much and experiencing so many new things helped me grow and matured me.

One of the things that I remember most strongly from that summer is the experience of being hosted by Jewish families. While we stayed in each community, community members were responsible for hosting us. I remember that every time I was so excited all over again to meet my host family and although most of the time the visit was really short, the impact was huge, both on me and the host family. I believe that this is the most meaningful part of the Caravan's visit. Since that time I always felt I wanted to come back, to explore more of the world of Jewish life outside of Israel and share my story from Israel. I'm lucky again in my life to be in this wonderful community.

If you want to meet the 2013 Friendship Caravan (I feel old all of a sudden), they will be at Congregation Micah on June 7, at 6 p.m. Don't miss a great show and great people! □

'Your Heart on Art' helps cut through words toward healing

Eileen Wallach helps people find words they never knew they had. That's how she describes what she does through Your Heart on Art, a Nashville nonprofit that she founded.

"We facilitate expressive emotional healing through art and creative expression," she said. Participants in Your Heart on Art's workshops and classes use makeup applicators and cotton swabs to create their works, because paintbrushes might be intimidating to those who don't have art training. "It's not about the finished product," Wallach said. "It's about the process."

Wallach is a licensed social worker and earned a master's degree in clinical social work from the University of Tennessee. She also has firsthand knowledge of the need for emotional healing.

Art helped her weather the loss of



Eileen Wallach

her husband of 15 years, who took his own life. "In my earlier life I was a victim of domestic violence so I've actually been using different forms of therapy throughout my

life," she said.

"Eileen has a special insight on how to help people deal with traumatic experiences, Your Heart on Art provides a unique approach, and our board is committed to providing this service to the community at large," Moises Paz, chairman of the organization's board, wrote in an e-mail.

Your Heart on Art works out of studio space in a building on White Bridge Road. It was chartered in August of



Your Heart on Art participants express themselves in myriad shapes and colors.

2012, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation under Internal Revenue Service regulations, and served 150 people in its first two months, she said. The organization has worked with the Davidson County court system, with Family & Children's Service, and other groups. It is located on a bus line so people without cars can get there easily.

Wallach has been trained in the Art4Healing® therapeutic art techniques of California artist Laurie Zagon. Zagon initially developed her methodology in New York in 1987 as an art workshop to help Wall Street executives deal with stress. When Wallach learned about Zagon's techniques, she had her aha moment. "This is what Nashville needs," she thought. "We need to heal wounded hearts through the arts."

The therapeutic art process that Your Heart on Art offers isn't the same as art therapy, Wallach said. With therapeutic art, session leaders guide participants through the creative process and don't offer an interpretation or diagnosis. Art therapy, in contrast, involves interpretation of artwork or diagnosis based on it.

Individual sessions at Your Heart on Art in Nashville usually last from two to three hours and include about a dozen people. Wallach asks participants three questions after they've completed their artwork: What was the easiest part in creating the art, what was the hardest part, and what do you think you gained. Participants say things like, "I can't believe I was this angry or sad," she said. □

letter to the Federation

With much appreciation

For many years now, the Jewish Federation and the Jewish Foundation have offered grants to the religious schools in our community as a way to promote different and creative programs, projects and activities within each of our schools. These funds have allowed us to "step outside the box," so to speak, to develop new ways to encourage and promote Jewish education. On behalf of the Nashville Jewish Educators Network, Julie Greenberg, director of education at Congregation Micah, Rabbi Saul Strosberg of Sherith Israel and Sharon Paz, director of lifelong Learning at West End Synagogue, I

want to thank the Jewish Federation and the Jewish Foundation for not only their financial support but for their guidance and involvement as well. We are so grateful and have certainly seen the benefits of these funds in our schools in so many ways.

Thank you for putting Jewish education among your top priorities. It is definitely making a difference.

With appreciation,

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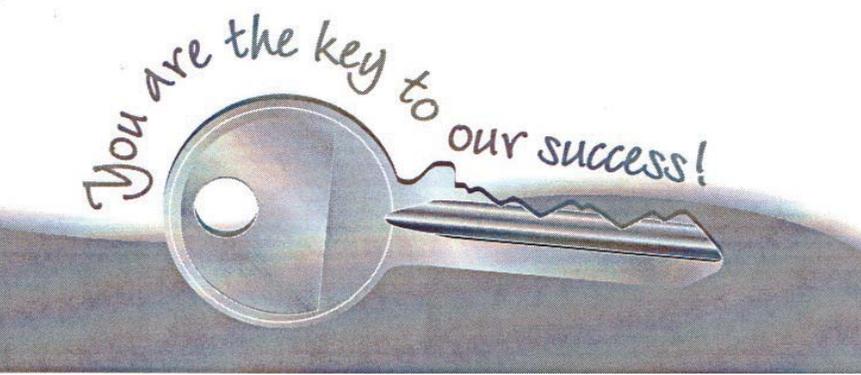


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With new luxury dorm, Orlando philanthropists offer Hillel programs evergreen funding model

By **URIEL HEILMAN**

ORLANDO, Fla. (JTA) – Real estate developer Hank Katzen has a conviction: If you build it, they will come.

Except this is no baseball field in an Iowa cornfield. It's a \$60 million, 600,000-square-foot luxury dormitory at the nation's second-largest college campus, the University of Central Florida in this city.

When it opens in August, the new dorm will push the bounds of cushiness. Every room has en-suite bathrooms and flat-screen TVs. Suites have island kitchens with stone countertops, washer-dryers and walk-in closets. Duplex units feature spiral staircases and two-story atriums.

There is a resort-style swimming pool, 24-hour fitness center, sauna and game room. The parking garage is seven stories, ensuring that no student will have to take an elevator or brave the Florida elements on the way from their cars to their dorm rooms.

But what makes Katzen's new facility noteworthy isn't so much the lavishness as the idea behind it: to create America's first self-sustaining Hillel. The ground floor of the seven-story building will include a 20,000-square-foot Hillel center with operations to be funded in large part by rental income from the 600-bed dormitory. It will be open to Jewish and non-Jewish students.

The Jewish philanthropists behind this unique arrangement aren't simply giving the 15-year-old Hillel at UCF a building; they're giving it a permanent income stream.

"This is a remarkable gesture of philanthropy – the university desperately needs the beds, and Hillel could use this funding," said Sidney Pertnoy, a Miami businessman and philanthropist who is chairman-elect of Hillel International.

"There are some Hillels connected to some housing, but nothing even remotely resembling this model. It's a unique cash-flow model and we're super excited about it. We're hoping this is a prototype for other communities."

Perpetual funding source?

The unusual project is an attempt to



Both Jewish and non-Jewish students will be able to live in the upscale North View dorms under construction at the University of Central Florida. PHOTO:JTA

address a perennial problem faced not just by Hillel chapters but by Jewish institutions around the world: How to create a perpetual funding source.

"There are communities around the country where a powerful donor provided an agency with a building free and clear only to find shortly thereafter that the agency was crushed by the operating costs," said Katzen, the Jewish philanthropist spearheading the project as well as the board president of UCF's Hillel.

"The capital crunch and the Bernie Madoff double whammy has emaciated the endowment model for many organizations," Katzen said. "We were looking for an economic machine that would take advantage of the opportunities afforded by a large university to connect a student housing project and our Hillel."

The new venture represents a collaboration among local Jewish philanthropists, Hillel and UCF.

What makes the project viable, the donors say, is the university's massive student body and limited housing supply. Over the last seven years, UCF enrollment has ballooned by 50 percent, to 60,000 – second only to Arizona State University. An estimated 5,000 to 6,000

UCF students are Jewish.

Alan Ginsburg, a real estate developer and Orlando philanthropist, donated about \$7 million to the project, including the land, which was purchased six years ago and is now valued at \$12 million.

Katzen, who was a Taco Bell franchise owner before turning to real estate full time 20 years ago, is donating his time and construction expertise.

Rent at \$800 per month

The university's nonprofit foundation will handle dorm logistics, including collecting rental fees. A Catholic student center similar in size to Hillel will be housed on the site rent-free for at least three years.

After debt servicing on the 35-year loan and operations costs, leftover rental income will be divided between Hillel and the university foundation along a 60-40 split. All of which should deliver about \$350,000 annually to Hillel – that is if the dorm, called NorthView, is ready and fully occupied by the fall semester. Rent starts at \$800 per student per month.

"Social media got word around campus that we are the place to live, and the

students are really knocking at our door," said Zan Reynolds, the executive director of real estate for the UCF Foundation.

Initial financing for the project came from Ginsburg, who wanted to do something to memorialize his son, Jeffrey, an active Hillel member at Stetson University in Florida who died in a plane crash about 10 years ago.

"If it works, there could be a demand for this type of structure on most large campuses," Ginsburg said. "It's a very nice way for Hillel or any faith-based organization to have a steady income and not have to rely on donors."

Some other mixed-use Jewish dorms exist in America, but nothing on this scale. The Chabad house at Rutgers University in New Jersey has a dorm attached, but its 107-bed facility is exclusively Jewish and governed by Orthodox rules.

Ultimately, the success or failure of the venture will hinge not just on its financial viability but on what it does for Jewish life at the fast-growing Orlando campus.

Nicer quarters for Hillel

UCF has just a handful of Jewish student groups, there are no real kosher dining options and Hillel's Friday-night meals typically draw no more than 50 students.

That's a lot fewer than the local Chabad house, which regularly has 100 to 200 students on Fridays, according to its executive director, Rabbi Chaim Lipskier. But the Chabad is more than three miles from UCF and also draws from two other area schools, Valencia and Rollins colleges.

UCF's Hillel, which also serves the two other colleges, had a one-room office on the UCF campus that it had to give up last October. Since then, the organization has been run from the dining room of its interim executive director, Sam Kauffman.

"Hillel student leaders spend a lot of time now just trying to get room reservations on campus," Kauffman said. "Next year they'll have dedicated space for

Continued on page 14

1,500-year-old mosaic discovered in kibbutz field

A spectacular colorful mosaic dating to the Byzantine period (4th–6th centuries CE) was exposed in recent weeks in the fields of Kibbutz Bet Qama, in the B'nei Shimon regional council, the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) has announced in a news release. The mosaic was discovered within the framework of an archaeological excavation the IAA is carrying out before the construction of a highway interchange in the area.

Remains of a settlement that extends across about 1.5 acres were uncovered in the excavation being conducted on the kibbutz's farmland and directed by Dr. Rina Avner of the IAA.

The main building at the site was a large hall 12 meters long by 8.5 meters wide and its ceiling was apparently covered with roof tiles. The hall's impressive

opening and the breathtaking mosaic that adorns its floor suggest that the structure was a public building.

The well-preserved mosaic is decorated with geometric patterns and its corners are enhanced with amphorae (jars used to transport wine), a pair of peacocks, and a pair of doves pecking at grapes on a tendril. These are common designs that are known from this period; however, what makes this mosaic unique is the large number of motifs that were incorporated in one carpet.

Pools and a system of channels and pipes between them used to convey water were discovered in front of the building. Steps were exposed in one of the pools and its walls were treated with colored plaster (fresco).

Archaeologists in the Antiquities Authority are still trying to determine the purpose of the impressive public building and the pools whose construction required



Detail from the mosaic at Kibbutz Bet Qama. PHOTO:Yael YOLOVITCH

considerable economic resources.

The site, which was located along an ancient road that ran north from Be'er Sheva, seems to have consisted of a large estate that included a church, residential buildings and storerooms, a large cistern, a public building and pools surrounded by farmland. Presumably one of the structures served as an inn for travelers who visited the place.

During the Byzantine period Jewish and Christian settlements in the region were located next to each other. Two nearby Jewish settlements are Horbat Rimon, where a synagogue and ritual bath (mikvah) were exposed, and the recently excavated Nahal Shoval antiquities site, where ritual baths were uncovered. Noteworthy among the Christian settlements are the churches at Abu Hof in Lahav Forest and the monastery at Givot Bar. □



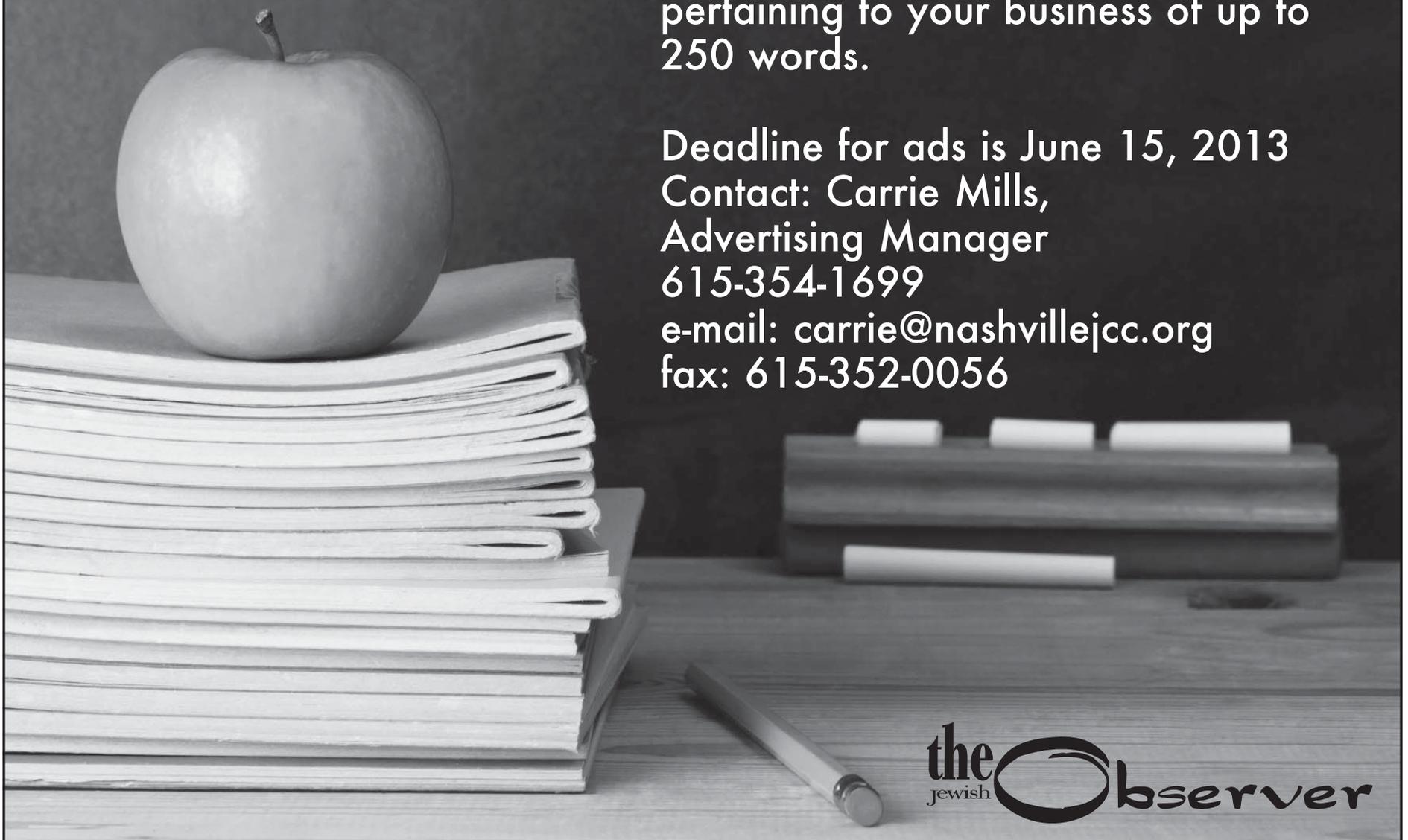
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Jewish **Observer**

B'nai Mitzvah

Rebecca Ann Hackett will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 8, at Congregation Micah. She is the daughter of Lauren and Jeff Hackett, younger sister of Wyatt, and granddaughter of Richard Daitch of Mashpee, Mass., the late Rosalyn Daitch, and Jane and David Hackett of Old Saybrook, Conn.



Rebecca Ann Hackett

Becky, a seventh-grader at Woodland Middle School, has earned straight As and plays the drums and piano. She is an adventurous soul who loves to longboard with her brother Wyatt, snowboard, climb big rocks, hang out in New York City, and spend time with her friends. In her quiet time, she enjoys reading mysteries and watching the scariest movies.

For many years, Becky has volunteered at the local soup kitchen in New Haven, Conn., and was part of the crew who set up and put away chairs for the High Holidays at her previous synagogue. For her mitzvah project, she has found a way to take her joy of music and help kids cope with their cancer treatments by donating a portion of her Bat Mitzvah gift money to buy iPod shuffles, load them with her favorite music, and donate them to the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital outpatient pediatric oncology clinic at Vanderbilt. Becky also loves animals, and will be volunteering at her dog Dusty's veterinary office.

Professional notes

Former Jewish Family Service of Nashville executive director **Jeff Fladen** has been appointed executive director of NAMI Tennessee, effective June 1. Fladen returns to Tennessee after serving as executive director of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. Fladen has more than 25 years experience in social services including the mental health field. NAMI Tennessee is a grass roots, non-profit self-help organization made up of people with mental illness, their families and community members.

Sympathy

... to the family of **Phyllis Roberta Adler**, who died on May 23.

... to the family of **Charles S. and Claire R. Kahane**, who died on May 23. Claire was an avid and world-renowned needlework artist and designed the Temple Torah covers. Charles was a Vanderbilt professor emeritus of mathematics and continued to publish theories on his passion, linear algebra. Survived by children, Danielle (Paul) Kaminsky, Peter (Gay) Kahane, Maddie Kahane, and Suzanne (Shannon) Gaw; grandchildren, Rachel and Joey Kaminsky, Camden and Tori Gaw, and Sara Emma Irene Pauline Kahane; Claire's brother, Eric (Anita) Fischer; Charles's sister, Lucy Goldmuntz.

... to the family of **Nancy Lee Schwartz**, who died on May 23 at age 48. She was preceded in death by her father, Sheldon Schwartz. Ms. Schwartz is survived by her mother, Barbara W. Schwartz, and her brother, Michael Schwartz.

... to the family of **Donald A. Altman**, who died on April 30. Mr. Altman was born on July 23, 1931. Preceded in death by his parents, William and Selma Altman; brother, Marshall Altman; daughter, Jessica Brooke Altman. Survived by son Marshall Altman; daughter-in-law Lela Altman; and grandchildren Alexander and Stella Altman. A native of Bronx, N.Y. and a graduate of Bronx High School of Science, Brooklyn College and New York Law School, Donald served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. He practiced criminal law in New York, served for 25 years as a federal administrative law judge in Los Angeles, and was also an avid actor. He had recurring roles on the television shows "Divorce Court," "Power Rangers," and "Beetleborgs," and acted on the stage in Los Angeles and New York. He devoted 25 years of volunteer service to Recordings for the Blind, and after retiring, was accepted into the prestigious South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa, Calif. Upon moving to Nashville, Donald lived at Belmont Village in Green Hills, where he was welcomed warmly into their community. Donald had a fierce intellect, a quick smile, and was never short on conversation. His charm, wit, and intelligence will be missed by his friends and family.

... to the family of **Dr. Larry Schine**, who died on April 21. He is survived by his son, Peter Schine (Andrea Barach), and his grandchildren, Nathan and Miriam Schine.

... to the family of **Jean Schklar Krieger**, who died on April 21 in San Diego, Calif., at the age of 90. A native Nashvillian, she was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 57 years, Col. Marvin Krieger. She is survived by daughters Harriet Adametz (Tom), and Bobbi Frant (Ronnie), of San Diego, and grandson Danny Flank. She was also

preceded in death by her parents, Rose and Ben Schklar, and two brothers, Gerson Schklar and Jonas Schklar.

She is survived by her brother Bernie Schklar, sister-in-law Lillian Schklar and brother-in-law Arnie Krieger; nieces Beckye Schklar Young (Joe), Janet Schklar Coleman, and Susan Schklar Green (Scott); and nephews Raymond Schklar (Toni), David Schklar, Sam Schklar (Donna), and Stan Schklar (Marco Fernandez), Dan Krieger and Howie Krieger.

She is also survived by many great- and great-great nieces and nephews. □



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Jewish Federation seeks Jewish Observer Editor/Staff Writer

The Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee is seeking an experienced print journalism or public relations professional as staff writer and editor of The Jewish Observer, which the Federation publishes each month for the area Jewish community.

The Editor/Staff Writer should possess strong interviewing, writing and editing skills; strong knowledge of Microsoft Outlook and Word; experience in digital photography; strong organizational skills and ability to set priorities; experience budgeting and managing a publication; ability to be a self-starter and meet deadlines; ability to collaborate with others; ability to work with editorial board and community members with diverse opinions about community events; willingness to be flexible with assignments. Social media and blogging skills are a plus; knowledge of the Nashville Jewish community is a plus.

This is a half-time position that reports to the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation. Salary is negotiable based on experience. Successful candidate must be available to begin work on August 1, 2013.

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Chabad/JLI offers Land & Spirit Israel Experience in '14

From the moment Pam Compton stepped off the plane at Ben Gurion Airport, she knew this trip would be unlike any other she had taken. The Nashville-based artist had traveled all over the world, but not to Israel. By trip's end, she said, she knew it was home.

Compton was one of 250 people from Jewish communities across the United States who participated in the Land & Spirit Mission to Israel in 2010; she hopes to join the tour again next year.

In March of 2014, Chabad of Nashville, led by Rabbi Yitzchok and Mrs. Esther Tiechtel, will join other Chabad groups on the fourth Land and Spirit trip, described as "a journey into the heart and soul of the Land of Israel." New this year, some participants will add an optional excursion to Poland before joining the rest of the group in Israel.

In 2013, the name of the trip was changed to The Land & the Spirit Israel Experience.

"The Land & the Spirit is all about exploring and experiencing the essence of this place we call Israel – its past, its present, its people, and above all, what it means," Rabbi Tiechtel said in a news release. "We go together as a community, and it will be the trip of a lifetime, whether you've been to Israel a hundred times or never yet."

The Land & the Spirit offers a chance to discover the land with some of Judaism's greatest teachers and educa-

tors. When you join the Land and the Spirit you will witness history come alive as you glean from the collective knowledge of tens of accomplished scholars who will accompany you on the trip. You will learn about the biblical significance of the land and live the lives of the personalities who shaped the course of Jewish history.

Nashvillian Judy Kilgore, who has been on a number of Israel tours, said, "We went to places and got to feel things I've never felt before in Israel. Knowing that I could figuratively almost reach out and touch Abraham, Isaac and Jacob ... It made the things you read and learn about all so real."

The mission includes visits to Israel's holiest places, including Hevron, city of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs, Rachel's Tomb and Tzfat; plus excursions that provide an insider's view of Israel's achievements and challenges: an IDF paratrooper base, the Weizmann Institute, the Golan Heights. A visit to the Western Wall creates a time for personal reflection and the opportunity for a bar or bat mitzvah ceremony for those who had not celebrated theirs in the past.

"A full roster of top-caliber speakers drawn from all walks of Israeli life is made possible through [Jewish Learning Institute/Chabad]'s extensive network of relationships with influential and people," said Rabbi Tiechtel. Previous years featured talks by Natan Sharansky and Benjamin Netanyahu, Rabbi Adin Even-Yisrael Steinsaltz and

Israel's chief rabbis, and newsmakers including Knesset members, activists, professors, and heads of Israeli military and intelligence.

The trip is sponsored by the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI).

The Land and Spirit Experience will take place from March 23-April 1, 2014. For information, please contact Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel at rabbi@chabadsnashville.com, or visit www.landandspirit.org.

The optional five-day Poland Heritage Tour takes place from March 19-23, 2014.

Participants will visit Warsaw, Lublin, Krakow, and the Auschwitz and Madanek concentration camps, the names themselves recalling centuries of Jewish history and tragedy. The group will fly directly to Israel on March 23 to join others in the Land & Spirit Israel Experience tour. For information, visit www.landandspirit.org/Poland. □

New luxury dorm, Orlando philanthropists

Continued from page 11

their events and can spend more time building their relationships and Jewish campus community."

To anchor the project, a new Hillel director has been hired: Aaron Weil, a 10-year veteran of the University of Pittsburgh Hillel. Weil says he's excited to move from a job where he must raise 80 percent of his \$1.1 million budget to one where 50 percent will be generated automatically.

As dorm rental rates rise and the building's debt is paid off, Hillel's income should go up, too.

"Most Hillel directors have to deal with the daily struggle to raise funds to run the programs to sustain a vibrant Jewish campus life," Weil said. "What's unique about the UCF Hillel model is that it removes what I call the treadmill of soft money and replaces it with predictable income. Rather than consuming your time and your energy with existen-

tial fundraising, you're able to focus on strategic fundraising."

Having a gleaming new Hillel center won't hurt, either. The new facility will include a theater, a kosher cafe, an auditorium for 300, a game room, offices and plenty of conference rooms and hang-out space. The philanthropists are planning a \$2.5 million capital campaign to complete the interior of the Hillel space by the fall.

During a recent hard-hat tour of the construction site, Katzen told JTA that having a new facility and a top-tier executive will enable Hillel to tap the Jewish potential at UCF: If you build it, they will come. It's a conviction based not on hope, he says, but on years of research, five years of planning and then a year of breakneck-pace construction.

"It's more than a 'Field of Dreams' voices-in-our-heads sort of thing," Katzen said. "We're changing social architecture on a broad scale." □



Akiva matching grant update

Akiva School recently announced that, thanks to the community's generosity, it had raised \$15,000 to go toward a matching grant from the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. The Federation is offering a dollar-for-dollar matching grant up to a total of \$25,000 for each new or increased gift to Akiva School

through June 30.

Akiva extends thanks to Federation and to all of the donors. There's still time to make a gift and help Akiva receive the full match by going to www.akivanashville.net/giving, by mailing a donation to 809 Percy Warner Blvd. Nashville, TN 37205, or phoning the Akiva office at (615) 356-1880 to make a gift. □

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NEW & RENEWING ADS ARE SHADED

Works by Denson, art students on display in June at GJCC

The works of Nashville artist Deborah Denson will be shown throughout June in the Janet Levine March Gallery at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. In addition, students of local artist Rhonda Wernick's GJCC oil painting class will exhibit their works in June as well. Wernick's students include Wally Wilson, Tanya Lukner, Phyllis Alper, Dona Tapp, Yifat Crouvi, Gail Moravsky, Lorna Graff and Estelle Sack. The works of Deborah Denson also will be shown.

Denson is a Nashville native and a mediator and conflict coach by trade. She started painting the year she turned 40 and sees art as bringing balance to her days. Watercolors were her first love, and she prefers water based mediums because she can work fast and not worry about the big mess she regularly creates. Deborah

likes to paint the figure, including the animal variety, and she uses bold colors and value changes to express movement and depth. She also adds oil crayons, stencils, words and found objects.

Denson is inspired by the works of Peggy Kroll Roberts, Charles Reid, and Alex Powers. She hopes her works will inspire others.

Wernick has been teaching oil painting at the GJCC since 2008. Alper has participated since the beginning, and Wilson began attending soon after.

The oil painting class is relaxed and most of all fun, Wernick wrote in an email. She works with the students to enhance the style they already have. They work on drawing, technique, use of color and composition. Everyone works at their own speed and on the subject matter that interests them.

"It is so rewarding to see my students grow and produce these wonderful cre-



Magpie by Deborah Denson



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ations, she said. "I have been known to scream during class, 'I love teaching this class!' It is the highlight of my week."

Wernick is a professional artist and displays her work around town a various locations. It also can be seen online at dancingart.com and rhondapolenwernick.com. □

Corky's BBQ founder dies in Memphis

Don Pelts, a member of the Memphis Jewish community who started the Memphis-based regional barbecue chain Corky's, died last month from a heart attack at age 72.

He is survived by his wife, Linda, children Barry and Patricia, a brother, five grandchildren, and several nephews and nieces.

Mr. Pelts opened the first Corky's in Memphis in 1984, offering barbecued meats in a 1950s setting. There are now three Corky's in Memphis, one in Gatlinburg, and one just outside Nashville in Brentwood, serving barbecued pork, smoked sausage, brisket and turkey. Corky's offers restaurant franchises and sells meats online.

Andy Woodman, Mr. Pelts' son-in-law, now runs the restaurants with brother-in-law Barry Pelts, Mr. Pelts' son, the Jewish news service JTA reported on April 30.

The article described how Corky's provided kosher barbecued beef brisket – cooked in a koshered smoker – to help raise funds earlier this year for Margolin Hebrew Academy in Memphis.

Rabbi Gil Perl, the school's dean, told JTA that replicating Corky's pork-smoking techniques on brisket fit into a longstanding tradition.

"We Jews have learned how to imitate every other part of [secular] life, so why not this, too?" he asked.

In the end, the enterprise brought in \$100,000 in revenue, netting \$20,000 for the school's sorely needed rehab. □

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