

Transitions at Nashville Jewish Federation

Executive director Mark Freedman retires

By KATHY CARLSON

Mark S. Freedman, executive director of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, will retire at the end of this month after nearly seven years in Music City. During his time here, he's seen Jewish Nashville grow and blossom with new activities and initiatives. Children learn at Akiva School, at Nashville's five congregations and with PJ Library books and events. Teens continue to experience Israel firsthand with community supported Get Connected summer trips. Our Partnership2Gether program with our friends in Hadera-Eiron in Israel is stronger than ever. Adults young and old enjoy a host of service and social activities. Jewish cultural events such as the recent Violins of Hope programs abound in Nashville and attract community members. And to help maintain the community, the Life & Legacy program encourages people to set up after-life gifts.

Freedman and his wife, artist Leslie J. Klein, arrived in Nashville in October of 2011 and came to the Federation from



Mark S. Freedman

Florida, where he was vice president of the American Friends of Tel Aviv University. Before that, he was executive director for 13 years of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, Texas. He has spent most of his career in Jewish communal service.

In his April 2017 letter informing Federation President Lisa Perlen of his plan to retire this June 30, Freedman said it has been an honor and privilege to serve as executive director.

Here are Freedman's thoughts on his retirement and on his time in Nashville:

What are some of the highlights of your time as the Nashville Federation's executive director?

The highlight has been the privilege of being able to work in a very extraordinary Jewish community. Leslie and I were welcomed here very warmly (and we) fit into the community. It has been gratifying to be able to help this Jewish community move forward.

What are some of your favorite projects during your time in Nashville?

The timing was very good for me to

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Eric Stillman chosen as next executive director

Eric Stillman will serve as the next executive director of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, Federation President Lisa Perlen has announced in a letter to the community. The Federation board unanimously ratified its search committee's recommendation and Eric's contract at its May meeting. He assumes his new responsibilities on July 1.

"Eric will be in Nashville for the Jewish Federation annual meeting on June 13 and looks forward to meeting each of you. Please join me in welcoming Eric to the community," Perlen said.

"Eric meets all of the essential characteristics sought for our next Executive Director," she said. "He is an engaging visionary with organization savvy and a sense of and connection to the broader North American and international Jewish world."

"He brings extensive experience from the world of Jewish philanthropy, and specifically Federation, to the job. Eric is an excellent fit for where we are now and where we will be going



Eric Stillman

as the Nashville and Middle Tennessee Jewish community continues to grow."

Eric has served as federation executive director, most recently in Broward County, Florida, where he served for nine years, and previously in New Orleans, where he served for six years and notably, during Hurricane Katrina, when his community was scattered from Houston to Nashville and

beyond. Eric has been working recently in not-for-profit financial resource development outside of the Jewish community but his heart is in Jewish communal professional work.

As executive director of the New Orleans Federation, Eric was part of the intermediate federations group, which is the group to which the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee belongs. He has participated in numerous missions to Israel and the Former Soviet Union. He has been invited to speak at conferences and symposiums and is an active member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. In his spare time, Eric enjoys exploring new cuisines and Pilates. •

Adventure Park to open on JCC campus

Look up along the Percy Warner Boulevard fence line on the Gordon Jewish Community Center campus and you'll see platforms in the trees connected by cable, wood, rope and zip lines.

It's the Adventure Park at Nashville, a new combination tree-top climbing and zip line experience, and it's set to open at the Gordon JCC on June 9.

The J has partnered with Outdoor Venture Group, LLC (Outdoor Venture), which has designed, built and operated aerial forest parks and ropes courses in the United States – including at other Jewish community centers – for the past 10 years.

The Adventure Park is not one single aerial treetop trail but a variety of different, color-coded aerial trails of differing challenge levels – beginner through expert – that climbers select depending on their age or climbing experience, Outdoor Venture said in a news release announcing the opening.

There are trails suitable for kids, teens, adults and groups, the release said. Trails consist of platforms installed in the trees

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Aerial trails like these are being installed at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF OUTDOOR VENTURE GROUP

Jewish Federation 82nd Annual Meeting on June 13 at 7 p.m.

Join us on Wednesday, June 13, at 7 p.m. at the Gordon JCC for the Jewish Federation of Nashville's annual meeting, with dessert reception afterward. We'll honor Mark Freedman as he retires and celebrate our outgoing leadership. Please RSVP to Barbara Schwarcz, barbara@jewishnashville.org. •

Long shadows haunt an Alabama hillside

By **RON GALBRAITH**

Chair, Community Relations Committee

Stepping quietly on the newly sodded grass while looking up the hill, one could easily assume that it is only a crisp new architectural structure silhouetted against the afternoon sky. Even with the understanding that a memorial rests on this hillside, the well-groomed approach conceals what lies ahead.

A winding pathway slowly reveals a vast six-acre complex. It is vast, yet simple in its repetitive design. This stark repetition begins to signal the horror and inhumanity represented in this new National Memorial for Peace and Justice located in Montgomery, Alabama. On this quiet hillside we find a powerful and shameful reminder of our nation's single largest blemish—the stain of slavery and the scars of the lynching, beatings and torture impacting thousands of African-American men and women.

Walking among the 800 six-foot steel columns hanging from the ceiling can be daunting. The columns seem to cast a long collective historical shadow. The rows seem endless, moving from one pavilion to another; the light remains eerie; the maze invokes both outrage and reverence in equal measure.



Steel columns at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice commemorate more than 4,400 African-American people killed in lynchings. PHOTOGRAPH BY RON GALBRAITH

'The rows seem endless; the light remains eerie; the maze invokes both outrage and reverence in equal measure.'

Each of the 800 steel columns represents a county in the United States in which one or more lynchings occurred, and each column bears the names of the

victims. Yes, there is a column inscribed, "Davidson County, Tennessee," and others for our surrounding counties. In all, more than 4,400 black victims of lynch-

ings between 1877 and 1950 are commemorated at the memorial.

The National Memorial for Peace and Justice opened to the public on April 26, becoming the nation's first memorial dedicated to the legacy of black people terrorized by lynching. The memorial grew out of the work of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) with the intent of creating a meaningful site where people could reflect on America's history of racial inequality.

My personal journey through this memorial brought forward another long shadow. Much like our Yad Vashem and other Holocaust museums, these 800 columns will immerse, even overwhelm the visitor. The mind quickly pivots from disbelief to horror, easily ending in heartbreak mixed with anger. In each situation, exiting the way you entered is all but impossible, physically or emotionally. And when one exits, the heart screams: Never again!

As a member of the Community Relations Committee of our Jewish Federation, Josh Segall brought forward the opportunity to visit this site as part of our commitment to social justice issues. The Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee purchased tickets and CRC organized a trip for this national opening. I encourage you to make the journey to Montgomery. •

SPLC co-founder speaks at JCC

Joseph J. Levin Jr., co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center and emeritus member of its board, spoke last month at the Gordon Jewish Community Center in a program organized by the Jewish Federation of Nashville's Community Relations Committee. Levin retired from the SPLC

in 2016 and said he was expressing his personal views in his presentation.

His topic was "Then and Now: Hate in the Mainstream." An audience of about 200 people from the Jewish community as well as the broader Nashville community listened intently as he recounted how he grew up in the segregated South and wit-

nessed the Civil Rights movement in his own hometown of Montgomery, Ala.

He compared what he witnessed then to what he is seeing in the United States in recent years, with the rise in anti-Semitism and hate activity. He called on his audience to become involved in civic life and to build community. •

Learn more about CRC

To learn more about the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville, or to volunteer, please contact Deborah Oleshansky, community relations director, deborah@jewishnashville.org.



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Arielle Doochin and Arthur Perlen

RSVP to Deborah@jewishnashville.org

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Ellie Flier recognized for leadership

By KATHY CARLSON

When Ellie Flier moved to Nashville from Los Angeles after college in 2012, one of the first things she did was to head over to the JCC.

She was living in Bellevue and often drove by the sign for the Gordon Jewish Community Center. One day, she dropped in and told the receptionist she wanted to meet her fellow Jews. The rest, as they say, is history.

She quickly met Joel Abramson, then the Nashville Jewish Federation's community engagement associate and currently its financial

resources development officer. Flier quickly found her niche helping create a strong community for Jewish young adults. Soon she joined the board of NowGen Nashville, serving for five years and co-chairing for two. This month



Ellie Flier

she will receive the Federation's Sandy Averbuch Young Leadership Award.

"I was so honored when I got that phone call," she said. "I know people who (have been recognized by Federation) and I'm very honored to be among them. ... I want to continue to work with the Nashville Jewish community. It has done a lot for me and (we) have a great vision for future.

"I was part of the Best Jewish Nashville 2.0 discussion," she said of the process the Nashville Federation uses to set priorities and identify needs for new programming. "I've continuously been very excited and

happy that the Federation has been so welcoming to the voices (of young) professionals. ... I wasn't just there as the token young person. ... It was meaningful to have my voice heard."

Flier graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in opera performance. She is a singer-songwriter and works in the Jewish studies program at Vanderbilt University.

"Jewish music is very important to

me. It's a great way to build community." She has recorded an album of original Jewish music that is coming out on July 31 and titled "Pray for Open Eyes." The Nashville Jewish community helped her make the album a reality through the Jewcer fundraising web site.

She's a founder and leader of Jewsic City Shabbat, a Friday night dinner-and-music Shabbat experience for young adults. The Federation just renewed

the grant for Jewsic City Shabbat's second year, she says. "Our next challenge is to channel engagement into philanthropy."

For those thinking of getting involved in Jewish Nashville, she says, "The Jewish community is a very welcoming place. It gave so much to me. That's the reason why I want to give back. It does so much to help others and provides a way for us to help others we don't even know need help." •

Update on Gaza set for June 20

The Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee presents Matthew Levitt,

of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, speaking on the topic "Why Gaza is more complicated than you think," on Wednesday, June 20, at 7 p.m., at the Gordon Jewish Community Center, 801 Percy Warner Blvd.



Matthew Levitt

For information contact Deborah Oleshansky, community relations director, deborah@jewishnashville.org. •

Newcomers reception June 10

RSVP for this Jewish Federation-sponsored event to Michal Eskenazi Becker, michal@jewishnashville.org. The reception is from 3-5 p.m.; you'll receive event location when you RSVP. •

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Israel defends Gaza crackdown as self-defense

By BEN SALES

NEW YORK (JTA) —Despite growing condemnation for the deaths of 60 Palestinians on the Gaza border in May, Israel defended its military's actions as an act of self-defense in the face of a mass attack.

"We didn't want it to happen, but we understood these were Hamas' intentions," Dani Dayan, Israel's consul general in New York, told reporters Tuesday. "We are not going away. We will defend our border. We will defend our population. If they invade Israeli communities, we will have to take much harsher measures. By doing what we did we are saving human life."

On the morning in question, tens of thousands of Palestinians rushed Gaza's border with Israel as part of a string of protests called the March of Return. The protesters say they're opposing Israel's blockade of the coastal strip, and pushing for Palestinians' return to their ancestors' homes within Israel. Israel says the protest is an invasion by Hamas, the militant group that governs Gaza, and that it endangers Israeli lives and communal security.

Palestinians charged the border fence en masse, some carrying weapons. Israel responded with tear gas, water cannons, rubber bullets and live fire. More than 60 Palestinians were killed and thousands were injured.

Shells fired from Gaza

Meanwhile, on the morning of May 29, at least 28 mortar shells were fired from Gaza on southern Israel, including one that exploded in the yard of a kindergarten shortly before students were set to arrive.

The Iron Dome missile defense system intercepted most of the shells, which were fired in three barrages, according to the Israel Defense Forces. It was the

largest number of projectiles fired on Israel from the coastal strip since the 2014 Gaza war.

Code Red warning sirens were heard throughout southern Israel. Later the same afternoon, the warning system activated again in several communities.

In response, the IDF said it struck more than 35 targets belonging to the Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist organizations in Gaza. Among the targets was a terror tunnel that stretched under the Kerem Shalom border crossing for humanitarian goods, as well as weapons storage sites, naval targets and a terrorist headquarters.

"Israel views with utmost gravity the attacks against it and its communities by Hamas and Islamic Jihad from the Gaza Strip," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in the hours following these attacks.

Press reaction

Israel was pilloried in the press following the deadly mid-May events on the Gaza border. The optics were particularly bad: In Jerusalem, an hour's drive away, American and Israeli diplomats were all smiles as they dedicated the United States Embassy on the same day as the protests in Gaza.

The U.N. human rights office condemned Israel for "appalling deadly violence." The European Union's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, called on Israel to abide by the "principle of proportionality in the use of force" and to "respect the right to peaceful protest."

But don't expect Israel to say it is sorry. Israeli officials say their country did the right thing. And if this happens again, they'd do it again. The same way.

Israel: No peaceful protest

Dayan said the protest was anything but peaceful. The goal, he said, was to invade Israel by breaching the Gaza



People running from tear gas at the border fence with Israel in Gaza City, May 15. PHOTOGRAPH BY SPENCER PLATT / GETTY IMAGES

border fence and pouring into Israeli towns that are just yards from the border. Israeli soldiers, he said, never target unarmed civilians.

He pointed to evidence that some protesters carried improvised bombs and wire cutters, and to video of a Hamas leader saying "we will tear out their hearts from their bodies."

"It was a mass attack at innumerable points to breach the fence," Dayan said, comparing the rush at various points to a tsunami and to a soccer riot in Europe, where spectators get trampled by overzealous fans.

"To have a breach of a thousand Palestinians, armed, into the kindergarten of a kibbutz is an imminent danger," he said. "Those were people who were trying to break the fence, and for that there is zero tolerance."

Israel says 24 of the 60 people killed were Hamas operatives. Dayan did not have information regarding the other 36 fatalities.

Past unrest at borders

This is not the first time Israel has had to handle a rush on its borders. In May and June of 2011, protesters stormed Israel's northern borders from Syria and Lebanon. Then as well, dozens were killed

when Israel responded with gunfire.

Israelis agree with their government's stance. Eighty-three percent of Israeli Jews, and 70 percent of Israelis overall, said in April that the Israeli policy of opening fire on the Gaza border was appropriate, according to a poll by the Israel Democracy Institute. Jewish Israelis have also given near-unanimous support to previous Israeli military actions in Gaza.

Dayan blames Hamas for the deaths, saying that the terror group wanted to distract Gazans from their dire economy by shifting blame to Israel. Israel withdrew its army and settlers from Gaza in 2005. After Hamas won Palestinian elections in 2006, Israel and Egypt initiated a blockade of the strip, though they let in humanitarian goods.

Hamas and other Gaza terror groups have continued, on and off, to bombard Israel with missiles in the intervening years. In response, Israel has launched three military operations in Gaza, in 2008, 2012 and 2014.

"Sinwar sends his people and his children and his women to the border to get killed," Dayan said. "Because the situation in Gaza is extremely difficult, Hamas decided, as many dictators do, to direct the blame elsewhere." •

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'The Jewish Observer' (ISSN 23315334) is published monthly for \$25 per year by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, 801 Percy Warner Blvd., Nashville, TN 37205-4009. Periodicals postage paid at Nashville, TN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE JEWISH OBSERVER, 801 Percy Warner Blvd., Nashville, TN 37205

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

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

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Corrections Policy

The Jewish Observer is committed to making corrections and clarifications promptly. To request a correction or clarification, call Editor Kathy Carlson at (615) 354-1653 or email her at kathy@jewishnashville.org.

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 Kathy Carlson at kathy@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 Kathy Carlson, 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.

letter to the editor

Dear Friends:

What an unbelievable surprise to learn that community members came together and raised \$40,000 for the Jewish Middle School (JMS) in honor of my 40th birthday!

For starters, it is a big chunk of change for a small school. But secondly, it was the first community-wide effort to support our innovative and so-far-extremely-successful endeavor.

Educating and nurturing middle

school students of any faith or background is our claim to fame. Thanks to you we will begin our third academic year financially secure. Having your support is heartwarming. Thank you for your encouragement and generosity.

Sincerely,
Rabbi Saul Strosberg
Congregation Sherith Israel
Founder, JMS
Nashville, Tennessee

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 Kathy Carlson at kathy@jewishnashville.org or 801 Percy Warner, Suite 102, Nashville 37205. The Observer reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity, length and style.

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Sharing With Sharon

The Isravision

On Israel's win of the Eurovision and the story behind the story

By SHARON BEN AMI
Community Shlichah

The Eurovision Song Contest, often just called Eurovision, is an international song competition held mainly among the member countries of the European Broadcasting Union. Each participating country submits an original song to be performed on live television and radio, then casts votes for the other countries' songs to determine the winner. More than 40 countries currently compete. The contest has been held since 1956 and is broadcast around the world and online.



Sharon Ben Ami

-Source: Wikipedia, Eurovision Song Contest, accessed May 21, 2018

This year:

Eurovision 2018 was the 63rd edition of the contest and took place for the first time in Portugal, with 43 countries participating.

The winner was Israel with the song "Toy," performed by Netta. This was Israel's fourth victory in the contest, following wins in 1978, 1979, and 1998, and their first top-five placing in more than a decade.

-Source: Wikipedia, Eurovision Song Contest 2018, accessed May 21, 2018

In Israel:

In Israel, the Eurovision is probably as watched as the Super Bowl is here. Fans of Eurovision contestants are much like Super Bowl fans, who feel represented by their teams and who take every win or loss very personally.

The Eurovision is a competition between nations, and therefore every win or loss is loaded with a lot of national pride. In all of the participating countries, including Israel, families gather together every year to see the representatives compete.

In Israel, the political climate loads the Eurovision with even more national and political meaning and serves as a symbol of the state of Israel between its neighboring countries. This manifests as the Israeli fans watch the Eurovision armed with an arsenal of reasons why

Israel wouldn't win: "Nobody likes Israel," "no one will vote for us with the negative and biased media coverage."

All of these reasons have truth to them: There is biased press all around the world that portrays Israel in an unfair way, and the Israelis witness it all the time. It has been 20 years since the last time Israel won the Eurovision, and in those 20 years we have had intifada, wars, operations and more, that were covered a lot of times in a one-sided way. Combine that it with the anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism around Europe that a lot of Israelis experience while traveling or moving away – I can't really blame the Israelis who do have a cynical approach while watching the Eurovision.

The year of 2018 was no different.

We are in the midst of a semi-war with Syria and violent protests on the Gaza border, and somehow we won this Eurovision. Some will grant the win to the 'chai' year, some to the 20 years good luck charm (winning in 1978, 1998, 2018). Some will say it is Israeli high tech promotions online or "Wonder Women" Gal Gadot posting about it on social

media. Others will say it is the timing of the song empowering women after the #Me Too movement. No one could deny the unique persona of the performer Netta and her great talent and strength.

For a small country like Israel that handles so much scrutiny on a daily bases, it has to have all the stars align for a win. And they did. And Israel won. We won. And as the Israelis recited after the win: "what a time to be alive"

This win is so monumental and so healthy not just to us, but to the entire world. It proved how art can bridge differences and how music can bring people together. It showed that even when a performer is not the prototype of a pop artist, and even when there is so much controversy about the place she is coming from, you can still appreciate her art. This win shattered all misconceptions and criticism about Israel. For Israelis, it challenged our belief about how we think the world perceives us. It restored our faith in each other as human beings and united us with a mutual cause. For the Israelis it also gave a boost of confidence and morale in a challenging time. •

How Israel overcame politics in winning the Eurovision song contest

By CNAAN LIPSHIZ

(JTA) — Hours before the Eurovision song contest's kickoff, Rafi Kishon posted on Facebook a sobering message and a picture of himself wearing a head of lettuce for a hat.

"I'm sorry to disappoint you," the Israeli veterinarian wrote. Netta Barzilai's "excellent" song could not win Eurovision "because Europe is imbued with bicolored anti-Semitism: The classic Christian anti-Semitism of Holocaust's perpetrators and Muslim anti-Semitism that's striking root" there, he wrote, vowing to eat his own "hat" if he's proven wrong.

Kishon, a political hawk and the son of the late humorist Ephraim Kishon, failed to predict the future: Barzilai's unconventional song "Toy" in fact did win the contest, earning the fourth-highest score in the pan-European song competition's 63-year history. But his prediction nonetheless illustrated how many Israelis apparently overestimate the politicization of Eurovision, the prevalence of anti-Israel sentiment in European societies — or both.

Like the "American Idol"-style song competitions that it resembles, this annual pageant of novelty pop songs, outlandish costumes and sugar-coated nationalism is judged by in-house juries from each participating country and by viewers watching at home.

At this year's contest, Israel would have come in third Saturday if it were up solely to the official juries of the 43 countries that participated. But the juries, which gave Israel 212 points, determine only 50 percent of the scores. Callers gave Israel another 317 points to bring their total to 529 — nearly 100 points more than the next closest contestant, Cyprus.

A breakdown of voting for Israel



Netta Barzilai, the winner of this year's Eurovision contest, performing at Rabin Square in Tel Aviv, May 14, 2018. PHOTOGRAPH BY TOMER NEUBERG / FLASH90

both by juries and viewers belies any assumption of politicization or anti-Semitic bias.

For example, Israel was the top vote-getter from juries both in France — which many consider emblematic of Europe's anti-Semitism problem — and the Czech Republic, which is a historic and contemporary bastion of support for Israel and Jews in Europe.

And the countries where callers gave the highest number of perfect scores to Israel included France, Azerbaijan — a Shi'ite Muslim nation — and Spain, where Catholic anti-Semitism for centuries has been rife and has more municipalities boycotting Israel than any other country in Europe.

(It might not have hurt that during the contest's final, "Wonder Woman" star Gal Gadot encouraged her nearly 20 million Instagram followers to vote for her fellow Israeli.)

win: "Those who did not want Jerusalem in the Eurovision got the Eurovision in Jerusalem." (The winning country gets to host the event the following year.)

But the organizers denied any intentional snub of Jerusalem, which Israel and the United States consider its capital despite the refusal of most of the world's countries to agree. The hosts also failed to mention Prague, greeting the Czech Republic's jury with a simple "hi." They also greeted the Dutch jury with "good evening, Hilversum" — the name of the small city where the Dutch Eurovision studio is located.

Barzilai's victory was the fourth for Israel, suggesting that catchy pop trumps politics in the four decades Israel has taken part. Barzilai's eccentric feminist anthem "Toy" — which combines clucking chicken noises over looped vocals and English lyrics — seemed to win out over any qualms about Zionism.

Barzilai, a plus-sized 24-year-old, said "Toy" was a celebration of diversity and a protest against the objectification of women and body shaming.

Whether that upbeat, defiant message can keep politics out of next year's contest in Jerusalem is another story. Two Irish lawmakers in the European Union have already called for a boycott of the contest in Israel, as has Dublin's mayor, who is a longtime anti-Israel activist. •

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@ The Temple

Late Shabbat service on June 1

We will begin our regular Friday Shabbat service one hour later than usual – at 7 p.m. – on June 1.

Upcoming summer song sessions

Hava Nashira - come, let us sing!

Join with Cantor Fishbein for a series of casual, fun and informative song sessions to learn some of the newest music of the Reform movement. All that's required is a love of singing and a desire to learn more about these energizing and innovative Jewish tunes.

Song session dates are Tuesday, June, and Tuesday, July 17. Each session will take place from 6-7 p.m.

Sha-Bonnaroo service on June 8

For a Shabbat service and music extravaganza, come dressed in your blue jeans and tie-dye and prepare to rock! Special Shabbat service starts at 6 p.m.

Cantor Fishbein will also lead a social justice themed singalong that will inspire hope and social change through music.

Lunch with the rabbi

Summer dates for Lunch with the Rabbi are June 7, July 19 and Aug. 16. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m. with discussion at noon.

Baseball nights with Sounds, rabbi

Join the rabbi at the old ball game!

Dates are all Thursdays: June 7, July 19 and Aug. 16 at the Sounds Stadium. Games begin at 7:05 p.m. Admission donation is \$35 per ticket, including your seat in a luxury suite, popcorn, peanuts, and Cracker Jack. First reserved, first served.

Call The Temple for more details on how to reserve your tickets at (615) 352-7620.

Shabbat mornings with Rabbi Shapiro

We are thrilled to welcome Rabbi Rami Shapiro for a series of innovative Shabbat morning programs on Saturday, June 23 and Saturday, July 7. He'll lead our Chevrah Torah study hour at 9:30 a.m. and then join with Cantor Fishbein to lead meditative Shabbat services at 11 a.m., featuring contemplative music, Kabbalistic teachings on our Shabbat morning blessings, and more!

Tot Shabbat set for June 2

On Saturday, June 2, at 10 a.m., come help us celebrate Shabbat for children up to 6 years old and the big people who love them! We'll have songs, crafts, a story, and yummy treats!

Sha-Barbecue is coming up

Join us for our Annual Sha-Barbecue for Jewish young singles and interfaith couples 22-40 at Parmer Park on Saturday, June 9, at 4 p.m. It's free of charge and family friendly. RSVP to Rabbi Shulman, rabbishulman@templenashville.org or call The Temple (615)352-7620.

@ Micah

Start June with Shabbat Shaband

Enjoy the sound of traditional instruments on Friday, June 1, as our Shabbat band accompanies song and prayer under the leadership of Lisa Silver. Weekly WINE-down begins at 5:30 p.m., with service at 6 p.m.

Get Connected blessing June 1

Services on June 1 will include a special blessing for Get Connected teens traveling to Israel this summer. All are welcome! Services begin at 6 p.m.

Check out these movies in the park

Join Temple families for a meet up and picnic at Movies in the Park at Elmington Park. Dates and films: June 7 - Wonder Woman; June 14 - Legally Blonde; June 21 - The Greatest Showman. Movies begin at sunset.

June dates for Golden Lunch Bunch

Golden Lunch Bunch takes place on June 5 and 19 at 11:30am. For more information, please contact Anna Sir.

Temple announces new officers: Friedman, Marks, Perlman

Joyce E. Friedman has been named president of The Temple – Congregation Ohabai Sholom, Temple leaders announced at the congregation's 167th annual meeting. Other newly elected officers of The Temple's board of trustees are: Vice President/Treasurer Jimmy Marks, C.P.A., and Secretary Stewart Perlman, M.D., of Nashville. All three will serve two-year terms.

Six new members of The Temple's board of trustees were also elected at the annual meeting, held last month, to serve four-year terms. They are Lisa Forberg, David Fox, David Levy, Leslie Newman, Bobby Rosenblum and Dennis Scott.

Friedman, a resident of Franklin, becomes The Temple's 73rd president and fifth woman president. A Temple member and Williamson County resident for 24 years, Friedman has served on The Temple's board of trustees from 2007 - 2011 and 2012 – 2018. She served on its executive committee in 2012 and was elected secretary of board of trustees that year. She was The Temple's vice president/treasurer before being elected president.

Friedman is a real estate affiliate broker with Crye-Leike, REALTORS®, serving Nashville-area buyers and sellers. Her theme as Temple president is strengthening and investing in The Temple's present and future with her first initiative being the expansion of The Temple's infant care rooms.

"The Temple Preschool is highly sought after in the preschool community," said Friedman. "Our current infant class continues to have 20-plus children on the waiting list. Our preschool serves as a natural stepping stone for those participating families to join our temple membership and religious school programs.

"We are attracting a growing number of young congregants to join The Temple who need infant care. Hence, it is becoming more difficult to serve this segment of our membership based on our current preschool classroom offerings."

Her other initiatives include continuing The Temple's participation in the community's Life & Legacy program that focuses on securing meaningful after-lifetime legacy gifts, an initiative spearheaded by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Marks served as secretary of The Temple's board of trustees for the past two years. He is a certified public accountant and co-founder of Anderson Benson Insurance & Risk Management, an insurance agency in Nashville focusing on serving businesses and individuals in Middle Tennessee. He has over 25 years of experience in life insurance, property and casualty brokerage and compliance software. He is the founding member of OneApp Agency, where he developed and has marketing rights to a compliance software for insurance agencies. He is a graduate of Duke University.

Perlman served on The Temple's board of trustees in the mid-1990s. He also served as chair of the religious school committee and taught its eighth-grade students for five years. He currently serves as chair of The Temple's long-range plan implementation committee. Perlman retired in 2014 as a practicing anesthesiologist of 30 years in Nashville, and started Nashville's first acute pain service in 1987.



The Temple – Congregation Ohabai Sholom's new officers for 2018-20 are, from left, Jimmy Marks, C.P.A., vice president and treasurer; Joyce E. Friedman, president, and Stewart Perlman, M.D., secretary.

Webinar with Rabbi Laurie Rice

Micah will offer a webinar learning opportunity on Wednesday, June 6, from noon to 1 p.m. in honor of Rabbi Aaron Panken (z'l), who passed away tragically a month ago. For more information, please contact Congregation Micah.

Annual congregational meeting, dinner

Micah will hold a special dinner – along with annual meeting, installation of officers and Micah awards – on Friday, June 15. Dinner and meeting starts at 5:30 p.m., with service immediately following.

@ Chabad



Parents and children of the Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool planted a vegetable garden at the Lag B'omer festivities on the nine-acre Genesis Campus for Jewish Life. PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK MALKIN

Chabad to host tribute to the Rebbe

On Saturday, June 16, Chabad of Nashville will host a tribute lunch in honor of the Rebbe, Rabbi M. M. Schneerson of blessed memory, in commemoration of his 24th anniversary of passing.

For more than 40 years, the Rebbe led the Jewish people towards a spiritual renaissance out of the ashes of the Holocaust and the specter of assimilation. The Rebbe revolutionized the way we think of ourselves as people. He taught us to think of the Jewish people as a single whole, as a community, in which every individual is irreplaceable, and to embrace every Jew with the same concern and devotion.

Over twenty-four years after the Rebbe's passing, his presence is felt more strongly than ever. His teachings continue to inspire and guide us, and his insights remains as fresh and relevant as if it were given today. Each of us is a beneficiary of the Rebbe's inspiration in one way or another, and our lives are affected by his visionary leadership.

On the anniversary of his passing, let's honor his life's mission to bring goodness and kindness into this world.

We invite you to join us for Shabbat lunch as we celebrate the Rebbe's life and vision. The event will include a beautiful sit down lunch replete with Shabbat delicacies, L'Chaim, Chasidic melodies and words of inspiration, with stories and insights about the Rebbe and his inspiration and impact on our lives.

Shabbat morning services are at 10:00 and will be followed at 12:15 by a Kiddush lunch and Farbengen in honor of this occasion.

An evening of bourbon and brisket

bris-ket /briskit/

noun: brisket; plural noun: briskets

A flavorful cut that becomes tender when cooked slowly at low temperatures. The traditional cut used for corned beef, and popular as smoked barbecue.

bour-bon /'berben/

noun: bourbon; plural noun: bourbons

A straight whiskey distilled from a mash having at least 51 percent corn in addition to malt and rye.

Whichever or however you say or define it, Chabad's Bourbon and Brisket night will be the toast of the town. Designed as a social evening for adults, all are invited to join in the festivities. You'll enjoy perfectly seasoned, slow roasted, kosher brisket and mouth-watering side dishes in Chabad's inviting Sonnenberg Lounge.

The delicious food and relaxed atmosphere creates the perfect ambience for catching up with friends and enjoying one of the many kosher bourbons on hand. Lively music, great conversation, brisket and bourbon all add up to an unforgettable evening. Please join us on Sunday, June 24, at 5 p.m. Please RSVP in advance to take advantage of special early bird pricing at www.chabadnashville.com/Steak

10 days of Jewish fun at CGI Nashville

This spring, Camp Gan Israel Nashville (CGI) is planning a most exciting Jewish day camp experience that's generating quite a buzz among parents and children in the Nashville Jewish community.

This will be CGI's fifteenth year since opening the local branch of the world's largest network of Jewish camps, with over 500 locations worldwide.

"Summer is a critical time in a child's life. A successful summer camp experience is more than a break from studies to let loose; every activity is a major learning experience," says Mrs. Esther Tiechtel, director of CGI Nashville. "Our program is designed to let our campers' minds run wild, enjoying nature, crafts, sports and water activities, while building character and responsibility in a relaxed, fun atmosphere."

Each day of camp has a theme, such as Shabbat or Israel. All of the activities during the course of that day reflect its theme. For example, during a charity-themed day, the children create little wooden charity boxes, enjoy a penny hunt, and bake edible charity boxes.

Mrs. Tiechtel says the camp has a three-pronged strategy "creating an exciting environment, in which lessons come alive and kids have a great time." There are events such as magic shows, carnivals and pony rides – all taking place at the all new Genesis Campus for Jewish Life.

Camp Gan Israel Nashville will be offering two one-week sessions, from June 18-29. The camp offers scholarships and sibling discounts. Hot lunches are served daily. Register by calling (615) 646-5750 or emailing chabadnashvilleoffice@gmail.com. All applications received before June 5 will receive a free Camp T-shirt.

@ West End

WBC Williamson - Bellevue Chavurah

Join us for a Shabbat service and potluck dinner on Friday, June 1, at 6 p.m. at our new location: the Hunterwood Clubhouse at 2128 Key Drive in Brentwood.

Services will be led by Cantor Sarah Levine.

RSVP to linda@westendsyn.org

WES annual meeting, installation

On Friday May 18, WES held its annual meeting, installation of new board members and the installation of Cantor Sarah Levine.

Installed as officers were: president – Steven Hirsch, executive vice president – Karen Weil, first vice president – Stephen Potash, second vice president – Batia Karabel, treasurer – Richard Cohen and secretary – Ed Cheng. Barbara Dab is immediate past president.

Serving on the board of trustees are Jordan Asher, Adina Barocas, Ayal Bitton, Beth Davis, Randall Gross, Jerry Levine, Martin "Ted" Mayden, Michael Metzman, Evan Nahmias, Laurel Orley, Martha Segal, Matthew Segal, Abby Sparks and Harriet Workman.

Michael Gryll is the Men's Club representative and Barbara Herman is the Sisterhood Representative.

We appreciate the service of these members, who rotated off the board of trustees: Robin Cohen, Mary Cornelius, Barbara Dab, Jesse Ehrenfeld, Nancy Flexer, Leslye Lapidus, Daniel Levin and Ellie Rosenbloom.

High school students honored at graduation

Thirteen high school juniors graduated this year from West End Synagogue's Beit Miriam religious school in a ceremony that inspired parents, students and community members.

Three graduating religious school students, all juniors in high school, received awards. In addition, a high school senior was recognized for his work this year as a religious school teacher aide.

The Nathan Davis Award for the outstanding student in the 2018 graduating class was presented to Jacob Bengelsdorf by Charlotte Seloff, granddaughter of Nathan Davis. The annual award, endowed by the Davis family, was first presented in 1936. The honoree is selected by the professional staff of the religious school with input from teachers.

Jake is the current president of USY, planned the recent USY convention in Nashville and has attended Camp Ramah Darom for seven years. He plans to attend Ramah Seminar in Poland and Israel this summer.

He is a student at Franklin High School, where he performs in theater and sings. He's involved in Youth in Government, a classroom for civic government, and Model UN, which introduces students to the world of diplomacy, negotiation and decision making.

Anabella Barocas received the second annual Sandra Klein Goldstein Award for active and meaningful community service, presented by Bernie Goldstein. Bella is a junior at University School of Nashville.

This annual award was established in perpetuity by Bernie Goldstein and his children, Steven, Ronna and Stewart, and their children in loving memory of his wife and their mother, Sandra Goldstein. The family hopes the award will inspire WES high school students to increase awareness and promote Tzedakah and community service.

Bella helped expand a program to tutor students in the Edgehill neighborhood near University School and has volunteered with the literacy and advocacy program at the Carter Lawrence School, a public school in the same neighborhood.

Josh Crowley received a Special Recognition Award for his leadership and significant contributions to Junior Congregation, Kadima and USY, our synagogue Youth groups, and to Beit Miriam. Josh is a junior at Franklin High school and a regional Vice-president of USY Sub Region, Ein Gedi.

Joseph Weil was honored with the 2018 Anna Isenstein Teacher Aide Appreciation Award.

Joel Isenstein and Linda Nathenson created this fund in memory of their daughter, Anna Michelle Isenstein. During Anna's short life, her parents learned that sometimes the most significant help for a child comes directly from another child. Linda and Joel annually recognize an aide who demonstrates dependability, attentiveness, friendliness and initiative.

Continued on page 18



Belmont University College of Law, along with the Nashville Jewish Federation, American Bar Association and several other organizations, opened an exhibit last month at Belmont telling the story of Jewish lawyers in Germany during the Third Reich. Attending the opening were, from left, Andree Blumstein, James Blumstein, Lisa Perlen, Belmont University College of Law Dean Alberto Gonzales, U.S. District Judge Bernice Donald, Mark S. Freedman and Charles Grant.

Retirement

Continued from page 1

become executive director of the Nashville federation. Nashville was poised for growth and had been very serious about where it had been and where it wanted to go. The Best Jewish Nashville project was an excellent road map to go forward. It identified needs – serving seniors, engaging the next generation and strengthening Israel education and advocacy – and provided the impetus for lots of new initiatives.

The demographic study (which the federation undertook between 2015 and 2016) was very, very important. The study helped lead to Best Jewish Nashville 2.0, which helped us reach beyond our traditional core community members to reach and serve more people.

More recently the Violins of Hope has been an extremely important project, not just for the Federation but for all of our Jewish organizations. Almost every single organization participated, sponsoring a Violins of Hope program, educational, cultural and musical offerings.

We've increased the number and type of missions in which the Nashville Jewish community participates. There have been several to Israel, two to Cuba, one to eastern Europe, one to Argentina, and a planned mission to Israel this fall that includes an optional mission to Morocco. The missions expand community members' opportunities to learn more about distant Jewish communities firsthand, and also have developed a cadre of individuals and couples who have become friends and taken leadership roles throughout the community, in Federation and beyond.

The missions have led to an increase in the number of volunteers, donors and individual gifts. The Federation also has subsidized young adults so more can participate in the missions.

Some 20 to 25 of the people newly active in Jewish community after missions are young adults.

I'm also very pleased that for the first time in many years, Nashville community members Batia and Aron Karabel are part of the JFNA national young leadership cabinet. Aron currently co-chairs its membership and recruiting committee. Their engagement really began when they participated in a JFNA mission to the Republic of Georgia, which until 1991 was part of the former Soviet Union.

I'm also very proud of the fact that when Israel had a difficult time in 2012 and 2014, with conflicts in Gaza,

this community got behind Israel with major rallies and tremendous outpourings of support.

Another favorite project is the Welcoming Ambassadors program for newcomers, the brainchild of past Federation president Carol Hyatt. There are almost 40 welcoming ambassadors, veteran members of the community who are reaching out to new residents.

The Federation and its board and grants committee have welcomed innovation. It's not afraid to fund programs where it was possible that they wouldn't succeed. Some haven't succeeded, and we've learned from each situation.

We're very careful with the donors' investment. ... Federation financial support for new programs comes through a reimbursement process. If the program organizers don't get reimbursed, the money remains with the federation to fund future projects.

Our new Life & Legacy program, in year one, resulted in more than 400 designations of after-life gifts from more than 220 donors. That's critically important and bodes well for our future. Studies have projected that by 2040 or 2050, federations will need to receive at least 20 percent of their operating budget from endowments.

What do you see in the future for the Federation and Nashville's Jewish community?

I'm very, very optimistic. I think the community, notwithstanding all of the national and international challenges, can and always has had a solid base for a vibrant, active and enriching Jewish life for anyone who wants to participate. The opportunity to participate actively is always there. Even if a person has lived here and not been engaged, the door is always open.

What would you say to your successor?

(Note: This question and answer came well before the Eric Stillman's selection as incoming executive director of the Nashville Federation)

I do remember when I got the job in San Antonio, Joel Daner of blessed memory gave me one sentence of advice: You'd better do a good job.

The best advice comes from the people you trust most. I was always able to develop trusting relationships with the leadership in Nashville.

I've been very pleased with the relationships and leadership within the Nashville Federation. Whenever we dealt with a controversy, the board has always

Continued on page 14

Colleagues, friends remember moments with Mark

Here are a few impressions of working over the years with Mark Freedman, outgoing executive director of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. We've listed the "speakers" in alphabetical order:

"Mark Freedman will be missed by me and the entire Jewish community of Nashville and Middle Tennessee when he retires.

"I thoroughly enjoyed working with him and was very impressed how he quickly assumed the role of spokesperson for the Nashville Jewish community. His leadership at the Federation as well as in the state and city political arenas and the wonderful projects he organized was most impressive and helped educate the general population of the importance of Israel and Jewish causes everywhere. He was courageous in the stands he took and articulate in his speaking and writings as well.

Mark has a warm, convincing side that does not allow for people to say no to him. I know this firsthand as he asked me to chair the 2017 annual campaign and I just could not turn him down. A mensch by any standard, Mark will be remembered for a long time for the expert work he accomplished during his tenure in Nashville. I wish him a wonderful retirement and hope to see him often in Boca Raton."

Frank Boehm
Annual Campaign Chair

"Mark is the best companion you could have for a trip to Israel. Since he has made close to 80 trips to Israel over his career, he knows all the best places to see, all the best restaurants for a good meal and all the tricks to avoid the crowds.

"My favorite trip with Mark was when we went together for the executive program at the Pardes Institute in Jerusalem. It had all the usual Mark trip elements (i.e., good food and drink) and the added bonus of a week of study with some great teachers at the Pardes Institute. I look forward to a future trip to Israel with Mark in his capacity as a "civilian."

Steve Hirsch
Annual Campaign Chair

"It was great to work for the last four and a half years with Mark. I truly enjoyed our talks and the partnership that was strengthened between the Federation and West End Synagogue during these years. It was also wonderful to travel to Cuba, Argentina and Israel with him and other friends. Both he and Leslie will be missed and I hope they will come back to Nashville to visit every now and then!"

Rabbi Joshua Kullock
West End Synagogue

"Mark has an amazing range of interests and knowledge. Of course he knows the Jewish world intimately, but he's a great sports fan, a lover of Americana music, a wine enthusiast and general bon vivant.

"He was immediately open to the good in Nashville, eager to sample the city's offerings. This openness and the sincerity of his concern for Jewish well-being, here and globally, were obvious to all who worked with Mark. This gave him an immediate connection to donors, volunteers and fellow professionals. He's headed out of town, but I bet he'll still root for the Preds!"

Andrew May
Past president, Jewish Federation of Nashville

"Mark's leadership style was exemplary. He did his homework, did more than his part and was always on message. As importantly, Mark was exceedingly fair and civil but always clear about Federation's mission and where it stood."

Martin Ted Mayden
Past president, Jewish Federation of Nashville

"The Jewish community of Nashville and Middle Tennessee is forever changed by Mark's leadership and vision. He leaves us with a foundation upon which we can continue to build. Mark and Leslie have contributed so much to the community and we will miss them. I wish my friends all the best as they return to Florida but remind them that there are several nonstop daily flights when they are ready for another dose of southern hospitality and the Station Inn."

Lisa Perlen
President, Jewish Federation of Nashville

"I will always appreciate Mark for his deep understanding of and commitment to all corners of the Jewish community.

"As a Jewish day school parent, I will always appreciate Mark's commitment to helping bring Akiva to financial stability.

"As a rabbi who often has lots of engagements in the Jewish and broader community, it amazes me how many events Mark attends on an annual basis. No sane human being could do what he does and what he has done unless they have a true love of the community.

Rabbi Saul Strosberg
Congregation Sherith Israel

"It's really a special gift to facilitate cooperation and camaraderie amongst a diverse group of people, especially when religion is the unifying thread, yet Mark has been able to do exactly that. Leading the Nashville Jewish community with courage and vision, Mark has had a great impact on our Nashville Jewish community, that will be felt years to come.

"A shining example of Mark's vision was his success in bringing the Violins of Hope to Nashville. As moving as it was to hear the beautiful music from these historical instruments, was seeing how diverse the crowd was who came to listen.

"Mark has been a treasured friend to Esther and me, and we wish him and Leslie the very best, and may they be blessed with an abundance of Nachas from their family in Florida."

Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel
Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad

"When Mark came on board the Federation here—it seems like just yesterday—I knew he'd be a great fit. I knew that the culture of our Jewish community and what Mark brought to the table would yield great things.

"Just how great, we'll see. As the rabbis teach, one of the things that makes great leaders is not what they accomplish, but what they get others to accomplish long after they've moved on. I think Mark will stand in very good stead in that regard. But no matter what, Nashville will long benefit from his leadership.

"As for me personally, there's a lot I could say, but I'll keep it short and sweet. Thanks, Mark. Thanks for reaching out at the GA nine years ago. Thanks for your trust, your friendship, for everything. It's been a great ride."

Fred Zimmerman
Federation Annual Campaign Chair

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JUNE 2018



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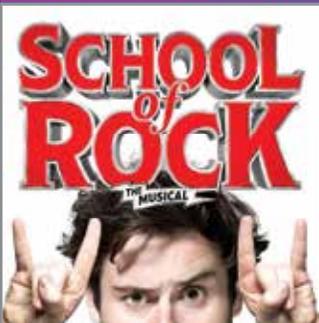


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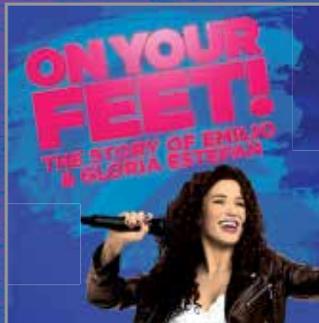
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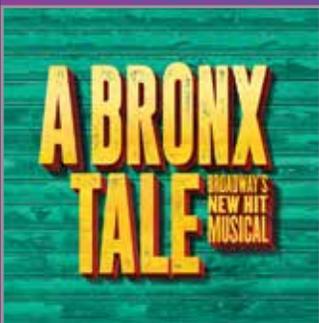
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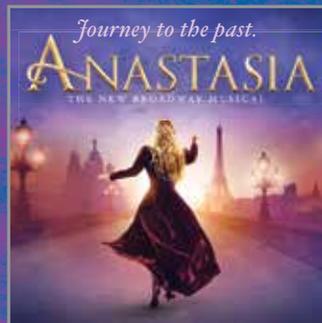
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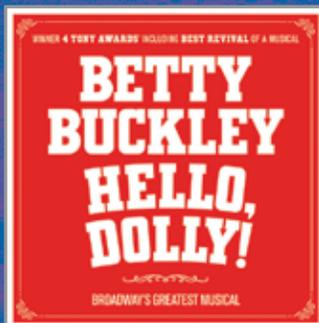
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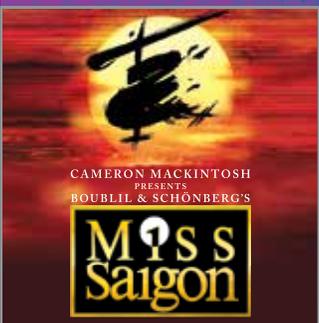
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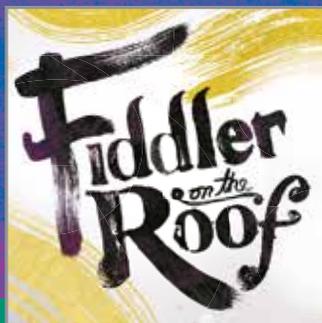
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CRC Israeli/Jewish trivia on tap for June 3

Did someone say Trivia? Did someone say Israeli/Jewish Trivia? In the spirit of Israel @ 70 we are hosting an Israeli trivia event on June 3 at the Flying Saucer, from 5-7 p.m. (Sababa!)

Organizing the event are Arielle Doochin and Arthur Perlen, Israel Advocacy co-chairs of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville.

It's open to anyone over 21 - since we plan to have beer. Bring your Yiddishkeit and knowledge of Israeli history and culture and come out for an amazing time. Come to the event with a team already organized (see if your team can win the top prize!), or we will match you with a team at the event as needed.

When: Sunday, June 3, 5-7 p.m.

Where: Flying Saucer, 111 10th Avenue South, #310, Nashville (near Union Station)

Cost: \$10 per person; covers food buffet and beer - and of course the Trivia.

RSVP to Deborah Oleshansky, community relations director, deborah@jewishnashville.org •

To access the Community Calendar, go to www.jewishnashville.org and click on "Calendar."

Crossword solution

1	N	B	A		4	B	A	T	T	E	D		10	P	L	O	T					
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63	E	S	H		64	M	A	R	L	65	A		66	C	L	I	O					
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75	T	R	U	E						76	S	T	A	G	E	S						
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Nashville turns out to celebrate Israel at 70

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICK MALKIN

Hundreds of folks gathered on a picture-perfect Sunday afternoon at Centennial Park to celebrate the 70th birthday of the state of Israel. There was dancing, art, delicious kosher food (that's Rabbi Shlomo Rothstein of Vanderbilt Chabad in the Aryeh's Kitchen Airstream food trailer), and music (Shira Gavrielov and band helped the crowd rock out). Happy birthday, Israel! •



Israel at 70

Zip, sizzle and splash at Gordon JCC this summer

By **MICHAEL GROSS**
Gordon JCC Program Director

The Summer 2018 weather forecast? Blazing hot temperatures for most of the country, including Nashville. But you can beat the heat at the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

Enjoy fun and games at our outdoor saltwater pool, expanded hours and full menu at our poolside café, Camp Davis and Camp K'toni for children aged 2½ to 15 and the latest addition to our property, the Adventure Park at Nashville, a new zipline and ropes course. You can get your game on with new outdoor pickleball courts and tennis ladder!

It all kicks off with the JCC's annual meeting and open house, which includes free entrance to our outdoor pool and party on Sunday, June 3. Not a member? Summer

memberships are also still available.

Our 50-meter outdoor saltwater pool is the perfect place to swim laps, take group swim lessons, do aquafit or just play with the kids. Preschoolers can also play in our shaded kiddie pool. We offer fun and games most Sundays and holidays. Activities planned throughout summer include bingo, giant board games, DJ and our now-infamous belly flop contest on Father's Day, June 17.

We also have some great parties planned, including our summer outdoor pool grand opening June 3 from noon to 3 p.m. and our Fourth of July BBQ, including games and DJ. Summer at the pool wouldn't be complete without Ess & Fress at the Pool, our full-menu café featuring delicious salads and sandwiches for lunch and dinner, cold drinks and homemade popsicles.

Camp K'toni and Camp Davis, our two resident summer day camps, offer a full range of outdoor activities for preschoolers and children ages 5-15. Our camps are 15 minutes from downtown but a world away from ordinary. In addition to a top-quality traditional camp program featuring art, sports, music, nature, and Israeli culture at Camp Davis, we offer exciting and engaging specialty tracks covering such topics as basketball, fashion design, space, sculpture, chemistry, songwriting, and more!

Building on the strength of our indoor pickleball program, the JCC is offering summer court time outside on our tennis courts! Come find out why pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in the United States. The J offers weekly free play indoors and out. We have extra racquets and also offer free coaching and group instruction during open play. Easy

to learn and feels gentler to the joints! Fun and social. Come out and join in!

Last but not least, the Adventure Park at Nashville opens its "doors" this month. The whole family can cool off and join in the fun in the treetops, climbing and zip lining together. For ages 3 and up, the new aerial forest adventure is fun, exciting and safe for all participants. Our partner, Outdoor Ventures, runs the Adventure Park and provides all the necessary equipment for you to enjoy the trails, bridges and challenges.

Not a member? Summer memberships good until Labor Day are still available. For more information on all the Gordon JCC has to offer this summer, visit www.nashvillejcc.org or contact Dara at (615) 354-1639, dara@nashvillejcc.org, or Michael at (615) 354-1665, michael@nashvillejcc.org •

Adventure Park

Continued from page 1

and connected by various configurations of cable, wood and rope to form "crossings" of different kinds including zip lines. Climbers wear harnesses that are doubly secured to safety cables using the Park's "always locked on" system of interlocking safety clips. Before venturing onto the trails climbers receive an interactive orientation and practice session.

Where it all started

Outdoor Venture's story goes back to 2006. During a visit to Switzerland that year, its chief executive officer, Bahman Azarm, witnessed his first aerial forest park and knew immediately he had to bring the concept to the United States. Utilizing his 20 years of experience in the construction business and the expertise of an experienced team from Switzerland, Bahman built its first park in the United States, Catamount Aerial Adventure Park at Catamount ski area in Massachusetts.

The Adventure Park at Nashville is designed, built and operated by Outdoor

'Our message is really all about people getting out in the outdoors, recreating in the outdoors, playing and getting in the fresh air.'

— Anthony Wellman, Outdoor Venture Group

Venture, which currently operates five other Adventure Parks nationally, in Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, and Virginia.

The parks operate with virtually no negative environmental impact and the trees are well cared for and protected, Outdoor Venture Director of Marketing Anthony Wellman said. "We maintain the forest. A healthy forest is good for our business and nature," he said. "Our message is really all about people getting out in the outdoors, recreating in the outdoors, playing and getting in the fresh air."

JCC leadership approached the decision to work with Outdoor Venture with much thought.

The Nashville connection

Frank Gordon, president of the Gordon JCC, said the J carefully explored

the proposal over a two-year period to ensure the J's and Outdoor Venture's missions were aligned.

"The Adventure Park brings many benefits to the Gordon JCC," Gordon said. "It provides a high-quality, healthy activity for people of all ages. It enhances the experience for older Camp Davis campers who will use the Park weekly as they build skills and confidence. It offers group activities for teens and families and attracts a younger demographic. And last, but definitely not least, it brings a return on investment from one of our largest assets, our land, and provides a unique way to strengthen our revenue stream."

"We spoke with other JCCs that partnered with them," JCC Executive Director Leslie Sax said. "They raved about their working relationships and

the high-quality operations that Outdoor Venture runs."

In addition, Outdoor Venture is a member, and CEO Azarm serves on the board, of the Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT), the world's leading and largest American National Standards Institute-accredited standards developer focused solely on the challenge course industry.

At the Adventure Park at Nashville, individuals and families may climb, and groups may make reservations for team-building exercises, group outings, birthday parties and even Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations. For more information, go to mynashvilleadventurepark.com or call (615) 610-9500.

"We can't wait to bring this wonderful experience to the people in Nashville," said Azarm. "It's a fun outdoor activity, it's wholesome, it makes people feel great and it brings families and people together." •

Information for this article furnished by Leslie Sax, executive director, Gordon JCC, and Outdoor Venture Group.

Retirement

Continued from page 8

had my back. It's easy to support easy decisions. There have been hard decisions.

This Federation opposed the Iran agreement (negotiated in the Obama administration). ... Iran hadn't earned the moral right to enter the agreement. I think time has proven we're still in the same place (vis a vis Iran). It was a tough decision but I think we made the right

decision. Even people who disagreed still, when the decision and the debate were over, united. Background: JFNA was a clearinghouse for information but left it up to each of the 146 member Federations to take a position.

My advice to a successor after 35 years in the business, 20 of them as a fed exec director: You have to trust your instincts. ... Respect other viewpoints but trust your instincts

The next executive director will

have a more challenging time (than I did). The world of philanthropy is changing. The current generation is less likely to give to a collective organization. The next executive director will need to be more creative in (reaching out to donors – fostering philanthropy).

I was once asked in applying for a federation executive director position: Which is more important for a Jewish federation: fundraising or community building? My response was, "How can you be successful in fundraising without community building?" I didn't get the job, but I believe community building is the key to success. You have to do that every single day in this job. ... I've been through three economic downturns and the key to weathering these adversities is to understand people's situations and have faith in the Federation's mission.

What are you planning to do after retirement?

I've been informed by my daughter that my first job when I'm back in Florida is to teach my two granddaughters to drive. Leslie and I want to continue to travel. ... And I want to get my tennis and golf games back to their full level of mediocrity. Leslie and I may try to write and illustrate some children's books for PJ Library.

There are four Jewish federations within a two-hour drive of where we'll be

living. There may be an opportunity for consulting or for good old-fashioned volunteering. There's a larger Jewish market in South Florida for Leslie's artwork, and she'll have more time to do that.

Almost all of my trips to Israel have been in leading missions or otherwise work-related. It will be nice to visit Israel as a tourist and to visit family members living there.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Another thing I have enjoyed about Nashville is the depth of commitment and respect I have for my professional colleagues at the Federation, local agencies and the congregations. There has been tremendous satisfaction for me to work with them almost every day. The level of cooperation has been great. I'm very, very grateful to work with this team of Jewish professionals.

Following the lead of Steve and Elaine Edelstein (his predecessor as executive director of the Nashville Federation and Steve Edelstein's wife), Leslie and I will contribute to a fund for Jewish communal professionals' continuing education. It's vitally important for a large number of reasons – to keep communal professionals up to date, motivated and learning about the latest issues and possessing the necessary skills to deal effectively with those issues. •

To access the Community Calendar,

go to

www.jewishnashville.org
and click on "Calendar."

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Jewish Family Service annual meeting set for June 21

Rosenbauer, Salberg, Gordon JCC receive honors

Jewish Family Service invites the community to its annual meeting on Thursday, June 21. The agency will install new board members, honor outgoing directors and present awards to two outstanding people and one organization involved with JFS, Laura Rosenbauer and Sue Salberg and the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

The meeting will be from 7-8 p.m. in the Board Room of the Gordon Jewish Community Center. It will be followed by a dessert reception.

The JFS executive board slate for 2018-19 is Ben Russ, president; Nan Speller, vice-president; Nancy Flexer, secretary; Steve Lapidus, treasurer; Howard Safir, immediate past-president, and Stan Schklar, executive committee members at large. New Board members nominated for a three-year term include Robin Cohen, Lynn Fleischer, Harris N. Gilbert and Heidi Hassenfeld. Board members completing their terms include Kathy Caplan, Christina Evans, Tara Goldberg, and Lisa Shmerling.

The Gordon JCC will be presented with the Chaver (friend) Award for providing outstanding assistance to JFS through collaboration and volunteer contributions to the agency's mission.

The most obvious way in which the JCC partners with Jewish Family Service is by being the central address for the Nashville Jewish community, which includes the Jewish Family Service offices. All of the JCC staff – from executive director to maintenance and security – is so responsive to the big and small requests of the JFS staff.

However, the collaboration goes much deeper than that. In working from a holistic approach to serving our clients, JFS licensed clinical social workers approach the J to work with us in ensuring that clients can access all the wonderful programming the J has to offer, whether that is at the Early Childhood Learning Center, after-school or senior programming. The response is always, "We will do whatever it takes to make it happen," which demonstrates the deep respect and partnership between the two agencies.

Laura Rosenbauer and Sue Salberg will be receiving the Ruach (spirit) Award for outstanding contributions to the president, board and the organization. Both are stalwart volunteers for the Golden Lunch Bunch, Laura since 2008 and Sue since the program's inception. The Golden Lunch Bunch meets at the Temple twice a month for an enriching afternoon with a nutritious lunch, entertainment, games and socializing. Both women also volunteer for the Senior Seder on a yearly basis.

Anna Sir, JFS's Helping Hands Coordinator, says, "Given how busy all of our lives are these days, it is especially rare to find volunteers as reliable as Laura and Sue. Their dependability is matched by their huge and giving hearts. I consider myself lucky to work with them and get to see firsthand the kindness and compassion they demonstrate with senior adults in our community."

This past fiscal year, Jewish Family Service served over 1,700 clients through 17 programs and services ranging from counseling to kosher food boxes to support groups, to Chanukah gifts for children. Please attend the annual meeting to find out more about the critical work JFS does, quietly and discreetly, while honoring those who partner with us and help make our work possible. •



Laura Rosenbauer and Sue Salberg will receive the Ruach Award.



The Gordon Jewish Community Center, represented by Leslie Sax, executive director, and Frank Gordon, board president, will receive the Chaver Award at Jewish Family Service annual meeting on June 21.

The Observer's Annual
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the Jewish Observer

Remembering Roth

By: Yoni Glatt, koshercrosswords@gmail.com • Solution on page 12

Across

1. Org. with Finals happening now
4. Was on offense, in baseball
10. "The ___ thickens!"
14. Bobby of hockey
15. She ended the Soup Nazi's reign
16. "Skip ___ Lou"
17. 2000 Philip Roth novel, with "The"
19. Bronze and Iron, e.g.
20. Aka ISIS
21. 1973 #1 Rolling Stones hit
23. "Where did ___ wrong?"
24. Believer in the Almighty, unlike Roth
27. With 55-Across, novel that got Roth the Pulitzer
29. Esau, e.g.
31. Helper: Abbr.
32. Do sums
35. Purim's month
37. "Sports Center" network
41. Roth's winner of the 1960 National Book Award
46. Penultimate fairy tale word
47. Slain Genesis figure
48. Jacuzzi
49. "Back in Black" band
53. Little hopper, Down Under
55. See 27-Across
59. Roth's New Jersey hometown
63. Fire, in Hebrew
64. Maples or Sokoloff
66. Madison Avenue award
67. "Moby Dick" captain
69. Roth was the first recipient of this award named after another great Jewish writer
72. ___ Martin (cognac)

73. "Pleased ___ you"

74. Theologian's subj.
75. One of two basic test options
76. Play settings
77. Chapter in history

Down

1. Kind of shutout, in baseball
2. Comb alternative
3. Actor Hammer in "The Social Network"
4. Jacob's youngest, for short
5. Jolsen and Pacino
6. "Adieu"
7. "The Princess and the Frog" princess
8. Conundrum
9. Says "I didn't do it!"
10. Grade-sch. supporter
11. Sound reasoning
12. 24th greek letter
13. 1980's-90's ring champ
18. Came down on the tarmac, say
22. MD locales
25. Stick with cotton
26. Having everything in its place
28. Thing, in dating
30. Highlands negative
32. Synonym for 77-Across
33. Sal's "Exodus" role
34. Fawn's mother
36. Color TV pioneer
38. Stats for Rickey Henderson
39. One in a litter
40. US security org.
42. "Nuts!"
43. Star receiver on the NYG

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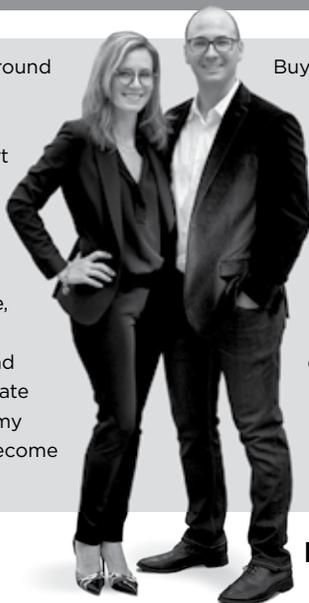
44. Writer Uris
45. 1997 title role for Peter Fonda
50. Net alternative
51. Pub quaffs
52. Nosh for Bugs?
54. Female leadership org.
55. Drumming great Neil of Rush
56. Potok protagonist
57. SeaWorld performer

58. Camel cousin
60. Actress Woodard of "Primal Fear"
61. Captain Picard's first officer Will
62. A 53-Across might come by one of these
65. Rare blood type, briefly
68. "Shalom"
70. Middle of a calzone?
71. Gold purity measures: Abbr.

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Six ways to experience Israel on CommUNITY mission

There's still time to participate in what has become one of Jewish Nashville's most informative traditions: this fall's CommUNITY Trip to Israel, in coordination with our five community congregations: Congregation Beit Tefilah-Chabad, Congregation Micah, Congregation Sherith Israel, The Temple-Congregation Ohabei Shalom and West End Synagogue.

There's an optional pre-Mission tour of Morocco and an optional extension to attend the Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly in Tel Aviv from Oct. 22-24.

The Morocco tour runs from Oct. 9-14, with the Israel mission beginning on Oct. 15 and concluding on Oct. 21.

Deposits for the trip are due at the end of this month.

The Grand Tour of Morocco will take travelers from Casablanca to Marrakesh over five days. Participants will spend a full day in Fez, with a visit to the Old Jewish Quarter, a meeting with the Rabbi of Fez in the synagogue, and a stop at the Jewish cemetery.

There's time in Casablanca to see the old town, Synagogue Beit El, the Mosque of Hassan II and the Museum of the Jews of Morocco. Participants will enjoy a typical Moroccan Jewish Shabbat dinner at Madame Ohayon house in Marrakesh.

Saturday in Marrakesh includes a visit to the old Jewish Quarter and synagogue.

The group will depart Sunday from Casablanca to Israel. There, activities are

organized in six separate tracks, representing travelers' interests. Tracks include: Hi Tech, Art, Culture and Culinary; History and First-Timer Experiences; Politics, Security and Current Events; Dynamic Israel: Trail for Adventure Lovers; Hands-On Israel; and a fully leisure track.

Hands-On Israel participants will volunteer with Israeli organizations and spend time in Nashville's Partnership2Gether region of Hadera-Eiron. Participants on other tracks also will have time in Hadera.

Adventurers will be able to hike in the Carmel Forest to see bat caves and a reach a cliff overlooking the Mediterranean.

Those who choose the Hi Tech and Cultural track will visit an Israeli tech company that develops driver-assistance systems to help prevent and mitigate collisions. There's a tech component to the politics and current events track with a visit to Mabat 2000, a network of visible surveillance cameras in Jerusalem's Old City.

History buffs and first-timers will experience Independence Hall and the Rabin Museum in Tel Aviv, tour the Old City in Jerusalem and learn about the fight of the Zealots atop Masada.

Leisure track activities include chocolate and wine tasting, cooking lessons and more.

To learn more about the upcoming Mission, go to jewishnashville.org/missions or contact Associate Executive Director and Missions Director Naomi Limor Sedek at naomi@jewishnashville.org.

Births

Estelle Juliet Maldonado Keaton Cohen Pachter

Anita and Steve Rich welcome two grandchildren to the family, both born in April.

Granddaughter Estelle Juliet's parents are Jenny and Charles Maldonado of New Orleans. Her big sister is Addie.

Grandson Keaton Cohen Pachter's parents are Dani and Jason Pachter of Brooklyn, N.Y. His big sister is Emrey Helen Pachter.

B'nai Mitzvah

Lily Marger



Lily Marger was called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on May 5 at The Temple. She is the daughter of Brian and Victoria Marger. Her grandparents are Donald and Carole Marger of Dayton, Ohio and the late Geoffrey and Retta Ann Wood of Watertown, Tenn.

For her mitzvah project, Lily focused on many different ventures over the course of her Bat Mitzvah year. The realization that she leads a very fortunate life made her want to do mitzvahs for those less fortunate. These have included stuffing nutritional back packs for The Bridge to Kids organization, personally making and distributing blankets at the Nashville Rescue Mission and collecting food contributions to help her local food pantry.

Lily is in the 7th grade at Woodland Middle School. In her free time, Lily enjoys science, baking and competitive swimming, but most recently she could be found playing on the Woodland junior varsity softball team.

Seth Robinson



Seth Robinson will become a bar mitzvah at Congregation Micah on June 9. Seth is the son of Jay and Carolyn Robinson and brother of Isabella and Eli. He is the grandson of Charles and Pamela Hausman and Nancy Robinson and the great-grandson of Stephanie Freudenthal.

He is a seventh grader at Valor Voyager Collegiate, where he excels in math, science, social studies, and ELA. Seth is currently interested in pursuing a career in architecture and he enjoys basketball, swimming, reading, playing video games, and listening to music. Seth has decided to bring awareness to Alzheimer's disease for his Mitzvah project.

Zoe Cowan



Zoe Cowan will become a bat mitzvah at Congregation Micah on June 30. Zoe is the daughter of Alison and Chad Cowan. She is the granddaughter of Sondra and Richard Martin and Patricia and Peter Cowan and sister to Annabelle and Elliot.

Zoe is a seventh grader at The American International School of Rotterdam in The Netherlands. Zoe

enjoys being around water. She spends the school year rowing in The Netherlands and her summers sailing on Lake Erie. She also enjoys volleyball, softball, and riding her bike and hanging out with friends.

For her Mitzvah project, Zoe plans to work with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital along with her mother. She will be part of Team BIG 98 to raise money for St. Jude and participate in the Rock n Roll Nashville 5K as a St. Jude Hero.

Graduations

Eytan Koch



Eytan Koch, son of Mosh and Evelyn Koch, graduated on May 12 from the Howard University School of Medicine in Washington. Eytan received an award for tutoring and mentoring

fellow medical students and a second award for organizing and running the Psychiatry (physical medicine and rehab) Society.

Eytan will be returning to New York City, where he worked for 20 years as a personal fitness trainer before entering medical school, for his residency in psychiatry. His preliminary year (internship) will be spent at Beth Israel and his three-year residency at NYU.

Obituaries

Helen Kaufman Farmer

Congregation Micah announces with sadness the passing of Helen Kaufman Farmer on May 13 at age 92.

Mrs. Farmer is survived by her sons, Michael Farmer and Sonny Farmer (Sheri Weiner), and six grandchildren. Her husband of 44 years, William Farmer, preceded her in death in 2007.

Mrs. Farmer was a trailblazing Music Row executive and nonprofit executive. She worked for the Country Music Association for more than 20 years, rising to the position of director of programs and special projects when she retired in 1994. She won the CMA Founding President's Award in 1994, and in 2008 she took home a Source Award, honoring women in Nashville's music industry.

Memorials can be made in her name to Congregation Micah.

Terry Arnold Fishbein

The Temple notes with sorrow the passing of Terry Arnold Fishbein on May 20. She is survived by her daughter, Cantor Tracy Fishbein of The Temple, son-in-law Glenn Turtel, grandchildren Anna and Joshua Turtel, and their extended family.

Richard M. Hochman

Congregation Micah announces with sadness the passing of Richard M. Hochman on May 19. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Micah members Michael and Natalie Hochman.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made in Richard's name to the Wounded Warrior Project and Congregation Micah.

Laurence Koch

Congregation Sherith Israel announces with sadness the loss of our longtime member, Lawrence Koch, who died on May 28. He is survived by his brothers, Moshe (Evelyn) and Carl; his children Rachel, Michael (Anita), Leslie (Stuart), and Carolyn (Yossi); and grandchildren Matt and Kenny.

Lewis Lavine

The Temple notes with sorrow the passing of Lewis Lavine on May 2 and extends condolences to his family.

His family has asked that gifts in his memory be made to a fund with the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee that continues his work there from 2005-2016. The Lewis Lavine Strategic Nonprofit Opportunities Fund will be a permanent endowment fund to encourage and support the efforts of nonprofit organizations to achieve efficiency and effectiveness.

Martha Lilly

West End Synagogue announces with sadness the passing of Martha Lilly, sister of WES member Susan Pankowsky.

Martha was predeceased by her father, Clyde Lilly, and son, Michael Dallas Haygood. She is survived by her siblings, Susan Pankowsky and Michael (Elizabeth) Lilly, mother Eleanor Russell, children Juanita Jean Perez, Matthew (Yuri) Mauldin, Jimmy Muhich, Ashley Nicole Haygood, grandchild Sergio Mauldin, nephews Nathan and James, and nieces Shirit, Sarah, and Raquel.

Donations can be made in her memory to Jewish Family Service or NAMI.

Rabbi Aaron Panken remembered as joyful leader

By JOSEFIN DOLSTEN

NEW YORK (JTA)—Rabbi Andrea Weiss, an associate professor of Bible at the New York campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and its incoming provost, remembered the joy that Rabbi Aaron Panken brought to his work. Weiss recalled how Panken would pop into his colleagues' offices asking if they were having fun.

"He had this very serious position as president of a very large institution, and he approached it with such joy and with kind of a boyish enthusiasm. He really loved his work," she said.

Friends and colleagues of Panken, the president of HUC who died last month in a plane crash, remembered him as a strong leader who was passionate about Israel and, above all, loved what he did as the leader of the Reform movement's flagship seminary and its campuses in New York, Jerusalem, Cincinnati and Los Angeles.

Jean Bloch Rosensaft, the school's assistant vice president for communications and public affairs, said Panken embodied "the best of the Reform movement."

"The college was his whole life. He was a real product of the Reform movement, and he was proud of it," Rosensaft told JTA.

Panken, who had led HUC since 2014, was killed while piloting a small aircraft near Wawayanda, N.Y., near the New Jersey border. A passenger, Frank Reiss, a flight instructor, was injured in the crash, whose cause is unclear pending investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board. Panken was a licensed pilot.

Prior to serving as HUC president, the native New Yorker held senior positions at the school, including vice president for strategic initiatives, dean of the New York campus and dean of students.

Rosensaft said Panken was passionate about Israel, working to improve ties between American Jews and the Jewish state, and strengthen Reform Judaism there.

"This was the mission of his life, and he really lived it with every fiber of his being," she said.

Panken worked to expand the HUC rabbinical program in Israel and its Jerusalem campus and recently ordained its 100th graduate.

"He was so full of pride and excite-

ment about what these men and women are trying to achieve in Israel," HUC Provost Michael Marmor said.

Panken started several Israel-related programs, including one that brings Israeli rabbinical students and graduates to visit the U.S. to learn more about Jewish life here. Another program, in partnership with the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Israel, strengthens ties between young Reform Jewish leaders and Israeli political and key cultural figures. He also created a program that brings Jewish, Christian and Muslim schoolteachers in Israel to the HUC Jerusalem campus to learn about tolerance.

"He was creating change and working toward positive change in Israeli society in order to strengthen Israel," Rosensaft said.

Rabbi Joseph Skloot, an assistant professor of modern Jewish intellectual history at HUC, remembered how friendly Panken was on their first meeting, when Skloot was 18 and a counselor at the Union for Reform Judaism Eisner Camp.

"Aaron had a gigantic heart and no artifice, and he was curious and engaged and wanted to get to know you," Skloot said.

Later, when Skloot attended the HUC rabbinical school, he was struck by Panken's engaging teaching style and mastery of rabbinic literature.

"His love of the Talmud and the rabbinic texts was unusual for someone who grew up in the Reform movement, where unlike in Orthodoxy where young people are trained in those texts from a very young age, we aren't," he said.

Skloot said Panken was able to convey that passion for the Talmud to his students.

"He was able to take students of different levels and backgrounds and show them the technical complexity, the inspirational wisdom at the heart of a basic sugya [passage] of the Talmud," he said.

Panken lived with his family in Scarsdale, N.Y., and was a member of the Westchester Reform Temple, where he had previously served as a rabbinic intern.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa Messinger; his children, Eli and Samantha; his parents, Beverly and Peter; and his sister, Rabbi Melinda Panken of Congregation Shaari Emeth in Manalapan, N.J. •

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@ West End

Continued from page 7

As a junior in high school, Joseph volunteered as a teacher aide for the entire calendar year and returned as a senior this year. He assisted high schoolers with morning services and the cantor's T'filah classes. He helped build a cohesive group among the 7th-11th grade students and contributed to religious school curricula. Joseph will be attending the University of Maryland in the fall.

We salute all of our teacher aides: Jake Bengelsdorf, Grace Cleveland, Josh Crowley, Maia Herman, Erin Keenan, Gillian Keenan, Max Potash and Elliot Tishler.

Beit Miriam honors 7th-grade students

Two students at West End Synagogue's religious school, Beit Miriam, have received recognition for the skills they have developed during their studies. The two, Isaac Cheng and Leo Wiston, received awards at this year's closing day ceremony at the school. Both are former students at Akiva School.

The Simon and Alven Ghertner Award for excellence in Hebrew and in Bar/Bat Mitzvah studies went to Isaac Cheng, a home-schooled student who also attends Jewish Middle School. Frank Ghertner, grandson of Simon and son of Alven Ghertner, presented the award.

"My grandfather, Simon Ghertner, was a leader of the West End Synagogue, in the early years of the religious school, and was very interested in the study of Hebrew and in maintaining its central role in the Jewish education of our students," Ghertner said. "My father, Alven, shared this love of Jewish education."

All of Isaac's teachers recognized him for his excellent Hebrew skills, as well as for his intellectual curiosity and the respect he shows towards his classmates and teachers. The award is made annually.

Leo Wiston received a special recognition award for excellence in synagogue skills. In presenting the award, Sharon Paz, director of lifelong learning at WES, said, "Leo always looks to find the meanings of words and asks lots of interesting theological questions about the Hebrew words that are used in the siddur."

He has learned the Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv service and the Shabbat morning Torah and Musaf services. A former Akiva student, Leo enjoys studying Talmud in Rabbi Joshua Kullock's Tuesday morning Talmud class. •



Photograph, titled Redblue, by Kay Ramming

Art for June: Roode, Beehler, Photo Girls

The Gordon Jewish Community Center's June art show exhibits will feature the work of Daniel Roode, Carolyn Beehler and Photo Girls.

The Janet Levine March Gallery will display the work of Daniel Roode. His large-scale works on canvas exhibit a codified and symbolic language that become a reflecting pool, probing deeply into memory, subconsciousness and identity. The layered imagery with delicately painted forms, collage and a graffiti-like action painting, invoke the work of forbears Basquiat and Galan resulting in a poetic balanced and ordered chaos that is all his own. Roode lives in Columbia, Tenn. In addition to this body of work, he has illustrated children's books.

The JLMG2 Gallery will feature the work of Carolyn Beehler, a paper artist and writer who lives in Nashville. She was born in California and moved to Tennessee as a child. First grade was the year she learned how to read, but kindergarten was the year she mastered drawing stick people with their necks attached, thank you very much. Her art progressed to drawing calendar bunnies and Disney

celebrities on VHS covers. Eventually she landed at O'More College of Design to study graphic design.

After graduating in 2009, she took several years to absorb the glitz and grime of bigger towns, including Shanghai and Los Angeles. She returned to Nashville around the time the recession began to let up and focused on refining paper "painting" techniques.

The Sig Held Gallery will exhibit the work of Photo Girls, a Nashville collective of female photographers. The title for their show is "Complimentary Colors." Though each piece in this show can stand alone, the colors in this show work well together, as do the photographers who created this exhibit: Kay Ramming, Amanda McCadams, Emily Naff, Andee Rudloff, and Wendy Whittmore.

The House Gallery will feature vintage posters of Israel in celebration of Israel's 70th birthday.

The reception for the artists will be held on Wednesday, June 6, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Gordon JCC, 801 Percy Warner Blvd.

There will be music by DJ Joseph Harris, henna painting by Seemi Rizvi along with complimentary food and beverage. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the JCC at (615) 354-1699, curator Carrie Mills at carrie@nashvillejcc.org, or go to www.nashvillejcc.org. •

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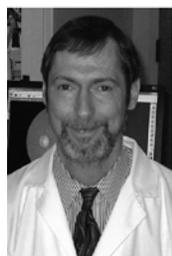
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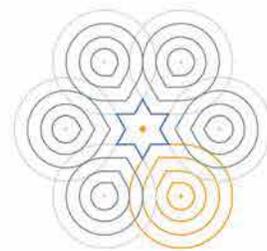
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