

# the Jewish Observer

## Inside:

JFS Annual Meeting honors Jacobsen, Hyatt	2
Bob Eisenstein celebrates 95th birthday	3
Nashville-Hadera partnership earns 'Best Program'	4
Get Connected program turns 5	7
<b>Sections</b>	
Letters	8
Lifecycles	9
Around the town	10

## Freedman named Federation executive director, begins Oct. 1

**M**ark S. Freedman has been appointed the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee beginning on Oct. 1. He is currently the vice president of the American Friends of Tel Aviv University for its southeast region.

Freedman brings more than 25 years' experience in Jewish communal service — plus a host of Nashville friendships and connections — to his new position with Nashville's Jewish community.

Key themes for Freedman have been strengthening ties to Israel, engaging the local Jewish community in Jewish life and building a program-based model for funding local Jewish agencies, themes that dovetail with Nashville's recent experiences with the Best Jewish Nashville priority-setting project. He currently lives in the Fort Lauderdale area with his wife, Leslie J. Klein, a noted fiber artist whose work deals with themes of Judaism, biblical history and the Holocaust.

"I am extremely honored and humbled that I have been chosen to be a partner in all of this and at this



Mark S. Freedman

exciting time as the next professional leader of the Federation," Freedman said. He looks forward to working with Nashville Federation leadership on its "bold and ambitious journey to strengthen affiliation and identity among Jews from across the age spectrum and to create new opportunities for engagement with the next generation."

A search committee led by Teri Kasselberg unanimously selected Freedman after reviewing more than 30 resumes and interviewing candi-

dates. "We are delighted that he will be coming to the Nashville community," Kasselberg said. "With his depth of knowledge of both Federation and the Jewish world overall and his commitment to the Jewish people, he will be a great asset to the Nashville community." Before joining Friends of Tel Aviv University, Freedman was executive director for 13 years with the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. He also held leadership positions with the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and the American Jewish Congress. Freedman holds a doctoral degree in education and was an assistant professor at Rutgers University for five years.

"Mark Freedman's track record of stewardship, leadership and innovation is precisely what Federation looked for in a new executive director," said Martin Ted Mayden, Federation president. "His energy, enthusiasm and ability to connect personally with all segments of our community bode well for Mark's continued success in attracting support for the critical work of Federation and our partner agencies."

Freedman is equally enthusiastic about Nashville. "I was impressed

Continued on page 6

## Opinion researcher Klein to share poll results, ways to discuss Israel

By Kathy Carlson

**N**athan Klein has talked about Israel with people around the world — from Gaza and India to France. Klein, director of research and messaging with The Israel Project, will share data and communication strategies when he visits Nashville on Tues., Aug. 30.

His talk that evening at the Gordon Jewish Community Center is titled "Israel: Why Should I Care?" and is the second event on Israel advocacy sponsored by the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville. The talk begins at 7:15 p.m. and is funded by a grant from the Federation's New Initiatives Fund, an outgrowth of the Best Jewish Nashville priority-setting project.

At The Israel Project, Klein oversees and manages worldwide public opinion research, which



Nathan Klein

informs the organization's messages and strategies. He also lived for four years in Israel and served in the Golani Infantry Brigade of the Israel Defense Force before attending Harvard University and the University of Maryland. The Israel Project (www.theisraelproject.org), a nonprofit educational organization,

provides information about Israel and the Middle East to the press, policy makers and the public.

These days, there's much to communicate. The Arab Spring of uprisings against many of the region's long-time regimes has captured great interest, and a United Nations vote on Palestinian statehood is a month away.

"It's a great time in which we in the Jewish community have an opportunity to talk about things that are important and push the positives about Israel and the Israeli people," Klein said in a recent telephone interview.

The real challenge about the Palestinian statehood vote isn't necessarily the legal issue, he said. The vote "lends weight and credence to narratives that seek to delegitimize the rights of Israel with respect to security. ... We need to deal directly with those issues" as opposed to legalistic issues surrounding the vote. He will offer methods for responding to these issues in his Nashville talk.

Continued on page 3

We apologize for the delay in publishing this issue which was due to vacation schedules.

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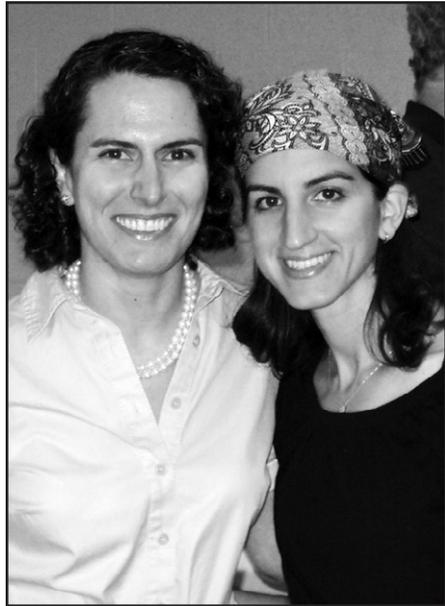
# JFS Annual Meeting honors Toni Jacobsen, Larry Hyatt

Community members gathered to review a year of accomplishments and to recognize those who helped bring them about at Jewish Family Service's Annual Meeting, chaired by Sue Salberg.

The theme of the night was commitment. Commitment is embodied in many ways at Jewish Family Service; the board, staff and donors to the agency, and the agency in turn to the community through ensuring that the needs of the community are met. That commitment is shown through an array of social services including adoption, counseling, emergency financial assistance, kosher food boxes, Chanukah gifts for children, disaster relief, family life education and information and referral.

JFS also provides services to the senior population through the Golden Lunch Bunch and the Helping Hands program that matches volunteers with isolated seniors. In addition, a new program has been added this year to provide school supplies to families who are struggling financially.

Toni Jacobsen, who celebrated her 10-year anniversary with Jewish Family Service, was honored with the Ruach (spirit) of the Agency Award. In presenting the award, Glenda Kraft, reflected on the first time that she met Toni, "I first met Toni in December of 2000, when the agency was involved in assisting Jewish refugees from Russia. We were furnishing and preparing an apartment for a new family who had a baby. Toni arrived at the apartment, ready to



**Pam Kelner, JFS executive director, and Daniella Pressman, new JFS president**

work, and took on the biggest, toughest challenge: assembling the crib. I knew then, that our new social worker was a woman ready to take on challenges on behalf of our community, and was able to do whatever she set her mind to."

Jacobsen noted that "I am able to excel at what I do best - making the world a better place, one person at a time" because "JFS is an agency that has flexible parameters that bend to meet the needs of the community and responds to those needs."

Larry Hyatt, who has served as JFS' treasurer since 2007, was honored with the Chaver (friend) of the Agency Award. Toni Heller summed it up in her



**From left: Toni Heller, Lynn Barton and Ruth Smith**

introduction of Larry, "The agency is indebted to your clear, analytical thinking, devotion to the organization, and talents which guided us through the recent financial storms. With your wise good counsel we were enabled to move ahead with a planned strategy and clear goals."

JFS's 2011-2012 officers were installed: President Daniella Pressner, Vice President Sandra Hecklin, Treasurer Nan Speller, Secretary Lynn Ghertner, Executive Member at large Lynn Barton and Past President Toni Heller. Dianne Berry, Joel Gluck, Yuri Livshitz, Mimi Friedman, and Stan Schklar were elected to serve three-year terms on the board of directors. Steve

Lapidus and James Mackler were installed as presidential appointees. Continuing board members are Sam Averbuch, Lisa Binder, Kathy Caplan, Howard Kirshner, Fran Lenter, Diana Lutz, Elliot Pinsky, Cathy Rosenbloom, Sue Salberg and Alice Zimmerman. Outgoing board members Dan Aronoff, David Heller, Jan Liff and Lisa Small, were recognized for their service and dedication to the agency.

In addition, Ruth Smith, who completed her term as past president, was presented with a small token of appreciation for her commitment to the agency, serving on the board in different capacities for 13 years. □

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To see the full schedule please visit the Micah website at [www.CongregationMicah.org](http://www.CongregationMicah.org) and check out the "What's New" section under "About Micah".

*The Mothers Circle is a program of the Jewish Outreach Institute and is made possible locally by Congregation Micah, The Micah Children's Academy, Akiva School, The Gordon Jewish Community Center and their Early Childhood Learning Center.*

# Bob Eisenstein celebrates 95th birthday, reflects on Nashville's changes

By Kathy Carlson

When Robert Eisenstein arrived in Nashville from Clinton, Iowa, in 1939, the Jewish community numbered about 3,000. There were three synagogues and Jewish life centered on the west side of town. There was no state of Israel.

Eisenstein would go on to serve in World War II, witness the horror of the Dachau concentration camp, marry and raise a family, build a successful career, and assume leadership roles here and nationally. He marked his 95th birthday last month with one celebration at The Temple and a second the following week with his son, Metro Nashville General Sessions Judge Dan Eisenstein; his daughter, Realtor Nan Speller; and their families.

Eisenstein's a young 95. He remains active in his field – real estate – and reads widely. He prefers print to online newspapers, and also e-mails and goes online, but admits he hasn't taken up text messaging.

He marvels at how much Middle Tennessee has grown, turning once-rural areas into suburbs and supporting shopping areas, offices and more. "Housing has improved," he says. "It's more affordable than it was before," and houses are better built thanks to new construction methods. Eisenstein was president of Loventhal Realty Inc., a full-service residential and commercial property management agency that later became part of Robin Realty, where he continues to work.

Over the years, Eisenstein served as president of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and the Jewish Community Center. He was a three-time chair of the

Nashville Jewish Welfare Fund Campaign – a unified fund-raising effort for the local community that predated the Federation system. He served on the board of The Temple and held leadership positions with United Way, the Council of Community Services and many other groups, both within the Jewish community and in the broader community.

As chair of the Welfare Fund, Eisenstein helped bring famed Israeli general and war hero Moshe Dayan to Nashville to speak and inspire \$1 million in donations, he said. Eisenstein also worked actively in the 1960s and 1970s to help Jews leave Russia and other parts of the Soviet Union, making several trips to Russia to visit dissident Jews. Many Jews from the former Soviet Union now make their home in Nashville.

These days, the Jewish community includes five synagogues, separate organ-

izations for the various Jewish agencies, and more than 8,000 people living throughout Middle Tennessee, not just in the west side of town.

The city itself is more of a hub than it was in earlier years, he says. "Sports activities have brought a lot of people here that have never been here before, a whole different group of people." The growth of local universities – Vanderbilt and Belmont in particular – has influenced Nashville's growth as well, he continued.

The Jewish community, though larger these days, faces many of the same issues as in earlier years, namely "sustaining membership and getting young people in the community involved in issues," Eisenstein said.

"All they've got to do is get involved – volunteer on a board" with Federation, an agency, their synagogue, he said. "One thing will lead to another" – stronger community ties, he said. □

## Opinion researcher Nathan Klein

Continued from page 1

Klein plans to describe The Israel Project and its philosophy of research-based communication, review the group's latest research on opinions about Israel, and then to "focus on proven, effective methods of communication about Israel and the information you need to talk about Israel."

The Israel Project's research, he said, shows that about 25 percent of Americans are for Israel, no matter what; some 8 percent to 10 percent lean the same way toward the Palestinians, and the remaining 65 percent of people are open to information that differs from their current views. Key groups within the 65 percent are women, young people and minority group members.

"Our (research) goal is to find what actually works, not what we want to work," he said. "...The end goal has to be to protect Israel, not necessarily in the way we most prefer but in the way that is most effective."

"Our last speaker in this CRC series, Jonathan Schanzer, drew more than 175 community members," said Judy Saks, CRC director. "The surveys they completed were overwhelmingly positive and indicated they wanted more programs like it. We will be working to make that happen this fall and in the coming year. We hope people with all points of view will come to hear Nathan Klein and be prepared to ask questions."

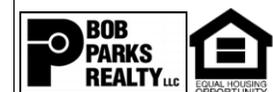
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- 12:00 Lunch  
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- 1:00 **A – Stop...Call...Confirm**  
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- B – Plan to Age...Plan to Protect**  
Mike Verble, Verble Senior Solutions
- 2:00 Break
- 2:15 **A – Slips, Trips and Falls - Prevention in the Home and Elsewhere**  
Danielle Rapkowicz, PT, DPT Baptist Sports
- B – The Forgotten Pension: What the VA Won't Tell You**  
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# Nashville-Hadera partnership earns 'Best Program' honors

The partnership linking Nashville, several other U.S. cities and Israel's Hadera-Eiron region has earned a "Best P2K Program" award at this year's P2K 2000 annual conference in Tel Aviv. Nashville and its sister cities were among four partnerships recognized by the Jewish Agency for Israel-sponsored program, which is made possible through contributions to the Jewish Federation/Jewish Foundation of Nashville.

Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Charlotte, N.C., and Jacksonville, Fla. — called the Southeast Consortium — have been paired for several years with Hadera, Pardes Hanna-Karkur and other towns in the Hadera-Eiron region of Israel north of Tel Aviv. The partnership was recognized for Jewish Peoplehood Day, in which some 2,000 American and Israeli grade school and high school students participated in parallel activities focusing on Jewish identity and connections among Jews around the world.

For Jewish Peoplehood Day, teachers of all age groups in Hadera-Eiron and the Southeast Consortium worked with a shared curriculum, said Maya Shohan,

Living Bridge coordinator with the Partnership in Israel. "Each teacher adapted the same curriculum to their own age group," she said. Other groups are looking at the idea for possible future use, she added. Shoham was in Nashville recently and met with participants in the Get Connected teen trips to Israel.

"Needless to say we are all very, very proud," Judy Yuda, partnership director with the Jewish Agency, said in an e-mail. "This is indeed a very unique program as it encompasses so many of our programs ... teen leadership, the educators delegation, pupil 2 pupil programs and other educational initiatives that take place in each and every one of our communities."

Some student participants already knew each other through programs such as Nashville's Get Connected Israel travel program, which includes several days in Hadera-Eiron. There, Nashville teens stay with host families with teen-age sons or daughters, and some of the Hadera teens visit Nashville families a few weeks later to catch up with their new friends and get to know the Nashville Jewish community.

Through Get Connected and the partnership program, the teens learn the

differences between Jewish lives in Israel and in America and the importance of creating and maintaining connections. Jewish educators in the United States and Israel also have benefited from exchange programs arranged through the partnership.

The partnership announced a change of name at this year's convention and is

now known as Partnership2Gether. P2G connects some 550 communities around the world in 45 partnerships, building living bridges among these communities and nurturing leadership. More than 300,000 participants from Israel and the overseas communities take part in some 500 programs each year. □



Front, from left: Carol Howard; Deidre Williams; Suzi Putnam; Lynn Heady, director, Micah Academy; Melissa Worthington, director, GJCC Preschool; Corye Nelson, director, Temple Playschool. Back: Jacquee Parris, Hannah Woodson, Theresa LePore, Paula Freedman

## Area Jewish preschools collaborate on professional development

The area's three Jewish preschools — Gordon Jewish Community Center Preschool, Micah Children's Academy and The Temple Preschool — collaborated to produce the first annual Professional Development Conference for their teachers and administrators. The July 17 event, which took place at Micah Children's Academy, featured more than 20 presenters.

In seminars, hands-on workshops and panel discussions, attendees learned about issues specific to Jewish preschools, such as keeping Kosher; PJ Library, a new reading program providing monthly Jewish

books to students; how to handle non-Jewish holidays at school; and teaching a Jewish curriculum that includes non-Jewish students.

Other general topics were Preschool Literacy; Calming Fussy Infants; Documentation; Speech/Language Skills; and Running a Center-Based Classroom. Representatives from the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Discovery Science Center also shared resources and opportunities with the teachers.

A team of teachers from the trio of schools planned the event: Hannah Woodson and Jacquee Parris, Micah Children's Academy; Deidre Williams, Temple Preschool; and Suzi Putnam and Paula Freedman, GJCC Preschool.

Congregation Micah's Rabbi Laurie Rice delivered the keynote address, "Working from the WE." Reflecting the conference goals — to meet teachers' professional needs and to model collaborative work among the schools — the talk generated ideas about how the trio of schools can better work together and support one another.

For more information, call Lynn Heady, 615/942-7582. □

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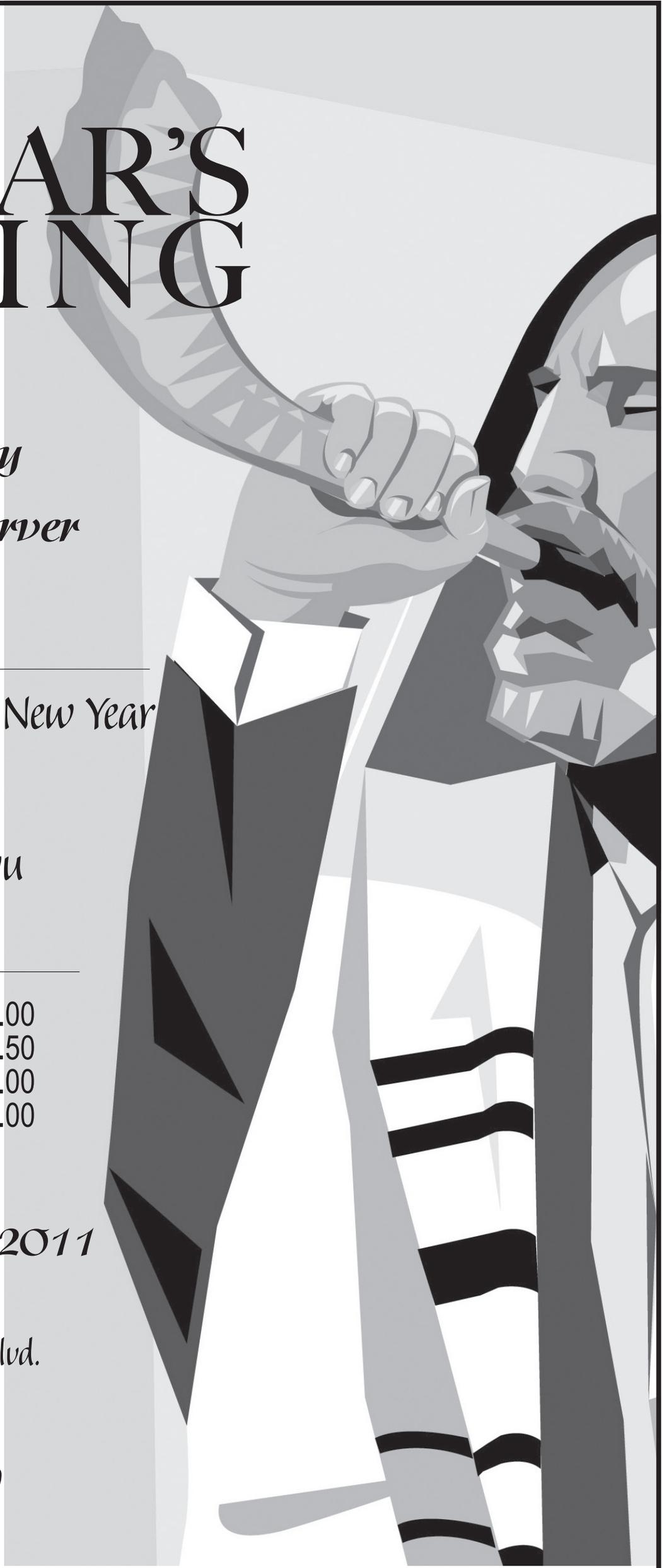
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# Rabbi Fred Guttman: A nudnik for justice

As part of the Reform Movement's Religious Action Center's (RAC) 50th anniversary, Rabbi Fred Guttman, a Nashville native, is one of 50 people recognized for helping make the RAC a strong and moral Jewish voice on Capitol Hill.

**F**red Guttman's commitment to Jewish social justice started as a boy in Nashville. Growing up during the Civil Rights Movement and watching the leadership of the then-UAHC, Fred was inspired from a young age by the voice of Al Vorspan, former director of the RAC, who, to this day, calls on Reform Jews to be "nudniks for justice."

The topic of conversation at the Guttman family dinner table was fre-

quently civil rights, and at his congregation, The Temple, Congregation Ohabai Sholom, Guttman found another Jewish role model, Rabbi Randall Falk, who was active in the Civil Rights Movement, the local civic community, and world Judaism.

Fast forward a few decades and Fred is now Rabbi Guttman, one of the rabbis at Temple Emanuel in Greensboro, N.C., where he has been since 1995, and a formidable force for social justice in his own right. Like his childhood role models, Guttman is involved in local issues, having been awarded Greensboro's highest civic honor, the National Conference for Community and Justice Brotherhood/Sisterhood Citation Award in 2009, national issues as a longtime

member of the Reform Movement's Commission on Social Action, and foreign policy as a member of the AIPAC national council.

Guttman was ordained in 1979 by the Hebrew Union College and spent the first 12 years of his rabbinate living in Israel and serving as the rabbi and principal of the Alexander Muss High School in Israel. His experiences in Israel, including seven years as a reserve soldier in a combat unit of the Israeli Defense Forces, guided his future social justice work; Guttman has led interfaith trips for clergy to Israel and is a tireless advocate for Israel's security and economic stability.

It wasn't until Guttman returned from Israel in 1991 that he formally became involved with the RAC, though

much of his life's work up until that point was in parallel with the work of the Reform Movement. The rabbi credits the RAC's l'taken seminars with keeping his young congregants involved with the issues of social justice and characterizes the seminars as a major part of Temple Emanuel's educational endeavors. Most of the high school students of Temple Emanuel attend a l'taken seminar and many come back for a second trip to learn about advocacy and have their voices heard on Capitol Hill.

Guttman is also vocal about the need for immigration reform, specifically the DREAM Act, which would provide conditional permanent residency to certain undocumented students, explaining that as Americans and Jews, the way we treat immigrant children is against the moral conscience of our country and our faith.

The influence of the Civil Rights Movement also still impacts Guttman, who co-chaired Greensboro's 40th anniversary celebration of the Greensboro lunch counter sit-ins.

Whether it is calling for aid to Israel, fighting for rights for undocumented immigrants, or honoring his community's past, Rabbi Guttman is still the "nudnik for justice" he learned to be as a boy in Nashville. □

## Freedman named executive director

Continued from page 1

with the initiative that the community had taken to learn about itself and be very serious in setting a course for the future," he said in a telephone interview.

He was drawn to Nashville's growing population and Vanderbilt University's success in attracting Jewish faculty and students. His friendship with two predecessors in leading the Nashville Federation — former executive directors Steve Edelstein and Josh Fogelson — also was a factor. "I'm happy to follow in their footsteps," he said. Freedman worked in San Antonio with Ari Dubin, currently executive director of Hillel at Vanderbilt.

Freedman will join Federation's professional staff which since Edelstein's retirement late last year has been led by Interim Executive Director Leon Tonelson. In the weeks and months before he begins his new job, Freedman will meet with Federation staff here and work with his team in Florida toward a smooth transition at the American Friends of Tel Aviv University.

When he arrives in Nashville, Freedman plans to meet as many people as possible and get to know the community. "You won't find me in the office too often," he said. "I'll be out hearing the views of Federation constituents and other stakeholders on what's important to them in making Nashville an even better Jewish community."

Longer term, Freedman plans to create a two-year vision plan that builds on the three key components of the Best Jewish Nashville plan, namely, to engage with Israel, reach out to the next generation and serve senior citizens. "All of those are vitally important and underscore the reasons why we engage in Jewish communal activities," he said. The three areas "are deeply imbued with the Jewish values that have always guided me in my professional career." □



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# Get Connected program turns 5 with strong friendships, bonds

By Kathy Carlson

**N**ow in its fifth year, Nashville's Get Connected program has come of age, introducing 95 area teens to Israel, cementing relationships and inspiring two communities to make sure the exchanges continue.

This June, 20 area teens spent two weeks in Israel, including several days in Hadera-Eiron, the region that has been paired with Nashville and other southeastern cities through the Jewish Agency's Partnership2Gether program.

A few weeks later, nine Israeli teens and their two chaperones visited Nashville under the P2G program. The American and Israeli teens gathered for a reunion dinner at West End Synagogue on July 31 as the Israelis' visit wound down. About 100 people attended.

"It was an amazing trip. I loved my host family. I loved everyone here," said teen Sapir Atias. "We experienced new things, got to know the U.S. and its cultures. It was amazing to see in the houses – accepting us, (people being) excited to hear about Israel. It was an amazing experience for all Israelis."

The Israeli teens worked at the Gordon Jewish Community Center's Camp Davis, teaching something different about Israel each day. One day, the teens made an improvised Western Wall, where campers brought notes and prayed. And then there was food. "We're all the time making Israeli foods," said Ma'ayan Shavit.

At West End the teens chowed down on falafel, salad, ice cream, watermelon and cold drinks. They sang and talked about their experiences and posed for photos and laughed at their homemade videos. They talked a lot about how much they enjoyed getting to know each other.

"One of the best parts of the trip was the home stay," said Nashville's Alex Rotker. "I loved being immersed in the Israeli culture and getting to hang out with really cool Israeli teens, some of whom are here in this room. I also loved the differences in our cultures."

"... After two amazing weeks I had already adjusted to Israeli culture, saying goodbye was really difficult," he contin-



Nashville's Get Connected teens in Israel

ued. He was excited when he learned that three of the teens, including his host brother, Avraham Korcoos, would be coming to Nashville. Avraham stayed with Alex while in Nashville.

"I never thought it would be so hard to say goodbye," Avraham said, adding that he was surprised how strong the connections between himself and the Nashville teens were. He thanked everyone for creating the Get Connected experience.

Since Get Connected started in 2007, 95 teens and nine chaperones have visited Israel, said Andy Neuman, board chairman for Get Connected, now a stand-alone 501(c) nonprofit corporation.

Neuman sees Get Connected as crucial to protect the future of Israel, since in 10 to 20 years, the teen participants will be leaders of their countries.

Rabbi Flip Rice of Congregation Micah explained Get Connected's goals this way: "We need Nashville Jewish teens to fall in love, to develop their own relationship with Israel" by making friends with their peers in Hadera. "If we want our Jewish teens to grow up and be these educated Jewish adults, we need to do our very best" to make sure the program continues.

daily lives" and Shabbat was a true day of rest. "I had a sense that I belong here, a place I had never been that I felt connected to," she said. And, she said, the trip changed her. She wants to work to help other area teens go to Israel through Get Connected.

There's a financial commitment to keep Get Connected going. It costs \$4,000 to send one teen-ager to Israel for two weeks, Neuman said. Cost of the trip is largely subsidized. The teens and their families pay application fees, supplemented by a grant from Jewish Federation of Nashville, individual grants from the Jewish Foundation's Zimmerman Fund, and additional fundraising, Neuman said.

Get Connected works because it helps the teens create real bonds, said Todd Evans of Congregation Micah, who chaperoned the Nashville teens with recently retired West End educator Miriam Halachmi. "Seeing these kids at the Kotel, touching the wall, tears streaming down their faces – it was surreal," Evans said. "I was privileged to be part of it."

Mike Rosen's children, Lindsey and Aaron, have participated in Get Connected. Lindsey, a rising junior in college, recently got her first apartment. "The first thing she will do is hang a mezuzah," he said. "That's not something Lindsey would have done before Get Connected," he said. "I'm so thankful that Get Connected exists." □



Israeli teens from Hadera meet with Nashville Mayor Karl Dean.

Emma Drongowski enjoyed an unexpected benefit from the trip. She became good friends not only with the Israeli teens, but with the other 19 Nashville teens, including one who went to her high school.

Get Connected participant Leah Caplan liked being part of a majority Jewish country. In Israel, she said, synagogue "is just a continuation of their

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# Mothers Circle offers how-to's, camaraderie for non-Jewish parents

**N**on-Jewish moms can get together to learn more about creating a Jewish home through a new program, The Mothers Circle, which starts on Sun., Sept. 11.

Rabbi Laurie Rice of Congregation Micah will facilitate the Circle, a program of the Jewish Outreach Institute (JOI). It is made possible by Micah, The Micah Children's Academy, Gordon Jewish Community Center, GJCC Early Childhood Center and Akiva School. There is no charge for the program and it's open to all non-Jewish parents of Jewish children, Rice said.

The Mothers Circle's "main mission is to reach out to the diverse membership of today's Jewish community, because the Jewish community doesn't look the same today as it did 100 years ago...or even 50

years ago," Rice said.

"We have a number of interfaith families in our congregations," she noted. "The idea is that we want to give interfaith families the strongest tools we have to raise Jewish kids and to create Jewish homes."

"It was very successful in the city where I lived," said Akiva Head of School Patricia Schwartz, who came to Nashville from Portland, Ore. "Parents really felt supported by the community." JOI began the program in Atlanta, with support from the Marcus Foundation. There are Mothers Circle groups in more than 70 Canadian and American cities.

The program's Sept. 11 start date coincides with the beginning of religious school at Micah. The hour long classes begin at 9:30 a.m. and will focus on Jewish rituals, ethics and the how-to's of creating a Jewish home. "I definitely

have had members – usually moms and not dads – who if they're not Jewish will call and ask, 'Walk me through the steps for making Shabbat,'" Rice said. The Mothers Circle will fill that need.

The program is geared toward women because "oftentimes creating ritual in the home and spearheading holiday observance traditionally would come from the woman, not to say that men are not responsible," Rice said. JOI also wanted to create a female-bonding experience through The Mothers Circle.

In Nashville, "anybody can take

(the course); in this case, anybody in our Nashville Jewish community who is a non-Jewish parent of Jewish children. ... Personally I would have no problem with a non-Jewish father participating in this group" because Micah offers other opportunities for female bonding, such as the new Kol Isha women's group.

Additional Mothers Circle class dates are Sept. 25, Oct. 2, Oct. 23, Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, and Dec. 11. To participate, RSVP to the Micah office at office@congregationmicah.org or 377-9799. □

## Letters

### To the Editor:

In the spirit of the statement on civility published in a recent issue of the Observer, a conversation about radical Islam is appropriate.

An honest conversation will be beneficial to us all.

The conversation is about radical Islam. While it is frequently pointed out that "not all Muslims are terrorists," it is seldom pointed out that not everyone who scrutinizes radical Islam is a bigot.

The recent "Family of Abraham" program [Interfaith event brings people together – Observer 7/15/11] may have been well intentioned, but it fell short of being a totally honest conversation. People and groups attempting to educate the community about the dangers of radical Islam are not trying "to divide Nashville along religious lines", as reported in the Observer article.

Criticizing misguided interfaith dialogue is not criticizing all interfaith dialogue.

Reform Jewish leader Mark Pelavin stated that Muslims are poorly organized. He is partly correct. The moderates are the ones who are poorly organized. The radicals are extremely well organized and financed. Statements that Imam Ossama Bahloul made about the way non-Muslims are treated in Muslim countries ignores the persecution that Christians, Jews, and other non-Muslims are subject to throughout the Muslim world.

The objection to opposition or scrutiny of radical Islam seems to fall into two categories:

The scrutiny/opposition disparages all Muslims. Nothing could be further from the truth. Critics are not talking about all, or even a majority of Muslims. They are addressing a relatively small but potent, well organized, and well financed group of zealots. If there is a fear of "offending Muslims," grouping moderates with the radicals is as offensive as it gets. The only ones who should take offense to scrutiny of radical Islam are the radicals themselves.

Non-Muslim terrorists are a problem, too. This is changing the subject, rather than addressing it. Non-Muslim anti-Semitism has been a problem historically, but does not come close to the problems radical Islam is currently presenting us with.

I fully support the Jewish community's opposition to all forms of bigotry. If we are going to have a serious conversation, a distinction needs to be drawn between bigotry and legitimate scrutiny.

Michael Dobrin

### To the Editor:

With heartfelt appreciation, I want to say, "Thank you," to everyone for your many generous donations, numerous condolence cards and personal phone calls made in loving memory of my dear sister, Esther Loeb.

It is your kind expressions of sympathy that have sustained us through this very sad time in our lives.

With deep affection,

Regina and Irv Stern and Family



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# lifecycles

## B'nai Mitzvah

Meagan Lindsey Broder was called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah at Congregation Micah on Sat., Aug. 6, at 10:30 a.m. Meagan is the daughter of Philip and Elizabeth Broder and the granddaughter of Audrey and Len Broder of Dallas, Texas, and the late Col. (ret.) Len and Shirley Winter.



Meagan Lindsey Broder

A rising seventh grader at Woodland Middle School, Meagan is an honor student and in the gifted program. She is on the Woodland Forensics team and plays the alto saxophone in the school band. She has been on the recreational soccer team since the fourth grade.

Meagan's mitzvah project has allowed her to work with underprivileged children in West Nashville through the Youth Encouragement Services (YES) program. Meagan worked with a group of children on improving their reading skills. She also donated clothes and books to the children and their families involved in the YES program.

Shalva Joan Harshman-Earley will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah at Congregation Micah on Sat., Aug. 13, at 10:30 a.m. She is the daughter of Rachel Harshman and Michael Earley and the granddaughter of Joan and the late Sidney Harshman of Nashville and May and Patrick Early of Rathduff County Mayo, Ireland.



Shalva Joan Harshman-Earley

Shalva has completed her tenure at Glasnevin National School in Dublin, Ireland. In September she will commence her secondary school education at Mount Temple Comprehensive. While at Glasnevin National School, Shalva has distinguished herself both academically

and athletically. Shalva has come first in an intra-school chess tournament and has set a new school standard by winning a medal in Cumann na mBunscol, a county wide athletic competition for the third consecutive year.

For her mitzvah project, Shalva has put even greater effort into her fundraising for charities such as GOAL and the Simon Community. She raises funds through collection of sponsorships for road races of 1-5 miles.

Sarah Goldstein will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Sat., Aug. 27, at 11 a.m. at The Temple. She was born on June 1, 1998, in Houston, Texas. She is the daughter of Lisa and Robert Goldstein and the granddaughter of Ruth and Lou Palet of Nashville, Elaine Goldstein of Dallas and the late Maurice Goldstein.



Sarah Goldstein

And eighth grader at Harpeth Hall, Sarah's special interests include art, photography and lacrosse.

For her mitzvah project, Sarah is painting and donating her work to various shelters that provide services to those in need in the Middle Tennessee area.

Stephanie Blumenthal will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah at The Temple at 11 a.m. on Sat., Sept. 3. She is the daughter of Tricia and Eric Blumenthal, the granddaughter of Elinor and Rudy Saperstein and Nancy and Joseph Blumenthal of Southfield, Mich., and the sister of Sam and Emily Blumenthal.



Stephanie Blumenthal

Stephanie will be attending USN as a seventh grader and her interests include running, reading, GUCI, piano, and most especially keeping up with friends.

## Honors

The Kiwanis Club of Nashville has named **Ellen Lehman**, president of The Community Foundation of Middle

Tennessee, and Brian N. Williams, director of Hands On Nashville, as its 2010 Outstanding Nashvillians of the Year. The honor is for their exemplary leadership as stewards of their organizations in organizing masses of volunteers, significant financial resources and strategic partners to support the relief and rebuilding efforts of the historic and devastating flood of May 2010.



Ellen Lehman

## Sympathy

... to the family of **Joseph S. Frank**, 91, who died July 26. Joe was known for his love of St. Louis and the St. Louis Cardinals. He is survived by his wife, Shirley Frank; daughter and son-in-law, Debbi and Michael Kam; daughter, Leslie Frank; grandchildren, Erik Cooper and his wife Aviva Klein, Jason Kam and his wife Michelle, and Amy Kam; great-grandchildren, Noah, Ari and Koby Cooper. Donations may be made to the Alive Hospice in Nashville.

... to the family of **Florence Silverman Honick**, 85, who died July 20. She is preceded in death by her husband, Joe Honick; son, Bruce Honick, and brother, Alvin Silverman. Mrs. Honick is survived by her daughters, Marti Honick of Lawrenceburg, Ky., and Rosanne Honick Willemin of Antioch, Tenn. Donations may be made to West End Synagogue.

... to the family of **Pauline Schuster**, 91, who died July 14 in Birmingham, Ala. She was preceded in death by her mother, father, sisters and brothers and the Jewish community of Uman, Ukraine. She was also preceded in death by her beloved husband and granddaughter, Ilana Schuster Jonsson. She is survived by her son Larry Schuster (Ruth), daughter Esther Schuster (Allen Shealy), son Abraham Schuster (Gail) and grandchildren David and Rachel Schuster, Shaina Schuster Shealy, and Daniel (who recently moved to Nashville), Naomi and Rebecca Schuster. Donations can be made to the Pauline and Judel Schuster Fund for CJFS at the Birmingham Jewish Foundation, Collat Jewish Family Services or Temple Beth-El.

## BBYO will hold annual Intake Program in August

By Kayla Jacobs

Mark your calendars! Nashville BBYO Intake will be held Aug. 26-28. This weekend will be filled with fun programs that allow the teens to meet one another and gain a deeper understanding of the organization. The weekend-long, completely free event will kick off with a Friday night Shabbat dinner and program hosted by the Geltzer family from 6-9 p.m. on Aug. 26. The teens will reconvene Saturday night for an overnight at the GJCC from

7:30 p.m. to 8 a.m.

BBYO is a worldwide teen movement, bringing together high school students from all over the globe, with all types of interests and from all types of Jewish backgrounds. Nashville BBYO Intake Weekend is an opportunity for Jewish high school teens from across Nashville and from all congregations to meet. This program is for any teen who is a rising ninth through twelfth grader.

For more information or to register, contact Jessica Leving, Nashville BBYO director, at [jleving@bbyo.org](mailto:jleving@bbyo.org) or 615/354-1659. □

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## State museum presents lectures on ancient Egypt, Persia, and the Jews

The Tennessee State Museum will present two events of particular interest to the Jewish community.

On Sun., Aug. 21, at 2 p.m. Analisa Azzoni, Ph.D., assistant professor of Hebrew Bible and ancient Near Eastern Cultures at Vanderbilt Divinity School, will give an illustrated lecture, "The Private Life of Ancient Women: Persian Egypt." She will explore the daily lives of Egyptian women from about 500 to 400 B.C., during Persian rule, based on papyrus documents preserved from the Jewish settlement on Elephantine Island in the Nile River (at Aswan). She will center on two women, one Jewish and one non-Jewish.

On Sun., Aug. 28, at 2 p.m., Jack M. Sasson, Ph.D., Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Judaic and Biblical Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School, will present a lecture, "Pharaohs & the Patriarchs (and Matriarchs) of Israel. Pharaohs are mentioned a number of times in the Hebrew Bible, not just in the stories of Joseph and Moses. Sasson will discuss the stories of some who can be identified with specific historical figures and others whose Egyptian names remain unknown.

The Tennessee State Museum is located at Fifth Ave. and Deaderick St. Admission is free free. Weekend parking available in the Tennessee State Employee lots. For more information go to [www.tnmuseum.org](http://www.tnmuseum.org). □

## Seeking U.S. citizens born in Jerusalem: Stand up, and be counted

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) is seeking U.S. citizens born in Jerusalem who are interested in having their voices heard at the U.S. Supreme Court in a case involving the right of such citizens to have their place of birth recorded as "Israel" on their United States passport. ADL is working with the International Israel Allies Caucus Foundation and the National Council of Young Israel on this project.

Americans born in Jerusalem, or American parents of minors born in Jerusalem, are invited to join the new ad hoc Association of Proud Americans Born in Jerusalem, Israel. As part of the effort, a web site has been created at [www.borninjerusalem.org](http://www.borninjerusalem.org) where U.S. citizens born in Jerusalem can register and learn more about the case, and supporters can take action to make their

voices heard.

ADL will file a "Friend of the Court" brief in *Zivotofsky v. Clinton*, urging the Supreme Court to enforce a law passed by Congress in 2002 requiring the State Department to allow American citizens born in Jerusalem to have their place of birth recorded as "Israel" on their U.S. passport and Consular Report of Birth Abroad. The Ad Hoc Association will sign onto ADL's brief, bringing the voice of its membership to the Supreme Court.

Current State Department policy insists that such passports say "Jerusalem," while American citizens born in Tel Aviv can choose to have their passport say "Tel Aviv" or "Israel."

The "Born in Jerusalem" website also has information on how supporters of the legislation may send a letter to members of Congress urging them to join a special legislators' brief insisting that the 2002 law be enforced. □

## around the town

### WES 'Shul at the Pool'

The annual West End Synagogue Families with Young Children Shul At The Pool is Fri., Aug. 26, at the GJCC pool. It is free and open to the community. Enjoy water play and schmoozing at 5 p.m.; a musical Shabbat Service with Rabbi Kliel Rose, Beth Sass and Amy Newell at 6 p.m.; and a free Shabbat Dinner at 6:30 p.m. The event is geared to families with kids in first grade and younger. Meet the new WES director of lifelong learning, Sharon Paz, and look for the flyer of new programs and services for the coming year. For more information, join the Facebook Group (West End Synagogue Families with Young Children). For reservations, call 269-4592, x11 or email [office@west-endsyn.org](mailto:office@west-endsyn.org).

### History of the Jewish community

Join historian Jean Roseman as she traces the settlement of Jews in Nashville, examines their assimilation, reflects on their contributions, shares the harrowing Holocaust testimonies of later refugees, reviews the history of the syna-

gogues, and surveys the diverse commercial and professional presence of Jews in Nashville. There are six Thursday classes: Oct. 13, 20, 27; Nov. 3, 10, 17, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at The Commons Center on the Vanderbilt Campus. The class is part of Vanderbilt's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. There is a fee. For more information, visit the website at [www.vanderbilt.edu/cngr/olli](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/cngr/olli) or call 322-5569.

### International adoption

Children's Home Society and Family Services will host an international adoption information meeting with its two Nashville partner agencies, Jewish Family Service and Miriam's Promise, on Thurs., Sept. 22, at 6 p.m. CHSFS will provide information about their role as an international placing agency and the various countries from which they place children for adoption. Jewish Family Service and Miriam's Promise staff will talk about their roles in the international adoption process as home study and post placement agencies. The meeting will be held at Miriam's Promise located at 522 Russell Street and is open to anyone who would like to attend. RSVP to Teri Sogol at 615/354-1662.

Community events are on the calendar at [www.jewishnashville.org](http://www.jewishnashville.org)

## Buy Israel!

Throughout the United States and in many parts of the world, there is a concerted effort to delegitimize the State of Israel. One of the tactics being used is a boycott of Israeli products. This action has been seen in several locations in our country.

In an effort to counter that boycott and support Israel, many Jewish communities and organizations have urged Americans to buy Israeli products. The Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and The Observer want to make it easier for Nashvillians to find Israeli-made goods by publishing a list of the products and where to find them, locally.

We need your help. If you know of available products and the stores that carry them, email that information to [judy@jewishnashville.org](mailto:judy@jewishnashville.org). Food, clothing, jewelry, wine, etc., whatever you have found, please share it with our community.

See the updated list, below and send your additions to [judy@jewishnashville.org](mailto:judy@jewishnashville.org) or call 354-1637.

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Telma products - Publix  
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Sweet Clementines (oranges) - Costco  
Cedars Halva - Whole Foods refrigerated section  
Streit's Quinoa and Israeli Couscous - Harris Teeter  
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