

the Jewish Observer

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Hundreds from Nashville's Jewish community demonstrate their solidarity with Israel at the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

350 turn out for rally to show support and provide funds to "Stop the Sirens"

By CHARLES BERNSEN

About 350 people crowded into the auditorium at the Gordon Jewish Community Center on Wednesday, July 23 to demonstrate their solidarity with the people of Israel during a time of crisis – and Yafa Baer wants to thank every single one of them.

"It was very emotional for me. I cried and cried," said Baer, an Israeli citizen who has lived in Nashville for 18 years. Most of her family is still in Israel, where for weeks Hamas rockets fired from Gaza have rained down indiscriminately on its citizenry. "I just want to thank the Jewish Federation

and the people of Nashville and tell them how much it means."

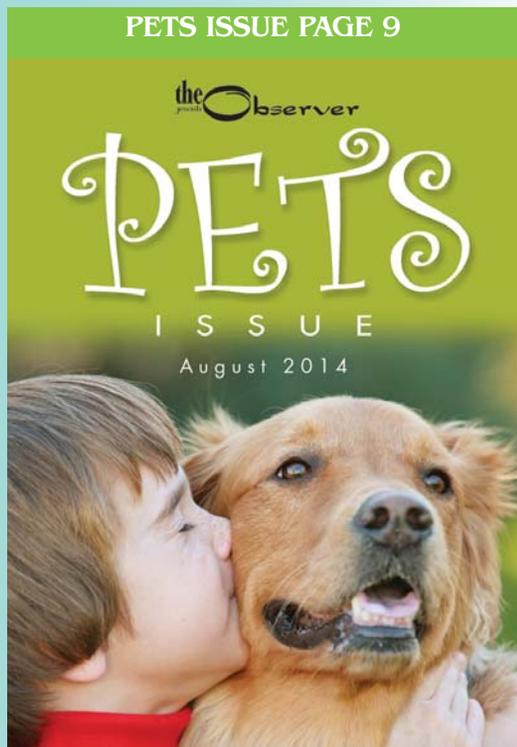
Among those in attendance were five Israeli teens and their chaperone who were visiting Nashville as part of the Get Connected exchange program. They took part in the gathering's closing ceremony, standing on the auditorium stage and helping Talia Mayden lead the crowd in singing *Hatikvah*, the Israeli national anthem.

"It was very meaningful to see that there is so much love for us," said Shirley Flor, who like the other Israeli teens was surprised and touched to see how deeply American Jews care about Israel and its people. "It was like they were saying, 'We've got your back.'"

Yuval Vered, another of the Israeli teens, recounted how a woman behind him began to weep at the description of the psychological impact on some Israelis of repeated rocket attacks. "To hear someone crying for me – it meant so much," he said.

The gathering was not merely a show of moral support. Many of those who attended donated to a special Stop the Sirens campaign. All of the money is being used to improve shelters for vulnerable populations such as seniors and the disabled, provide respite for children away from heavily shelled areas, provide trauma counseling for any Israelis who need it, and give grants for communities close to Gaza where property damage has been

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VOL. 79 NO. 8
AUGUST 2014
5 AV - 5 ELUL 5774

Hirschfield to return as visiting scholar for Global Day of Jewish Learning

There will be something old and something new in Nashville for this year's Global Day of Jewish Learning. Rabbi Zvi Hirschfield, an expert on Jewish law and thought at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, will return as Nashville's scholar in residence for the annual event in which Jews in hundreds of

communities around the world come together to study their religious heritage and sacred texts. Hirschfield was in Nashville for the first Global Day event in 2012.

This year's Global Day is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 16. The theme is Heroes, Villains, Saints and Fools: The People of the Book.

The sessions will all take place



Rabbi Zvi Hirschfield

from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the campus of Vanderbilt University and will include lunch. The previous two events were at Akiva School.

Look for more information in next month's edition of The Observer and on the website of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee at www.jewishnashville.org. □

350 turn out for rally to show support and provide funds to “Stop the Sirens”

Continued from page 1

greatest. Federation Executive Director Mark S. Freedman said the special campaign has already surpassed its initial goal, thanks in large part to a gift from the Delek Fund for Hope.

The rally was pulled together over the course of just a few days by the staff of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. It was scheduled at the end of a hot midsummer day, and no one knew what the response would be. About 200 chairs were in place, but it became clear as 6 p.m. start time neared that they would not be enough, so another 60 were set out. Still, dozens of people wound up standing against the walls or sat on the floor. Many waved small Israeli flags or carried signs that read, “We Stand with Israel now and forever.”

The State of Israel was represented at the gathering by Ron Brummer, its Southeast deputy consul general, who made the drive from Atlanta to speak at the Nashville gathering, which he said was the fifth or sixth such event he had attended in July.

Brummer blamed the fighting on Hamas’s unwillingness to renounce violence, gave a spirited defense of Israel’s right to defend itself against rocket attacks that endanger 80 percent of its citizens, and explained the lengths to which it goes to avoid civilian casualties. But his main purpose, he said, was to express Israel’s thanks, both to the U.S. government, which has supplied funding for its Iron Dome mobile defense system, and to the American public for its support of Israel.

“Your support is crucial, and your presence here today is greatly appreciated,” Brummer said.

There were several moving moments during the event. Local performer Batsheva sang a tribute to the Israeli Defense Force: *Ha-Milchamah ha-*



The gathering to support Israel closes with the singing of Hatikvah led by Nashville resident Talia Mayden (far right) and five Israeli teens and their chaperone visiting from the Hadera-Eiron region (from left) Liora Pravda, Chen Scheim, Netanel Garmay, Yuval Naim, Yuval Vered and Shirley Flor.

Acharonah (The Last War), an anthem that became popular in Israel after the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Rabbis and other representatives from all five Nashville congregations offered prayers for Israel and the soldiers defending it.

The gathering also heard from representatives of the Nashville Federation who had just returned from a two-week mission to Israel.

“We went there to say, ‘We stand with Israel,’” said Campaign Chairman Ted Mayden. “And we found that the Israelis we met stood with us too – day by day by day they expressed their solidarity with us.”

Janet Weismark, another member of the mission, said the group had to take shelter several times in response to sirens – and on occasion heard the explosion of

Hamas rocket being destroyed in midair by an Iron Dome missile. Though weary of repeated attacks and trips to shelters, Israelis are resolute and unafraid, she said.

“Everyone thanked us for coming and showing support,” she said. “We truly felt like *am echad* (one people).”

Also on the mission was Jennifer Kahn, a volunteer leader of NowGen Nashville, the Federation’s outreach program for young adults. She related several stories about the resolve, fortitude and solidarity among the Israeli people in the face of the rocket attacks – a Jerusalem shopkeeper who keeps the doors of her business open around the clock so passersby will have a place to take shelter when the sirens start to blare, a tour guide who tries to comfort the small child of a passenger on his bus while taking shelter beneath an overpass during a missile attack.

“We have no choice about whether to stand with the Israeli people,” she said. “We are *mishpacha* (family). Right now they need our love and support.”

Federation Campaign Director Naomi Limor Sedek said it “was a privilege to be among the people of Israel during this crisis.” For her the trip was especially emotional because her daughter, Tali, was attending a summer program at the Alexander Muss High School outside Tel Aviv.

“It was supposed to be a peaceful summer in which she fell in love with Israel like I did when I was her age,” said Sedek. “Well, it wasn’t peaceful, but she did fall in love with Israel.”



Rabbis and lay leaders from all five Nashville congregations participated in the event, including (from left) Rabbi Joshua Barton of Vanderbilt Hillel; Julie Greenberg, education director at Congregation Micah, Rabbi Aaron Finkelstein of Congregation Sherith Israel and Rabbi Joshua Kullock of West End Synagogue.

Sedek outlined a number of ways those in attendance could make their support for Israel more tangible – contacting their congressional representatives, for example, and calling media outlets in response to unfair or distorted reporting. But the most direct way to show solidarity with Israel, she said, it to contribute to the Stop the Sirens campaign. (Donations can be made at http://nashville.ujcfedweb.org/server-transfer.html?targetURL=/ft2/form.html?_id=9306.)

Fred Zimmerman, who serves on the boards of the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Jewish Federations of North America and recently returned from Israel, echoed her appeal. He made special mention of the psychological trauma that can occur among those who live under the constant threat of attack for long periods.

Also speaking at the event was Mark McNally, a local representative of Christians United for Israel, who told the crowd, “Our mission is to build support for Israel . . . And our message to you is we love you and stand with you.”

Although they were unable to attend the event themselves, U.S. Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, U.S. Reps. Jim Cooper and Marsha Blackburn, Nashville Mayor Karl Dean, state Sen. Steve Dickerson and state Rep. John Ray Clemmons all sent representatives. □

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Interested in participating in a survey on Jewish identity?

A Middle Tennessee State University Honors College student is conducting a study entitled “*The Tennessean Jewish Perspective on 21st Century Judaism, American Society and the State of Israel.*”

If you would like to participate in an anonymous online survey as part of this study, please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5P2RDRX>

For additional information about the study or the survey, please contact Cheyenne Plott at csp3q@mtmail.mtsu.edu.

(Note: The Jewish Federation has reviewed the content of this survey and encourages individuals to participate at their own discretion. The Federation has been assured that all survey responses are strictly confidential and will be used only in connection with study mentioned above.)

Get Connected teens see firsthand Nashville's impact in Hadera-Eiron

By MARA STEINE

The Nashville teens on this year's Get Connected trip got connected to Israel in a way they never expected: When one student was sent to the Hillel Yaffe Medical Center following an allergic reaction, she was entertained by one of the hospital's pediatric clowns, a program that has been supported with funds from The Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

Fostering this type of connection between Nashville and Israel is what the Get Connected program is all about. Now in its seventh year, Get Connected sponsors a two-week trip to Israel each summer for Jewish teenagers in Nashville. During the trip, the students have the opportunity to stay with host families in the Hadera-Eiron region. In turn, the Israeli students visit Nashville later in the summer.

This summer's trip began in Jerusalem with one of the most memorable experiences for the students. After arriving at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, they were driven to Jerusalem, and the tour guide instructed the group to put on blindfolds. They were taken to an overlook of Jerusalem where they took off their blindfolds and saw an overview



Nashville's Get Connected participants pose by the Mediterranean Sea at Caesarea with their Israeli hosts.

of the old city of Jerusalem.

"That was our first experience of Israel, overlooking the old city, and I will never forget it," said trip participant Allister Berger. "It was truly breathtaking."

The itinerary included other highlights like a visit to the Dead Sea, a sunrise hike to Masada and other experiences unique to Israel.

Emma Fischer said her personal highlight was spending the night in bedouin tents before hiking Masada in the morning. The group played games and participated in other activities. "The sense of togetherness, combined with our

singing of "Od Y'vo Shalom Aleinu" and other songs truly made it a spectacular night," said Fischer.

This summer's Get Connected trip occurred during the middle of June, before the outbreak of fighting between Israel and Hamas but after the kidnapping and murders of three Israeli teens that led to up to it. As a result, the trip was more than a fun visit to Israel. It also provided students with a new perspective on the tough realities Israelis live with every day.

"This trip allows youth to make their own decisions about the situation in Israel by providing unbiased information, something that's really hard to find," said Fischer.

Berger agreed that this is one of the most important aspects of the Get Connected trip. "This trip lets us feel what Israel is struggling with. Their views of what's going on are more clear than those of the outside world," said Berger.

Hadar Moskovitz, the Federation's community *shlich*, chaperoned the trip for the second summer in row. The participants "come back with a better understanding of what Israel means to them and how it fits their Jewish identity," she said. "The Jewish community of Nashville should be really proud of having [this program]."

The goal of the trip is for each student to build a connection to his or her Jewish soul – something that happens in different ways for each participant. Before the trip, the students are required to attend educational sessions, *kallot*, to help them understand the history, culture and language of Israel. Once the group arrives in Israel, they are prepared to get the most out of their experience.

Get Connected is subsidized through the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, grants from the Mary and Harry Zimmerman Fund, fundraisers and private donations. Hadera and Nashville participate in the Jewish Agency's Partnership2Gether, which connects about 550 Diaspora Jewish communities with 45 cities and regions in Israel. The programs focus on community interactions and building connections between the partnered areas. □



Between serving as counselors at sightseeing, the Israeli Get Connected teens and their hosts spend some time relaxing at a backyard barbecue.

Israeli hosts take a turn as guests

By MARA STEINE

The Nashville Get Connected participants who visited Israel in June got a chance to return the favor when they hosted an Israeli delegation from the Hadera-Eiron region for two weeks in July.

The five Israeli students said they were participating in the Partnership2gether exchange program because it gave them an opportunity to get to know students from the United States and even visit the country.

Yuval Vered's family has hosted a Get Connected participant for the past three years, and he has been looking forward to visiting Nashville.

"My brother was in [the program], and I heard a lot about the great friends you make," said Vered.

Shirley Flor was especially excited to visit America after seeing the culture in movies and on television. This program isn't all about fun for her, though. For Flor, being a counselor at the Gordon Jewish Community Center's Camp Davis allowed her to "feel more connected to being an Israeli and being Jewish."

For many of the Israeli students, the trip marked their first visit to the United States.

In addition to working at Camp Davis, they toured historic and popular Nashville sites including the Country Music Hall of Fame, the State Capitol, Nashville Shores, Cheekwood. □



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Tumultuous Times: Reflections on a Month in Israel

By Mark S. Freedman

I left Nashville at the end of June to spend a week studying at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem. As I arrived in Israel, emotions were running high because the search was still ongoing for the three teenage boys who had been abducted by Hamas terrorists.

Sadly, a few days after my arrival in Israel, the boys' lifeless bodies were found. Anxiety and apprehension quickly gave way to despair and grief. Most people mourned silently, but beneath the quiet sadness and the subsequent senseless act of murderous revenge perpetrated against an Arab teenager, I perceived a turning point in the psyche of my Israeli friends and counterparts. Everyone seemed more united and resolved that the time had come to deal with the Hamas terrorist threat once and for all.

Two years of relative quiet from the Gaza Strip quickly escalated violently as Hamas terrorists began lobbing more and more rockets into Southern Israel just as I was leaving on July 4 for a week of vacation in Italy. I would be returning to Israel on July 12 to join a mission of

campaign volunteers and professionals from Jewish Federations in North American, including four others from Nashville – 2015 Campaign Chairman Ted Mayden, Federation board member Janet Weismark, NowGen leader Jennifer Kahn and Campaign Director Naomi Sedek.

As I arrived back in Israel, I was quickly introduced to the new reality of sirens and shelters. A Saturday night dinner at a Tel Aviv beachfront restaurant occasioned two sirens and dashes for shelter in the space of twenty minutes. Both times Iron Dome intercepted the Hamas rockets. Sunday and Monday brought three more trips to shelters (actually stairways in my hotel). Then, just as we were about to leave Tel Aviv on a trip to northern Israel, the sirens sounded again and we had to scramble off our bus and sprint to shelter. This time four rockets flew over Tel Aviv, and we could clearly see two of the rockets intercepted by Iron Dome missiles in the distance.

So, what can you not see in the constant barrage of rocket attacks? It is difficult to comprehend the disruption and distraction to everyday life. You are constantly on guard. Where do I pull over on



Mark S. Freedman



Donations to the Stop the Sirens campaign can be made at http://nashville.ujcfedweb.org/servertransfer.html?targetURL=/ft2/form.html?__id=9306. All proceeds are used to improve shelters for vulnerable populations and provide services such as trauma counseling and respites for children.

the road as the sirens blare? How quickly must I seek shelter if I am simply strolling along the beach or walking through a park? What should I do if I see young children or elderly who are not seeking shelter when the sirens sound? How do I assist others if the sirens trigger a traumatic response and they are not able to cope with potential danger?

Here's the bottom line: We are all in the same boat. We are all the targets of the Hamas terrorists who seek to kill us because we are Jewish and they want us out of Israel. Hamas fired rockets toward Ben Gurion Airport because they don't want Jews, or anyone else for the matter, coming to Israel.

Is the picture clear enough? Israel will pay a high price in the court of international opinion and with a largely biased media because in ridding the Gaza Strip of Hamas terrorism, Israel's military will inflict casualties on civilians no matter how much they seek to avoid doing so.

No one wants to see innocents suffer, but I want to emphasize that the fault lies squarely with Hamas. It is clear that they use their people as human shields. It seems amazing to me that reporters never manage to pose the most basic question about the conflict. Here's the question they should ask those individuals who constantly criticize and place blame solely upon Israel: What would happen if Hamas were to simply stop firing rockets into Israel?

The answer: Quiet would be restored. The IDF would withdraw its ground forces. Hamas would ultimately decide if it wants to wage war or seek peace. But it will not because it is committed to the destruction of Israel and the Jewish people. That is where we are today and probably where we will be tomorrow and the day after that.

I'm back in the Nashville now but constantly thinking about my dear friends in Israel as they continue to deal with the tumult. For another day, another week, another month, another year, another decade...

May we, the whole House of Israel continue to go from strength to strength. Am Yisrael Chai! □

Mark S. Freedman is executive director of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

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In this issue you will find an envelope with which you can make a tax deductible contribution to the annual Observer Patron Campaign. A \$25 donation covers the annual cost of printing and mailing The Observer to a single reader, but we hope you will consider donating at one of the higher levels: Reporter (\$50), Editor (\$100) or Publisher (\$150). □

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'The Jewish Observer' (ISSN 8750-5290) is published monthly for \$25 per year by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, 801 Percy Warner Blvd., Nashville, TN 37205-4009. Periodicals postage paid at Nashville, TN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE JEWISH OBSERVER, 801 Percy Warner Blvd., Nashville, TN 37205

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

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

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

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

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Temple's new rabbi returns to his first love: Jewish education

By CHARLES BERNSEN

Just a day after arriving in Nashville last month to become the director of education and next generation programming at The Temple, Rabbi Michael Shulman stood before two dozen members of his new congregation, encouraging them to express their thoughts and emotions about events roiling Israel in the wake of the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teens and the apparent revenge murder of a Palestinian youth.

The July 3 discussion at The Temple's regular Lunch & Talk with the Rabbi raised some difficult issues as members talked about the thin line Israel must walk in defending itself against sworn enemies while at the same time preserving the Jewish ethical values that are at the heart of its identity.

And that was just fine with Rabbi Shulman. As a teacher, he gets his biggest kick from helping students achieve that "aha!" moment when they gain clarity on a difficult issue or at least see it from a new perspective.

"Learning is about being challenged," he said. "And to do that, you



Rabbi Michael Shulman talks with Grif Haber after leading a discussion during Lunch & Talk with the Rabbi. The Temple's new director of education and next generation programming says his style is to offer a variety of educational opportunities that challenge students and allow them to have a "sense of ownership of their Judaism."

have to get people out of their comfort zone. That's my style."

Having decided to expand the responsibilities of the education director to include programming aimed at young

adults in their 20s and 30s, The Temple "specifically chose to engage a rabbi, someone with a wider, more enhanced degree of training, experience and scholarship for the expanded role of education and engagement," said senior Rabbi Mark Schifftan.

Rabbi Shana Mackler said her new colleague "has a wonderful way of meeting people where they are and encouraging them to learn more. He does this beautifully with students, with teachers, and with congregants. His love of Judaism, education and developing meaningful relationships with people is inspiring in and out of the classroom."

Federation's new NowGen director happy to bring experience in Jewish non-profits to Nashville

By CHARLES BERNSEN

When she went away to college at the University of Wisconsin, Lauren Mielziner knew she wanted a career in the field of non-profits. After all, she had been brought up to be acutely aware of the important Jewish values of social justice and *tikkun olam* – repair of the world.

The path that career would take became clear shortly after she walked into the Hillel center on the Madison, WI campus.

"I just got hooked," Mielziner said. "It was such a good fit for me – working with like-minded people."

Mielziner, 28, has been involved in building Jewish identity and strengthening Jewish communities ever since. Now she is bringing that passion to Nashville, where she has been named community engagement associate for the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. Her primary duty will be to direct NowGen Nashville, the Federation's outreach program for young Jewish professionals.

Mielziner said she feels lucky to be taking over a vibrant program built by her predecessor, Joel Abramson, who left Nashville in June to pursue graduate studies in Jewish professional leadership at Brandeis University.

"Joel did such a terrific job, and I want to continue to build NowGen with new programs and reach even more people," she said. Under her watch, NowGen will continue to offer a variety of social, philanthropic, service and networking opportunities for singles, young couples and young families.

"I feel confident we have the right person to move NowGen forward," said Naomi Limor Sedek, the Federation's campaign director.

Mielziner was born and raised in St. Louis, where her family was part of Congregation Shaare Emeth, a reform synagogue. It was at Wisconsin, however, where her involvement in the Jewish community took off. Active in Hillel, she was hired as the vice-president of the Jewish Cultural Collective, an initiative funded by the university through Hillel to promote cultural activities.

After graduating from Wisconsin with a degree in political science and Jewish studies, Mielziner spent three years as membership and development associate at Temple Sholom in Chicago. From there she went to Houston, Texas to become events coordinator for Jewish Family Service.

Mielziner says one of the most rewarding aspects of her job with the Houston JFS was organizing an annual citywide film festival called ReelAbilities that features films by and about people with disabilities. The Houston event is part of a national initiative that sponsors similar festivals in 14 cities with the aim of reducing the stigma associated with disabilities.

Though she had never been to Nashville before, Mielziner does have a connection to the city through her fiancé, David Bubis, who has just begun a fellowship at Meharry Medical College. His father's family has been an integral part of the Nashville community for many decades.

Mielziner says she is thrilled to be in Nashville. "There's so much to do, but it's not so big that you get lost in the mix. The people have been so friendly, and the Jewish community seems so tight." □



Lauren Mielziner

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For more information about the Open House or about the 2014-2015 Religious School year at The Temple, contact Rabbi Michael Shulman at rabbishulman@templenashville.org or 615.352.7620.



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P2G project seeks to build musical bridge between Southeast U.S. and Hadera-Eiron

By CHARLES BERNSEN

Russell Wolff, an accomplished Nashville musician, singer-songwriter and producer, has performed all over the world during his 15-year music career. But he had never played Israel until last November during a mission trip with Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

"It was a magical experience," Wolff said, describing his first trip ever to Israel, where he performed in venues in Jerusalem, Hadera and the small town of Mitzpe Ramon in the Negev Desert.

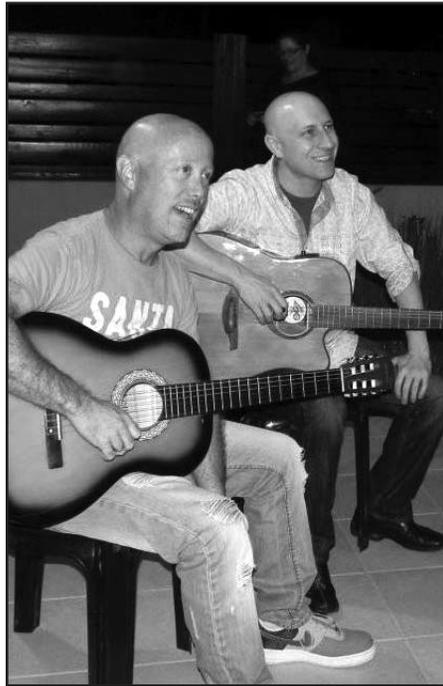
So magical that it inspired him to initiate a collaborative project called Music2Gether that is recruiting Jewish songwriters and performers in Israel and the United States to create an album of original music to be shared for free. Wolff is co-directing the project with Ofer Ben-Zion, an Israeli musician and producer he met and performed with during the trip to Israel.

Music2Gether is being funded as part of the Partnership2Gether (P2G) initiative that links Jewish communities around the world with specific cities and regions in Israel.

Wolff and Ben-Zion are seeking volunteer collaborators – whether composers, lyricists, musicians or singers – who live or work in the P2G Southeast consortium, which includes Nashville and eight other communities in Tennessee, Florida, Virginia and North Carolina. The Southeast consortium is partnered with the Hadera-Eiron region of Israel between Tel Aviv and Haifa.

"We will be very selective about the musical works that are included on this album but hope to get as many submissions as possible," said Wolff, who will determine the contributors and music for the project along with Ofer.

"This is not a revenue-producing project; it's a relationship-building project," said Harriet Schifftan, the Nashville



After meeting and playing together last fall in Israel, musicians Ofer Ben-Zion (left) and Russell Wolff decided to co-direct Music2Gether, a project in which U.S. and Israeli musicians will collaborate to create an album of original music.

Federation's director of planning and P2G. "It will bring together musicians from all 10 communities to create personal relationships and strengthen ties among the U.S. communities and our partner region in Hadera-Eiron. The goal is to create an inspiring collection of songs that can be enjoyed at Federation events and played live by the artists at Jewish events internationally."

In that sense, it is much like a P2G project involving visual artists from the Southeast consortium and Hadera-Eiron who created an exhibition of original art centered on the theme of water. "The Sounds of Many Water" is now on display in Israel and will eventually be exhibited in all nine communities in the P2G Southeast consortium.

Asked why he thinks the music project is important, Wolff said, "I think right now, with the drums of war pound-

ing louder than people can stand, we can all use some relief from the music world to promote the things that make us all

alike rather than highlight the things that make us different. I hope this project can achieve that on some level." □

Music2Gether

A volunteer collaborative project aimed at producing a cohesive collection of original music that incorporates Israeli, American and other cultural styles

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Composers, lyricists, musicians and singers who live or work in the P2G consortium communities:

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- United States: Charlotte, NC; Nashville, Chattanooga and Knoxville, TN; Richmond, VA; and Jacksonville County, Pinellas County, Flagler and Volusia counties, and Lee and Charlotte counties in Florida.

Submission Requirements

- Songwriters and composers must submit only original work.
- Songwriters should include lyric sheets in their submissions.
- Contributors agree to allow publishing of copyrighted material. (Already registered work should list existing affiliation such as ASCAP, BMI, SESAC.)
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- Participation is voluntary. Participants will receive no payment or compensation.

Time Frame

- Sept. 30, 2014: Submissions due.
- Oct. 31, 2014: Selections made and artists notified.
- March 30, 2014: Production completed.
- April 15, 2015: Finished CD released.

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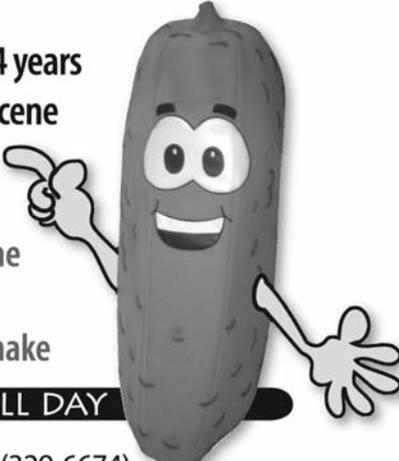
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New PJ Library coordinator sees this month's Palooza as a chance to showcase "engine for building Jewish community"

By CHARLES BERNSEN

PJ Library will kick off the new school year this month with its second annual PJ Palooza at the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

The Aug. 24 event is first and foremost a fun day for kids, who will engage in crafts, enjoy snacks and be entertained as storyteller and puppeteer Library Pete brings Jewish children's books to life. It's also a fundraising event for PJ Library, which provides Jewish-themed books and

music to hundreds of Nashville area children. The program is seeking sponsors at various levels beginning at \$18.

But Sara Hanai, PJ Library's new coordinator, also sees this year's Palooza as an opportunity to showcase the program's success as "an engine for building Jewish community."

Palooza Particulars

What: PJ Palooza
When: 10-11:15 a.m., Aug. 24
Where: Gordon Jewish Community Center
Cost: \$5 per person/\$25 per family

For more information about the event or how to become a PJ Library sponsor email pjlibrary@nashvillejcc.org

Funded by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and local partners, the PJ Library mails free Jewish children's books and music each month to families in more than 136 communities across the United States and Canada. In Nashville, however,



PJ Library does more than provide Jewish children's books and music for the home. Its programming, like last February's Pajama Havdalah at The Temple, is a terrific vehicle for building bridges within Nashville's diverse Jewish community.



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the program also has staged a number of story time community events like Palooza and Storywalk to Israel, which was held in May in conjunction with Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's independence day.

The program's local sponsors include the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, Akiva School, the GJCC and its Early Childhood Learning Center, Micah Children's Academy, The Temple Preschool and the West End Synagogue Men's Club.

PJ Library has worked hard to ensure that its programming reflects the same kind of communal diversity. For example, its Pajama Havdalah event last February at The Temple included Cantor Tracy Fishbein from The Temple but also Rabbi Joshua Kullock of West End Synagogue, Rabbi Saul Strosberg of Congregation Sherith Israel and Lisa Silver of Congregation Micah.

"We had a fabulous turnout because people recognize that just because we have an event at The Temple doesn't mean it's just for Temple members," Hanai said. In that way PJ Library's programming is helping to create and strengthen connections among the congregational and cultural groups that make up Nashville's diverse Jewish community.

Hanai hopes to increase the reach of such community-building programming by expanding it beyond traditional brick-and-mortar sites like the GJCC and synagogues.

"I'd like to get to the point where we can hold a story time event anywhere – whether it's Williamson County or East Nashville, in parks, coffee shops, even in people's homes" she said.

To do that she wants to enlist the aid of parents – ambassadors, she calls them – willing to pool their ideas and talents to create, publicize and stage programming that will reach families wherever they live.

Hanai is also hoping to involve Vanderbilt students and local teenagers like Aden Barton, who volunteered at PJ Library's Matzah Magic program last spring and then made a donation to the program as part of the project for his *bar mitzvah*.

The ultimate goal, Hanai said, is to continue building a program that not only encourages families to engage with Jewish books and music in their homes but also facilities "Jewish parents and children coming together with other Jewish parents and children to develop lasting relationships." □

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August 2014



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PetMustHaves Warehouse is an extension of our website, www.PetMustHaves.com, and of our hardware business, TATC Warehouse.

TATC is a family-owned business that has operated for more than 25 years. Prior to the Nashville Flood of 2010, our warehouse was strictly for holding inventory sold at flea market locations and online. When the flood necessitated finding new space, that space included a showroom where we now offer monthly sales, usually the first Saturday every month. We also see customers for shopping appointments between sales and have other special sales from October through year end.

We offer three large rooms filled with popular national brands. Many items are overstocks or closeouts so selection varies monthly and prices are often below wholesale! We also shop from local and regional entrepreneurs for specialty accessories, dog clothes and treats. For your convenience we accept all major credit and debit cards.

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Best of the pet photos by our readers



Rosie, Marilyn Rubin's dog, naps with her twin great nephews.



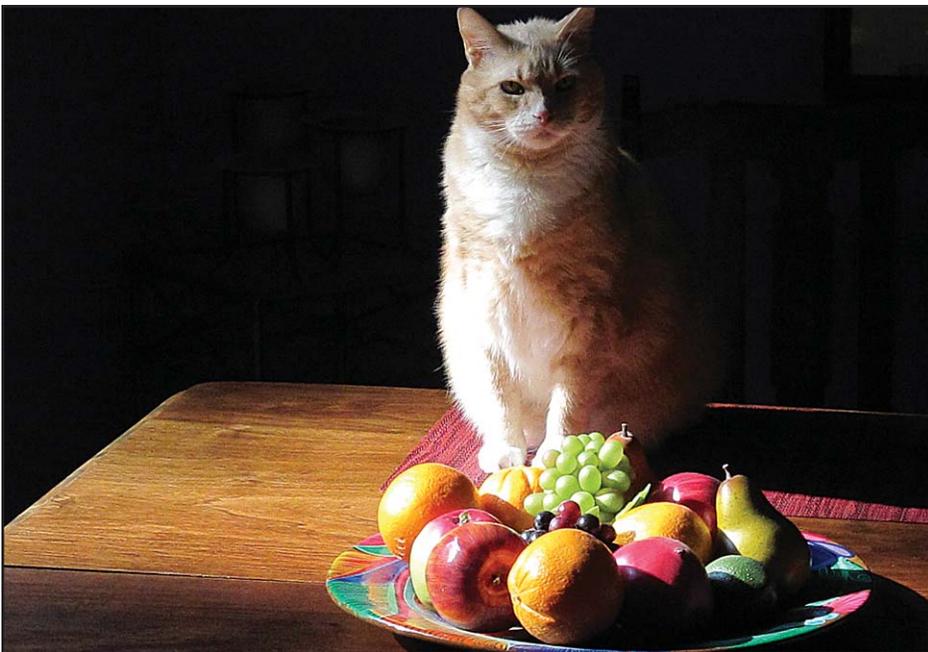
Ziggy, the Chanukat, belongs to Tamelyn Feinstein.



Max Siegel, son of Andrew and Jennifer Siegel from Dallas, TX, poses with his family's dog, Winnie. Max is the nephew of Marilyn Rubin of Nashville.



Stella, a rescue dog, belongs to Sandi Olson.



This very refined cat, Jacob T. Phillips, is owned by Kim Phillips.



Marty Korngut's cat goes by the name Trixie ... and several others.

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Earl Kirshner adoption loan program helps build Jewish families

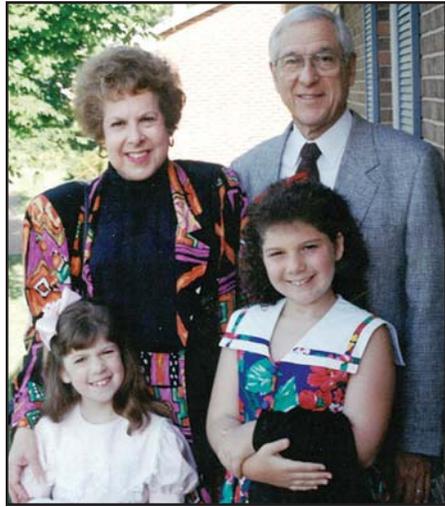
By TONI JACOBSEN

Earl Kirshner's relatives remember him as a caring man who valued his family above everything.

His wife, Betty, recalls that when their children, Howard and Meryl, were growing up, there were always additional children in their home, and Earl loved it. Howard describes his father as a saint who had unwavering love and compassion for his children and grandchildren.

Earl and Betty grew up in families where family was important and everyone was close to each other. Naturally they created a close, loving family of their own.

After Earl's passing in 2003, Howard and his wife, Leslie, decided to donate \$20,000 to start the Jewish Family Service Earl Kirshner Adoption Loan Program. Jewish families can apply for interest free loans up to \$10,000 to be



Family was always important to Earl Kirshner, shown here in an old photo with his wife, Betty, and two of their three grandchildren, Andrea Kirshner (left) and Allison Kirshner, who are now grown.

applied toward adoption expenses. To date, four families have been approved

for the loan and three children have been adopted into the Jewish community since the program began in 2005.

The average adoption costs \$30,000, and a loan often is what enables the families to finish the process.

"The Kirshner loan provided the last bit of money we needed to finalize our adoption, and it came at a point in the process when we felt we were out of options," said an adoptive mother who, along with her husband, was the first

Kirshner loan recipient. "It was such a gift and relief for us to be able to bring our baby home for good."

Asked what how Earl would feel if he knew about the program established in his honor, Betty said, "I think he would be happy these children are being taken care of and have their own families."

The Earl Kirshner Adoption Loan program is available to qualified Jewish families who are adopting through JFS. For more information, call 356-4234. □

GJCC will hold daylong event for a Healthy You on Aug. 19.

Personal health is an important focus of the Gordon Jewish Community Center, so for the first time it is sponsoring a daylong event devoted to promoting good health.

Healthy You will be on Tuesday, August 19 and is a joint effort of the GJCC's adults, aquatics and fitness and wellness programs. Open to adults of all ages, it will feature participatory events, screenings and demonstrations as well as a blood drive.

"The GJCC motto is Live Up, and this program will allow you to do just that," said Meryl Kraft, director of adult programming at the GJCC.

Events include:

- A mini triathlon from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at the GJCC's pool and fitness center. It will include a 45-minute swim, a 30-minute indoor bike ride and a 30-minute indoor or outdoor run. The entry fee of \$15 includes lunch. Participation is limited to 20 people. Sign up by emailing harriet@nashvillejcc.org.
- Free skin cancer screening by specialists from Gold Skin Care from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the GJCC lounge.
- Free juicing demonstrations (and samples!) from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the GJCC fitness desk.
- Screenings by the St. Thomas Hospital's mobile mammography unit from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the GJCC parking lot. The screenings are for women over 40, and are free with insurance cards.
- A Red Cross blood drive from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the GJCC auditorium.
- A display from 10 a.m.-1p.m. in the front hall by the women's apparel store Athleta, which will have clothing for sale, drawings for items like headbands and free health bars and water.

The event is a good opportunity to check out the GJCC's new fitness equipment, meet the fitness staff and sign up for special personal training offer – three sessions for just \$150. □



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Religious schools, Akiva sponsoring Aug. 27 screening of documentary about nation's troubled school culture

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tle sleep. Teachers who have to deal with the stressed out parents and students along with the increasing scrutiny of their performance.

These problems are the subject of the documentary "Race to Nowhere,"

which will be screened at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 27 at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. The event is sponsored by Akiva School and the religious schools at Congregation Beit T'filah, Congregation Micah, The Temple, Congregation Sherith Israel and West End Synagogue.

"Race to Nowhere," directed by mother-turned-filmmaker Vicki H. Abeles, shines a light on the culture of hollow achievement and pressure to perform that has overtaken many American schools: rampant cheating, stress-related illness, depression and burnout. Ironically, young people arrive at college and the workplace unprepared and uninspired.

The film is a call to families, educators and policy makers to examine current assumptions on how to best prepare

the youth of America to become healthy, bright, contributing and leading citizens in the 21st century. A discussion will follow the film.

Among many others, "Race to Nowhere" features Dr. Madeline Levine, author of the best-sellers, *The Price of Privilege* and *Teach Your Children Well*; Dr. Deborah Stipek, former Dean of the Stanford School of Education; Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg, an adolescent medicine specialist at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; Dr. Wendy Mogel, author of *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee* and *The Blessing of a B Minus*; Denise Pope, author of *Doing School*, and Sara Bennett, author of *The Case Against Homework*.

For more information, please contact Sharon Paz, spaz@westendsyn.org. □

August exhibitions at the GJCC



Object X, an art film and installation from Nashville artist Kit Kite's conceptual series "The X Housewife Portraits," will be on display during August as part of the regular rotating exhibitions in the galleries of the Gordon Jewish Community Center. The work of Nashville watercolorist Larry Martin will also be on display during August.

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Scholars seek Hebrew Bible's original text - but was there one?

By ANTHONY WEISS

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — According to Jewish tradition, the Torah is so sacred that even a single error made on a single letter renders the entire scroll unusable.

And yet the Hebrew Bible is riddled with corruptions and alterations that have accrued and been passed down over the millennia.

Now an international team of scholars is working to fix all that.

For the past 14 years, the team behind "The Hebrew Bible: A Critical Edition" has been sifting through the text in an effort to reverse the accumulated imperfections and changes, returning the books of the Hebrew Bible to, if not an original version, then the earliest possible version. The first volume is due out later this year.

"It is a little chutzpadik," acknowledged Ronald Hendel, HBCE's general editor and a professor of Hebrew Bible at the University of California, Berkeley.

It's also a messy, painstaking and controversial endeavor that has been criticized by some of the world's leading biblical scholars. The critics argue that what Hendel and his team are attempting to do is not just difficult but also misguided.

"I think it will actually end up causing more problems," said Michael Segal, a senior lecturer in Bible at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The difficulties stem from the Bible's long history of transmission from scribe to scribe through the centuries. HBCE is trying to reverse engineer that process, to sift through the various extant texts of the Bible and — by analyzing grammatical glitches, stylistic hitches and contradictions of the texts — establish a reading closer to if not the original, then at least the archetype on which the subsequent copies were based.

The goal is to rewind the clock as far as possible toward the time when the various biblical texts attained their canonical form, around the start of the Common Era. The text of the Hebrew Bible now being used descends from

what is called the Masoretic text, which was assembled between the sixth and 10th centuries by Jewish scribes and scholars in present-day Israel and Iraq.

But even among the various versions of the Masoretic text there are subtle differences. Many of today's printings of the Hebrew Bible come from a text assembled in 16th-century Venice. The Jewish Publication Society uses the Leningrad Codex, which at approximately 1,000 years old is the oldest complete surviving text. Still others use the 10th-century Aleppo Codex, which the Torah scholar Maimonides praised for its accuracy but has been missing much of the Torah since a 1947 fire.

Contemporary scholars seeking to understand the history of the Hebrew Bible's text rely on a range of other sources, including ancient Greek and Syriac translations, quotations from rabbinic manuscripts, the Samaritan Pentateuch and others. Many of these are older than the Masoretic text and often contradict it, in ways small and large.

Some of the errors are natural outgrowths of the process of scribal transmission — essentially typos in which the scribe mistook one letter for another, skipped a word or transposed words. In other cases the scribes may have changed the text intentionally to make it more comprehensible or pious.

The level of variation differs from book to book. Hendel estimates that it ranges from approximately 5 percent in Genesis to some 20-30 percent in books such as Samuel and Jeremiah. While many changes are small, others are more substantial.

Just before Cain slays Abel, the Masoretic text announces that Cain speaks, but it offers no dialogue. Both the Samaritan Pentateuch and the ancient Greek translation called the Septuagint supply the missing speech: "Let us go out to the field." In this instance, emending the text is relatively straightforward.

But elsewhere the task becomes complicated. The book of Jeremiah in the Septuagint is approximately 15-20 percent shorter than the version in the Masoretic text, and the text appears in a different order. In this case, editors are not just dealing with glitches but with entirely different versions of the same text.

The scholars behind "The Hebrew Bible: A Critical Edition" argue that textual scholars now have enough evidence at their disposal to make reasonable judgments about where the text has been corrupted, why and how to fix it thanks in large part to the discovery and publication of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Though largely fragmentary, these ancient manuscripts are by far the oldest Hebrew copies of the Bible, and they gave scholars a key by which to judge the accuracy of the subsequent texts.

Hendel's team uses a two-fold approach: In the case of the more limited variations, they make the correction in the text according to their best judgment while noting the variants and the reasoning in the accompanying notes. Where entirely separate versions seem to exist, as in Jeremiah, HBCE will reproduce both side by side, indicating multiple editions.

The effort is now bearing fruit as the Society of Biblical Literature is preparing this fall to publish the first HBCE volume, Proverbs, edited by Michael Fox, an emeritus professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Hendel hopes the project will continue to print a new volume every year or two.

Criticisms of the HCBE effort fall into two very broad categories.

The first critique is practical: Is it in fact possible to accurately reconstruct the biblical text after so many centuries, through so many linguistic layers and with so much uncertainty? To this, the editors of HBCE respond that errors and uncertainty are inherent in any of the biblical texts one could print.

The second critique is more fundamental: Was there ever a moment when the biblical text can be said to have crystallized into a single version, or have there always been multiple, evolving versions? In other words, by chasing what the field of textual study calls an ur-text, the scholars of HBCE may, in fact, be chasing a ghost. Critics of HBCE argue that in creating a single text, the series will create the fiction of unity where there has always been multiplicity.

Hendel argues that what he and his team are presenting is not meant to be a definitive text but simply the most definitive that one can achieve. □

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The Rabbis' Corner

Self Defense: A Jewish obligation, not just a right

By **RABBI SHLOMO ROTHSTEIN**



Rabbi Shlomo Rothstein

I hope by the time you read this that the war has finished and terrorism against Israel is over. I hope this article will be only theoretical, but I imagine that the question of whether Israel has the right to defend itself will still be a hot topic.

The truth is that the question needs to be asked differently because one person's "rights" are never a good excuse for another person's loss. The real question is: Does Israel have an obligation to defend itself?

We know that no country should betray their citizens and allow them to be harmed. But what does the Torah say? Should Jews fight for their safety?

Maimonides, the famous 12th century Jewish scholar and philosopher, codified Jewish law and brought together all the teachings of the Torah, Talmud and sages before him in his Mishnah Torah.

In the Mishneh Torah (Laws of Shabbat, 2:23) he says, "... when enemies lay siege to Jewish cities ... if a city is located near the border, however, we should march against them with weapons and wage war against them

even when they are demanding hay or straw.

In any location, if the enemies' intent was Jewish lives, or if they engaged in battle with a city or laid siege to it without stating a specific intention, we must wage war against them..."

It's not a question of rights. According to Maimonides we have a moral and ethical obligation to protect ourselves.

Some may ask: What about the concept of the gentle sage who dies "al Kiddush Hashem" – to sanctify God's name – with Shema Yisroel on his lips when killed for being Jewish?

First and foremost this was never the preference. When it happened, we found merit in it. As a rule though, Judaism values life not death. R Ziemba was a deeply spiritual scholar and leader in the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II. He looked at the fight to live as a deeper interpretation of Kiddush Hashem. Here are his words translated into English Moshe Aren's *Flags over the Warsaw Ghetto*.

"Thus, by the authority of the Torah of Israel, I insist that there is absolutely no purpose nor any value of Kiddush Hashem inherent in the death of a Jew. Kiddush Hashem in our present situation is embodied in the will of a Jew to live. This struggle for aspiration and longing for life is a mitzvah to be realized ..."

We embrace life, the lives of our families, our children and our communities. Unfortunately sometimes this means fighting for those lives. When it takes more effort to live and it becomes easier to give up and die, the fight to live is a *Kiddush Hashem*.

The question persists: But Jews are a people of peace. We love peace and pursue it. Does fighting bring peace?

No. It brings relative safety. It's an obligation, but it doesn't bring peace. In true peace, hate is replaced with love, enemies become friends and swords become plows. This doesn't happen through war, and while we must use all of our human resources to accomplish true peace there is a clear need for divine assistance.

In truth our survival throughout history and the existence of Israel throughout all attempts to destroy it is miracu-

lous. Even Mark Twain observed "All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?" We answer Mr. Twain every Passover Seder when we say "in every generation they arise to destroy us and the Holy One Blessed be He saves us from their hands."

In other words we can't leave heaven out of our pursuits on earth. The Jewish story never has, and at this critical time it only makes sense to strengthen our connection to heaven and to each other.

To bring true peace we need to plant seeds of peace and create energy of peace. Our sages teach us that G-d gave us the Torah and *mitzvot* to create peace and that our good deeds and charity reveal all the goodness and G-dliness hidden in this world.

May G-d protect all those fighting for our safety and bless our efforts to turn hate to love. □

Shlomo Rothstein is the rabbi and executive director of Chabad at Vanderbilt, which he and his wife, Nechama, founded in 2007. The Rabbis' Corner is a monthly column that rotates among Nashville's congregational rabbis.

Relaxing immigration policy makes economic and moral sense

By **SCOTT ROSENBERG**

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

These words, inscribed on the Statue of Liberty, once defined an attitude of Americans toward our immigrants that made us a great country.

Eric Cantor, the House majority leader, was recently defeated in the Republican primary by underfunded political novice Dave Brat, a vocal proponent of extreme anti-immigration policy. He built much of his race around that issue, painting Cantor as weak on immigration. This race may push the issue of immigration to the forefront of the 2016 presidential race.

A short review of American immigration policy shows a system fraught with contradictions. On the one hand, this country has embraced immigrants, and on the other it strongly pushes them away. So what policy makes sense?

The leading argument for restricting immigration is that illegal immigrants take jobs from Americans. This is not true. Immigrants often fill jobs that others would not want. Even setting that aside, immigrants require housing, transportation, food, utilities, clothing, etc., everything that the rest of us require. Most earn money and sew it back into our economy every day, thus growing our economy and helping to create jobs.

Another argument is that illegal immigrants who came to this country

should not be rewarded for their illegal acts by giving them easier paths to legal status and citizenship.

A quick review of immigration policy between the mid-1800s and mid-1900s gives a good perspective. Between 1855 and 1890 approximately eight million immigrants came to this country through Castle Garden, the country's first official immigration center. From 1892 through 1954, more than 12 million immigrants came through Ellis Island. During those periods the immigration policy was simple: As long as you were not a criminal or prostitute, were not carrying diseases or "likely to become a public charge," you were welcomed.

The process was simple. The steam liners pulled up, the passengers got off the boat, went through a three- to five-hour process of inspection and were then free to enter the country. Over the years access to this country has been limited by a succession of laws putting quotas on the number of immigrants allowed each year. The barriers to access to America for immigrants became increasingly higher.

A simple analogy illustrates the impact of these restrictions. If the government passed laws restricting the speed limit on the interstate to 15 mph, do any of us believe that traffic would slow to that rate? Rather, we would find ourselves with more and more law breakers. Not criminals, just speeders trying to get to their destination in a reasonable time. Most of the immigrants who enter our country illegally are not criminals but rather good people trying to provide more for their family by tapping into the American dream.

What real harm would come to this

country by granting legal status to the more than 10 million illegal immigrants in this country, true criminals and threats to our country aside? Besides letting them "get away with coming here illegally," nothing. Rather there would be more tax revenue, more drivers licenses issued, more reported income – in short, a boost to our economy and to free enterprise.

A concrete example of this was the influx of Cuban immigrants to Miami when Castro took power. Growing up there, I saw first-hand the tremendous contribution of the Cuban immigrants to

the economy and social structure.

As a descendent of immigrants who came through Castle Garden, I am thankful for the immigration policies of that generation. Dave Brat and the chorus of anti-immigrant voices should also be thankful that their parents, grandparents or great grandparents were not subject to the harsh and limiting immigration policies they propose. □

Scott Rosenberg is a magistrate with the Davidson County Juvenile Court and a member of the editorial board of The Jewish Observer of Nashville.

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For volunteers, film festival combines a love of arts and service to the Jewish community

By CHARLES BERNSEN

Laurie Eskind has been a volunteer for the Nashville Jewish Film Festival since before Jewish film festivals were cool.

"I love movies," said Eskind, explaining why she agreed to co-chair the inaugural festival in 2001 with the late Kathy Gutow. "But we had no idea what we were doing. We didn't even know how to get movies."

Sponsored by The Temple to celebrate its 150th anniversary, that first festival showed seven films over three days and was supposed to be a one-time event.

Flash forward 14 years, and the Nashville Jewish Film Festival is now an annual event operated by an independent organization with a half-time director, Fran Brumlik. Over the course of its 10-day run from Nov. 5-15 (with a day off for Shabbat), it will screen 15 films and draw upwards of 1,500 people, more than any other single Jewish event in Nashville.

"It's very rewarding," said Eskind, "The community seems to respond."

Although Brumlik has been its director for three years, the festival still relies heavily on a corps of volunteers – primarily Eskind and her fellow board members, Jackie Roth Karr, Cindy Moskowitz and Loretta Saff. The festival



Board members Loretta Saff (from left), Laurie Eskind, Jackie Roth Karr and Executive Director Fran Brumlik meet numerous times throughout the year to discuss films and decide on other details involving the Nashville Jewish Film Festival. (Board member Cindy Moskowitz was out of town for this meeting.)

also gets technical, logistical and artistic help from Kurt Meyer, graphic designer and events coordinator for the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

And this year it has enlisted six volunteer screeners to help winnow down about 150 films under consideration to the final 15.

"There are so many good films being made by and about Jews now – especially in Europe and Israel – there's no way any of us could screen them all," said Brumlik, who watched 82 movies herself last year.

One of the volunteer screeners is Jackie Harrison, who met Brumlik at a B'nai B'rith Social Unit lunch and asked if she needed any volunteers during the festival – perhaps to usher or take tickets. Instead Brumlik asked her if she'd like to help in the selection process by reviewing films.

"I enjoy movies, so I told her I'd love to," Harrison said.

So far she's screened a half dozen or so films – comedies, dramas, documentaries – sending reviews and recommendations to Brumlik after each.

"I loved watching the films and hope that the ones I felt moved by get chosen for the festival so others can be touched by them too," she said. "If not, I am still glad that I got to see them and look forward to seeing other films at the film festival."

For the record, Brumlik and the board aren't ready to reveal the 2014 lineup. While the ultimate objective is

to select the best films available, there are a number of other factors that have to be considered. Chief among them is making sure the lineup is what Saff described as "a fruit basket – something for everyone."

Not only does it need to be a mix of comedies and dramas, documentaries and fiction, shorts and feature-length films, but it also must include films appropriate for screenings aimed at specific demographic groups – the Sunday morning screening for religious school students, the Thursday midday screening for seniors and the late "date night" screening on Saturday that's aimed primarily at young adults.

The board pays particular attention to the film for the opening night bash, which includes a catered dinner before the screening. To add a touch of glamor, this year's opening night dinner and screening will be held at the Noah Liff Opera Center.

Another important factor in the selection of films is how each might be enhanced through the appearance of a guest speaker, a discussion or related event. Last year's screening of the PBS documentary "Broadway Musicals – A Jewish Legacy," for example, was followed by a musical presentation by Sarah Martin McConnell, who heads an organization called of Music for Seniors.

"We're always thinking of how we can turn a screening into an event, whether it's with someone who can speak on the subject or who was connected with the making of the film" said Karr. "The idea is to give people an enriching experience beyond what's on the screen."

Jewish film festivals like the one in Nashville have proliferated in the past decade, with an estimated 120 worldwide, including 80 in the United States, according to the Jewish Daily Forward. Brumlik, a former president of the Council of Jewish Theaters, said film festivals not only provide an opportunity for outreach to "occasional Jews" but also attract non-Jewish movie buffs, thereby building understanding of Jewish culture in the larger community.

Asked to name the most difficult aspect of staging the festival, Brumlik and the board are unanimous: raising money. This year's budget is about \$70,000, far more than the \$8,000 expected in individual ticket sales. Although the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee provides a generous subsidy, the Brumlik and the board are always looking for sponsors, who accounted for \$49,000 in revenue last year.

Still, the festival has managed to achieve its goal of growing each year, both in term of attendance and the number of films screened. This year's even is two days longer than in 2013 and includes two more films. With the opening night at the Liff Center, the festival now includes four venues. Most screenings still take place at at The Belcourt Theatre, but there will again be two at the Franklin Theatre and two at the GJCC, including the catered closing night screening.

Asked why she spends so much time each year viewing films, raising money and attending to all the other details involved in staging the film festival, Karr said, "It's a way of incorporating my love of the arts into something Jewish." □



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B'nai Mitzvah

Jacob Lawrence Green will be called to the Torah as a *bat mitzvah* on Aug. 2 at The Temple. Jacob was born on April 28, 2001. His parents are Eric and Shari Green. His grandparents are Wayne and Darlene Green of Birmingham, AL, Albert and Iris Klein of Mobile, AL and the late Mary Rae Green and Lawrence Fetterman.



Jacob Lawrence Green

Jacob is in the 7th grade at the University School of Nashville. His interests include basketball, baseball, skating and playing with dogs. For his *mitzvah* project, Jacob helped build fences for Music City Hounds Unbound, a program that provides free fences for needy families who would otherwise have kept their dogs chained 24 hours a day.

Simon Anthony Harshman-Earley will be called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* on Aug. 16 at Congregation Micah. He is the son of Rachel Harshman and Michael Earley of Glasnevin, Dublin, Ireland. He is the youngest sibling to Sidney and Shalva Harshman-Earley.



Simon Anthony Harshman-Earley

Simon is the grandchild of Joan Harshman of Nashville and the late Dr. Sidney Harshman and May and Patrick Earley of Rathduff, County Mayo.

Simon is entering the Sixth Class in the Glasnevin National School, where he has excelled in becoming the youngest person to win the intra school chess tournament. He is looking forward to creating another record by being the only person to win the tournament twice. Simon is an avid computer programmer spending his Saturdays in Coder Dojo expanding his skills. He is also an enthusiastic swimmer, currently working his way through a lifesaving course.

Simon has grown up running for two charities. One is for the homeless in his native city Dublin, aptly called "The Simon Run," while the other is GOAL – an international aid program. In the past two years he has extended his fundraising to include the Royal National Lifeboat Institute and the Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind. Simon plans to continue his charity work by raising funds for the World Wildlife Fund.

Zoe Light will be called to the Torah as a *bat mitzvah* on Aug. 23 at Congregation Micah. She is the daughter of Heather and Mitchell Light, the sister of Gabe, and the granddaughter of Ann and Martin Light of Franklin and Don and the late Donna Cinzori of Cersco, Michigan.



Zoe Light

Zoe is an eighth grader at West End Middle School, where she runs track and plays soccer and is the editor of the school paper. She is also runs cross country for Nashville Youth Athletic club. Zoe plays the flute and piano. She loves

to read and swim and is a huge fan of the TV shows *Lost* and *Dr. Who*.

For her *mitzvah* project, Zoe is collecting and donating books for those in need.

Bella Robinson will be called to the Torah as a *bat mitzvah* on Aug. 30 at Congregation Micah. She is the daughter of Carolyn Robinson and Jay Robinson, and the older sister of Seth and Eli. She is the granddaughter of Pam and Charles Hausman and Nancy Robinson, and the great granddaughter of Stephanie Freudenthal and the late Ernest Freudenthal of blessed memory.



Bella Robinson

Bella is an eighth grader at John Trottwood Moore Middle School, where she plays soccer. She is a natural and gifted athlete who is passionate about soccer and has been playing since she was 3. In addition, Bella has swum for the GJCC Tiger Sharks since 2008. Bella loves reading and caring for animals.

Julian Rubin Goldner was called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* on July 26 at Congregation B'nei Israel in San Jose, Costa Rica. He is the son of Fred Joseph and Carmen Goldner and the grandson of Dr. Fred and Martha Goldner of Nashville.



Julian Rubin Goldner

Julian's interests are computer science, reading, music, bike riding, boxing, and sailing. As did his older brother Dorian, Julian will spend the upcoming school year with his grandparents while attending Montgomery Bell Academy.

The Temple has a deep connection to Congregation B'nei Israel as the late Rabbi Randall Falk established a relationship with Union of American Hebrew Congregations. A renewed and kashered Holocaust Torah was gifted to B'nei Israel from The Temple along with appropriate Torah covers designed by RoseMary May.

Mazel Tov

University School of Nashville graduate **Garrett Mills** will be attending George Washington University in the nations' capital this fall on a full merit scholarship. Garrett, the son of Carrie Mills, has won numerous awards for his photography this past year and now has a website www.garrettmills.com.

Births

Temima Raizel Gryll was born on June 21 to Shira and Andy Gryll of Baltimore. She is the granddaughter of Mike and Lee Gryll of Nashville and Philip and Cheryl Rosenfeld of Baltimore.

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Hudson Gordon Unger was born on May 20 to Kelly and Jacob Unger of Dallas, TX. He is the grandson of Sherrie and Alan Eisenman of Houston, TX and great-grandson of Bernice and Joel Gordon of Nashville.

Ayla Micah Lubetkin was born on July 2 to Lori and Dan Lubetkin of Woodland Hills, CA. She is the granddaughter of Shirley and Phil Lubetkin of Nashville and Lila and Larry Oberman of Agoura Hills, CA, and the sister of Elijah Samuel and Tova Faith Lubetkin.

Sympathy

... to the family of **Beatrice Ruth King**, 89, who died on June 20 after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. She was born in Winthrop, MA but spent most of her life in New York and Florida. She was preceded in death by her son, Harvey. She is survived by her husband, Bertram; son and daughter-in-law, Lloyd and Laura; her daughter-in-law, Andrea; and her four grandchildren, Michael, Stephanie, Ian and Philip. A graveside service was held on June 22 at K.K.S.I. Cemetery with Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Chabad Center of Jewish Awareness, 95 Bellevue Rd., Nashville, TN 37221.

... the family of **Mimsye Seiden May**, 84 who died on June 25. Born on January 12, 1930 in Miami to the late Albert and Grace Greenfield Seiden, Mrs. May moved to Nashville when she married Leon May in 1949. A devoted wife of 64 years, loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Mrs. May was very active in the community. She was a member of the Magazine Circle, Hadassah National Council of Jewish Women and The Temple Sisterhood. She twice headed the Women's Division of Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. She and her husband traveled extensively and were fortunate to have seen much of the world. She loved to garden and was an accomplished watercolorist.

In addition to her husband, Leon, she is survived by her children, Melanie May Hirt (Doug), Jack May, Frank May (Diane) and Deborah May Wolfman (Neil); her grandchildren, Andy Hirt (Laura), Kenny Hirt (Mindy), David May, Rachel May, Avi May, Jonathan May, Celia Wolfman, Hannah Wolfman Jones (James) and Willie Wolfman.

Funeral service were on June 27 at The Temple with burial at Temple Cemetery. Mrs. May's grandsons and

James Jones were pallbearers. Honorary Pallbearers were Dr. Jeffrey Eskin, Harris Gilbert, Paul Cohn, Dr. Fred Goldner, James Brown, Gus Kuhn III, Irwin Kuhn and Bob Eisenstein.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Temple, 5015 Harding Pike, Nashville, TN 37205; or Akiva School, 809 Percy Warner Blvd., Nashville, TN 37205.

... to the family of **Marie (Medica) Shea Stone**, 73, of Nashville, who died June 23 after a brief illness. She was preceded in death by her parents, John Aldo and Mary Medica, and husbands, Thomas Shea and Joseph Stone. She is survived by her children, Donna (Sophie) Shea, Kelly McKeever, Susan (Eugene) Kessler and Dani (Bennett) Lieberman; sisters Vickie (Eric) Hansen, Pat McCoy and John (Donna) Medica, and four grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Services were on June 25 at Marshall-Donnelly-Combs Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be sent to the Packed with Love weekend food program for needy teens at Hunters Lane High School, 1150 Hunters Ln., Nashville, TN 37207.

... the family of **Howard Gold**, 96, who passed away peacefully on June 28 at his home in Greenfield, SC. He is survived by his beloved wife of 71 years, Dorothy P. Gold, and his devoted children, Avram Gold (Christina) of Pasadena, CA and Robin Mitchell Joyce (Michael) of Nashville, TN, and his grandchildren, Haley Clare Joyce and James Gold Joyce. A memorial service was held on June 30 in Greenville.

... to the family of **Brenda McKeehan**, who died on June 28. In addition to her husband, James Mitchell McKeehan, she is survived by son, Jason McDonald and Ken (Barbie) McDonald, and grandchildren, Liam, Ascher, Nafeeza, Gideon and Ian McDonald. Services were July 3 in Maryville, TN.

... to the friends of **Ira Korman**, who died on July 2. Ira was preceded in death by his parents, Kay and Samuel Korman, and his cousins, Susan and Aron Lucas. Though he had no surviving family, Ira was survived by several close friends, including Ted and Andrea Thaler, Marsha Jaffa, Naomi Pritikin, Judy and Stu Ginsberg and Sandy and Rhonda Klein. The graveside service was on July 4 at West End Synagogue Cemetery.

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Reception set at GJCC for CSI's new assistant rabbi and wife

The community is invited to meet Rabbi Aaron Finkelstein and his wife, Julie Sugar, at a dessert reception at the Gordon Jewish Community center from 3-5 p.m. on Aug. 17.

Rabbi Finkelstein, the new assistant rabbi at Congregation Sherith Israel, joins Rabbi Saul Strosberg and Cantor George Lieberman to officiate at life cycle events, deliver sermons and re-envision the CSI religious school and Shabbat programming for families and young professionals at Sherith Israel and through the community. He will also teach Judaic studies part-time at Akiva School.

Originally from California, where he and Julie were recently married, Rabbi Finkelstein comes to Nashville from New York City. His early rabbinic experiences include internships in synagogues in NY and MD, and a 400 hour rotation in pastoral counselling at Roosevelt Hospital in New York.

Rabbi Finkelstein is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis and Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School in Riverdale, NY. He has served as director of community programming at Hannah Senesh Community Day School in Brooklyn and as rabbinic intern and educator at Hunter Hillel in New York. He also worked as Judaic coordinator/rabbinic fellow for March of the Living in Poland and Israel, taught at a camp in Szarvas, Hungary and served as family and adult educator at Congregation Shearith Israel in New York City and senior division head at Camp Ramah in Ojai, CA.

Chabad announces lineup of free Torah study class

Chabad of Nashville has announced its late summer-fall catalog of Torah Studies classes. The free classes will be 7:30-8:30 p.m. each Monday at the Chabad Center for Jewish Awareness, 95 Bellevue Rd.

- Aug. 2: No Pain, No Gain: Making

sense of suffering.

- Aug. 11: The Twilight Zone: How to jump start the afternoons of life.
- Aug. 18: Something's Fishy: The animal kingdom's lessons in character development.
- Aug. 25: Dancing with the Stars: The Jewish view of astrology, soothsaying and omens.
- Sept. 1: Rain, Rain, Don't Go Away: The perfect paradigm of heavenly blessing.
- Sept. 8: Judaism's Payment Plan: In search of promised rewards.
- Sept. 15: How to Write Your Own Torah Scroll: The fascinating revival of Judaism's forgotten commandment.
- Sept. 22: Sins Are Good: How to make the most of our mistakes.
- Sept. 29: Broken Promises: Kol Nedrei's message of hope.
- Oct. 6: Conquering Everest: The three states of spiritual mountain climbing.

For more information, call (615) 646-5750 or email rabbi@chabadnashville.com.

Micah hires Ali Friedman Zola as membership director

Congregation Micah is pleased to announce its new membership director, Ali Friedman Zola.

Micah is excited about the new dimension that Zola will add to the staff and to its efforts in reaching all its members. "The rabbis and I see Ali's role as vital to the potential growth of membership; she will also



Ali Friedman Zola

focus in on member engagement. These two areas are part of our long range plan, and we are excited for what's to come," said Executive Director Todd Evans.

Zola moved to Nashville in 2010 with her family and joined Congregation Micah in 2011. She is originally from Simsbury, CT near Hartford, Zola received her BA from the University of Arizona and her masters from Central Connecticut State University, both in English Literature. She lived and worked in Chile before returning to the United States to work as an adjunct lecturer. Zola went on to attain her teaching certification and worked as a high school English teacher. She worked recently as a substitute teacher at Micah Children's Academy.

Zola has three boys – Matthew, Joshua, and Zackary (aka Hooty), who is at the Micah Children's Academy.

To contact Zola, call the Micah office at 615-927-2394 or email her at membership@congregationmicah.org.

GJCC sponsoring Harpeth River paddle on Aug. 3

The Gordon Jewish Community Center is planning a canoe and kayak outing for Sunday, Aug. 3.

Participants are invited to pack a lunch and bring family and friends for a four-hour paddle on the Harpeth River from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The group will meet at Tip-a-Canoe Store at 1279 U.S. Highway 70 in Kingston Springs.

Canoe rentals are \$45 and kayaks are \$30. The event is hosted by the GJCC adult, aquatics and fitness programs and is limited to 40 people. For more information email Meryl@nashvillejcc.org



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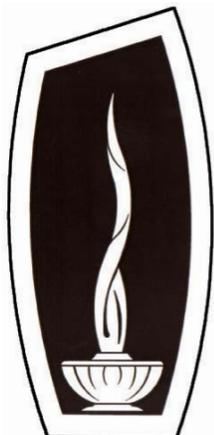
little bit, don't you think? And if one of the roots reaches down to you,

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- Manage all staff; with direction from the Executive Committee, hire, train, supervise and evaluate staff
- Maintain records and data base; implement management systems that ensure oversight of Section activities
- Assist in budget development, implementation and reporting and also expenditure approval in cooperation with the appropriate volunteer leadership
- Coordinate and oversee implementation of the organization's fundraising plans including retail sales, grant-writing, annual program support and special projects
- Assist in program planning, implementation, and evaluation; support volunteer advocacy efforts
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POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

Bachelor's degree required; Master's degree preferred; 5 to 10 years strong management and administrative experience; knowledge of volunteer and non-profit community; excellent written, verbal and interpersonal skills; computer literacy; ability to work with and motivate staff and volunteers of all ages and varying interests and professions; public relations and fundraising experience needed; sense of humor essential.

Please send all resumes to harriet@jewishnashville.org or ellenwjacobs@gmail.com

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