

Nashville's Jewish Community Stands Strong After Defacement of Holocaust Memorial

By BARBARA DAB

Nashville's Holocaust Memorial, which is on the grounds of the Gordon Jewish Community Center, was defaced by a banner strewn with antisemitic language in mid-June. The act stunned the local Jewish community and leaders responded immediately to both denounce the incident and to affirm the Gordon JCC's commitment to the safety and security of the center's grounds. A letter to the community by both Gordon JCC Executive Director Leslie Sax, and Board Chairman Raymond Jacobs, reads in part, "We condemn such bigotry and violence, which has no place in Nashville or anywhere in America. We are working with local authorities in their investigation, and the Jewish community security network was immediately informed of this incident. We are fortunate to have an excellent security team in place to protect us." Sax adds that at this time, the inci-

dent is still under investigation.

This latest incident came amidst the ongoing nationwide protests sparked by the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police. And it raises questions about whether some of the protesters involved are using this moment to lash out at the Jewish community, as well. David Hoffman, Associate Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League Southeast, says it is a possibility. "While we are not sure, we are seeing white supremacists in the same sphere at the rallies. This type of thing often shows up during times of racial unrest," he says. Hoffman also says acts such as this one are part of a trend. He reports that 2019 saw the highest number of reported incidents of antisemitism in the entire reporting history of the ADL. He cites some of the primary reasons as what he calls, "A hyper-politicized moment where people are spewing hate from school cafeterias to

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Rabbi Joshua Kullock leads members of West End Synagogue in evening Minyan after people hung antisemitic banner

Representative Harold Love Delivers Message of Hope at Juneteenth Gathering at The Temple

By BARBARA DAB

Delivering a message that was at times fiery and at other times deeply personal, State Rep. Harold Love, Jr. shared his family's story in Tennessee that began with enslavement but developed into a legacy of leadership. Standing masked and socially distant, Love gave his remarks at The Temple to lay leadership and an inter-denominational group of local clergy. Rabbi Mark Schiftan of The Temple said it was one of four engagements the congregation had with the local black community last month to address what he said is systemic racism. Love's speech marked Juneteenth, the day celebrating the freedom of all people who were enslaved in the United States. Although the Emancipation Proclamation outlawed slavery in 1863, it took two more years before enforcement of the law reached the state of Texas and on June 19, 1865, everyone enslaved there were freed.

Love began by speaking about his own parents, both of whom dedicated themselves to public service. His father, Harold Love, Sr., was a city councilman for Nashville, followed by a long tenure in the state legislature. His mother, Mary Love, was an administrator at Tennessee State University for many years. And Love says that while the current political system is a good one, it is time to consider the racism that he says is woven into the country's founding documents. "From the beginning, the Constitution contains policies that devalue black people," he said. He cited the, "Three-Fifths Compromise," which was proposed and agreed upon at the Constitutional Convention. Article One of the Constitution outlined the makeup of Congress as being determined by population, with blacks counting as three-fifths of a person compared to whites who each count as a whole person. The amendment was later superseded by

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Rabbi Mark Schiftan of The Temple welcomes State Representative Harold Love on Juneteenth



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Editor's Note

By BARBARA DAB

These last weeks have been difficult ones for our country. The murder of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis police sparked nationwide protests. Some have turned violent and some have been a peaceful, yet a passionate cry for sweeping police reforms that address continuing systemic racism. As a monthly publication, it is challenging

to cover these types of events and keep up with the 24 hour news cycle. But it is also impossible to ignore the pain experienced by our Black friends, neighbors, colleagues and loved ones. Some of Nashville's clergy sent letters to their congregations offering words of spiritual guidance, comfort and learning. In this issue of *The Observer*, we are sharing some of those letters as a reflection of our community's solidarity and support. •

Letters as a reflection

Living and Dying While Black in America

The same Talmud that teaches us: "One who saves a single life, saves an entire world" is the same Jewish text that instructs us that "One who destroys a single life, destroys an entire world."

The inexcusable brutality and killing of another African American man in custody begs our nation to confront its injustices and racism.

As Jews, as human beings, as members of the clergy, we mourn with the entire African-American community over the destruction, the slaughter and the torture of George Floyd at the hands of officers of the law in Minneapolis.

The damning footage of officers, entrusted to protect communities, turning instead to unnecessary, excessive violence and cruelty, broadcasts the violation of that trust and denial of the humanity of yet another Person of Color in America. This sickening video, together with others documenting the infuriating and enraging disregard for life, will not allow our nation to avert its eyes to the bigotry, racism inequality and suffering of communities of color, at the hands of white perpetrators, be they citizens or police.

As our nation mourns the near 100,000 victims of this pandemic, Covid-19 too had further exposed these inequities in race and privilege. Although the virus does not discriminate, we know the underlying systemic racism and bias has created such inequities in healthcare, housing, opportunities and safety. As a result, the African American community had been hit exponentially more. This, together with hateful rhetoric and indifference, has led to this utter disregard of human life.

We saw the brutality and last gasps for air. We heard the last words, begging for reprieve, for compassion, for breath. We cannot unsee what we have seen, nor unhear what we have heard. We should not need these videos to call us to action, and we cannot ignore them. We must hold all responsible and demand justice, reform and healing, and we must discern how we each play a part in perpetuating the systems that allow for such inhumanity to take hold.

In this week in which we memorialize to loss of 100,000 lives to a deadly virus, let us also make room to reflect on the needless taking of a single life, of yet another black person in America—denied the fullness of this nation's guarantees of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"—and with that, it's impact

on an entire world, his entire world, and on ours, as Jews, as well.

Rabbi Mark Schiffan
Rabbi Shana Mackler
Rabbi Michael Shulman
Cantor Tracy Fishbein

The Temple's Response to Violent Protest...

All of us were shaken by the disturbing images we witnessed this past Saturday night of angry mobs let loose on the streets of downtown Nashville. To see our City Hall attacked and ablaze was troubling and traumatic.

As members of a historically oppressed minority, we Jews know the acts of injustice that can come upon us by others, even at previous times by agents and agencies of the law. We sympathize and empathize with all others who face the pain and cruelty of being treated as less than full human beings, especially by law enforcement officers who take an oath to defend the same Constitution that extends its rights, liberties and civil protections to all of us, regardless of background or belief.

But...

When the response turns violent, when civil disobedience gives way to civic unrest, it crosses a line that is no longer welcome nor acceptable. It ceases to fulfill its initial purpose and its primary pursuit. It becomes a chaotic attack on innocent victims. It undermines the goals it originally intended to achieve. It threatens American institutions and ideals.

Acts of looting, arson and violence towards others accomplish nothing that leads to the ennoblement of society. These acts tear at the very fabric of American life.

So, let us pray for a better day ahead, for our nation and all of its citizens. And in the meantime, let us affirm that the primary role of our nation's leaders, those called upon to guide us and serve us—all of us, each of our families and communities—is to protect us, all of us, from harm.

Amen

Dear Micah family,

We enter Shabbat looking for peace and calm amidst the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and so many others who have come before. This is a devastating moment in our country, the history of which is so stained by racial injustice. This injustice has been on dramatic, pub-

lic display—from the disproportionate rate of COVID-19 deaths to the pervasive racism in many areas of public life.

We believe that every person and institution must assume responsibility to create a more equitable and just society. Jewish tradition forbids us to remain silent in the face of racial injustice. "Do not stand idly by while your neighbor's blood is shed." (Leviticus 19:16).

We know that these three recent murders, and so many others, have caused acute pain in the Black community, in the Black Jewish community, and among many in our broader American society. We must acknowledge this pain and respond in every way we can.

So what can we do? Many of you are asking, and we love that you are:

We cannot legislate our way through this. The Civil Rights Act was passed nearly 60 years ago, and this is still where we are. We believe that the only way through this will be by relationship. And those relationships start here, at Congregation Micah, with us coming together, even virtually, and talking about the ways in which, either actively or passively, contribute to or support racist policies and structures in our society. Through our book read of Dr. Ibram Kendi's *How to Be An Anti-racist* beginning in July, to our town hall next Thursday June 11th on *Race in America*, we welcome you to the safe space that is Micah to share, to learn, and together, to move the needle. We call on each member of the Micah community to respond to this moment of crisis by taking action to build a more just world.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel reminds us pointedly that "morally speaking, there is no limit to the concern one must feel for the suffering of human beings, that indifference to evil is worse than evil itself, that in a free society, some are guilty, but all are responsible."

We begin on this Shabbat, to bring more shalom--more peace-- to our world. The work will be difficult, and we may, at times, be exhausted by it. *Lo alecha ha-malacha ligmor, v'lo ata ben chorin l'hibatel me-menah...* we are not required to finish the work, but neither are we free to desist from it. On this Shabbat, we seek the peace that comes from agency and scorns indifference.

Your Rabbis,
Laurie and Flip Rice

Do I know what it feels like to be a black man in America?

Dear friend,
Sharing a message for the Nashville community is a great opportunity to connect and share Torah ideas for modern day living. But there are times when I struggle with what message to share with you my dear friends.

To ignore the legitimate pain that millions of Americans are feeling right now would be wrong. Any human being with a conscience grieves when watching the video of George Floyd being murdered. To see someone so oblivious to the suffering of another human being, that he doesn't realize that a life is being extinguished directly under his knee, is truly horrific. But the officers involved have thankfully now been charged.

To make the necessary disclaimers that as an American I strongly support the right to protest and speak up for equality; while just as strongly condemning any form of rioting, looting or

violence -and the anti-Semites using the mayhem as an excuse to vandalize Synagogues- is important to state, but hopefully already obvious to all of you.

So instead of regurgitating the worn platitudes and overused clichés about living together in peace, just to prove my relevance as a sermonizing Rabbi, I will do something brutally honest (and perhaps dangerous). I will step outside of myself and objectively ask myself the hard questions that would be easier to ignore. Do I know what it feels like to be a black man in America? Can I imagine what it's like to jog around the neighborhood or drive around town late at night only to get suspicious looks or be stopped by the police?

Yes, as Jews we have all suffered some form of antisemitism and prejudice in our lives. Yes, many innocent Jews have died, just for the crime of being Jewish. We know very well what it's like to be the victims of senseless murders and terror attacks by people who despise us. But being honest, does that give me the perspective of a black man? Do our millennia of suffering naturally make us more sensitive to the discrimination of others who don't look, or behave, like us? No, it doesn't.

Naturally we prefer to see the world through our own lens. Naturally we gravitate towards familiarity; we connect with people who look like us, think like us and behave like us. Some sadly become uncomfortable when encountering someone different than them. But an essential message of our Torah is that we must learn to transcend our natural tendencies, to overcome our inherent shortcomings, and to view the world as G-d sees it.

This is true for every part of our world view. It is true for seeing the potential of holiness in the food we eat, or the potential of kindness in the money we use for charity. It is true for how we study the inner dimensions of Torah, and for every Mitzvah we do with a physical object. And it is also true for the Mitzvot between one human and another where we need to look with a Divine perspective and expand our vision to see the inner quality and truest core of all humanity.

We are all the same, all of us "created in the image of G-d". But more than just being molded in the same cast, we actually all come from the same Father in Heaven. Yes, George is my brother, just from a different mother. And so is Trevon and Jamal and Jose and Juan. We all have different mothers, different upbringings and different cultures. Our DNA is not the same. Yes, we grew up in very different homes with different role models and different worldviews.

But one of the most fundamental truths of life, as taught to us by the Creator of the Universe in His Torah, is to not get distracted by the shell and packaging of this earth. We understand that every created being has a soul within, an inner core that is its true definition and reality.

This is not a statement on the complex issue of racism and prejudice in our country. This is not a signal of support for any group or political agenda, of any kind. This is simply a question that we, as Jews trying to live a transformative life of truth and meaning, need to honestly ask ourselves regularly. Am I being materialistic or spiritual? Am I distracted by petty, insignificant externalities or am I living a deeper existence with a focus on the true value of life? Am I only able to see what I can buy with the money I have or am I am able to see the greater good that my money can achieve?

Am I able to see the soul of my brother?

Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel

Letter to the editor

With Appreciation

So much has been written about decisions; glasses half full; forks in the road. Saturday afternoon, June 13th and really the hours that followed, brought the harsh reality of hatred into our lives. Our Holocaust Memorial was desecrated by vandals. It was terrible. But, our community leadership quickly assessed the situation and responded. I am grateful to them for their quick action.

The authorities were contacted, the Jewish Security team was notified, and the ADL came on as resource. Given the challenges that Nashville has faced this year, the credo, "Nashville Strong" was exemplified on the grounds of the GJCC.

As Chair of the Holocaust Memorial committee, I watched with awe as Leslie Sax of the Gordon Jewish Community Center and Eric Stillman and Deborah Oleshansky of the Jewish Federation developed a plan of response and protec-

tion. The ensuing days brought words of concern and support from many segments of the Nashville community.

In these days of genuine and collective concern about the dignity and safety of every human being, our Memorial serves as a moral center to achieving that goal. We pray that someday soon we will live in an inclusive, stronger world.

The memory of the hate displayed at the Memorial will linger on. But we live in a community which takes its responsibility of Tikkun Olam to heart. We might have decided to let fear and anger determine our reactions to this vile act. But our Jewish Community has chosen another path, to see the Holocaust Memorial as a catalyst that challenges taking our own tragic history and using it to power the fight we wage on behalf of achieving respect for all of us.

Felicia Anchor, Chair
Nashville Holocaust Memorial

NJSJR urges Jews to participate in the equal justice initiatives

The Nashville Jewish Social Justice Roundtable (NJSJR) has taken a pro-active stance in supporting African Americans in calling for justice, accountability and change. The progressive Jewish grass roots organization has listed on its website a number of steps Jewish community members can take, individually and collectively to address institutional racism locally.

Most of all, the group urges the community to listen to the stories being told by African Americans detailing their

fears for their children, their personal experiences with the justice system and their hopes for the future.

Over the past few months, the NJSJR website has undergone changes. In the process, a number of names and email addresses of subscribers to the site have vanished. If you would like to subscribe or have previously subscribed and not received newsletters, please go to www.jsjrnashville.org. Invite your friends to join nearly 200 other NJSJR members.

For additional information, contact Irwin Venick at Irwin.venick@gmail.com or Avi Poster at aviposter4@gmail.com

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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 Barbara Dab at (615) 354-1653 or email her at barbaradab@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 Barbara Dab at barbaradab@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 Barbara Dab, 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.

JOB OPPORTUNITY



Jewish Federation
& Jewish Foundation
OF NASHVILLE AND MIDDLE TENNESSEE

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

Opening for Financial Resource Development (FRD) Director

POSITION SUMMARY

Jewish Federation & Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee seeks an engaging, dynamic, and experienced team leader with an entrepreneurial spirit to direct our financial resource development (FRD) efforts. Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, the FRD Director will bring new approaches and innovative strategies to all streams of fundraising. The Director is responsible for the development and implementation of all facets of FRD, providing overall direction for the FRD team with an emphasis on increasing donor engagement and giving, as well as increasing efficiency of fundraising strategies.

The FRD Director will work in partnership with volunteer leadership to execute development strategy and demonstrate a strong skill set to identify, cultivate, solicit, and steward relationships with current and prospective donors to all streams of giving. The FRD Director will serve as the professional lead for all aspects of fundraising and provide direction, focus, and oversight. The FRD Director will be responsible for building and strengthening relationships with key volunteers to advance their connection to and involvement in fundraising and the Federation.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

Working with Volunteer Leadership

- Provide professional support to and partner with volunteer/lay leadership to identify, initiate, and develop solicitation efforts, enhance current initiatives, and implement fundraising activities.
- Design and implement Fundraising education and training opportunities for volunteer leadership.
- Cultivate and steward prospective and current donors and volunteers.

Fundraising

- Review and evaluate current fundraising systems and processes, and, if necessary, restructure them to better meet the Federation's mission and fundraising objectives.
- Analyze and evaluate development-related data to identify opportunities for greater efficiency and efficacy in raising funds and increasing the number of donors and donations.
- Train, develop, focus and inspire FRD staff, enhancing a dynamic and effective team.
- Collaborate with Federation staff across departments to implement FRD efforts.
- Supervise all fundraising events and develop measurable outcomes to evaluate effectiveness of programming.
- Oversee the creation and implementation of internal and external fundraising communications in collaboration with Marketing Director.
- Manage FRD budget.

Miscellaneous Responsibilities

- Manage special projects as requested.
- Carry out additional relevant responsibilities as assigned by Executive Director.
- Oversee implementation of RE NXT software platform for fundraising.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge, Skills, Abilities and Personal Characteristics

- A passionate and optimistic individual who inspires team members to find opportunities to make improvements and strive for excellence in execution of their plans.
- Results driven achiever with exemplary planning and organizational skills along with a high degree of detail orientation.
- Demonstrated success implementing strategic activities and tasks with clear goals, objectives and measurement tools.
- A motivational communicator, both written and verbal, who is effective in 1-on-1 and group settings, as well as equally engaging with internal and external audiences.
- Goal driven leader who maintains a productive climate and confidently motivates, mobilizes and coaches colleagues to meet high performance standards.
- Flexible perspective – ability to work with processes and systems that are evolving and subject to change.
- Understanding of the complexity of the volunteer/professional relationship and success managing those relationships in an effective and professional manner.
- Knowledge of database systems and trends in utilizing technology in prospect identification and research.
- Strong knowledge of Jewish community, culture and practices. Passion for the mission of Federation and the Jewish community including Israel and world Jewry.
- Experience managing and developing budgets.

Education, Training and/or Experience

- Bachelor's degree in relevant field required and advanced degree preferred or equivalent of professional experience.
- A minimum of 7 years of professional experience in a financial resource development role, demonstrating increasing responsibilities with at least 3 years of success in a team management position.
- Experience working with volunteers particularly in the non-profit sector, strongly preferred.
- Hands-on experience with one or more donor database/software (RE NXT/Raiser's Edge preferred).

This job announcement is not intended to be a complete list of all responsibilities, duties or skills required for the job and is subject to review and change at any time, with or without notice, in accordance with the needs of Jewish Federation & Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. With established personnel guidelines, Jewish Federation & Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee endeavors to provide accommodation for applicants of all abilities.

Commensurate with experience, education and previous related achievements. The position is full time exempt and offers a competitive benefits package.

Applicants must include a cover letter stating interest in the position, a list of three (3) recent professional references who only will be contacted in case of a candidate being interviewed, and a resume of educational and professional experience. Application should be sent via email to eric@jewishnashville.org and no applicant phone calls please.

Action Steps to Address Racism

By DEBORAH OLESHANSKY

"Few are guilty, but all are responsible"

This quote from Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel is as relevant now as ever. The protest movement we are witnessing demands a new, effective, and urgent response to systemic racism. While we may not be personally guilty for what led us here, we are all responsible for learning and engaging in efforts to address this deep injustice in our society.

Showing up at protests can be a valuable way to lend support, but for many not able to participate in person, here are options to be engaged with social solidarity and physical distance:

- How to be an Antiracist Book Group discussion: Some groups have already launched, and we continue to form new groups via zoom as there is interest. Groups are available through the Community Relations Committee as well as Congregations.

- Nashville Organized for Action and Hope: www.noah.org: Community organization to address issues of community concern including education, economic and racial equity. CRC is a supporting member along with some of our local Jewish congregations. During COVID-19, NOAH meetings are being conducted via zoom and are open to all interested members.

- Follow the lead of Black organizers. Just as our Jewish community get to determine how we understand antisemitism and how we want our partners to respond, so to those who are most impacted by these policies much have our support in defining the response. Partner with efforts led by communities of Color taking action on issues of justice:

NAACP: #Wearedoingcampaign

This campaign includes a petition calling for justice for George Floyd, as well as action steps related to criminal justice, economic issues, health issues,

and voting rights/access.

Poor Peoples Campaign
www.poorpeoplescampaign.org

Led by Rev. William J. Barber II, this campaign is an effort to confront systemic racism, shift the moral narrative, impact policies and elections, and build lasting power to address the crisis of systemic racism, poverty and ecological devastation.

VOTE: GoVoteTN.com

Pursuant to the June 4, 2020 Order of the Davidson County Chancery Court, if you are a registered voter and do not wish to vote in-person due to the COVID-19 situation, you are eligible to request and absentee ballot by mail. You also have the option to vote in-person during the early voting or on Election Day. **DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT: JULY 30, 2020** for August election.

Jewish Council for Public Affairs:
jewishpublicaffairs.org

Our local Community Relations Committee is part of this national orga-

nization providing information and resources. They provide webinars on issues of concern for the Jewish community, including a recent webinar with Eric Ward, Western States Center, on how antisemitism is deeply embedded in the white nationalist movements. Recordings of these webinars are available on the JCPA website.

National Legislative Efforts: Both the U.S. House and Senate are actively working on legislation to address concerns related to policing and criminal justice reform.

House Judiciary Committee: judiciary.house.gov

Congressman Steve Cohen, Memphis, TN, serves on this committee
Senate Judiciary Committee: judiciary.senate.gov

Senator Marsha Blackburn serves on this committee.

For additional information and resources to learn more please contact Deborah Oleshansky, deborah@jewish-nashville.org •

Harold Love

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the 14th Amendment, but Love says the damage to black people was already done. He said, "My worth was devalued as a matter of policy."

In modern times, Love said public policy continued the devaluation of black people. He cited several key areas where systemic racism discounted blacks' basic needs. Before The Fair Housing Act was passed in 1968, blacks faced significant discrimination in housing opportunities. Prior to Brown vs. The Board of Education, black students were bused to schools far from their neighborhoods, and, even today, he said black students often receive a less than equal education than white students. When it comes

to healthcare, Love described The Tuskegee Experiment which allowed black men to be injected with syphilis for 40 years before Congress finally outlawed human experimentation without consent. All these things, said Love, are examples of racism that affects everyone. "Historically, racism doesn't just affect the oppressed, it also affects the oppressor. It's like we are all part of a current in a flowing stream." He said the police officer who killed George Floyd was also a victim, acting on what he was taught about black neighborhoods and black people.

Love believes a way to effect change is to provide opportunity for people to tell their story. He said, "It's important to spend time listening to people tell what happened so we can learn how to

be intentional in our sensitivity and in taking corrective action." He also said it is important to push back against the fear that is at the core of racism. "It's not thinking that in order for me to win, someone else has to lose," he said. "And change is possible, but it will take time and the willingness to be vulnerable in telling our stories."

Rabbi Schiffan said it was important to create opportunities like this one, and, even within the Jewish community, there are people of color who face discrimination. He said, "There has been a lot of listening. We've had some strong reactions from our own congregants on this issue. Many have directly faced racism and negative experiences with law enforcement." He says some people are challenged to express their anger at the

situation. "They are mindful about not presenting themselves with justifiable rage so as to make people stop listening." And Rabbi Shana Mackler said she found responses varied within the black community. "The responses are based on individual experience and the hope some feel, but also the realization by others that things may not change." She said others are overwhelmed by the outpouring of global support. And within The Temple community, congregants are realizing there is a lot of work to be done. Other clergy in attendance appeared supportive and enthusiastic in their response to Love. Rev. Neelley Hicks of Glencliff Methodist Church, said, "If we can have our voices amplified throughout the world, we can change things. Our voices matter." •

Holocaust Memorial

Continued from page 1

the halls of Congress." Hoffman also says during times of economic anxiety and concerns about safety Jews are often the first to be scapegoated, additionally the pervasiveness of social media serves to normalize hate. He says, "During times like this it is critical to speak out, share facts and show strength. We are not sweeping this under the rug."

As the investigation continues, the Jewish community is sending the message that while the banner itself was shocking and painful to see, it will not change how Jews in Nashville conduct their daily lives. Felicia Anchor is Chair of the Board of the Nashville Holocaust Memorial and was instrumental in its creation. She says, "Jews live with antisemi-

tism every moment of every day, but we always pull together to face it and address it." The Memorial was dedicated in 2006 and includes the names of members of local families who perished during the Holocaust. Anchor herself is the daughter of Holocaust survivors and was one of 2,000 children born in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp following the liberation. At the center of the memorial is a large steel sculpture of a book, the work of local artisan Alex Limor. Limor is also the son of Holocaust survivors. He says he is grateful no one was injured and that no permanent damage was done to the memorial itself. But he also denounces those who hung the banner, and its message, and says the key to fighting hate is tolerance and education. "The Holocaust shows us that humankind is capable of evil, but we have to fight it.

We can disagree but we need to tolerate each other." And he says it is during this time of unrest that Jews can be an example to others. "Jews have gone through antisemitism through the ages and are very sensitive to what is happening to the Black community, too."

There has also been some healing in the wake of the incident. Just days after it happened, amid the sounds of birds and nature, Rabbi Joshua Kullock of West End Synagogue led an evening Minyan service at the Holocaust Memorial. The service marked the first time the congregation has joined together physically since the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of places of worship. At the conclusion of the service, just before the reciting of the Kaddish, memorial prayer, Rabbi Kullock said, "White supremacists are trying to rewrite our history, but the best thing to do is to keep telling the stories and learning from those who survived the horrors of the Shoah." The service was the idea of West End Synagogue member Mary Cornelius. She said she felt disgusted upon learning about the banner and felt the need for what she calls, "a cleansing of the memorial." She consulted with Rabbi Kullock who created the plan to allow the community to come together safely. The minyan was attended by just 12 people, wearing masks and standing socially distant, but was livestreamed on

Facebook and via Zoom. Cornelius says, "I am a native Nashvillian. I grew up at the J, spent my childhood here, this was the least we could do. This gives me a lot of strength."

In the days following the memorial's defacement, support has poured into the Jewish community from throughout the city and the country. Through letters, phone calls, emails and texts, others have expressed their shock, sorrow and the commitment to helping send the message that antisemitism and hate has no place in the world. Felicia Anchor sent a message to the community immediately following the incident. In it she expressed both outrage and resolve. "Their vulgar insults and deliberate credos to white supremacy were splayed on the Memorial Walls where loved ones murdered in the Holocaust are honored. For many, this is the only place to recognize family members because their bodies were consumed in crematorium and they have no graves. Those recognized on the walls were killed for only one reason, because they were Jewish. With this vile act, their memory was devalued and dishonored, leaving us feeling threatened and afraid. Jews have been forced to live with the pain and fear of discrimination and stereotyping for centuries. The tension has never left our collective psyche. Yet, even as a discriminated minority, we understand that such hatred is not isolated." •



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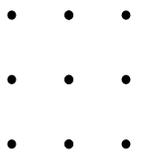
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Volunteers Deliver Meals and Smiles to Local First Responders

By BARBARA DAB

Volunteers from Nashville's Jewish community delivered over 600 meals to front line workers and first responders at several local hospitals, police, and fire/EMS stations. The project was provided

through a generous donation compliments of the Maria & Bernard A. Pargh Family Foundation, through the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. Meals were cooked by SOVA Catering and Goldie Shepard. •



Mark and Sylvia Shepard get meal packages ready for delivery.



Firefighter at Firehouse 34 receives meal delivery



Evelyn Koch with front line staff at Tristar Hospital. "It was nice to get out of the house--all the way to Hermitage--and do a mitzvah at the same time! Please call on us again!" Evelyn Koch



Officers at MNPD's West Precinct, Intelligence Unit and Belle Meade PD receive meal packages



Volunteers Ellen Rosen and Mara Sommers deliver meals to Firehouse 17.

A Labor of Love

By GOLDIE SHEPARD

My parents taught me from a very early age that when a few lemons come your way, make lemonade. And actually, I drink a lot of lemonade, because I like it! COVID-19 came upon us and everyone, I'm sure, had their own thoughts, worries and concerns. In early March, Shabbat dinner at Vanderbilt Hillel, which had become a huge part of my week during the academic year, was canceled. Shabbat dinners have taken on a whole new meaning for me over the last 15 years, and the thought of Passover not happening, and the realization that I had no control over any of it, was very difficult for me. Was I going to miss cooking briskets for 400, clean Kosher chickens, order one more Kosher for Passover item on Amazon or ask Sylvia to roll 1,000 matzo balls (She and Manischewitz should share the

patent)? No, my sadness was not about the food or the planning of the event. It was about missing the Seder services which the students so proudly created; the collection of kids having fun; their creativity; the crowd coming together to make memories. For me, it was simple: I was sad for the kids and for what was lost after 15 years.

As the B'nai Mitzvahs were cancelled, I was again heartbroken! It was not about business, but about those young boys and girls learning and making a commitment to their own Judaism. The parents made new arrangements, explained it all to the kids, but how much drive-by can we do? I loved doing the drive-bys, but I will never forget the memory of the clergy's hands on my daughters' heads as they committed themselves to God. This all took a toll on me, but I felt so fortunate to remain healthy and warm. I had done so much advance shopping for the canceled events, that I

began giving food to anyone who could use it, but there are limits to tuna! I missed the Friday night Oneg at Temple, people gathering for services and breaking bread together. All the clergy at The Temple are welcoming and warm. The concluding prayers and music always give me hope for a peaceful week ahead. During the Oneg one can feel a connection to Judaism and a sense of belonging. Another loss and love for me is the Learn and Lunch program at West End Synagogue. Watching people come together for learning and sharing a hot meal together is a wonderful experience. All are welcome and no one is turned away.

One of my angels in Nashville, Barbara Schwarcz, called to ask me to participate in preparing box lunches for first responders for a program provided compliments of The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee and Maria and Bernie

Pargh. Wow, what an experience this was for me and the village who put on their gloves and masks and pitched in! So many people volunteered with a smile and I hope I don't leave anyone out: American Paper and Twine, Vanderbilt Hillel; Sylvia Shepard; Mark Shepard; Nancy Flexer, who pushes me to reach beyond; the volunteers who came by right on schedule to pick up and deliver. Some of the newcomers who volunteered know the city much better than I do! I was overwhelmed when the delivery team thanked me for allowing them to help. Huge thanks to Mara Sommers, Amy Weinstein, Barbara Levy Zander, Evelyn and Moshe Koch, Karen Berson, Steve and Leslye Lapidus who provided beauty to the boxes. Those who received this simple gesture were so appreciative and gave me something I was unaware I was looking for. I realized that still small voice was looking for nourishment for me. •

Jewish Family Service Recognized for Helping Same Sex Couples Build Families

By BARBARA DAB

Jewish Family Service of Nashville and Middle Tennessee is being recognized by the Human Rights Campaign in its 2020 All Children All Families Report for its work in the field of same sex parent adoptions. The report is in its second year and recognizes organizations that implemented LGBTQ-inclusive policies and practices, including non-discrimination, staff training and creating a welcoming environment. JFS, which achieved the, "Building Foundation for Inclusion," tier, is the only agency in Tennessee to receive the designation. Alison Depercio, Director of All Children All Families of the Human Rights Campaign, says agencies like JFS not only provide service, but they go beyond by educating others about the need for support for same sex families. She says, "It is a huge message to the community at large that it is in the best interest of children to remove obstacles in creating permanent families."

Four years ago, Brandon and Ozzie Di Paolo Harrison began their process to expand their family. Both are professors at Austin Peay State University and learned about JFS from a colleague. They were referred to Toni Jacobsen, Clinical Director at JFS, who they say made them feel comfortable and welcome. "Working with Toni was so positive. She was kind, thorough and left nothing to chance." says

Brandon. The adoption process can take anywhere from one year to 18 months and includes a home study, post-placement visits and assistance with paperwork. Families must find another agency to help with placement of the child. Toni says, "As Jews, people know we have faced discrimination and antisemitism and understand what that is like. They know we will serve them with integrity." Toni helped the couple navigate some sticky bureaucratic processes to facilitate the adoption of their daughter, Isabella. In fact, it took six months for the birth mother to relinquish parental rights, something that usually takes days. Ozzie says it was a stressful time, but JFS was there to support them through it all, "It was so important to have Toni. It felt like she was our partner through the whole endeavor. She was always open and honest."

JFS began facilitating same sex adoptions in 2002, mostly to non-Jewish couples. Since then, the agency has been involved with over 150 same sex adoptions. Former JFS social worker Teri Sogol assisted with the very first adoption. She says, "JFS's history as a welcoming and inclusive social service agency is well known in the LGBTQ community and beyond. This recognition of the agency's achievement in meeting important benchmarks is well deserved."

Earlier this year, Governor Lee signed into law a measure that allows agencies to deny adoption services to same-sex

couples if doing so violates their religious policies or beliefs. The American Civil Liberties Union urged the Governor not to sign the legislation and advocacy groups like HRC say it targets members of the LGBTQ community. But for JFS, helping all families is business as usual. Pam Kelner, Executive Director, says, "We

have always opened our doors to all couples seeking adoption, and we will continue to provide these services as long as they are necessary." And Brandon Di Paolo Harrison says that by just doing the work, it sends what he calls, "a poignant message that a religious organization in Tennessee will support same-sex families." •



Di Paolo Harrison Family, left to right Brandon with Isabella, Madelyn and Ozzie.



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Akiva's Daniella Pressner Receives Rabbinic Ordination

By BARBARA DAB

Those who know Daniella Pressner, know her to be passionate about combining formal learning with real life experience to, in her words, “make Judaism come alive.” And now, in addition to her title as Head of School at Akiva School, she has a new designation, that of, “Rabba.” After spending the last three years in the Kollel program of Yeshivat Maharat in New York City, Daniella became Tennessee’s first, and only, woman to receive a Modern Orthodox ordination. The live-streamed ceremony took place in early June and Daniella was joined by eight other women from diverse professions and educational backgrounds. In total, there are now 43 graduates of Yeshivat Maharat.

Her path to this achievement may not have been direct, but Daniella says it is consistent with how she has lived her life, up to this point. “The ability to merge text with bringing meaning to people’s lives is something that I’m really drawn to in general,” she says, “It wasn’t surprising to me that when it finally became available to me in a way that I could do it, that I took it on.” In fact, when Daniella first arrived in Nashville, the Yeshiva was in its beginning and was not able to accommodate her need for long distance learning. But her patience paid off and she eventually received a call from them inviting her to apply. After a rigorous process, which included a written exam, an interview and teaching text, she was accepted into the accelerated, three-year executive program.



Daniella Pressner

The program was conducted through virtual and in-person classes and study with a partner. In Daniella’s case, her partner was based in Australia which allowed her the flexibility to work at night. In fact, many evenings she studied long past midnight while in Australia it was the middle of the day.

Daniella hopes her achievement will inspire other women to work toward higher levels of learning. “When you’re not acknowledged for those high levels, people don’t necessarily know that about you. I really want to open up spaces where women can be called upon for matters of law or jurisdiction and questions about spirituality.” In today’s world, she says people

are facing some big challenges, “What constitutes a minyan, can you have a minyan over Zoom. Should a woman need to go to the Mikvah if her health is at stake, and when should she go to the Mikvah. I really want to be part of that conversation.” She also cites showing her own children, four of them ages five through 11, that deep learning can be pursued at every stage of life, as another outcome.

There are differences in the way the rabbinate is applied by Orthodox women, although Daniella sees many ways in which both female and male rabbis’ role look similar. “When people talk about the rabbis as mentors and spiritual leaders and people who can have open conversations about matters of halacha, that to me is very meaningful,” she says. And while the realm of prayer in the synagogue is the most public part of the job, she says it is not the most time consuming. Daniella says she has been invited to speak from the bimah at Sherith Israel and acknowledges the congregation’s inclusivity of women.

What moves Daniella is the opportunity to express herself as a learned woman within the tradition in which she was raised. After spending her early years at a Solomon Shechter day school, she attended an Orthodox high school. “For my parents it was really important that we knew what living a traditional Jewish life was all about, but it was a very open home.” She says her experience growing up was diverse, and she was empowered to find ways on her own to feel connected to Judaism. For

Daniella, that naturally meant seeking out educational challenges. “For me it was all about questioning and digging deeply into the learning and becoming an accomplished learner and not being afraid to achieve those same levels of rigor that were given to the boys.”

As for how her new role will be integrated into her work and community, folks at Akiva School are proud of her achievement and are looking forward to her bringing even greater depth in her role. Board member Moshe Werthan says, “It is such a pleasure to work with Daniella. Her creativity, intelligence and zest for perfection is unsurpassed. With an already enormous load, she has undertaken to broaden her knowledge and reach by becoming an Orthodox Rabba. Too few of us look at Judaism as an intellectual pursuit. Now Daniella is bringing it home to Nashville.” Still, Daniella says it can be difficult for some to accept the changing role of women. She says in some communities there can be pushback on everything from what name to take on to how public to be about the new title. Human beings, she says, are not generally comfortable with changes that shake their foundational expectations. And she is sensitive to those who struggle with it as well as those who are anxious to see change happen. “I think for me what it really means to lead in this journey is to be able to hold each of those sensibilities with honor. To be able to pull people together in a way that people on both sides can feel heard and nurtured and find connection and meaning.” •

Naomi Limor Sedek to Take New Post in Virginia Beach

By BARBARA DAB

Naomi Limor Sedek is a true product of the Nashville Jewish community. Starting as a teen donor and volunteer for the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, and continuing after college as a young Jewish professional, Naomi’s

passion for serving the community is known to just about everyone. In her current position as Assistant Executive Director, she was instrumental in growing the Federation’s endowment, expanding the local team’s ability to provide resources to the community and orchestrating and leading the largest mission to Israel in the Nashville Federation’s histo-

ry, among other things. And beginning in mid-July, she will build on her experiences by taking on a new role, that of CEO and President of the Tidewater Jewish Foundation in Virginia Beach, Virginia. It is a role she says, is a logical next step in her professional journey. “This is a new opportunity to help secure the future of the Jewish community in a new city,” she says, “It helps me fulfill my passion for connecting people to their Judaism.”



Naomi Limor Sedek

Naomi’s passion for Jewish life is well documented in Nashville. She began her career with the Jewish Federation following graduation from Brandeis University and through the years she continued her upward trajectory, encouraging and inspiring those around her. Naomi draws inspiration from her grandparents, all four of whom were Holocaust survivors. “I know the suffering that befalls our people when the Jewish world is not united,” she says, “I never want to live in a world where we don’t take care of each other.” And on a personal level, Naomi has been a one-woman welcome wagon to many newcomers, including The Federation’s CEO, Eric Stillman. “Before I even arrived in Nashville two years ago, Naomi welcomed me, reaching out as my trusted colleague, and helped me to learn what makes this community so special and unique. I am grateful to Naomi, as well, for her warm welcome of my new bride, helping to ease her transition into Nashville,” he says.

It is this desire to care for and unify the Jewish community around the

world that carried Naomi on mission trips to Israel, Argentina, Russia, Cuba and throughout Eastern Europe. And it is this same desire that will carry her to a new community in Virginia where she will, once again, engage and inspire the community to support Jewish continuity around the world. “There is such beauty and joy in our traditions and history. We may be separated geographically, but we share the same traditions. Federation is the place to celebrate our diversity and our unity,” she says.

Naomi is supported in this move by her many colleagues in Nashville who wish her well. Eric Stillman says, “With great respect for Naomi as a person and professional, I will miss her and know that the Tidewater Jewish Foundation has an incredible CEO and President on her way to Virginia.” And, she has enjoyed the poignant experience of reminiscing as friends and community members reach out to wish her well. This change comes at a time of uncertainty as the world grapples with the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. But in true fashion, Naomi pushes ahead planning the move, helping her children navigate college and beyond and supporting her husband’s career. It is precisely these challenges that energize her. And as for the future, she is looking forward to working with a new team who she says is encouraging of women in leadership positions and who she believes will help her grow even further. She says, “I am most successful when I’m authentic with myself.” •

Celebrating Love During a Pandemic

By BARBARA DAB

There is a famous Yiddish saying, “Man plans, and God laughs,” and in this time of COVID-19, this seems to ring true. When it comes to creating a new life with your b’shert (Divinely intended soulmate), love can find a way to transcend challenges. And such was the case for Eric Stillman, CEO of the Jewish Federation and Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, and his new bride, Rabbi Jessica Shimberg, who came together under the chuppah after the final moments of Shavuot slipped away. Jessica says, “We had planned to be married in a ceremony surrounded by family and very close friends from our lives with one of my beloved colleagues officiating; however, COVID-19 dramatically altered all our lives and, of course, our plans for how to be married.” In true pandemic style, the intimate ceremony was officiated by Rabbi Saul Strosberg in the Sherith Israel sanctuary and witnessed via both zoom and Facebook Live by over 250 family and friends from all over North America and Israel.

Eric and Jessica’s whirlwind romance began just less than one year ago, with the two finding each other through JDate. After speaking initially over the phone, their first date was meeting for lunch in Louisville, Kentucky because it was halfway between Eric’s home in Nashville and Jessica’s home in Columbus, Ohio. True to form, Eric had researched this location as a potential meeting point, so he was ready with the suggestion when they considered where to meet for the first time. As Jessica shared during the

wedding ceremony, “We have discussed, on many occasions, that it is no coincidence nor a small miracle that we met last July. I was being held in the protective embrace of Shloshim as I grieved the loss of my Mom, who so wanted me to find my b’shert.” Jessica who grew up in Columbus had returned there in 1988 to attend The Ohio State University College of Law. She had raised her family there and founded a Jewish Renewal and Reconstructionist congregation in 2006. Her passions for Judaism and justice led to her eventual Rabbinic ordination. Despite her deep roots and connections in Columbus, it was her love for Eric, sense of adventure, and trust in the Divine which motivated her to pack her car and drive to Nashville in mid-March to ride out the pandemic with Eric. And, she has been here ever since.

The public health risks of COVID-19 made their original plans for an intimate wedding on the beach in Florida in early May out of the question. And, in fact, the Mayor’s Safer at Home order temporarily made obtaining a marriage license in Nashville a serious challenge. During the Counting of the Omer, when the Davidson County Clerk’s office finally reopened, they could finalize their wedding plans. Jessica says, “The sanctity of the seven weeks of counting the Omer together, marking time, became a strong theme of our wedding, and we decided that getting married at the culmination of this experience felt very right to us. So, we asked Rabbi Saul Strosberg if he would be willing to marry us as soon as Shavuot concluded with the end of Shabbat. He graciously agreed.”



Eric Stillman and Rabbi Jessica Shimberg are married under the chuppah at Sherith Israel

In attendance as witnesses and supportive friends were Leslie Kirby, Jacob Kupin, Haley Levy, and Rabba Daniella Pressner, with everyone wearing face masks and maintaining social distance.

As the wedding day approached, the nation was swept by protests following the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police. Once again, world events changed the course of this wedding. Mayor Cooper imposed a curfew just as Eric and Jessica’s ceremony was about to begin, leaving about an hour between the end of Shabbat and the start of the curfew. Indeed, “time,” appears to

be a theme for this couple, who place the marking of Jewish time and living their Jewish values at the center of their lives. Jessica recounted during their ceremony the many ways that they mark the passing of time together. She spoke to Eric that night, saying, “Each week, even before we met in person, we have made Havdalah together. You listened so intently to my first Havdalah blessings that I wasn’t sure if I had lost the cell phone connection. It was only afterward that you told me that your silence reflected your awe. I swooned.” As did everyone on zoom and Facebook Live. •

To Our Dear Naomi Sedek

On behalf of Linda and Jay

We thank you for all the magnificent years
you afforded us.

We wish you tremendous success
in the years going forward.

May the almighty watch over you
and your family.

Camp Davis's 90th Summer Kicked off on June 8th

By RACHEL CLARK

After postponing the opening of Summer 2020 by a week, Camp Davis kicked off its 90th year on June 8th with an animal-filled good time! The theme was Midah Ohev et Habriyot: Loving All God's Creatures. Campers sang, danced, played, and laughed as they explored the amazing world of the animal kingdom. Learning about everything from the tiniest of insects to the tallest of giraffes, campers tapped into their own wild sides.

Our camp directors have built a structure that follows CDC and American Camp Association guidelines, takes COVID-19 precautions, and implements mitigation efforts, adding as much Camp Davis as possible to the mix. The result is an incredible program with "Household" groups of 10 campers, socially distant tents, household dining rooms, additional handwashing stations, and as much outdoor time as humanly possible.

"Camp is, at its core, about kids being able to have fun, get dirty, be wild, and ultimately be themselves, and even with all of our mitigation efforts in place, we have been able to be that place, where kids can just be kids," says Camp Director Marisa Byard.

New Music Specialist Emily Groff led campers in Camp Davis classics such as, "Weave Me the Sunshine," and, "Not by Might." She also taught new songs such as, "Bob the Tree," and, "Aba Abraham," which have already become camper favorites. During morning and afternoon Ruach sessions, new cheers are learned and a song specially for Camp Davis written by



Emily got everyone pumped to wash their hands and keep camp clean. Campers created hand motions to go along with the song and taught the rest of camp.

Preston Dean, Shevet Aleph Unit Head said it best: "The first week at Camp Davis was amazing. Our youngest campers have had a rocking week learning to swim, making new friends and learning new games."

The camp theme each week is based on a Jewish value. Weeks three through five were B'Tzelem Elohim: in the image of G-d, Gimilut Chasadim: acts of love,



and Lahavat Haeret: love your country. Campers spent lots of time in their Households playing games surrounding the themes such as animal tag, as well as various other challenges including scavenger hunts and, of course, a camp favorite Gaga. Camp themes continue through August and culminate with everyone's favorite Maccabiah (color war).

Other activities throughout the week included dodgeball, kickball, and parachute and catching games. Campers

dressed in international costumes and also celebrated our own country. At Art Camp and Clay Camp, campers created all sorts of creatures, real and imagined, and designed their own flags. We moved our cooking camp outside and now our aspirational chefs are extremely well versed in luxury outdoor cooking.

In the words of Shevet Bet Unit Head, Sami Weinberg, "It's already looking like this is going to be the best summer EVER!" •

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Artists from across the continents gather to create NASHir Together

Notes from Noam

By Noam Harari, Community Shlichah

NASHir Together נשיר ביחד Together is presented by The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle TN. The project was conceived and created by Noam Harari, Nashville Community Israeli Shlichah (Emissary). Ten singer/songwriters who live in Nashville and 10 singer/songwriters who live in Israel were paired to co-write and

perform songs together despite the physical distance of over 6000 miles.

I keep watching the videos again and again. For me, each video tells a different story and represents the incredible collaboration created here. Despite the distance and the differences, the music has brought everyone together to create this project. We wanted to bring a smile at a difficult time, no matter where we are in the world. So many people trusted me with this project and I don't take it for granted. •

Zooming Thru Summer @ Beit Miriam

By SHARON PAZ

Beit Miriam Drive By Ice Cream Sundae Party



5th graders and Kindergarteners who sold the most Kosher for Pesach Candy this year enjoy a drive-by ice cream Sundae Party. Pictured: Upper Left, Blair, Andrew Stefanescu, Reuben and Daniela; Bottom Left, Sophie & Gabeb Newman; Upper Right, iara Kullock & Ruby Orley in car; Bottom Right, Holden and Lincoln Ehresman and parents Chris and Beth

For our 5th graders and Kindergarteners who sold the most Kosher for Pesach Candy this year!

"Beit Miriam has done a great job keeping our kids connected and engaged even during the shutdown from COVID.

The ice cream sundae reward was extremely creative and was a top notch sundae! It is clear that Beit Miriam wants our kids to have fun and stay connected to their Jewish learning. Thank you Beit Miriam!" Simon Newman

Beit Miriam 2020 Graduation



West End Synagogue's Beit Miriam Zooms through graduation.

We appreciated the Zoom Beit Miriam graduation ceremony. It was a great way to wrap up Adena's time at Beit Miriam in this most unusual of years. Also, Adena's grandparents in Louisville had the opportunity to "attend," which probably wouldn't have happened had the ceremony been in person.

Ellie Weiss Rosenbloom, Adena's mom)

Gabrielle Anna Bengelsdorf
Daughter of Sarah and Dr. Steven Bengelsdorf

Maia Aleazah Herman
Daughter of Lauren and Michael Herman

Erin Michaela Keenan
Daughter of Tricia and Michael Keenan

Max Benjamin Potash
Son of Gwen and Jacob Potash

Adena Rachel Rosenbloom
Daughter of Ellie & Dr. Trent Rosenbloom

Saluting our graduating High School Seniors



Rabbi Joshua Kullock and Sharon Paz, Director of Lifelong Learning at West End Synagogue deliver blessings and kits to this year's graduating seniors. Pictured are: Aden Barton-Harvard, Max Yazdian-Tulane, Ellie Hornick-Indiana University, Adena Rosenbloom- Oglethorpe University

"Rabbi and Sharon truly went above and beyond. They came to our house with an entire "blessing kit" as we said a blessing for Aden's upcoming departure for college. It reminded us of the importance of celebrating major transitions in life with our community and that this can be done with such joy, even in the midst of a pandemic. The ceremony was one of the many acts of kindness and "silver blessings" during this time of confinement. We were very moved by the ceremony as we stopped to bless and celebrate Aden."

Nancy Lipsitz

"It was wonderful to have Rabbi Kullock and Sharon come by to visit with us and bless Adena before she (hopefully!) goes off to college in the fall. We know that Adena is ready to be a strong Jewish voice on the Oglethorpe campus, which does not have a lot of Jewish students." Ellie Weiss Rosenbloom

Laura Yazdian, "I really enjoyed Rabbi Joshua and Sharon's visit to our house. It was very meaningful to be able to bless Max on Graduating HS. It was such a nice treat to be able to do this during this time."



Summer Fun Gift Bags

Summer Fun Gift Bags for Beit Miriam Families and an Opportunity to Drop off Registration Forms. Pictured are: Prichard Family, Ellis and Harrison with mom, Deena in car; Etai Bauer in car; Henry, Zac, Elian, and Arya Sterling with mother Julie; Vivi and Edwin Gordetsky with Dad, Daniel

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RECOGNIZING OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY HEROES

Felice Apolinsky

Felice has dedicated her life to serving others. She has practiced clinical social work in many settings, including Monroe Harding Children's Home, Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital, Family and Children's Service, and, for the last 22 years, Gilda's Club Middle Tennessee. For 22 years, she has stood side by side those facing cancer in our community during one of the most vulnerable time in their lives - listening, supporting, building community, and offering hugs and resources when needed.



In September, Felice will be retiring from her role as Program Director at Gilda's Club but her name will forever be synonymous with the cancer support program she created. Those who know Felice well know that she does not simply put other's needs ahead of our own, but she serves with selfless motivation. Felice constantly cares for others, making every effort to reach out to people and thus people reach out to her as well. I'm recognizing her as a hero because she continually goes above and beyond, and deserves to be recognized.

-Hayley Levy

Dov Ben Zion

Dov always makes sure the community is safe and healthy. He is always checking in everyone all the time.

-Tzion Achvan



Jessica Cohen Banish

Jessica has made close to 75 masks for those who need them. She started by finding a pattern that is used for healthcare workers so she could make a mask for her husband to wear to the grocery store. The need for masks amongst the broader community quickly became evident, so she began making more for friends, extended family, coworkers, healthcare workers, seniors and complete strangers. Jessica says making masks and giving them away gives her a sense of being able to take action during this time when it is easy to feel helpless.

-Jacob Kupin and anonymous



Vardit Binshtein

Vardit Binshtein has worked tirelessly to bring Akiva School's curriculum, culture and excitement to an online format without missing a beat. She helped



not only navigate the technical side of transforming an in person learning environment completely to a digital learning environment, but has done so while keeping the online experience safe, secure and exciting for each and every student.

Besides the technical aspect of her workload, Vardit has continued to teach students Hebrew and technology in a way where every child learns at their own pace and is challenged to go further and learn more. She takes time out of each day to communicate to parents and students individually to make sure that EVERY child is still learning and progressing despite the challenges of learning from home.

-Jessica Cohen Banish

COVID Volunteers

When everyone stayed at home, since it has been too scary to go outside, some people were willing to take the risk to help people in need. We had volunteers to help deliver groceries to people who were not able to leave their houses. We had volunteers deliver meals to healthcare workers and first responders, and volunteers who helped JFS with making calls and helping seniors with issues that arise from a feeling of isolation. This is a very dedicated group of people. Their flexibility and willingness to help was just heartwarming.

-Michal Eskenazi Becker



Julie Fortune

As the Director of Admissions and Outreach at Akiva, Julie spends most of her time connecting with people throughout Greater Nashville, and engaging them with both Akiva and the Nashville Jewish Community. Never without a smile and warm word, Julie celebrates the diversity of Nashville's Jewish Community and makes everyone feel welcome and comfortable.

The COVID-19 pandemic has not slowed Julie down. Dedicating her whole self to the well-being of students, teachers, and community members, Julie helped spearhead the move to an online platform, and works tirelessly to keep Akiva's outreach mission on track. Every single day Julie puts her whole self into the betterment of this community, and for that she is our hero.

-Elly Ebin



Julie is an integral member of the Akiva family. She has worked tirelessly to ensure our young children continue to receive the best education throughout this COVID-19 time period. Often she can be seen on zoom, with at least one of her own three young children on her lap, answering questions and concerns of parents and students.

She also ensured Akiva's enrollment grew throughout this hard period. As other independent schools saw drop off in enrollment and interest, Akiva's enrollment is up and growing everyday. Akiva and the families that create our community are blessed to have Julie as one of our heroes.

-Erin Coleman

Renee Geltzer

Renee has worked in the JCC Preschool for most of her adult life. She has been an employee filled with love for children and the Jewish Community. She's diligent and trustworthy; fun and engaging. I'm so proud that I hired her right out of school to work there!!

She deserves recognition!

-Elaine (Layne) Sasser



Sharon Golden

As the new-ish director of the Gordon JCC ECLC, Sharon has created a wonderful Jewish community for our children. In her short time at the J, she has transformed their curriculum, adding more Jewish education components, and insured that each classroom is a loving environment. During this safer-at-home time, she has made sure our teachers and students have the tools to educate, and be educated, and feel cared for. We are lucky to have such a wonderful person in our community.

-Rachel Clark



Peter Hodes

During these difficult and stressful times when we most need each other and are so isolated, Peter has created virtual T'ai Chi classes. For an hour, four days a week, Peter helps us to breathe and relax and improve our well-being through T'ai Chi. Thank you, Peter.

Peter is there for our fitness needs, both mental and physical, and he keeps us connected through Tai Chi. I do miss the classroom interaction with him and all the other regular students, but I kind of hope he continues the online program because it's so darn convenient for those of us who are getting used to sheltering in place.

Thank you, Peter.

-Gail Bowler and Cheryl Brown



Toni Jacobsen

Toni always goes above and beyond for the community, but in times of crisis is when she shines bright. She is always thinking outside the box for new ways to address the ever changing needs of the community. One project that she spearheaded was making care packages for older adults in the community. A team of volunteers sewed masks and packages of toilet paper, gloves and masks were hand delivered along with a card listing all of the services offered by JFS to over 75 seniors.

The feedback from the seniors was overwhelming with all of them feeling the support and love of the community. Toni worked non-stop (and many extra hours!) on this project to show her care and concern for all of her "grandparents" in the Nashville Jewish community.

-Pam Kelner



Donice' Kaufman-Stewart

Donice' has sewn 100's of high quality customized masks with filter pockets and donated them to area hospitals, caregivers and people needing assistance. She recently designed a mask for the mouth area with a clear material for the mouth area for the deaf and hard of hearing. Donice' has devoted much of her life to helping others in whatever capacity she can and her tireless efforts with this project is just another example of her love and devotion to others.

-Naomi Limor Sedek and Carolyn Benick Brown



Cantor Sarah Levine

Sarah is the unsung hero of west end. She leads zoom minyans, teaches bar and bat mitzvah kids their torah and haftorah - and in this environment that can sometimes mean teaching them a new one and then another new one as dates keep getting pushed back, and through it all keeps her happy disposition and upbeat attitude.

-The Wiston family



Rabbi Joshua Kullock

Rabbi Kullock of West End Synagogue is a great teacher. During this pandemic I have been able to explore a broader and deeper knowledge of Judaism from his sessions.

-Susan Limor



Joan Mehlman

As the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, doctor's offices, senior care agencies, nursing aids and care partners were scrambling to comply with CDC recommendations. There was a scrambling for facemasks. We came across a hero among us. Joan Mehlman, after visiting a doctor at Vanderbilt, decided she would make 100 reusable face masks for Vanderbilt. It did not stop there. Hundreds of masks later, Joan provided homemade face masks for every care partner working with Cura for Care, for doctor's offices, for friends, for synagogue members, for neighbors on the street, and just about anyone who needed one. Approximately 200 masks later, we acknowledge Joan's generosity and kindness. Collecting materials from friends, fixing her sewing machine, and providing beautiful and effective face masks to protect us all. Thank you Joan!

-West End Synagogue



Jacob Ruden

Jacob Ruden is a Young Jewish Superstar. He served two wonderful terms on our NowGen board as Co-Chair of the board and is finishing up his final co-chair duties this month. For everyone that comes to Nashville, they know Jacob as a kindhearted, caring and welcoming person. So many members of NowGen look back with great gratitude towards Jacob for all he has done for the young Jewish community of Nashville.

-Jacob Kupin



The Sedek Family



A different kind of Covid-19 Hero
Many of us, when thinking about heroes during the Covid-19 Pandemic are not aware of the affects it is having on our local animal shelters that are closed to intake during this time. People who, because of a job loss, can no longer care for their pet and are relying on fosters to care for these displaced animals until they can be adopted permanently in to loving homes. A deep connection to animals transcends socio-economic, racial, ethnic and geographic boundaries and honoring that bond with compassion, not judgement, is a very simple yet impactful way to contribute positively in your community during this crisis.

The Sedek family has been doing just that. They are now fostering their 5th foster dog that has been displaced during these times. After each dog they have fostered has been adopted they have been first to willingly step up and open their home to another one. Without people like the Sedek family opening their home to these displaced dogs during the shutdown of animal shelters during Covid-19 I don't know what would happen to these dogs. The Sedeks have gone above and beyond the call for help during these difficult times.

-Carolyn Benick Brown

Lisa Silver

I look forward every Shabbat at 10:30 in the morning to spending a half hour on Facebook where Lisa provides beautiful music and provides snippets of information related to the songs she shares.



Each session is based on some common thread. One Shabbat was music from Burt Bacharach, another from Neil Diamond. I have shared the videos with friends from Knoxville and San Diego. She brings us joy.

-Susan Limor

Melissa Sostrin

Melissa sostrin is our most beloved pre-school teacher at Micah Children's Academy and, despite MCA's covid-19 induced hiatus, she continues to be a daily presence in the lives of her students and their families. Melissa offers daily zoom enrichment classes to the MCA families. Each weekday, she provides students with a 30-40 minute lesson (yoga, judaics, music, nature, and spanish). This week in Judaics, each family baked a blintz soufflé with Melissa while she taught us about shavuot. Her lessons are educational, fun, funny, hopeful, and compassionate. My daughters and i look forward to our daily "visits" with Melissa and are so grateful for the consistency and stability that she brings to our lives.



In addition to her amazing zoom classes, Melissa bakes and delivers challah to many of the mca families. Melissa's challah continues to be a shabbat staple in our home even during a pandemic. Melissa's endless energy, courage, and creativity has allowed her to adapt rapidly to our new socially distant learning environment. Melissa's dedication to the MCA community, her young students and their families, is heroic.

-Kerri Obstein

Natalie Steinberg

Natalie has taken a huge role out of this pandemic to provide NowGen with fun activities such as game nights and setting up happy hours.



-Rachel Adams

Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel

In NY harbor, the inscription on the Statue of Liberty proclaims: "give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free". In Nashville, we have our own statue of liberty. His name is Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel, and he welcomes with open arms, every new Jewish resident moving into our town. 5 yrs ago, after living in NY for 73 years, we decided to follow our children and move to Nashville. The problems seemed insurmountable because we didn't know anyone here. Confident we could find a new doctor, dentist and even new friends, we weren't sure we would find another great rabbi.



As he always does, Hashem had a surprise waiting for us. Our NY rabbi's nephew was the Chabad rabbi here in Nashville. Wow!! What a coincidence. And he and his wife welcomed us with opened arms. Was there anyone in this town that the rabbi didn't know? Need a doctor? He knew one. Need a lawyer? He had one for me. But more important was family, especially da kinder, the children. And we met them all.

We celebrated our first Passover here, not alone, but at a huge seder that was open to everyone, like us, who needed a place to go. And then of course, there was his pride and joy. Nashville's first and only jewish pre-k montessori school, founded and run by his brilliant wife Esther.

My wife and I are truly enjoying a life here that others only dream of. What could be better than living near the kids and, thanks to Rabbi Tiechtel, also having a second home at the Chabad of Nashville.

-Dr. Steve Morris

I was recently at a mental health treatment center outside of Nashville, the treatment team suggested that I stay longer than the initial 30 days that I signed up for. I was stuck in a really tough situation, wanting to do the right thing for my mental health, but at the same time I wanted to take care of my spiritual health. It was just a week before Passover and it would be very hard for me to "do Passover" in the treatment center. I called Rabbi Tiechtel of Chabad of Nashville, He gave me so much encouragement, love, and compassion assuring me that I should stay to take care of my mental health and you would arrange everything that I need for Passover! He sent all the meals for the holiday including matzah and everything that I would need to make a seder, I was so touched, I was thinking "here I am a Jew alone in the middle of Tennessee and there's a rabbi who I never met before that is extending his heart and his resources" I believe that is the ultimate expression of spirituality, I hope to learn from him and be there for others the same way he was there for me! I want to thank Rabbi Tiechtel and Chabad of Nashville from the bottom of my heart for what he gave me physically emotionally and spiritually.

-Anonymous

Seth Thomas

Seth came to the Shul a few years ago, to deepen his Jewish experience and to join a warm and religiously committed community, and from day one, took everything in and began to pitch in. It takes an open heart to say yes when people ask for help, for resources, for generosity. But it takes a keen mind, wise eyes, a humble spirit, and lots of love, for someone to step up without being asked to do what is needed and even what isn't needed, and certainly without being thanked.



Whether it's his sensitivity towards community members who need help, setting up chairs in the chapel while nobody is looking, keeping the mikvah clean, or being a good Jewish role model by deepening his learning, Seth is our hero. It's an honor for us to recognize Seth in all that he does for our Shul and for the Jewish people.

- Evan Rittenberg

Anna Zeitlin

Anna is a milliner and an accomplished seamstress. Over the last several months she has been designing and making cloth masks. She doesn't sell those as she does her designed hats because she feels this is a positive way to help people who haven't had access to masks.



She has been supplying them to employees of family members and friends and others that she discovers have need. She has found this as a fulfilling way to be helpful during this difficult time.

-Shirley Zeitlin



@ Chabad

Happening at Chabad Zoom in June 2020

HAVE A HEALTHY ZOOMER

As we have all been quarantined now for over two months, many are seeking purpose and meaning in life, and are thirsting for something more. People want to connect and are craving the human connection. Chabad of Nashville has stepped up to the plate and has been offering dozens of programs and events to satiate that craving.

At Chabad of Nashville, Zoom has become part of our daily ritual as we pray, learn, teach and socialize with our friends in Nashville and beyond, via Zoom and Facebook Live.

Chabad is presenting a month of June, filled with nourishment for the Mind, Body and Soul.

The links for all of these events can be found at chabادنashville.com, or go to chabادنashville.com/zoom

NOURISH THE MIND

Mystical Torah Studies:

Seeking some intellectual stimulation? Want to sharpen your thinking skills? Join Rabbi Chaim Weitman for Torah Studies on Monday evenings, at 7:00 PM on Zoom or Facebook.

Rabbi Weitman will take you on a journey, deep into the Mystical teachings of the Weekly Torah portion, where you will walk away uplifted and inspired.

Biblical Tales of Kings Warriors and Prophets:

Are you a Jewish History buff? Want to know the story of the rise of our people during the era of King David? Join Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM via Zoom for Biblical Tales of Kings, Warriors and Prophets.

Rabbi Tiechtel will take you on journey thru the Book of Samuel, which records the ups and downs of a turbulent and eventful period of Jewish history. Participants will travel in time through the some of the glory days of our past, as well as learn about the Reign of King Saul and the life of King David.

NOURISH THE BODY

A Taste of Shabbat in the Kitchen

Ever wanted to learn how to give your Shabbat table that exquisite look, or been yearning to make some unique Shabbat delicacies for your Shabbat dinner? Here is your chance.

Join Bassie Weitman in the kitchen on Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM on Zoom or Facebook, as she demonstrates the Art of Making Shabbat in your own home. Each week new dishes will be presented by guest chefs, and participants will learn the art of creating delicious dishes for your Shabbat Table.

NOURISH THE SOUL

Plug Into Prayer

Feeling lonely? Need an Uplift? Plug Into Prayer with Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel on Tuesday and Thursday's at 1:30 PM on Zoom or Facebook for 30 minutes of Prayer and Inspiration.

Jewish prayer is G-d's way of saying to us: "speak to Me and I will listen." We pray to G-d to thank Him, to praise him, and beseech Him for a life filled with meaning and purpose. Plug Into Prayer will surly nourish your soul to fulfillment.

How Happiness Thinks

Seeking Happiness, searching for the antidote to feeling better about yourself in this Covid-19 era? Join Mrs. Esther Tiechtel together with Rebekah Near on Wednesday evenings, at 7:00 PM, as they host a Zoom session on "Finding Personal Joy in the Midst of Turbulent Times."

An Authentic Shabbat Experience

Welcome the Shabbat from your Living Room Couch or your back patio. Experience the joy of Shabbat and feel connected to your community as Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel takes you on a journey of an authentic Shabbat experience, and your spirits will be uplifted with song, prayer and a pre Shabbat sermon.

Join your friends from across the Nashville community on Friday afternoons at 6:00 PM, on Zoom or Facebook for a Pre Shabbat Celebration with Chabad of Nashville.

As we are living in unprecedented times, kindly check the Chabad of Nashville website, chabادنashville.com for an up to date listing of all of the upcoming events and programs during the month of June 2020, which will take place via Zoom and Facebook Live.

@ Micah

Still reading a newspaper? Pandemic or not, it's time to jump on the digital bandwagon. As agile as ever, Judaism at Micah continues to evolve with courage, compassion and creativity. Stay updated at www.congregationmicah.org, as well as in our social media and e-blasts by liking us on Facebook and Instagram @MicahNashville, learn with us on YouTube, chat with us on zoom, pray with us on livestream – join us in our virtual tent, there is room for everyone!

Access Micah's Livestream for free from the front page of our website and/or like us on Facebook!

Weekly Programs:

Ancient Secrets: Practical Wisdom from the Past for the Present Pandemic Mondays at 8:00 PM on YouTube & Facebook

Rabbi Flip interviews theological giants of the past, revealing their contributions to spirituality and what wisdom they offer us during the pandemic. Characters played by local heroes who serve our community. Learn who they are and what they do.

Schmooze & Views Thursdays on Zoom Chat

A lay-led lunch discussion about politics conducted in a civil way. Open to all. Led by Dr. Bob Smith.

Shabbat Service Friday nights on Facebook Live & Micah Livestream

Experience how the power of music, song, and the inspiration of sacred words can help you feel more connected and less anxious.

Torah Study Saturday Mornings on YouTube

The sages and commentators - past and present - come alive as the Rabbis Rice share wisdom from the weekly Torah portion.

A Musical Morning Saturdays on Facebook Live

Music Director Lisa Silver shares songs and insights on Shabbat that will educate, warm your heart, and make you want to tap your toes all morning long.

Havdalah Saturday evenings on Facebook Live

Close the Sabbath with a few moments of song, spices, separation and spiritual nourishment.

"How to Be An Anti-Racist" by Ibram X. Kendi Book Read & Zoom Discussion Monday, July 20 and August 10

Purchase your book now from your preferred bookseller. Also available on Kindle and Audible. Please RSVP to Julie Greenberg at jgreenberg@congregationmicah.org

Nashville's congregations

Here are the websites for all five Nashville Jewish congregations, with information on services, upcoming events and more:

Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad, www.chabادنashville.com

Congregation Micah, www.congregationmicah.org

Congregation Sherith Israel, www.sherithisrael.com

The Temple – Congregation Ohabai Sholom, www.templenashville.org

West End Synagogue, www.westendsyn.org

Learn more about the
Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee
at www.jewishnashville.org

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Observer and help support our community in all ways! Make sure to let them know... you saw their ad here!

@ Sherith Israel

Elmington Park Shabbat for Families, Saturdays at 10am (weather permitting)

A socially distant shabbat program for families, with tefillah, story, and a snack at Elmington Park. 10 am. For more details, look for Sherith Israel emails or contact rabbisaul@sherithisrael.com.

Friday Flow Yoga with Natasha, 10am Every Friday

Join Natasha for Friday Flow: Judaism-Inspired Yoga and Mindfulness each Friday at 10am over Zoom. Natasha brings us together in community and then leads us on a yoga journey through the Hebrew letters of the weekly Parsha. This guided Hebrew Yoga and meditation session draws our awareness to our bodies, our souls, and our community. Her intention with Hebrew Yoga is to bring us closer together, for learning through movement in a state of ease, culminating in what Natasha calls a final restful "Shabbatana." For the Zoom link, please reference Sherith Israel emails or contact Natasha directly at fridayflowyoga@gmail.com.

Tisha B'Av Services

Join Sherith Israel and the Chabad Center for outdoor, socially-distant Tisha B'Av services (July 29th-30th). Please check Sherith Israel emails and the website for details.

@ The Temple

Virtual Learning Experiences

Summer 2020

Jewish learning and community don't stop when we are stuck at home! Over the next months, we have planned a wide range of virtual learning opportunities for all ages. See what we have to offer and plan to join us to deepen your Jewish knowledge and understanding while strengthening your connections to our congregation and each other.

If you have questions about any of these learning experiences or need help connecting to our virtual platforms, please don't hesitate to contact Rabbi Michael Shulman at rabbishulman@templenashville.org

All programming can be accessed via thetemplehub.org

NEW! Ongoing Jewish Learning with the Clergy

Every Tuesday - 12:00-1:00 PM

Join The Temple clergy, special guests, musicians and others for online Jewish learning every week! Topics will include: medical ethics, Jewish music around the world, midrash, Jews & photography, famous Jews, prayer, history and more!

Zoom Room:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88589922632>

Meeting ID: 885 899 22632

Dial in - Audio Only: 1 312 626 6799

NEW! Pirkei Avot: Jewish Wisdom for Today's World

Every Friday from 5:00-5:40 PM

Get ready for Shabbat with a little text study! Each week we will study a piece of wisdom from Pirkei Avot, The Ethics of our Ancestors, an ancient Jewish text still relevant in our own times.

Zoom Room:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81973096738>

Meeting ID: 819 730 96738

Dial in - Audio Only: 1 312 626 6799

Lunch with the Rabbi

Every Thursday from 12:00-1:00 PM

July 18th and 30th

Bring your lunch and engage with Rabbi Schifftan and guests in a discussion of currents and important issues from a Jewish perspective.

Zoom Room:

<https://zoom.us/j/572111637>

Meeting ID: 572111637

Dial in - Audio Only: 1 312 626 6799

Women's Torah Study

Every Thursday from 12:00-1:00 PM

Ongoing weekly women's Torah study led by Patty Marks.

Zoom Room:

<https://zoom.us/j/392595616>

Meeting ID: 392 595 616

Dial in - Audio Only: 1 312 626-6799

NEW! 6 Week Hebrew Reading Boot Camp

Every Tuesday at 11:00 AM starting June 2

Join Rabbi Shulman for a 6 week virtual 'bootcamp' and learn how to read Hebrew!

Sign up for the class with rabbishulman@templenashville.org

NEW! Jewish Learning on Your Own Schedule

Coming soon: Look for podcasts and videos prepared by musicians, scholars and clergy especially for our Temple Community! 13 Attributes of God, Jewish Cooking Demos, Clergy Chats, Inside Israel and Jewish Music Sessions. Sessions will be posted on thetemplehub.org

Red, White & Blue Jean Shabbat

Friday, July 3rd at 6:00pm

Zoom Room:

<https://zoom.us/j/320094033>

Meeting ID: 320 094 033 • Dial in (Audio Only): 1-312-626-6799

Temple Songwriter's Shabbat

Friday, July 24th at 6:00pm

For the fourth year in a row, The Temple is excited for Songwriter's Shabbat on Friday, July 24 - a fun Shabbat service featuring music written by our own Temple members! This service has become a beloved tradition in our Temple community and we look forward to a night of beautiful music.

Zoom Room:

<https://zoom.us/j/320094033>

Meeting ID: 320 094 033 • Dial in (Audio Only): 1-312-626-6799

Graduate Recognition Shabbat

Friday, July 31st at 6:00pm

The Temple is so proud of the class of 2020! Join us as we gather together to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates and honor them with a special blessing on Friday, July 31 at 6pm.

Zoom Room:

<https://zoom.us/j/320094033>

Meeting ID: 320 094 033 • Dial in (Audio Only): 1-312-626-6799

Social Justice Group Read:

"How to be an Anti-Racist" by Ibrahim Kendi

Wednesdays at 3:30 pm on July 8 and July 22

Zoom Room:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81683419033>

While being sequestered, join the Social Justice Committee in a group read and discussion of a recent book by Ibrahim Kendi, "How to be An Anti-Racist." Dr. Kendi is an award-winning author whose previous book, "Stamped from the Beginning," chronicled the history of racist thought in America.

Through a shared book reading experience, Dr. Kendi will enlighten us with his concept of anti-racism which can re-energize and re-shape our conversation about racial justice in America. The concept of anti-racism can point us towards liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. Dr. Kendi challenges us to think about what an anti-racist society might look like and how we can play an active role in building it.

There will also be an opportunity to share our experience with Dr. Kendi when he comes to Nashville in June 2021 for the 2021 Christian Scholars Conference at Lipscomb University.

If you are interested, contact Irwin Venick at irwin.venick@gmail.com.

The Temple is excited to offer two opportunities for our congregants to learn from Rabbi Rami Shapiro:

The Thirteen Attributes of Godliness:

An On-Demand Podcast

In times such as these – times when fear grips our hearts and anger all too often tightens our fists – we need tools for transformation. "The Thirteen Attributes of Godliness," an ancient, Torah-based Jewish technology for opening body, heart, mind, and soul are such tools.

In this eight-day audio program produced by Rabbi Mark Schifftan and featuring Rabbi Rami Shapiro and Cantor Tracy Fishbein, you will learn the meaning and promise of each attribute as well as a gentle way to cultivate each attribute in your life. We offer this program at no charge. This is what it is to be part of a beloved community. Stay well. Available under Learning Opportunities for All on thetemplehub.org.

A Taste of Judaism with Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Rabbi Rami Shapiro is back again this summer – virtually – to teach you everything

you always wanted to learn about Judaism in 3 easy lessons!

Tuesdays, July 14, 21 & 28 • 7:00-9:00 pm

Please register online at The Temple Hub (www.thetemplehub.org)

Zoom Room: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89099884429>

Meeting ID: 890 998 84429 • Dial in (Audio Only): 1-312-626-6799

More Opportunities Coming Soon!

Check thetemplehub.org and our weekly email for updates and new classes in the coming weeks...

Continued on next page

AT OUR CONGREGATIONS...

@ West End

Open Mic Night - July 19

Bringing Open Mic Night to your homes on July 19th at 6:15!

Students are invited to perform and show off their skills to the community. Musical instruments, singing, dancing, poetry, any form of performance is welcome. Repertoire must be written or composed by a Jew or on a Jewish theme. If you need help finding the right piece, Cantor Sarah is happy to help you peruse her library virtually.

If your child would like to perform, please let Cantor Sarah (cantorlevine@west-endsyn.org) know by July 12th so she can save a space for you!

Shacharit

Join us Mondays & Thursdays for Shacharit service at 8:30 a.m. on Zoom.

Zoom info:

Meeting ID: 847 4426 3911

Password (case sensitive): 5A63j6

Those having issues can message Rabbi or Cantor through Facebook and they will reply back asap.

Daily Mincha

Join us for daily Mincha on Zoom at 6:00 p.m.

Zoom info:

Meeting ID: 831 8625 7601

Password (case sensitive): 9ix4BK

Kabbalat Shabbat

The congregation is invited to join us for Kabbalat Shabbat on Zoom at 6:00 p.m.

Zoom info:

Meeting ID: 831 8625 7601

Password: (case sensitive) 9ix4BK

Talmud Class

Talmud on Tuesdays has changed to 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Zoom info:

(No password required)

Meeting ID: 777 716 003

Weekly Parasha class with Rav Eitan Bar-Or

Every Thursday morning on Zoom at 7:30 a.m.

Zoom info:

Meeting ID: 899 2621 2508

TORAH WITH AN ACCENT

Join five Latin American rabbis talking with a bit of an accent (!) about the weekly Torah portion. The class will be every Thursday at 4:00 pm. On our Facebook Page.



Congregation Micah uses large screens during services to enhance the prayer experience both in person and virtually

Congregation Micah's Innovative Approach to Prayer Enhances Spiritual Connection

By RABBI LAURIE RICE

Over four years ago, Rabbis Flip and Laurie Rice approached their lay leadership with an innovative idea to install large screens in Congregation Micah's sanctuary for the purpose of visual tefillah, taking the prayer book out of people's hands and putting the words and images and so much more onto the screens above. The result: an entire world of learning, connecting, and praying opened up to the congregation. Visual tefillah is about utilizing words and images to affect emotion, ignite the intellect, and add a whole new dimension to the service experience. The Rabbis Rice noticed almost immediately that members were looking up at the bima and at one another, rather than down at their books, and they were actually signing and praying aloud much more. These were positive, immediate results.

In the last four years, Micah has experimented and continued to refine the many ways in which the screens and visual learning can be utilized during services, both on Shabbat and holy days. B'nai mitzvah families love the personalization of seeing their student's face on the screen as they read from the Torah. Members appreciate the large print Hebrew with accompanying transliteration and translation for prayers up on the bima where they can also watch their clergy at the same time. And during this time of pandemic and virtual everything, the screens have enabled Micah to offer a truly unique prayer experience for those who participate via livestream and Facebook live each Shabbat. Thanks to the generous support of The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, Micah has expanded its virtual tent not just nationally, but globally as well, reaching as far as Spain and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. •

Welcome Jill Ellen, Site Director of the ECLC at West End Synagogue

By RACHEL CLARK

The Gordon JCC is proud to welcome Jill Ellen as the new site director of the ECLC at West End Synagogue.

Jill grew up on the East Coast and was highly involved in her Jewish community, including spending a summer in Israel working on a Kibbutz, and brings a wealth of Early Childhood knowledge and experience to this position.

She has over 20 years of experience as a head teacher in Jewish Early Childhood programs, most recently at The Temple here in Nashville, and has aided in the expansion of the Jewish curriculum both in the classrooms and schools as a whole. Jill has also taught Hebrew and Israel studies for many years in Religious School. She is a member of several Jewish organizations and has participated in many wonderful, spiritual events.

"We are all impressed by not only her knowledge, but also her warmth, creativity, and passion for Early Childhood

Education." Says Sharon Golden, director of the Gordon JCC ECLC.

Jill holds a master's degree in early childhood education and an MSW. She regularly attends and presents at conferences and is a leader of Inspired!, a reflective, supportive learning community for Early Childhood educators. Jill prides herself on her interpersonal relationships and her communication skills, which we all feel will be helpful as we navigate these unprecedented times.

"I am excited for this new chapter in my professional journey as the Director of West End Early Childhood Learning Center and being a part of the Gordon Jewish Community Center. As an avid learner, I look forward to getting to know more about the children, families, school and JCC community. As an educator, I bring my experience and my Jewish background to this position. It is my hope and dream to blend the two."

We are looking forward to seeing the wonderful things Jill will bring to our program. •



Jill Ellen, new site director at the ECLC at West End Synagogue



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Learn more about the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee at www.jewishnashville.org

BACK TO SCHOOL

JULY 2020



the Jewish **Observer**



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Toni Jacobsen
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"EVERYTHING CHANGED FOR THE BETTER ONCE I STARTED COMING HERE TO CURREY INGRAM... AT THIS SCHOOL I HAVE GAINED MANY NEW SKILLS NOT ONLY IN THE CLASSROOM, BUT ALSO IN MY PERSONAL LIFE. I WAS SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WHO SUPPORTED ME FOR WHO I AM AS A STUDENT AND AS AN INDIVIDUAL."

- ADENA, CLASS OF 2020

EXPLORE

Currey Ingram Academy

A K-12, co-ed, college-preparatory day and boarding school in Brentwood for students with learning differences, such as ADHD and dyslexia.



Promoting Strengths. Supporting Differences
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www.curreygram.org

Akiva School

Akiva School is a community K-6th school that is committed to maintaining a diverse population with regards to its socio-economic, denominational, and cultural composition. We strive to foster a love of learning that supports our students' social, emotional, spiritual and intellectual growth. We are founded on helping children deepen their curiosity, morality, perseverance, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Akiva children are known for their sense of self, their ability to delve into diverse learning opportunities, and their meaningful contribution in their communities, within the school and beyond. The Akiva philosophy is predicated on the idea that we are all lifelong learners, and we model what it means to ask questions, take risks, and learn from all experiences. In doing so, our children develop confidence, competence, and reflective practice. Students are empowered to understand their needs and to advocate for them as both individuals and as a community. We strive to help our children gain a rich understanding of their culture and heritage, their individual purpose, and their profound responsibility to the world. Our students become lifelong learners, leaders, and thoughtful contributors to this world.

Akiva strives to create an environment where every child is loved and nurtured and where every child recognizes his/her role in the Akiva community. Our commitment to these ideals provides an environment that is both physically and emotionally safe and allows each child the opportunity to learn to his/her potential. We encourage you to come witness this yourself, and experience the Akiva advantage.

Currey Ingram

"Every child is given the opportunity to fully unlock his/her potential – to be recognized, welcomed, and appreciated for his/her unique strengths, challenges, gifts, and passions – to become the very best version of who he/she was made to be!" – Currey Ingram parent

At the core of Currey Ingram Academy is a belief that every child can learn. Founded more than 50 years ago, Currey Ingram is an exemplary K-12 day and boarding school that empowers students with learning differences to achieve their fullest potential. We deliver on this mission by providing small classes (3-8 students) and using evidence-based instruction that is taught by highly trained teachers. Every student has an Individualized Learning Plan (ILP), which helps to create a learning program that takes into consideration the student's strengths, challenges, and academic performance. The ILP promotes strong communication between the teacher and parents in assessing a student's academic, executive function, and social-emotional growth. As we look to the 2020-2021 school year, Currey Ingram is committed to ensuring continuity of learning continues whether on-campus, virtual or in a hybrid model. Currey Ingram Academy provides an exceptional learning environment for students by using instructional practices and curriculum that have demonstrated effectiveness in achieving academic success and social-emotional progress. Located on an 83-acre campus in Brentwood, TN, students also participate in robust arts and athletics programs, service learning, and leadership opportunities. Currey Ingram is a place where students achieve and grow academically, socially, and emotionally. What a difference the right school can make in your child's life? Learn more at www.curreygram.org.

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4 Tips To Stay Centered During “Back To School,” In The Age of COVID-19

For parents raising children in the age of COVID-19, the thought of kids going back to school brings up a wide range of emotions. You may be hopeful about the possibility of school re-opening, so your children go back to their “normal” routines, staying on track from a social and academic perspective. Or you may be fearful that school will open, thus exposing your children to health and safety concerns. Whatever you are feeling, we are here to remind you that there are effective tools within reach to support you.

To help you manage your emotions during this unprecedented time, we first recommend that you notice and accept your feelings. Playing the role of a curious, non-judgmental observer, notice whatever emotions are coming up for you. Try not to fight - even the most uncomfortable - emotions. Remind yourself that no feelings are permanent; everything is temporary.

Another wonderful way to stay centered is to incorporate self-compassion. During hard times, we can be hardest on ourselves for not perfectly managing our lives. No one is perfect (or even close). You are doing the best that you can.

Next, we recommend employing radical self-care. You will be a better parent if you take better care of yourself. Self-care is different for everyone. You might consider meditating, walking outside, hot baths, watching Netflix, or cutting down on alcohol or caffeine. Do it for you - and your family will also benefit.

Last but not least, we recommend going to therapy, if you need extra support. Nashville Psych’s team of therapists are here for you. We offer individual (child and adult), couples, family and group therapy, as well as psychological and psychoeducational evaluations. For more information, visit us at nashvillepsych.com or contact us at (615) 582-2882 or alex@nashvillepsych.com.

Pathfinder Counseling

Finding the right college match is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. It’s not only about being accepted by a college. More importantly it’s about finding a fit that offers the best environment for each student’s educational and personal growth where they can thrive and be successful. With colleges becoming more expensive and competitive, families and students feel increased pressure to make the right college choice. Today going to college represents a significant family investment of time and financial resources. Pathfinder Counseling provides valuable help to navigate the college search, application and financial aid process, while keeping everything as stress free as possible.

Francine Schwartz M.A, LPC, NCC Founder of Pathfinder Counseling LLC, is a highly regarded professional counselor and educator as well as a parent. She understands that at times the transition to college can feel equally rewarding and overwhelming. With the explosion of information out there, busy family schedules, the desire to find the right school, not to mention today’s college costs, where do you begin? Francine established Pathfinder Counseling to serve as a guide and mentor, helping navigate the entire college process from exploring potential careers and majors to applying for financial aid and scholarships. Her goal is to ensure that each student finds the best possible college match, one where they can fulfill their potential. **You can rely on Pathfinder Counseling to get to the heart of your student’s aspirations and empower them to be ready for the next step in life.**

Continued on page 20



Your expert guide:

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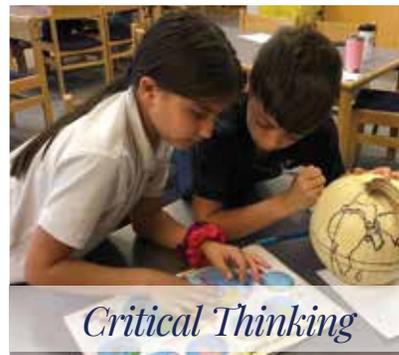
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Sperry's

Sperry's Annual Promotional Gift Card Sale has arrived once again! Celebrate graduation at Sperry's! We are here for all your celebrations all year long. Our goal is to continue to serve you great food, safely, with professional service from our amazing staff who has stuck with us through these uncertain times. Purchasing a gift card helps us do just that! On July 13th in Belle Meade and July 14th in Cool Springs, you can purchase \$150 in Sperry's Promo Cards for only \$100! Supplies are LIMITED and this is a first come, first serve deal. Doors open at 7 am each morning. This is an in person deal only, and you must purchase at location on the day of the sale. Proceeds benefit A Vintage Affair and Belle Meade Plantation. Mark your calendars!

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The Gordon JCC July JGalleries Art Exhibit

By CARRIE MILLS

For the month of July, the Gordon Jewish Community Center JGalleries will feature the work of Nadine Shillingford Wondem, Terri Tyler, The History of the Jewish Press, and A Call for Artists in Response to Racism in this Historic Time.

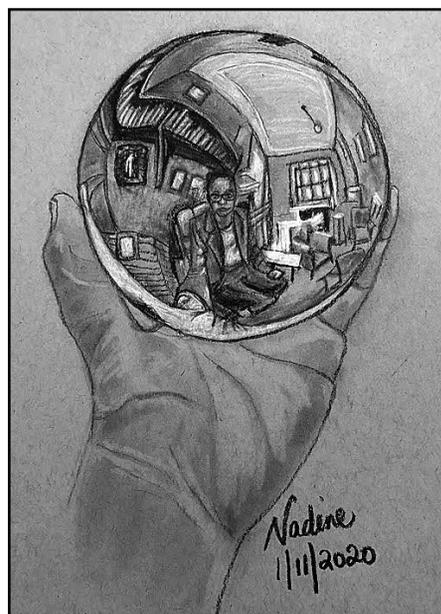
The Janet Levine March Gallery will feature the work of Nadine Shillingford Wondem. Nadine brings her ideas to life using charcoal on toned gray paper. Her art captures people in everyday situations and brings them to life by studying their facial expressions. Her whimsical approach to art also gives life to her work. Nadine does not have a formal art background, and most of her methods are self-taught. She has established an international following on social media by completing and posting a daily #quicksketch drawing on her Instagram and Facebook pages. Each #quicksketch drawing is completed in 1-3 hours. Nadine is the author of the book, "Hello Beautiful!" which is a portrayal of her relationship with her father, Mr. Wilmurt Shillingford. Nadine is also a computer security consultant and holds a doctoral degree in Computer Science from the University of Notre Dame. She was born on the island of Dominica in the Caribbean but currently resides in



Terry Tyler's, "Parrot"

Nashville, TN with her husband and daughter.

The JLMG2 Gallery will feature the art of Terri Tyler. Terri is a 1997 graduate of O'More College of Design in Franklin, Tennessee, where she majored in Fashion Design and Merchandising. Her pieces are often in vibrant contemporary shades and lean toward bold cheery brightness bordering on impressionistic and at times



Work by Nadine Wondem

abstract.

The Sig Held Gallery will feature the exhibit, "The History of the Jewish Press in America." Living in a time with such hostility to the free press, the rise of anti-Semitism and racism, the goal of this show is to create a response that is affirmative, thought provoking and bold while incorporating actual Jewish newspapers and publications from across

America. A call to local artists, asking for participation, was posted on social media. The only requirement was for the artists to express in a positive light, the importance of the press in daily life, and or history, using the actual papers incorporated into the artwork whether it be a 2D or 3D piece. For this particular exhibit it is our goal at the Gordon Jewish Community Center Galleries to engage and create a space to bring to light, through the lens of the artist, the presence and importance of the press in our democracy and the world, particularly the Jewish Press.

The House gallery will feature art from artists participating in Call Out to Artists in response to this historic time in history in response to racism. A call was made to artists on social media in response to the death of George Floyd and the outpouring of societal response calling for justice and reform.

The Exhibition Dates are July 1st - July 31st.

The exhibitions are free and open to the public. Any attendees will need to wear masks, sign in and have their temperature scanned at the front desk. For more information, visit our website, nashvillejcc.org, or contact Curator Carrie Mills at 615.354.1699, carrie@nashvillejcc.org.

Art on the West Side 2020 Postponed; Moved to April 24-25, 2021

After much deliberation, ART on the West Side is canceled for 2020 due to COVID-19 concerns. It is set to resume in 2021. The yearly juried art show has over 40 artists signed on to participate, all of whom will be invited back to participate next year. Initially set to take place April 25-26, the decision was made in March to postpone amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The event will now take place the weekend of April 24-25, 2021.

Event chairs Sara Melamed and Iris Rotker led a selection committee in reviewing more than 200 artists. They also selected Kristin Llamas as Featured Artist. The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment, giving women the right to vote. It was fitting to honor a female artist, and for Llamas, it has been ten years after her first local art show, which took place at the Gordon JCC. "While we are disappointed to postpone

the event," said chair Iris Rotker, "it allows us the time to plan for an even bigger and better event for next year."

ART on the West Side 2021 will begin on the evening of Saturday, April 24, 2021, at the Gordon Jewish Community Center with a cocktail reception from 6 to 9pm. On Sunday, April 25, the event opens at 10am and runs through 4pm. This event is free and open to the public. A percentage of all

sales from ART on the West Side benefit art programming at the Gordon JCC.

Find a full list of artists at www.artonthewestside.org, and for more information regarding the show, contact event chairs Sara Melamed and Iris Rotker at artonthewestside@nashvillejcc.org. Follow on Facebook (www.facebook.com/artonthewestside) and Instagram (@artonthewestside) and visit www.artonthewestside.org.

Of Marquee's and Mountains

By MICHELLE MORELLE AND TAMMY SHRIVALLE

For seventy seven days the doors of the Ark in the sanctuary remained closed, within it sitting the Torahs all alone, waiting for our community to hold it so gently, and parade her in our warm and loving sanctuary. With the coronavirus pandemic, our homes became our sanctuary, we prayed, we learned, and we read the Torah on Zoom, and prayed and studied from our living rooms.

After a period of eleven weeks, the city of Nashville started returning to some routine, yet many still remained in quarantine. However, with the holiday of Shavuot on the horizon, friends reached out and hoped we will once again meet in person. During Shavuot as we commemorate the marriage of the Children of Israel, and the G-d who rescued us from Egypt, emotions of unity, becoming a nation, humility, community, and what we felt then, is very much alive today.

Chabad of Nashville, with the support of many friends in our community, convened to commemorate this momentous occasion. While respectfully acknowledging social distancing, we sat under a beautiful white Marquee. It was like a family reunion, as we felt like a family reunited after a long period of separation.

Tears of joy were flowing gently

down the cheeks of the rabbi and many friends, as the blessing of Shehechyanu was recited with emotion. The highlight was when the ark was opened, and the Torah was carried into the Congregation. The reading of the Ten Commandments was about to commence.

Soon after everyone was seated, the clouds began to gather, the sky became dark. We read from the Book of Exodus, Chapter 19, "And all the people replied together and said, 'All that the Lord has spoken we shall do.'" Thunder was rumbling but we continued to read. At a moment's notice the skies opened and a torrent of rain was beating the tent. It was loud, windy, and we could barely hear, but we could feel. We huddled a little closer, protecting each other from the wind and rain. The rain and the thunder were relentless. The children clustered around their parents. We were undeterred. We prevailed, knowing, in our hearts that we were fully protected. It felt as we were standing at Mt. Sinai.

Just as the Ten Commandments were about to be read, the rain stopped, the skies cleared, all was silent, you could've heard a pin drop. One can hear the birds chirping, just like at Mt. Sinai, and the rabbi read in a loud voice the Ten Commandments, "I am the Lord, your God, who took you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." After Rabbi

Yitzchok Tiechtel concluded the final reading of the Ten Commandment, we sat attentively. It was so spiritual and surreal, the sun was shining, all was so serene and beautiful, it felt like the presence of G-d was right there with us, under that great big marquee.

As we sat taking in everything that was happening, we couldn't help but imagine what it must have felt like to be at the foot of Mount Sinai. We were moved and sat that there for a few moments digesting this spiritual experience amongst my family. We knew we weren't alone in this spiritual experience. We looked around and others were just as moved. This miraculous rain on cue. The

sun was suddenly shining anew, the birth of a new nation.

Then smiles and community, as we delved into a few scoops of dairy, delicious ice cream. Under sunny skies and the fragrance of fresh rain. It was wonderful to see both old friends and the new ones we had made on Zoom. As we walked away from the tent, we did not feel alone, We felt completely enveloped by the spirit of what it is to be a Jew.

This was a Shavuot we will never forget, one that we will live with us for the rest of our lives, as we felt embraced with warmth and love by the Almighty G-d, and were finally reunited with our Chabad family.

Nashville Jewish Film Festival Announces "Virtual, "Festival"

2020 is a year of challenges and how to hold a Jewish Film Festival in the midst of turmoil has been on the minds of the NJFF co-directors for a few weeks. We came to the conclusion that none of us wants to be in a crowded movie theater and adjustments have to be made to our schedule.

So we are proud to let you know that the 2020 festival (our 20th year) will be a virtual festival with films that you will



be able to watch in the safety of your own homes. Keep watching The Observer for more news and definite plans along with information on some of the outstanding films that you will have available in your home.

Mitzvahs and Lifecycles

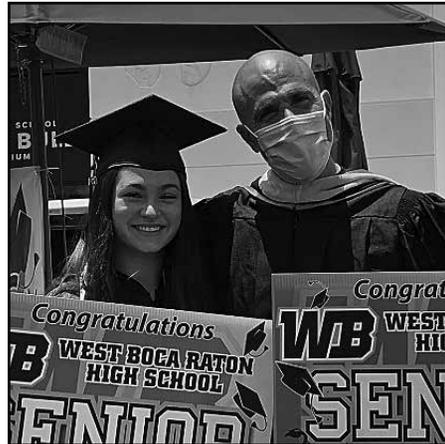


Aden Barton

Aden Barton will graduate from Montgomery Bell Academy. He is the son of Drs. Nancy Lipsitz and Kirk Barton, brother of Ben and Talia and grandson of Jackie and Marty Lipsitz and Dr. David and Lynn Barton.

At MBA, Aden was Captain of the Debate Team, Co-Captain of the Mock Trial Team, managing editor of the school newspaper and he was inducted into Totomoi and cum laude. Aden and his debate partner have earned their place as the top policy debate team in the nation for the past two years. In May, they won the year's most prestigious

national championship tournament, the Tournament of Champions. Aden also recently received the William Martin Award for Best Boy at MBA, the highest honor given to a student of the school. Aden will attend Harvard University in the fall.



Sophia Graff

Sophia Graff, daughter of Amy Graff and Jay Graff, and granddaughter of Lorna Graff. She is graduating as Valedictorian of West Boca High School. Sophia is also the Florida Regional Weight Lifting Champion. She will be attending the University of Florida.

Obituaries

Harry Fox

Baruch Dayan HaEmet/Blessed is the Judge of All Truth. It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of Harry Fox, brother of WES member Alvin (Lauren) Fox.

We send our condolences to Harry's brother Alvin (Lauren) Fox and Harry's niece, Lisa Fox Freedman (Steve), of Atlanta, GA, and Michael Fox, of Stratford, CT. Harry lived in Baltimore, Maryland with his wife, Mary Ellen.

Harry is also survived by sisters, Rena Silverberg (Bud), of Dallas, TX, Rochelle Levin, of Baltimore, MD, and brother, Howard Fox (Michelle), of Tel Aviv, Israel. He is also survived by stepchildren and grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Due to current circumstances there will be no funeral at this time and shiva will remain within family.

Hamakom Yinachem Etchem - May God comfort Harry's entire family, among all the mourners of Zion, Jerusalem and the entire world, Amen.

Norman Law

The Temple notes with sorrow the passing of A. Norman Law on May 26, 2020 and sends condolences to his wife, Susan Raskin Law and family. A small private graveside service will be held in the very near future.

Jeff Leamon

Baruch Dayan HaEmet/Blessed is the one True Judge. It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Jeff Leamon (lifelong resident of Chattanooga), brother of WES member Doni Porteous.

We offer our condolences to Jeff's parents; his brother; and sister, Doni Porteous.

Hamakom Yinachem Etchem - May God comfort Jeff's entire family, among all the mourners of Zion, Jerusalem and the entire world, Amen.

West End Synagogue, 3810 West End Ave, Nashville, TN 37205, United States

Selwyn Lederman

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Dr. Selwyn Lederman on May 22, 2020. Condolences go out

his daughter, Micah member Deborah Lederman and granddaughter Madeline. Sel Lederman is also survived by his other daughter, Rachel Lederman, son-in-law Xavier Melendez, granddaughter Sadie, and family members Doris Lederman, Gail Siegel, Dr. Martin Lederman and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral was held on Sunday in Flatbush, N.Y.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Selwyn's name to Congregation Micah.

May his memory live on as a blessing and may his family be comforted amidst all those who mourn in Zion and Jerusalem.

Bernice Rothstein

Bernice Rothstein, 91, formerly of Nashville, TN, passed away peacefully on Thursday June 11th at Life Care Center of Nashoba in Littleton, MA. She was the beloved wife of the late Aaron Rothstein.

Born May 1st, 1929 in Brooklyn, NY she was the daughter of the late Alto and Dorothy (Bacher) Rothwein. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother.

One of Bernice's proudest childhood memories was being recognized for her salesmanship by Eleanor Roosevelt in a WWII war bond drive. Bernice married her childhood sweetheart, and shortly after moved to Nashville, TN where she became part of a close-knit and vibrant Jewish community. Bernice was active in the local synagogue, where she put her magnetic personality to good use on the membership committee and as a member of the temple Sisterhood.

In her younger years, Bernice was involved in community theater. She was a lover of music and was known to compose her own poems and songs for special occasions. Bernice cherished her friendships, and, always the social butterfly, was a stranger to no one. She will be remembered for her silly humor, tenacity, and zest for life. She took her role of grandmother to a professional level, coining the term "let your conscience be your guide."

Bernice is survived by her daughter, Amy Lynne Rothstein of Pepperell, MA (husband Jay Newlon), granddaughter Alexandra Bendacha Newlon of Dubai, UAE (husband Asri Bendacha Newlon) and grandson Max Newlon of Boston, MA (fiancée Olivia Andert). Bernice was also the mother of the late Steven Rothstein and Lisa Rothstein.

Services were private. Donations in her memory may be made to: Special Olympics of Tennessee, <http://www.specialolympicstn.org/ways-to-give>, or The West End Synagogue

<https://westendsyn.org/donate>

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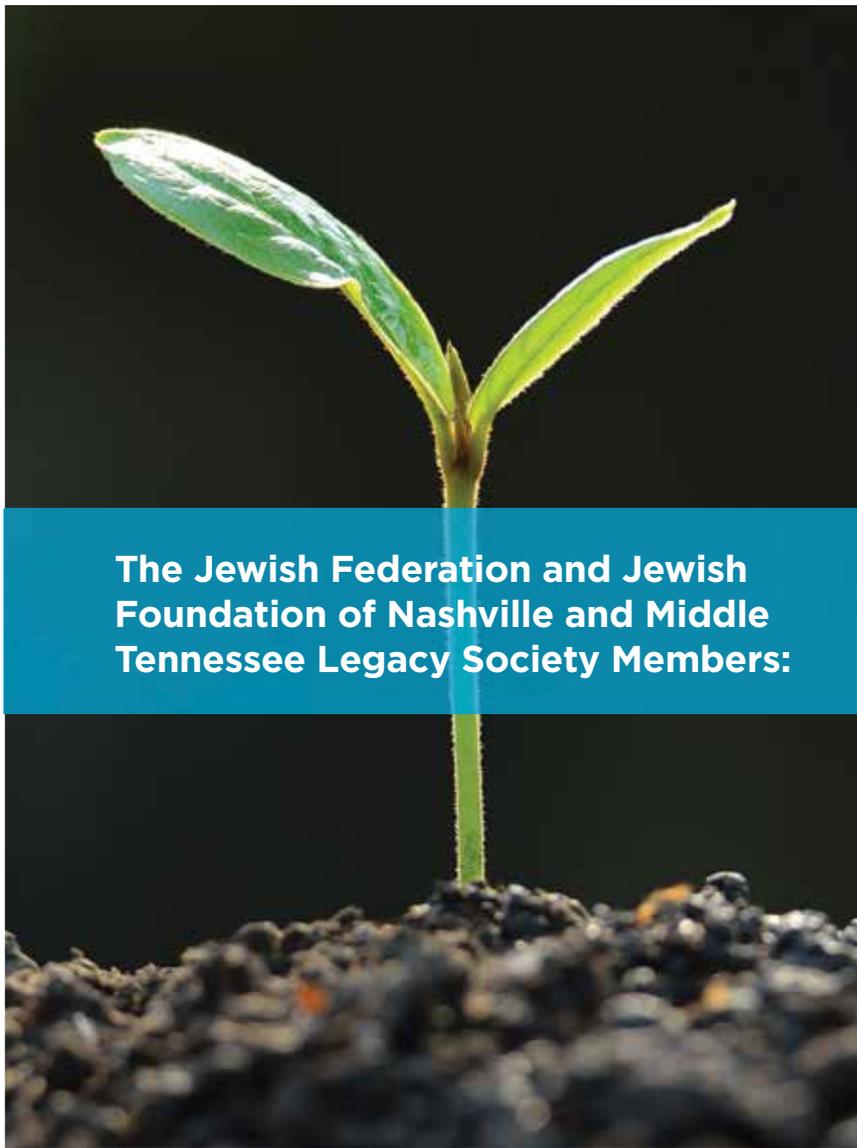


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