

## For 22 Nashville teens, Get Connected adventure in Israel was a life-changing experience

**T**hey rode camels in the Judean desert, floated in the salty water of the Dead Sea, hiked to the top of a mountain in the Negev, watched the sun rise from the top of Masada, walked through the narrow streets of Jerusalem's Old City, danced and prayed at the Kotel, and perhaps most important, spent five nights in the homes of Israeli families in Hadera.

As much fun as it was, the 22 Nashville teenagers who returned from a two-week Get Connected exchange trip last month will tell you that it was more than just a great adventure. It was a transformative experience that created enduring connections to the land and people of Israel – and to their own Jewish heritage.

*The Observer* asked the Get Connected teens to talk about the trip and how it affected them. Among those who responded was Emily Ritchart, who acknowledged that before the trip, "I did not really feel connected to Israel ... I just did not understand why everyone loved it so much, and how Jews could just pick up their lives and move to a completely different part of the world."

Her experience in Israel changed that.



**The Get Connected Nashville teens enjoy a spontaneous dance near the Western Wall.** Photos by Jack Koch

"The moment everything made sense to me was at the Kotel on Shabbat," she said. "The girls on the trip got in a circle and started dancing and singing to some of our favorite Jewish songs. Soon complete strangers came and joined the circle. Our small Get Connected circle soon included most of the people visiting

the sacred wall that night! Complete strangers became one, connected by our love of Judaism and Israel."

This was the eighth year the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee has underwritten the Get Connected exchange program, which is aimed at building connections to Israel

through exchange trips that send Nashville area teens to Israel and brings Israeli teenagers to Music City.

Joining Emily on the trip from June 9-23 were Jordyn Attias, Adam Bednowitz, Gal Crouvi, Hannah Diskin, Riley Fobare, Silas Gelman, Brittan Gilmore, Sarah Goldstein, Natalie Hershey, Vivian Herzog, Sam Jacobson, Megan Kasselberg, Eleanor Koch, Ryan Kosson, Tanner McCormick, Isabel Morin, Jeremy Seloff, Talia Stein, Jonathan Stout, Margot Suchet and Ashley Wall. They were joined by their friend, Yotan Yemin, a former Nashville resident who moved to Israel last year, and were chaperoned by Christina Davidson, Jack Koch and Liron Finkelstein, the *shlichah* (Israeli emissary) for Nashville.

"It was a unique opportunity to see all the wonderful sites through the eyes of the teenagers." Finkelstein said. "I feel even more blessed because I got to hear from them about the moment when it just clicked for them – what Israel is and what it means to them." •

See page 3 for more photos and accounts of the trip by the Get Connected teens.

## Taking care of our own

By **BATIA AND ARON KARABEL**

**A**nachnu kan – we are here. On July 13, we embarked on the Campaign Chairs and Directors Mission to Tbilisi, Georgia and Israel. It was an honor to represent NowGen Nashville as part of a young adult leadership delegation on this mission sponsored by the Jewish Federations of North America. We were privileged to see firsthand how the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, along with other federations throughout North America, are making Jewish life possible for communities in Georgia and Israel.

Continued on page 2

Fred Zimmerman provides a firsthand report on the situation in Ukraine. Page 6.



**Batia and Aron Karabel dance with seniors at Chesed House, one of many Federation-funded community centers that serve poor and elderly Jews throughout Georgia.** Photos by Naomi Sedek

## Tell us what you think about the Iran deal

**O**n Page 19 is a statement by Federation President Carol Hyatt and Executive Director Mark S. Freedman about the recent agreement between Iran and the United States and five other world powers. With the U.S. Congress now debating whether to approve or reject the deal, *The Observer* invites readers to tell us what they think. Letters of no more than 250 words should be submitted by Aug. 15 to Editor Charles Bernsen at charles@jewishnashville.org. We'll post them online and run a representative sample in the September issue. •

A Publication of the



THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.  
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

WWW.JEWISHNASHVILLE.ORG



Coasting through Jewish history in Cochin, India page 5



New theater group at GJCC will assemble a diverse company to perform at unusual venues page 9



Israeli teens welcomed by Nashville's Jewish community page 10



All Things Seniors special section page 11

## Taking care

Continued from page 1

In the words of Bruce Springsteen, "We take care of our own."

The trip to Georgia was breathtaking, humbling and heart wrenching. Life there is so economically difficult for so many Jews. Without the Federation, it would be nearly impossible by any standard.

Over the course of our trip, we met several dignitaries, including the prime minister of Georgia and the Israeli ambassador, who provided insight into the strong relationship between and among Georgia, Israel and the United States as well as the historical connection and importance of Jewry to Georgia. We broke bread with Georgian Jews preparing to make *aliyah*, witnessed a Georgian IDF lone soldier reconnect with the family he had not seen for more than a year, and visited a torn family receiving subsidies from the Joint Distribution Committee that supplements their meager monthly income of \$65.

We were especially moved by what we experienced at the Chesed House in Tbilisi, the Georgian capital. Federation's annual campaign helps fund community centers like this one throughout Georgia that serve 1,800 of the Jewish community's poor and elderly.

Not unlike our own Gordon Jewish Community Center in Nashville, there was a flurry of activity. When we arrived, we met and danced with seniors who come to the Chesed House daily. For them, it's a place where they receive a broad range of necessary social services designed to benefit seniors spiritually, mentally, physically and emotionally.

Ida, a wonderfully vibrant and

active participant, told us that coming to the Chesed House was her only opportunity during the day to socialize with others and was her break from the real world. The participants were so excited to see us that all the members of our group were immediately pulled in as partners to dance to Israeli folk songs played over the television. The energy in the room was palpable.

From there, we moved upstairs to the community space where a group of children ages 10-15 from the war-torn city of Gori performed traditional Georgian folk dancing accompanied by live musicians who were senior members of the community. It was evident that their dance instructor took pride in passing the tradition onto these young people. We were in awe by their brilliance, and the level of difficulty and coordination of the performance.

What was most meaningful and memorable, however, was that despite the bleak and distressing conditions at home, these children had smiles and poise that made our hearts melt. They danced with vigor, excitement and joy. We can honestly say that we were blessed to have the opportunity to see how the Federation can make such a difference in so many Jewish lives no matter how young or how old.

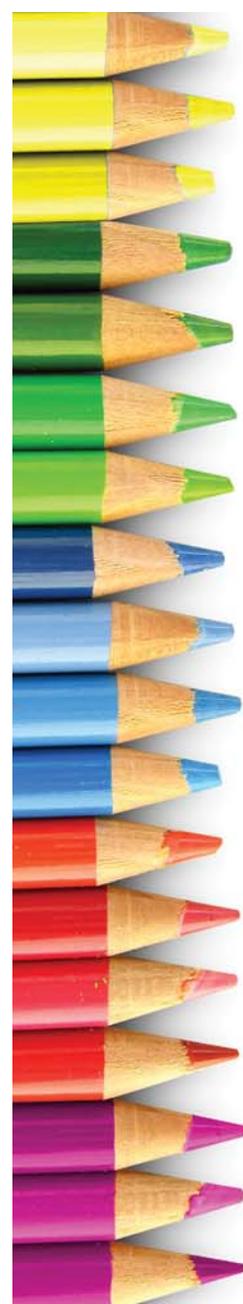
It is with these experiences and the lens they have shaped that we start the year and a new campaign with the goal of making a difference for our local community and those abroad. We must not forget that no matter how close or how far our Jewry extends, we are one family tied together by the strong and lasting bonds of religion, heritage and culture. We are fortunate that Nashville is the home of so many vibrant leaders who



The Karabel visit Nina and her three children. To make ends meet, they depend on the generosity of Jews around the world, including those who donate to the Nashville Federation's annual campaign.

understand קהילה (*kehillah*, community) and strive to make a difference in it. We look forward to a year that extends our reach to more people, more families and more communities. •

Batia and Aron Karabel are co-chairs of the philanthropic arm of NowGen Nashville for the 2016 annual campaign of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.



"I LOVED SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS YEAR. WE DID GARDENING, COOKING, AND MADE OUR OWN IPAD MOVIE OF THE JOSEPH STORY - ALL IN ONE DAY!"

# S CONGREGATION SHERITH ISRAEL SUNDAYSCHOOL

SUNDAY MORNINGS  
10:00AM - 12:00PM  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST KICK-OFF AUGUST 23RD

3600 WEST END AVENUE, NASHVILLE, TN 37205  
SIGN UP BY EMAILING: [RABBIAARON@SHERITHISRAEL.COM](mailto:RABBIAARON@SHERITHISRAEL.COM)  
OR CALL THE SHERITH ISRAEL OFFICE: 615-292-6614



# Get Connected Images and Memories

**W**ho would have imagined that an out-of-shape teenage girl who is petrified of heights could hike 12 miles in the desert and free-climb a mountain...and then wake up at 4 in the morning the next day and climb another mountain?

"Before going to Israel, I had heard many people talk about how amazing it was and what an incredible experience it was going to be. I did not really believe that it would be life-changing—but it was. Before going to Israel, I knew that I was Jewish and I knew all of the stories, but standing in the same place that my ancestors stood and fought for their lives and going somewhere where everyone is Jewish was incredible.

"I did not feel like I was visiting somewhere. Even though I did not speak the language, I felt at home."

■ Natalie Hershey

"In Israel, we did so many amazing things. We started off in Jerusalem and stayed there for four days. Jerusalem is the most beautiful city to which I have ever been. Seeing the Old City and walking around showed me how nothing is ever what it seems to be; it turns out to be better.

"Then we went to the desert and rode camels – a once-in-a-lifetime activity, and I got to go and do it! We also climbed a mountain in the Negev Desert; who can say that? The next day, we hiked Masada, which is by far the prettiest place to see the sun rise. We also went to the Dead Sea and covered ourselves in mud so that our skin would look better. After that, we went to Pardes Hanna, where we stayed with host families and got to see what kids our age did. While being in Pardes Hanna, I made so many friends and we will always stay in touch.

"That is what the Get Connected 2015 group did in Israel. We went out of our comfort zones, we tried new things, and we made life-long friends. But, most importantly we went on an inspirational and life-changing trip."

■ Riley Fobare

"Prior to my trip to Israel, I did not really feel connected to Israel. I knew that it was the homeland for the Jewish people, but I just did not understand why everyone loved it so much, and how Jews could just pick up their lives and move to a completely different part of the world.

"[But] after my trip to Israel, I understand.

"The moment everything made sense to me was at the Kotel on Shabbat. The girls on the trip got in a circle and started dancing and singing to some of our favorite Jewish songs. Soon complete strangers came and joined the circle. Our small Get Connected



The Get Connected teens at the gravesite of Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, in the Negev.



The Nashville group floated in the Dead Sea. Some even got a Dead Sea mud mask.



One of the most memorable experiences for the Nashville teens was an a long hike in the Negev Desert. "We climbed a mountain in the Negev," said Riley Fobare. "Who can say that?"

circle soon included most of the people visiting the sacred wall that night! Complete strangers became one, connected by our love of Judaism and Israel. Afterward all the boys and girls on the trip danced together in an area near the Kotel.

"I climbed a mountain in the Negev, rode a camel, slept in a tent in the desert, climbed Masada, tried falafel and hummus, floated in the Dead Sea, and made lifelong friends both Israeli and American. I fell in love with Israel while I was there. I now know why people love it there. Israel is my home, the Jewish people's home."

■ Emily Ritchart

"With Matisyahu's famous pop pro-Israel anthems blasting in my ear, our tour bus passed by fields that just so happened to date back to the famous David and Goliath story and tiny stone walls used daily for agriculture for the past 3,000 years.

"Without my luggage the first nine days and a phone the last five days, material comforts fell by the wayside and I came to embrace Israel. The 12-hour Negev hike was life changing. Though I am not afraid of heights, I had a panic attack on the mountain and found myself hyperventilating with tears running down my neck as I looked out over the most vastly beautiful landscape I've ever seen. It was an exhausting experience that I hated at the time, but looking back it is the most incredible thing I can claim to have accomplished thus far."

"I could tell a million more stories of how I connected with Israel, but they would all just re-iterate the same point: Israel has always been, and should always be, a home for the Jewish people. Individual stories told by our spectacular tour guide brought history to life in the "land of milk and honey" and the small, highly spiritual city of Tzfat is my favorite place in the world. I love Israel's combination of both secular and religious society, and it now serves as a fundamental part of my Jewish identity. I cannot wait to go back!"

■ Megan Kasselberg

Read story about Israeli teens visit to Nashville. Page 10

## Tennessee Women In Film and Media proudly announces the appointment of Ms. Jill Melody as our organization's Director of State Membership & International Outreach.



Ms. Melody is an award winning actress, writer and director who is **currently starring in the TV Movie, "H.R."**, which is being filmed in Nashville this summer. A seasoned entertainer, Jill began acting in her teens, and is known for appearances on NBC's hit show "Friends," "Law & Order", the comedy show "Caroline" and has appeared in, and voiced numerous TV and radio commercials. Jill has performed with entertainment greats: Kelsey Grammer, Martin Sheen and Loretta Swit, to name just a few.

The Memphis Arts Council presented Jill with the "Best Ensemble Actress" award, for her stage performance as a French resistance fighter who perished in Auschwitz; in Charlotte Delbo's play "Who will carry the word?"

In 2016/2017, Jill will turn her attention behind the camera, as she is in pre-production for a feature film she co-wrote and will direct in Israel and the U.S.

**Tennessee Women In Film and Media President, Nan Puetz, states:** "Jill Melody's generosity of spirit, vast experience and expertise in the film industry, will certainly enhance our organization's success in Tennessee, nationally and internationally. We are thrilled to have Jill on our team."

For more information about Jill Melody visit: [www.imdb.me/jillmelody](http://www.imdb.me/jillmelody)

For more information about Tennessee Women In Film and Media, visit: [www.twifm.org](http://www.twifm.org)

\*Tennessee Women in Film and Media, Inc. (TWIFM), a Tennessee nonprofit corporation is organized, operated and dedicated exclusively for educational purposes under section 501(c)(3) IRS code, to advance the professional development and opportunities for Tennessee Women in Film, Entertainment and all Screen-Based digital media and promote equity in the aforementioned industry for women as film/media makers and film/media workers.

## Please support *The Observer*

**T**he Jewish Observer of Nashville is the only comprehensive source of information about the Jewish community of Middle Tennessee. To continue delivering the news and information you have come to expect, we need your support.

In this issue you will find an enve-

lope 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 home, but we hope you will consider donating at one of the higher levels: Reporter (\$50), Editor (\$100) or Publisher (\$150). •

The Observer is also online at [www.jewishobservernashville.org](http://www.jewishobservernashville.org)

# President's Memo

## Ambassadors brimming with enthusiasm

By CAROL HYATT

**W**e held the first meeting of our new Ambassadors Program last month, and I am more excited than ever about our plans to welcome newcomers and help them find their place in Nashville's Jewish community.

About 30 people have volunteered to be Ambassadors, and if the first meeting is any indication, their enthusiasm and ideas will make this initiative of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee a rousing success.

The volunteers come from all segments of our community and they range from lifelong residents of Nashville like Gail Biener Wales to relative newcomers like Rhoda Cooper. What they have in common is a desire to make the experience of Jewish newcomers to Music City even more welcoming than it already is.

Rhoda moved to Nashville two years ago from New Jersey to be near her son, musician Sam Cooper.

"That first year was hard," she said. "I drove around and got lost a lot."

Rhoda said she is grateful to those who helped her make the transition to Nashville and now wants to do the same for others.

Gail was motivated to volunteer as an Ambassador at least in part by the

experience of her sister, who recently moved back to Nashville after living elsewhere for 30 years.

"She had trouble making connections. It was a real challenge," said Gail, who hopes to put her professional experience as a meeting and event planner to use as an Ambassador. "There's a tremendous need for this program, and I really wanted to be a part of welcoming newcomers to the community."

Currently the Federation welcomes newcomers by sending a letter of greeting from Federation Executive Director Mark Freedman along with a folder with a copy of *The Jewish Observer*, the *Guide to Jewish Nashville* and additional information about organizations like Akiva School, the Gordon Jewish Community Center (GJCC), Vanderbilt Hillel, Jewish Family Service and the Federation. Some newcomers also get follow up emails or telephone calls.

We think we can improve the newcomer's experience by adding a personal,

face-to-face interaction. That's where the Ambassadors come in. Over the next few months, each will be asked to make contact with a newcomer to welcome them to Jewish Nashville and invite them to have coffee or a meal together, answer questions about the local Jewish community and perhaps help them find their niche.

Harriet Schiffan, the Federation's planning and Partnership2gether director, described the Ambassadors Program as a "one-on-one project." Ambassadors will meet quarterly and work as a team to represent the entire community. The goal is to create personal connections with newcomers to help them pursue their own Jewish interests, whether spiritual or social.

Our first meeting produced a raft of good ideas about identifying newcomers, welcoming them and helping them get acquainted with Nashville and its Jewish community. One person suggested we distribute "welcome bags" that would

include items like a challah, a bottle of kosher wine and a pass to the GJCC. Another agreed to contact businesses moving to Nashville that might have Jewish employees. Gail and another Ambassador volunteered to host regular, informal gatherings for newcomers in their homes. And Rhoda, a retired journalist, wants to write a regular column for *The Observer* that will focus on a particular newcomer and why he or she moved to Nashville.

That's what I found so encouraging about our first meeting – the enthusiasm and ideas of the Ambassadors themselves will take the program in directions that we couldn't have imagined. If you would like to be part of this effort, contact me at carolhyatt@comcast.net or Harriet at harriet@jewishnashville.org or (615) 354-1687. •

*Carol Hyatt is president of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.*



Federation President Carol Hyatt



## From the Campaign Trail

### Continuing our tradition of generosity

By CHARLES BERNSEN

**E**very year, I am blown away by the generosity of this Jewish community," says Lisa Perlen, who took the reins last month as chair of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee's annual campaign. As a result of that generosity, "we have been able to address many of our community's needs."

But with the 2016 annual campaign set to kick off this month, she has a word of caution: Now is not the time to be complacent. The needs are still there, and the funds raised through the annual campaign remain a crucial component in meeting them.

Perlen should know. For the past four years, she has been a member of the Federation's Grants Committee, which makes the tough decisions about how the funds raised each year in the annual campaign will be distributed among the more than 75 programs supported by the Federation.

Next month Perlen will take over writing the regular On the Campaign Trail column in *The Observer*. One of her

goals is to focus on both the campaign volunteers and individuals who benefit from it.

Her hope is that readers will be inspired by "the voices of the people who work on the campaign and those who can explain how their lives are improved by Federation-funded programs."

Perlen also noted that the Federation is currently conducting a comprehensive survey of the Jewish community in Middle Tennessee. The results, which will be available later this year, will provide information not only about the size and demographics of the local Jewish population and its attitudes on a wide range of issues but its priorities and unmet needs as well.

That is likely result in new funding challenges, Perlen said, adding, "I am confident this community will be up to the challenge." •



Lisa Perlen

#### Editorial Submissions Policy and Deadlines

The Jewish Observer welcomes the submission of information, news items, feature stories and photos about events relevant to the Jewish community of Greater Nashville. We prefer e-mailed submissions, which should be sent as Word documents to Editor 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.

For advertising deadlines, contact Carrie Mills, advertising manager, at 615-354-1699, or by email at carrie@nashvillejcc.org.

## Dean joins other mayors in signing AJC pledge to address "growing threat of anti-Semitism"

**M**ayor Karl Dean became the latest municipal leader to sign a petition initiative of the American Jewish Committee that condemns anti-Jewish hatred "in all its forms" and calls upon U.S. mayors and their European counterparts to address the "growing threat of anti-Semitism."

The petition initiative began on July 6, and when Dean signed the two-page statement on July 15 at the request of the Jewish Federation of Nashville

and Middle Tennessee, he became the 14th major to do so. Others include Bill De Blasio of New York, Rahm Emanuel of Chicago and the mayors of Houston, Atlanta, Miami, Boston, Seattle, Louisville, Birmingham and Baltimore.

In addition to condemning anti-Judaism and rejecting the notion that anti-Semitic acts "may ever be justified or excused by one's opinion about the actions or existence of the State of Israel," the signatories pledged to work within and across their communities to "advance the values of peaceful coexistence." •

□ □ **STAFF** □ □

**Publisher** Mark S. Freedman  
**Editor** Charles Bernsen  
**Advertising Manager** Carrie Mills  
**Layout and Production** Tim Gregory  
**Editorial Board** Frank Boehm (chair), Barbara Dab, Greg Goldberg, Scott Rosenberg, Liz Foster

**Telephone** 615/356-3242  
**Fax** 615/352-0056  
**E-mail** charles@jewishnashville.org

'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.

While The Jewish Observer makes every possible effort to accept only reputable advertisers of the highest quality, we cannot guarantee the Kasruth of their products.

The Jewish Observer  
Founded in 1934 by  
JACQUES BACK

# Community Relations Communiqué

## Celebrating a milestone in interfaith relations

By **ABBIE WOLF**

The Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation is speaking with the Catholic community about ways we might together celebrate the upcoming 50th anniversary of one of the most important dates in interfaith relations.

On Oct. 28, 1965, the Second Vatican Council made historic changes to church policies and theology.

Among them was *Nostra Aetate*, Latin for "In Our Time," a document that revolutionized the Catholic Church's approach to Jews and Judaism after nearly 2000 years of pain and sorrow.

Officially titled the "Declaration on the Relations of the Church to Non-Christian Religions," *Nostra Aetate* opened the door for Catholics to that which is "true and holy" in other religions, extending a hand to Judaism, as well as to Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam.

Some of the most salient points for



Abbie Wolf

Jews and Judaism include the repudiation of the charge of deicide against Jews and the condemnation of "all hatreds, persecutions, displays of anti-Semitism directed at Jews at any time or from any source."

The declaration's 600-word section on Judaism — approximately one-third of the document — rejects the charge, long leveled against the Jewish people, that they were collectively guilty of killing Jesus. It also prohibits teachings in which Jews are seen as accursed, condemns anti-Semitism, affirms Christianity's Jewish roots and validates God's eternal covenant with the Jewish people.

Additionally, *Nostra Aetate* stresses the religious bond shared by Jews and Catholics, reaffirms the eternal covenant between God and the People of Israel, and dismisses church interest in trying to baptize Jews. By doing so, *Nostra Aetate* took steps to reverse nearly two millennia of Catholic enmity toward Jews and Judaism that had led to violence and death.

The road leading to *Nostra Aetate* was neither simple nor smooth. Rather it was a confluence of key events and per-

sonalities. Pope John XXIII (1958-1963), who as a Vatican diplomat was personally involved in saving scores of Jews during the Holocaust, led the church in a period of self-reflection that revealed the degree of Christian culpability in the genocide. Cardinal Augustine Bea, who was appointed by the pope to shepherd the process, spent years dealing with the complex and shifting nuances of Vatican politics in drafting this extraordinary document.

After intense debate and some strong opposition, *Nostra Aetate* was approved by the world's Bishops and Cardinals in Rome on Oct. 28, 1965. Sadly, John XXIII did not live to see the final result.

Since the signing of *Nostra Aetate*, popes have continued to embrace the document and all that it encompasses. Pope Benedict XVI (2005-2013) forcefully reiterated the important messages, and Pope Francis is today continuing in that tradition. As the first pope to enter the priesthood after *Nostra Aetate*'s promulgation, Pope Francis applied the document's teachings in his relations with Jews while serving as archbishop of Buenos Aires. He has made his relation-

ship with the Jewish people a central feature of his pontificate.

Although it was not the first Christian attempt at self-reflection after the Holocaust, *Nostra Aetate* has become the gold standard by which all others are measured. Protestant churches created their own documents, reforming centuries of antipathy toward Jews and Judaism. And leading Jewish activists in Christian-Jewish dialogue fashioned a Jewish response, *Dabru Emet: A Jewish Statement on Christians and Christianity*. The first of that document's eight principles is that Jews and Christians worship the same God.

*Nostra Aetate* has been the inspiration for 50 years of work by Christians and Jews. Of course, the relationship isn't perfect. And yes, there are disagreements from time to time. But they are discussed and often resolved among friends.

The landscape of the relationship has fundamentally, and thankfully, changed. •

Abbie Wolf is director of community relations for the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

## Coasting through Jewish history in Cochin, India

By **ANNA LAUREN LEVY**

Off the Malabar Coast in Southern India, Kerala is known for its cliff-hanging beaches, holistic Ayurvedic medicine, rolling tea mountain ranges, inland waterways and — its Jewish history.

Two years ago, I met a smiling-eyed Lijo Jose in the port city of Cochin. Mr. Jose, a native, took me on a tour of its five remaining synagogues. At its peak, the Cochin Jewish community had 3,000 members. Today, most of them and their descendants live in Israel. I wondered about the history of the Cochin Jews. Who were they, and what happened to them?

Records indicate the presence of Jews in Kerala soon after the destruction of the second Temple in 70 CE, although some theories say they had arrived centuries earlier. Over the years, these Jewish settlers became successful merchants and helped the ruling Chera dynasty prosper. To show the kingdom's gratitude, the ruler gave the Yemen born Jewish leader, Joseph Rabban, two copper plates known as the *Sāsanam*, which pronounced him a prince and awarded the Jewish community its own village, Anjuvannam. Jews were also granted all the rights of Indian nobility — free housing, the right to collect taxes, own property, and build synagogues for "as long as the world and moon exist." For Cochin Jews, being related to "King" Rabban came to be considered a sign of both purity and prestige.

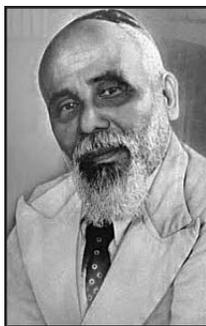
There were two types of Jews in Cochin. One, the Malabar Jews, were the earliest to settle in Kerala. They intermingled with Indian locals and came to be indistinguishable from fellow

Indians. In 1167, the Jewish traveler Benjamin of Tudela visited Cochin and wrote, "The inhabitants are all black, and the Jews also."

Although Marco Polo reported that Indians prized the color black, dark skin was not considered holy. It was associated with the lower castes. Such prejudices would result in divisions between the Malabar Jews — or black Jews as they were called — and the Sephardic Jews who began arriving in Kerala after being expelled from Spain and Portugal in the late 15th century. These *Paradesi* or foreign Jews became successful spice merchants and were referred to as white Jews due to their lighter skin.

Unfortunately for Jews, the Portuguese began to colonize Kerala at the end of the 15th century and brought with them the Inquisition. Christians (many of them conversos) were prohibited from conducting business with Jews, whose business suffered. As a result, many Jews allied with the Dutch in their effort to take control of Kerala in 1662, causing the Portuguese to slaughter and burn down Jewish communities. Jews fled their homes until the Dutch succeeded in conquering Kerala later that year.

But divisions between black and white Jews grew more pronounced under the Dutch, who discriminated against black Jews. The two Jewish groups didn't intermarry, had separate synagogues and held different vocations. Black Jews worked in agriculture and cattle rearing. They also worked in the gardens and



Abraham Barak Salem, the "Jewish Gandhi" Photo courtesy of Gamliel Salem



Lauren Levy stands in the former Kadavumbagam Synagogue in Cochin, India. The synagogue is believed to have been built in the 13th century and then rebuilt 400 or 500 years later. It closed in the late 20th century due to the city's dwindling Jewish population.

houses of white Jews, who viewed them as descendants of slaves. By 1686, white Jews were seen as superior to black Jews not only by the Dutch but also by the local rajah. Soon white Jews followed the influence of Westerners and began to dress in their clothing. Black Jews clung to their Indian customs and dressed as native Keralans.

In 1795 the British succeeded the Dutch in Cochin. In 1830, the East India Company conducted a survey of the Jewish communities. The white Jews, who refused to work because of their noble social standing, were miserably poor. They requested land grants from the British so they could grow silk and better their condition. Black Jews on the other hand held various forms of employment, though no longer agriculture, and many were prosperous. Yet the white Jews still retained their superior attitudes to black Jews.

Another major area for contention in the Jewish community of Cochin and across India was slavery and the effort to break down the Indian caste system. In

1833 the British abolished slavery. In 1845, an emancipated Jewish slave, Ava, and his followers demanded full religious and social rights. They attempted to build their own synagogue, but plague struck and Ava's mission failed.

In 1882, the chief rabbi of Jerusalem, Raphael Meir Panigel, sent an emissary to Cochin to examine the status of black Jews. He was furious at the white Jews' discrimination towards them and demanded that black Jews be able to carry out Jewish practices alongside white Jews.

The same year Abraham Barak Salem was born. Salem, a grandson of Ava, would later be considered the "Jewish Gandhi" as he pursued rights for black Jews. Young white Jews became sympathetic to Salem's cause, and he won access for black Jews to sit with whites in synagogues and take aliyot.

But a greater horizon dawned for Jews in Cochin and across the world in 1948 when the state of Israel was born. Salem, a Zionist, encouraged black Jews to make aliyah, though he himself remained in Cochin until his death. He was buried in a white Jewish cemetery.

As more Jews immigrated to Israel, the Jewish population of Cochin declined. The ancient rift between black and white Jews diminished, leaving the few who remained to pursue equality in their homeland. •

A native Memphian, writer Anna Levy recently moved to Nashville after a stint in Brooklyn. While attending Skidmore College, she studied abroad in Delhi, India and later taught English in Bangkok, Thailand for a year. This article is the third and last in a summer series of travel stories for *The Observer* about her encounters with Jewish communities and other cultures abroad. Learn more about Anna and her writings at [annalaurena.com](http://annalaurena.com).

# Living under the cloud of war, Jews of eastern Ukraine desperately need our help

By Fred Zimmerman

In June it was my privilege to lead a mission to Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, under the auspices of the Jewish Federations of North America. Having co-chaired JFNA's Ukraine Assistance Fund since the spring of last year, I jumped at the chance to see first hand what our Federation system and our partners at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for Israel are doing to address the situation faced by Ukraine's Jewish population.

Despite being a veteran of many trips to former Soviet republics, I could not have anticipated what our group would see and experience. As with my other visits to Ukraine, we had the chance to meet beneficiaries of our Federation campaign funds. We met with elderly Jews whose main support comes from JDC home visits and food supplements. We met young adults preparing for a new life in Israel through the work of the Jewish Agency. Much of it was very familiar...and yet more was very different.

Unlike other trips, the cloud of war hung oppressively over everything and added a palpable layer of tension. When our group sat with people who had been forced from their homes in eastern Ukraine, dodging mortars and



A young family sits in their new temporary home at a Federation-funded center for internally displaced people in Pavlograd. Many of the 3,000 displaced people are young middle-class families forced to flee the fighting in Eastern Ukraine.

gunfire, and navigating a hostile frontier, we knew this was no ordinary mission. I would recommend that you visit the JFNA website (<http://jewishfederations.org/unrest-in-ukraine>) to see pictures and read stories coming from eastern Ukraine. But there are stories behind the stories, and I want to share a few thoughts I put down after I left Dnepro.

First, I have never been more proud

to be associated with the JDC and the Jewish Agency. They are working together in Ukraine at an amazing level. And when you read that our people are doing this work at great personal risk, believe me when I say that understates things. This is a sensitive subject, and I really can't go into more detail, but I'll just say that these are truly heroes of the Jewish people. I can only hope that one

day their stories can be told.

In that vein, a few pictures or videos really can't convey what people in the conflict zone and who have fled that zone are experiencing. I can tell you their stories, but I can't show you their tears and their thousand-yard stares. I can quote numbers, but I can't convey feelings. Hearing about someone covering their child on the floor while mortars hit their house, or hiding for hours in a potato pit during a pitched battle, somehow makes words inadequate. But we will have to try because these stories cannot go untold, and because for every person who came forward, there were dozens who would not—or could not—be so bold.

Many have asked why they don't all leave. It's a curious psychological phenomenon, and it centers around denial: It's only temporary. We'll be able to go back. This isn't really happening like this. Or, where will I go? What will I do? What about my home, my job, my relatives? But everyone has a breaking point beyond which their decision is basically made for them: It's time to leave. And then comes the move toward hope – and the realization that they'll be starting over, whether in a different Ukrainian city or in Israel.

Either way it's difficult, but either way they're not alone, because we're

Continued on page 7

## The Temple

invites the entire Jewish community to an ...

### Extraordinary Evening of Conversation & Dialogue

#### Christian Clergy Share Their Reflections on Their Recent Leadership Mission to Israel

(a trip led by Rabbi Mark Schifftan, Senior Rabbi of The Temple & Mark Freedman, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Nashville & Middle Tennessee)

Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM at The Temple

The following Christian Clergy will be participating:

- Rev. Vicki Burgess, St. Philips Episcopal Church
- Rev. Dr. Judy Cummings, New Covenant Christian Church (Disciples of Christ);
- Rev. Warner Durnell, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
- Rev. Thomas Kleinert, Vine Street Christian Church
- Rev. Michael O'Bannon, First United Methodist Church of Murfreesboro
- Rev. Kim Rodrigue, Trinity Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Gail Seavey, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville
- Rev. Tambi Swiney, Immanuel Baptist Church

Representatives of the Nashville Jewish communal leadership who participated on the trip will be in attendance as well.



THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE  
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

5015 Harding Pike ~ (615) 352-7620

## Ukrainian

Continued from page 6

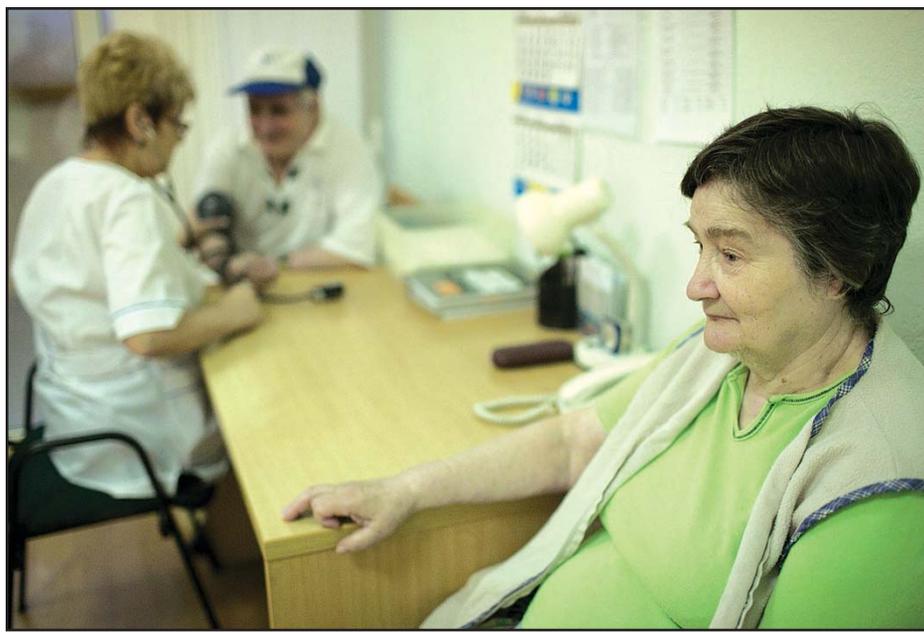
making sure our partners at JDC and The Jewish Agency are ready and able to assist.

Over the last 25 years, a vibrant and growing Jewish presence has been built, the result of a full generation of work. Thanks in no small part to Chabad Rabbi Kaminezky, Dnepropetrovsk in particular has a major Jewish facility and has filled it with organizations and programming.

All that is in jeopardy now, and while local supporters are coming back, the questions remain. JDC and JAFI are present in this regard, and it is where a global partnership really exists. But as I said to our mission group, appearances can often be deceiving. Dnepro may look like a thriving community, but there are cracks. And the stresses that the large Ukrainian communities are going through are nothing compared to what's going on in the smaller towns.

I urge you all to read Samantha Dubrinsky's dispatches from the mission. (Check [www.bjf.org](http://www.bjf.org) for more details.) She brought a new perspective as this was her first encounter in a former Soviet republic, and where the overhanging conflict brought the intensity to a new level that Federation missions don't often see.

I am also proud that Nashville stepped up so quickly to meet the requests of JFNA and our partners. Part of me wishes this mission had taken place a little earlier, and that more peo-



Elderly patients visit a medical clinic at the Beit Baruch center in Dnepropetrovsk. Thanks to support from Federations, the center provides around-the-clock healthcare, food and shelter to Ukraine's most vulnerable Jewish seniors.

ple could have made the journey. Perhaps we could have done more, perhaps stood as an example to national powers that are cruelly indifferent to multiple levels of suffering. But I know that 100 or even a 1,000 people wouldn't have been enough to convey the horror that is unfolding. Still, we do what we can – and what we must -- because *klal Yisrael arevim zeh be zeh*. All Israel is responsible, one for another. And for that I gratefully thank our local Federation and community leadership who have proudly supported our efforts and me personally.

All of us—our Federations, our partners, the Jewish community of Ukraine—have some hard decisions ahead. The situation may not be getting worse, but even if it starts getting better, the road back to normal will take years. Our task is to help our partners maintain the infrastructure that made the relief effort possible in the first place, and that we'll need when the next crisis emerges.

Yet in the midst of all this tragedy, there are signs of great beauty. All religions speak to the vital nature of charity. Judaism goes a step further and concerns itself not only with the sufficiency of the gift but the dignity of the recipient. Whether it's an Alzheimer's patient saved from the indifference of the Ukrainian medical system; something as prosaic as bringing a *hamsa* to a family about to make *aliyah* so their new home in Israel could be properly decorated; or allowing a destitute family the emotional elevation to act as host and hostess to American visitors, we understand that our charity is powerful in positive ways but must tread a fine line. So when we make the effort and our charity enhances not only the condition but the status of the recipient, that is when our charity becomes *tzedakah*.

As I was leaving Ukraine, I wished our hosts the best. They, in turn, asked that we pray for them, and more importantly, not forget them. So may our prayers and our efforts bring peace and tranquility to all, and may our people realize the lives they are entitled to have. •

*Fred Zimmerman, chair of the intermediate trustees of the Jewish Federations of North America, led a recent JFNA mission to eastern Ukraine.*

See what's happening in the community.  
Go to [www.jewishnashville.org](http://www.jewishnashville.org)



## The Temple Religious School. Learning. Laughter. Love of Judaism.

**Open House for new & prospective families:  
Sunday, August 30, 2015 at 9:30 AM  
A light brunch will be served**

- ☆ **Innovative values-based curriculum with an emphasis on hands-on activities and experiences**
- ☆ **Emphasis on preparing our students for a strong and active Jewish future**
- ☆ **Teachers who care about and nurture our children and have a passion for Judaism**
- ☆ **Elective Junior High and High School program where teens get to choose what they want to learn throughout the year**
- ☆ **Student - centered social action initiatives in partnership with organizations around Nashville**
- ☆ **Engaging and meaningful family programs for grades K-7**
- ☆ **Monthly 'Taste of Religious School' for Pre-K families**
- ☆ **Weekday Hebrew learning made easy and fun for grades 4-6**
- ☆ **Dynamic Shabbat and holiday programs for all ages**

For more information about our Religious School & educational opportunities for all ages at The Temple, contact:

**Rabbi Michael Shulman, RJE**

Director of Education & Next Generation Programming  
at [rabbishulman@templenashville.org](mailto:rabbishulman@templenashville.org) or 615-352-7620.

# SEND A NEW YEAR'S GREETING

*to your family, friends  
and the entire community  
in the September Observer*

## Choose a Greeting

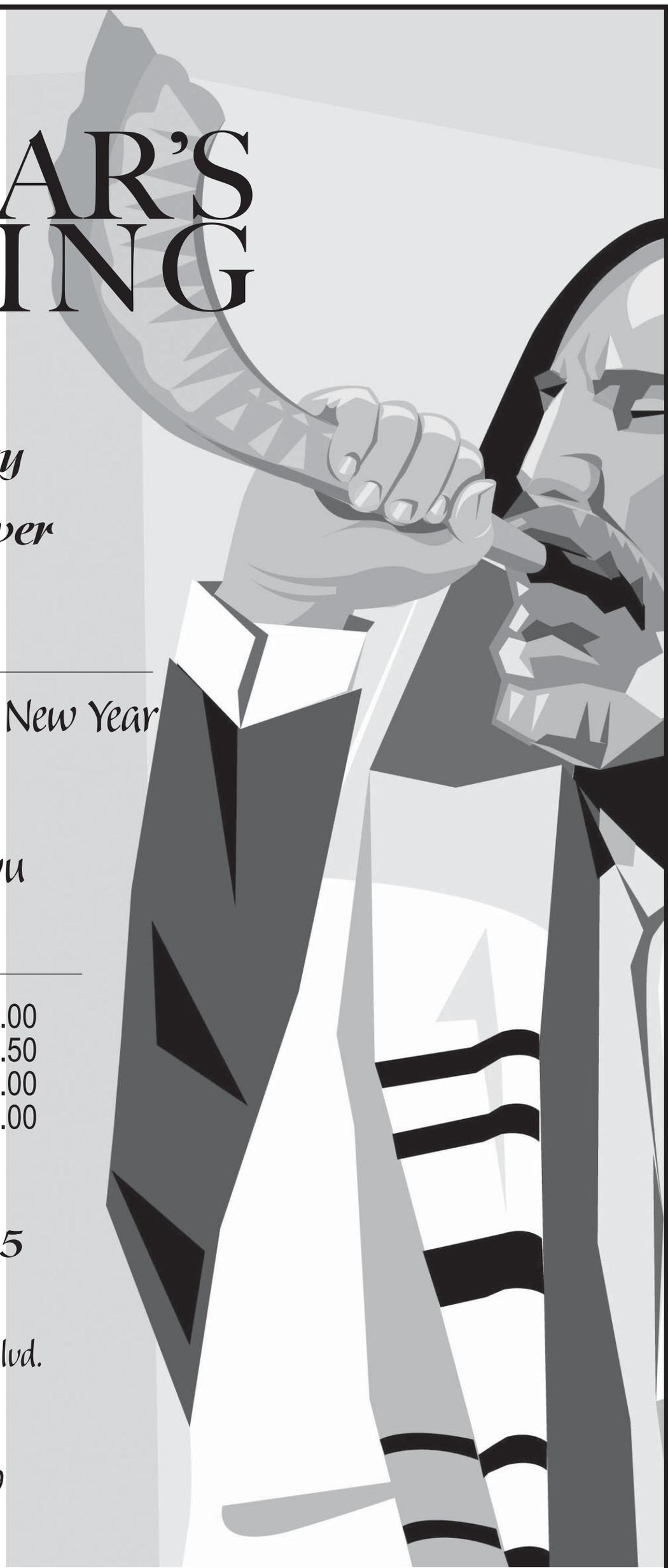
- A) Have a Happy and Healthy New Year
- B) Happy Rosh Hashanah
- C) Rosh Hashanah Greetings
- D) Le-Shanah Tovah Tikkatevu

## Choose a Size

|             |          |           |          |
|-------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Full page   | \$702.00 | 5" square | \$135.00 |
| 3/4 page    | \$526.50 | 1/8 page  | \$ 94.50 |
| 1/2 page    | \$378.00 | card size | \$ 54.00 |
| 1/4 page    | \$189.00 | greeting  | \$ 27.00 |
| 3 col. x 4" | \$162.00 |           |          |

## *Ad Deadline - August 15*

Mail or Bring your greeting to:  
The Observer • 801 Percy Warner Blvd.  
Nashville, TN 37205  
E-mail: [carrie@nashvillejcc.org](mailto:carrie@nashvillejcc.org)  
Call: Carrie Mills - 615.354.1699  
Fax: 615.352.0056



# New theater group at GJCC will assemble a diverse company to perform at unusual venues

By CHARLES BERNSEN

**A**n unusual new theater group will start up next month at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. Synergy Stage Company's motto is "all stages for all ages."

As the motto implies, Synergy's goal is to create a versatile company of writers and performers of all ages and abilities who will take part in classes and workshops together, stage professional-quality productions in the GJCC's 350-seat main auditorium and take smaller productions with socially relevant themes "on the road" to unusual venues throughout the Nashville area.

To fully appreciate Synergy's mission, you have to know a little about Cherie Bennett, its founder and artistic director, and Laurie Canaan, its producing director.

Bennett was only 28 when she was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. She had just achieved a dream – landing a prominent role in a Broadway musical – but her illness made it impossible to continue her promising acting career. So she turned to her other creative talents, becoming an award-winning novelist, television and film writer, playwright and director.

"My illness gave me a whole other way of looking at the world and the creative process," says Bennett, who has had 10 novels on the New York Times Best Sellers List, won an Emmy and a Tony,



Cherie Bennett (left) and Laurie Canaan intend for their new theater group, Synergy Stage Company, to break through traditional barriers.

## Synergy Stage Company Classes and Workshops

### Stage Fun Zone (ages 5-senior)

Encourages creativity through music, movement, art, puppets, clowning and improvisation  
4-5 p.m., Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24  
\$75 for GJCC members (\$85 for non-members)  
Teacher: Laurie Canaan

### Imagination Station (ages 8-80)

Explores a treasure chest of costumes, props and improvisation games to create characters, stories and scenes  
5-6 p.m., Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24  
\$75 for GJCC members (\$85 for non-members)  
Teacher: Laurie Canaan

### Acting Up! (ages 12-Twilight Zone)

A class for beginning to intermediate actors will focus on the basics of body, voice, improv, comedy, scene and character work  
6:30-8 p.m., Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24  
\$100 for GJCC members (\$120 for non-members)  
Teachers: Cherie Bennett, Laurie Canaan and guest artists

### Page to Stage (ages 15 and up)

Intermediate and advanced actors will work on short plays and train for local touring shows. (Touring actors are paid)  
6:30-8 p.m. Sept. 8, 15, 21 and 29  
\$100 for GJCC members (\$120 for non-members)  
Teachers: Cherie Bennett, Laurie Canaan and guest artists

### Readers Theater (Adults, teens by invitation or audition)

Rehearsing and performing plays while seated on stools, script on music stand. Eliminates the need for strict memorization (paid performance opportunities)  
11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27  
\$150 for GJCC members (\$170 for non-members)  
Director: Cherie Bennett and guest artists

### Creative Writers Workshop (adults, teens by submission)

Genres include fiction, screenplays, plays, TV and memoirs.  
2-5 p.m. Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27 (break w/snacks provided)  
\$180 for GJCC members (\$200 for non-members)  
Teacher: Cherie Bennett

### Master Class (all ages, must first take Page to Stage or Readers Theater class, or by invitation or audition)

For advanced actors preparing for main stage workshops and productions. (Actors paid.)  
6-8 p.m. Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28  
\$100  
Director: Cherie Bennet and guest artists

Special discounts available for seniors, GJCC after school students and 3-month registration. To register or for more information about upcoming events and private lessons call (615) 712-8666 or email SynergyStageCompany@nashvillejcc.org.

and has written a number of award-winning plays, including "Anne Frank and Me," which debuted at the GJCC and eventually was performed Off Broadway. "Synergy represents the fulfillment of a dream – looking at everyone for what they can do, not what they can't."

Bennett said the company's name reflects her belief that bringing together artists of diverse ages, experience and abilities will result in a creative entity greater than the sum of its parts.

Bennett found a soulmate in Canaan, a Nashville actress, director, producer, teacher, vocalist, professional clown and musician who has performed internationally in theater, film, TV, commercials, radio, concerts, festivals, colleges, studio sessions and music videos.

Canaan had her own transformational experience 10 years ago when she landed a role in the Broadway production of "Ring of Fire," a musical based on the work of Johnny Cash. Writer/director Richard Maltby allowed the actors and musicians to participate in creating the show during the workshop process by improvising scenes creating their own parts instead of reading from a script and score.

The experience "showed me that life can lead you down roads you thought were closed," said Canaan. It also helped her appreciate the importance of spontaneity, experimentation and interplay in the creative process, techniques Canaan uses in her job as a music teacher at The Edison School, a small private school in Hendersonville for children who learn differently.

"When Cherie told me what she was creating, I couldn't wait to get started," Canaan said.

Synergy will begin next month with a series of 4-week classes and workshops, each of which meets once a week. Participants will have an opportunity to take part in a main stage production in November at the GJCC.

Perhaps the most unique aspects of Synergy will be its touring company, which will perform short plays focused on socially relevant themes. From a large repertoire of 10-minute plays and music on a particular theme – the first will be on bullying – the company will collaborate with each booking venue to create a show that speaks uniquely to that audience, with no two shows being the same.

Bennett said these "away stage" productions will be aimed at diverse communities where professional, relevant theatre never goes, such as veteran's rehab centers, prison systems, senior centers and schools in rural areas.

"They will speak to people viscerally, especially people who do not have a tradition of going to the theater and young people who, without being exposed, might never become theatergoers," Bennett said.

Some audiences will even have a chance to submit their own plays and perform in Synergy productions. "Involving members of a community in the artistic process and presentation strengthens our theater's bond with that community and leads to a much stronger, more personal connection to the work," Bennett said. •

See what's happening in the community.  
Go to [www.jewishnashville.org](http://www.jewishnashville.org)

# Israeli teens welcomed by Nashville's Jewish community

By CHARLES BERNSEN

The six Israeli kids were excited about their two-week stay in Nashville and finding out what it's like to be a Jew in the United States.

But they also had some of the concerns you might expect from teenagers: Would they get along with their host families? Would they be able to relate to their American counterparts? Would they be put on the spot by critics of their home country?

It didn't take long for those concerns to dissipate.

"It's so much better than I thought it would be," said Yuval Mor, 17, the oldest of the six teens from the Hadera-Eiron region of Israel.

"The people have been so nice," said Ruth Moses, 14, "My host is 17, and I thought the age difference would be hard. But it's not. It's been so wonderful."

Ruth, Yuval and the other Israeli teens – Erez Miller, Omri Ya'acovi, Aviv Pardo and Nicole Borzin, all 14 – along with their Israeli chaperone, Iris Nagler, were in Nashville from July 12-July 26 as part of the Partnership2Gether high school exchange program underwritten in part by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. They are being hosted in the homes of Jewish teens, many of who recently returned from their own exchange experience in Israel.

The Israeli teens visited iconic Nashville sites like the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Grand Ole Opry, the Parthenon and Belle Meade Plantation. They took hikes in Percy Warner Park and the Radnor Lake State Park. They saw a Triple A baseball game at the Nashville's new First Tennessee Park and got a private tour of Ft. Campbell, home of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division. They shopped at Opry Mills, ate ice cream at Bobbie's Dairy Dip and had lunch at the Nashville Farmers' Market.

The teens will carry home some specific memories of the city and their visit.

Yuval was impressed that a large metropolitan area could have so many



The Partnership2Gether group from Israel took this selfie while enjoying some donuts at Krispy Kreme. From left: Nashville shlichah Liron Finkelstein, Omri Ya'acovi, chaperone Iris Nagler, Aviv Pardo, Ruth Moses, Yuval Mor, Erez Miller, Harriet Schifitan, planning and Partnership2Gether director for the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, and Nicole Borzin.

trees and parks. "It's the perfect combination of the city and nature," she said.

Nicole loved the baseball game but was not so impressed with the humidity.

Erez talked about the food – "We eat all the time," he said.

Omri was pleased to learn more about the United States – and that his English is better than he thought.

But when they gathered near the

end of their visit to talk about its biggest impact on them, many of their comments were about their interactions with the Nashville Jewish community – attending services at local synagogues, serving for a week as counselors at the Gordon Jewish Community Center's Camp Davis, the dinners at the homes of the McCormicks, Jacobsens, Liffs, Kossons and Steins – and getting to know the Nashville teens and

their families who hosted them throughout their stay.

"My host – I was surprised by how much he really loves Israel and wants to go there," said Aviv.

The Israeli teens also got to see what it's like to be part of a Jewish community where, unlike the situation in Israel, Jewish identity is not a given but rather must be continually created and reinforced.

"It's not like in Israel," said Aviv. "It's not something casual for you. You are having to think about this every day."

In that regard, Ruth said she was surprised that the Nashville teens she met seem so eager to attend religious school and synagogue.

"They love it. They really want to go," she said, adding that the dedication of her American counterparts has inspired her to attend synagogue more regularly when she returns to Israel.

Nicole, who said making American friends and being a good emissary for Israel was very important to her, was initially worried about whether she would be able to connect with her host family and others in the community.

"I was so scared," she said. "But they are just like us – with hobbies and interests just like ours."

One of those interests, of course, is Israel, and Nicole said the expressions of love and support for home country had a profound effect on her.

"Right now, I appreciate Israel so much. I miss it and can't wait to get back." •

## Chabad Hebrew School begins on Aug. 31

Chabad Hebrew School has opened registration for the coming school year.

Directed by Mrs. Esther Tiechtel, the 15-year-old school has earned a reputation as an innovative program in which students excel in their Hebrew reading, Jewish knowledge and pride in their heritage.

Chabad's Hebrew School is located at the Genesis Campus for Jewish Life and meets on Sunday mornings weekly. The school caters to students through age 13, with a special introductory Hebrew program for those ages 5-6.

The new academic year will begin on Sunday, August 30, with a special program introducing this year's theme of "Hakhel," – "Living Jewish as a community of One."

For Hebrew reading, Chabad Hebrew School uses the Aleph Champion Reading Program, which is based on the

martial arts motivational philosophy of color-coded levels and testing.

"Chabad Hebrew School emphasizes exploring the Jewish heritage is a creative and fun way, putting the FUN in FUNdamentals, with special focus on not only accumulating knowledge, but applying those lessons to our everyday life," said Mrs. Tiechtel. "Through art, drama, songs, contests and interactive activities, Judaism become real and alive to the students."

For more information or request registration forms, call (615) 646-5750 or email [chabdnashville@gmail.com](mailto:chabdnashville@gmail.com). •

To access the Community Calendar, go to [www.jewishnashville.org](http://www.jewishnashville.org) and click on "Calendar." Every community event is listed for your convenience.

Support Our Advertisers!  
Let them know you saw their ad in the Observer!

Advertise in The Observer  
Reach thousands of readers in the Nashville and Middle Tennessee area by taking advantage of this cost-effective way to reach a loyal repeat audience!  
Call Carrie Mills, Advertising Manager  
Phone 615-354-1699  
or e-mail [carrie@nashvillejcc.org](mailto:carrie@nashvillejcc.org)

Authentic  
**Noshville**  
New York Delicatessen

MAKE YOUR MOTHER HAPPY...  
EAT AND ENJOY!!!

**Dine-In, Carry Out & Catering**

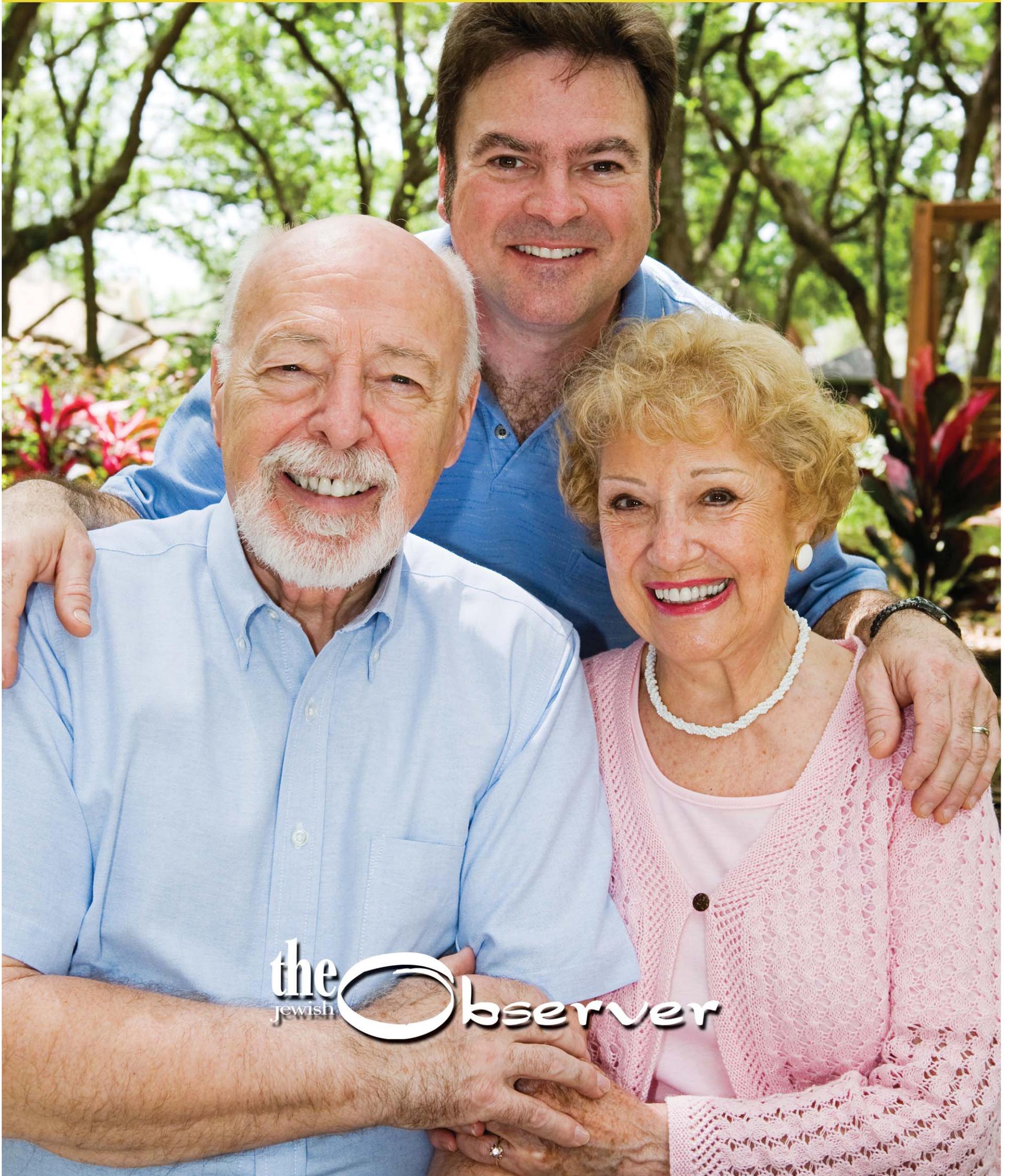
- 1st Place - Best Breakfast 2014
- Voted #1 Best Deli for 16 years by the readers of The Nashville Scene
- 2nd Place - Best Bloody Mary
- 2nd Place - Best Place to Dine Alone
- Best Kids Menu
- Writer's Choice: Best Chocolate Shake

• • • BREAKFAST ALL DAY

1918 Broadway • 615-329-NOSH (329-6674)  
4014 Hillsboro Circle • 615-269-3535  
Nashville Intl Airport [A|B Terminal] • 615-275-NOSH (275-6674)  
[www.noshville.com](http://www.noshville.com)

# All Things Seniors

AUGUST 2015



the **Observer**  
jewish

## Aging Resources 360: Experts providing a broad spectrum of services

Aging Resources 360 is a network of Nashville based professionals with expertise in the senior market. Members were strategically chosen for expertise in their fields of practice.

Elizabeth Moss, LPN, is the founder and president of Caregivers by Wholecare. Elizabeth is an expert in caregiving and care management.

Cindy Natsch, founder of Let's Get Moving and A Better Nest, is a relocation and downsizing specialist. Cindy is a certified aging-in-place specialist.

Daliah Suchet is a long term care specialist. She helps individuals understand long-term care insurance and explains how to customize plans to meet individual needs.

Margaret Smith, president and founder of Medical Accounts Management, Inc., is a health insurance consultant and advocate specializing in Medicare, individual health plans, and employer health plans.

Barbara Moss, founder of Elder Law of Nashville PLC, is an attorney practicing elder law and probate, focusing on the areas of incapacity planning, TennCare planning, crisis management, asset protection, conservatorship, estate planning and probate and trust administration.

Cindy Laverty, certified caregiver coach is the founder and CEO of The Care Company, LLC. Cindy is a nationally recognized caregiver expert, speaker and author.

Lauren Wagner, founder and principal of Secure Financial Services LLC, is a CPA practicing daily money management and specializing in providing clients with customized bill paying, budgeting, cash follow management, reporting and records management solutions.

Aging Resources 360's broad spectrum of services and collaborative approach uniquely positions the group to address the needs of Nashville's senior community. Members are available for educational seminars and to speak on aging related panel discussions.

## Elder Law Practice of Timothy L. Takacs: Helping the elderly face the challenges of aging, disability and illness

Aging, disability and chronic illness raise tough questions for families. Elder Law Practice of Timothy L. Takacs has the answers.

For more than 20 years, Elder Law Practice of Timothy L. Takacs has been helping families respond to the legal, financial, physical and personal challenges presented by long life, illness and disability. Founder Timothy L. Takacs, CELA, one of the most respected elder law attorneys in the nation, leads an interdisciplinary team of care coordinators and other professionals who work together to enhance the quality of life for

elders and those who love and care for them.

As a life care planning law firm, Elder Law Practice of Timothy L. Takacs offers a holistic solution for families struggling with the demands of an elderly loved one's care. Where traditional elder law firms focus on saving the elder's money for the next generation, our goal is to use the elder's money to maximize the elder's quality of life and independence.

Whether you are dealing with your own long-term illness or disability or that of a spouse or loved one, concerned about parents or other elderly relatives, or worried about the care of disabled dependents, Elder Law Practice of Timothy L. Takacs can help. Our skilled, experienced and compassionate professionals will empower you to protect your and your loved one's financial rights, legal rights, eligibility for public benefits, and quality of life—now and in the future.

Contact us at (615) 824-2571, info@tn-elderlaw.com or [www.tn-elderlaw.com](http://www.tn-elderlaw.com) to schedule a consultation.

## Woodcrest at Blakeford: Comprehensive rehab services

With easy access to Nashville, the Rehabilitation Center at Woodcrest at Blakeford offers comprehensive rehabilitation services designed with the goal of returning our patients to their previous level of functioning and wellness, as rapidly as possible.

Whether you're an outpatient or in need of a short-term stay at Woodcrest at Blakeford, you'll receive customized care from our compassionate and skilled therapy team. Its therapists and staff work closely with your physician to evaluate and monitor your progress while providing you the support and comfort you need to get back to your life.

From day one, patients experience the depth of knowledge of Woodcrest's therapists. Each patient, no matter the level of care needed, will benefit from:

- A highly-educated team
- Customized, aggressive treatment plans
- A more orthopedic approach to therapy
- A focus on higher levels of balance, strength, and skills training

For those requiring a short-term stay, Woodcrest provides a diverse set of features and amenities:

- Selection of private and semi-private rooms
- Social services for planning your discharge needs
- Registered and licensed practical nurses, available 24 hours a day
- On-site, board-certified nurse practitioner
- Counseling services
- A generous selection of meals planned by clinical dietitian
- Beauty salon and barber shop
- Engaging social activities

Continued on page 14

When I was hoping to change the world, the last thing I wanted to do was follow in my mother's footsteps

Now I'm wondering how I'll ever fill her shoes.

(615) 824-2571

Toll-Free:

(866) 222-3127

Family Website:

[www.tn-elderlaw.com](http://www.tn-elderlaw.com)



#eldercarerevolution



If you're a child of the 1960s, you may have watched your parents care for grandparents in your home. If you're hoping to provide the same kind of care to your parents but don't know how you will manage given the competing demands of work and family, help is available.

Elder Law Practice of Timothy L. Takacs offers a proactive new way to manage the care of aging loved ones. It's called a Life Care Plan. Protect family assets, get the best possible care and create a plan of action for the future.

Join the elder care revolution.



ELDER LAW PRACTICE OF TIMOTHY L. TAKACS  
Life Care Planning Firm

Life Care Planning | Elder Law  
Estate Planning | Care Coordination

# 360° AGING RESOURCES



**Cindy Laverty**  
Family Caregiver Coach  
Problem & Solution Solver  
thecareco.com  
615.599.1716



**Cindy J. Natsch**  
Downsizing and Relocation  
letsgetmoving.net  
615.599.6787



**Barbara Moss, J.D.**  
Elder Law of Nashville PLC  
"Super Lawyer," "Best of the Bar,"  
America's Best Lawyers®  
elderlawofnashville.com  
615.852.5602



**Margaret Smith**  
Medical Accounts Mgt, Inc.  
Health Plan (including Medicare)  
Consulting, Enrollment and Advocacy  
yesmam.com  
615.386.3356



**Dalih Suchet, CLTC**  
Long-term Care Insurance Specialist  
whitehallbenefits.com  
615.742.8767



**Elizabeth Moss, LPN**  
Caregivers by WholeCare  
"Engaged Caregivers"  
caregiversbywholecare.com  
615.298.9201



# WOODCREST AT BLAKEFORD

B

YOU HAVE A CHOICE

Located in the heart of Green Hills, the Rehabilitation Center at Woodcrest at Blakeford offers comprehensive services from our highly-skilled and compassionate therapy team. When you choose Woodcrest, you'll find the support and comfort you need to get back to your life.

**Short-Term Stay and Outpatient Options Available.**

**CALL 615-665-2217 TO SCHEDULE A PERSONAL TOUR  
OR VISIT BLAKEFORD.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.**



11 BURTON HILLS BOULEVARD, NASHVILLE, TN 37215



## Celebrating the Golden Age

Distinctive Residential Settings | Premier Programs for Health and Wellness  
Chef-Prepared Dining and Bistro | Award-Winning Memory Care  
Professionally Supervised Therapy and Rehabilitation Services

**Open for tours seven days a week — call today!**

**BELMONT Village**  
SENIOR LIVING  
GREEN HILLS

615.279.9100  
4206 Stammer Place  
Nashville, TN 37215

[greenhills.belmontvillage.com](http://greenhills.belmontvillage.com)

 ACLF License 59 © 2015 Belmont Village, L.P.



## THE HERITAGE *fits your* LIFESTYLE

The Heritage at Brentwood is expanding and we're proud to offer the best in senior living! Our expansion brings new amenities including a pool, wellness center and additional residences.

If you're looking to enhance your lifestyle right now, our current inventory offers immediate access to maintenance-free living, your choice of move-in-ready residences and the security of a full continuum of care.

Call **615.200.9002** today  
to give you and your family a  
solid plan for the future.



[www.TheHeritageLCS.com](http://www.TheHeritageLCS.com)

900 Heritage Way | Brentwood, Tennessee 37027



Call for your free Heirloom "Put It In Writing" Calendar

### Family Staffing Solutions, Inc. Stay Independent, At Home, In Charge®

- ♥ Personal Care Assistance At Its Best
- ♥ Bonded & Insured, State Licensed
- ♥ Celebrating 15 Years of Excellence

**Thinking about your parents...We can be there when you cannot.**

|   |   |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| 109 Holiday Court<br>Franklin, TN 37067<br>615-472-1563 | 208 Uptown Square<br>Murfreesboro, TN 37129<br>615-848-6774 | 2000 Richard Jones Road<br>Nashville, TN 37215<br>615-383-5656 | 119 McGrew Street<br>Shelbyville, TN 37160<br>931-680-2771 | 309 N. Jackson Street<br>Tullahoma, TN 37388<br>931-222-4080 |
|---|---|--|--|--|

[www.familystaffing.com](http://www.familystaffing.com)

Continued from page 12

- Complimentary wireless internet
- Laundry and housekeeping services

The results speak for themselves. Woodcrest at Blakeford is consistently above national average for functional gains. For more information, call (615) 665-2217, email [rehab@blakeford.com](mailto:rehab@blakeford.com), or visit [www.blakeford.com](http://www.blakeford.com).

## Shalom Taxi: Helping seniors get around town

Shalom Taxi is a program funded by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee to that provides personalized taxi service for seniors. Anyone who is at least 62 years old and a member of either the Jewish community or the Gordon Jewish Community Center is eligible.

After registering for the program, seniors can purchase vouchers of \$5, each of which is good for a ride of up to 10 miles or one hours of service within a 10 mile radius. All you have to do is call certified Metropolitan Transit Authority driver Micahel Kaiser, who had delivered many happy customers to their destinations. (Extra riders cost \$1 if they are going to the same destination as the voucher rider. Shalom Taxi does not include airport trips.)

For information about how to enroll in the program and purchase vouchers, call Carrie Mills at (615) 354-1699 or email her at [carrie@jewishnashville.org](mailto:carrie@jewishnashville.org).



### New and Improved Shalom Taxi! We've made it easier for you to use!

Monday - Saturday • NEW certified MTA access driver!  
Extra riders going to the same destination will not need a voucher and will only pay \$1 per extra rider.  
Six riders maximum per same destination.



Funded by  
Jewish Federation  
& Jewish Foundation  
OF NASHVILLE AND MIDDLE TENNESSEE



To purchase \$5 vouchers  
contact Carrie Mills at the  
Gordon Jewish Community Center  
at 615-354-1680 or email:  
[carrie@nashvillejcc.org](mailto:carrie@nashvillejcc.org)

## Nurse Next Door: Personal experience drives demand for exceptional support and care

The largest segment of the population, the “Baby Boomers,” is fueling the demand for quality in-home health care and support. In order to meet this demand, Congregation Micah member and local resident Greg Salkind has opened a Nurse Next Door location in Middle Tennessee.

Greg was fortunate enough to have all four of his grandparents be an integral part of his life until the passing of his Papa Marty. Afterwards, Greg’s family determined that Marion, Marty’s wife and Greg’s grandmother, could not adequately take care of herself due to the loss of her eyesight as a result of macular degeneration.

The family faced the frustrating and difficult task of finding a caregiver who not only genuinely cared about providing the highest level of support and care for Marion but also was willing to go above and beyond the call of duty. It was this frustration and unwillingness to compromise the quality of care that his grandmother should receive that motivated Greg to open a Nurse Next Door office in Franklin.

Nurse Next Door provides exceptional support and care through their network of licensed, bonded and insured caregivers to deliver the highest level of assistance with any and all activities of daily living. Additionally, Nurse Next Door also focuses on incorporating key elements into the care plan to afford our clients increased happiness and helping them get back to doing the things they once loved to do.

## Abe’s Garden: Alzheimer’s Center of Excellence opening this month

Abe’s Garden is the first memory care campus founded with the goal of establishing a national model of residential and day/evening care programs for those suffering from Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.

When it opens this month, Abe’s Garden will be employing an evidence-based approach to providing person-centered care. In addition to providing an unprecedented level of care and setting a new standard for other memory care programs and communities, Abe’s Garden will be a site for research and teaching.

Abe’s Garden is developing best practices for dementia care through its committed collaboration with Vanderbilt Center for Quality Aging. This partnership will allow Vanderbilt to develop a joint research program targeting improvement in the quality of care provided to residents. A hallmark of the collaboration is the Vanderbilt University Abram C. Shmerling, M.D. Chair in Alzheimer’s Disease and Geriatric Medicine established by three Abe’s Garden benefactors.

Other areas of differentiation are ongoing staff training, person-centered care which meets the evolving preferences and capabilities of each individual, evidence-

## Alzheimer’s and Dementia:

### Unveiling Best Practices and Answering Tough Questions

Photo by Raeanne Rubenstein



 **Abe’s Garden**  
Alzheimer’s and Memory Care Center of Excellence

**OPENING THIS MONTH!**



@abesgarden

Abe’s Garden is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



## Join Us

Wednesday, August 5 | 4:30 p.m.

Presented by a panel of memory care professionals, this on-site program will provide a preview of life at Abe’s Garden®.

Tours of our new community will follow.

This **FREE** program will be held at  
**Abe’s Garden**  
115 Woodmont Blvd. | Nashville

Seating is limited – RSVP today!

**615.239.6530 | [AbesGardenEvents.org](http://AbesGardenEvents.org)**

based architectural, interior, landscape and furniture design, and family interaction which is supported by technology and education and guided by a full-time, licensed social worker.

Abe's Garden features 38 private suites and two shared suites, and a day/evening program opening later this year. It is located on Woodmont Boulevard in Nashville. For more information, visit [www.abesgarden.org](http://www.abesgarden.org).

## Jewish Family Service: Aiding senior adults in all areas of life

Jewish Family Service provides many programs to aid senior adults in the community. **Helping Hands**, for instance, serves Jewish senior adults who live alone or in assisted/nursing communities. The program utilizes volunteers to provide services, which may include friendly visits, telephone reassurance, holiday gift baskets, Shabbat services at local assisted living facilities and a Passover seder for seniors.

The **Jacob's Ladder** program pairs volunteers with seniors who might need assistance replacing the batteries in their smoke detectors, changing light bulbs and setting clocks that are unreachable without a ladder. Dates for this year are October 2 or October 4.

Continued on page 16

## Do you have a couple of hours per month to spare?

Jewish Family Service offers 2 ways to perform a mitzvah and help Jewish senior adults in our community stay healthy, independent, and connected!



### Friendly Visiting:

The JFS Helping Hands Program supports senior adults in the Nashville Jewish community by matching them with trained volunteers for one-on-one friendly visiting.

### Shabbat Services:

The JFS Helping Hands Program trains volunteers to lead Shabbat services at area assisted living communities. This activity is great for families or volunteers of all ages.

If you'd like to learn more about volunteering, **or if you are a senior who would like to be matched with a volunteer**, please call ANNA SIR, JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE, 615-354-1686, [helpinghands@jfsnashville.org](mailto:helpinghands@jfsnashville.org)



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE



THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE. THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

## AGING IN PLACE TRANSITION SERVICES

Redefining Living Solutions for Aging

- Aging in Place Design and Planning Services
- Move Management and Relocation Assistance
  - Downsizing, Packing and Sorting Services
  - Estate Sale and Donation Coordination
  - After the Move Support

[www.aginginplaceservices.net](http://www.aginginplaceservices.net)

615.330.9918 | Sara Beth Wame | [sbwame@aginginplaceservices.net](mailto:sbwame@aginginplaceservices.net)

You know those things you used to love doing? Let's do them!

Nurse Next Door offers two Pillars of Caring to help you determine the support you need:

### ♥ Taking Care

Attentive visits, delicious meals and light housekeeping.

### ♥♥ Enriched Care

Medication management and support with life's essentials.

Our licensed, bonded and insured caregivers will get you back to doing the things you love.

Locally owned and operated by Congregation Micah member and mensch Greg Salkind



**Nurse Next Door™**  
home care services

[www.nursenextdoor.com](http://www.nursenextdoor.com) | making lives better®

Call today to book your **FREE** Caring Consult

**615.614.1544**

and get **\$25 off your first visit!**

## If you are a senior adult in the Nashville Jewish community and need assistance with replacing the batteries in your smoke detectors or replacing light bulbs, Jewish Family Service can help!

Did you know that adults over the age of 65 are two times more likely to be injured in a house fire?

### JACOBS LADDER

A program of Jewish Family Service

We have volunteers ready to help you on one of two days:

**Friday, October 2 (between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm)**

OR

**Sunday, October 4 (between noon – 4:00 pm)**

**Call Anna Sir at (615) 354-1686 to schedule your appointment.**

Also call Anna if you are a VOLUNTEER looking to help on those days!



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE



Jewish Federation & Jewish Foundation  
OF NASHVILLE AND MIDDLE TENNESSEE

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.  
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

Continued from page 15

JFS also provides information and referral services in which social workers help individuals identify services that are available in the community. Social workers may facilitate the access to these services when necessary. The most common request for seniors is evaluating different living options – aging in place, independent/assisted living.

The JFS caregiver support group meets on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at noon. Musical Helping Hands matches trained professional musicians with people living with Alzheimer's or others with dementia for one-on-one visits in homes, assisted living communities or nursing homes. Our Low-vision Aid Program, in partnership with B'nai Brith, serves seniors who find it difficult to engage in basic daily activities such as cooking, locating appropriate clothing, continuing hobbies, or reading the newspaper due to vision difficulties.

We also provide counseling -- professional assessment and treatment for individuals, couples, families, and groups of all ages. A sliding fee scale is available for those unable to pay full fee, ensuring access to mental health for all.

And finally our Senior Directory is a comprehensive, large-print directory of all programs, services and activities available to the Jewish Senior community. Printed copies of the directory may be found at the Gordon Jewish Community Center, synagogues and online at <http://jfsnashville.org/senior-directory/>. To learn more about any of the programs listed, please call JFS at (615) 356-4234.

## The Heritage at Brentwood: Flexibility, amenities and independence in a beautiful setting

At The Heritage at Brentwood, you can savor the privacy of living in your own beautiful residence, while indulging in a vast array of services and amenities. The Heritage offers 17 different floor plans, including apartment-style residences, spacious villas and garden villas—exclusive to the area—on a meticulously planned 48-acre campus with views of rolling countryside and rich woodlands. In addition to your private residence at The Heritage, you can enjoy a fresh approach to senior living filled with choice, flexibility and independence.

One of the distinct advantages of living at The Heritage is the ability to deliver a full continuum of quality, long-term health services within the comfort of a familiar setting. For health care at The Heritage, you'll experience a significant savings when compared to other types of senior living communities or health care options. That's the LifeCare® advantage.

A good value is important and The Heritage at Brentwood feels the same way. Value extends beyond just price into a happier, healthier lifestyle. The Heritage provides maintenance-free living, so you no longer have to worry about the upkeep of your home and everything else that comes with it. Add to it LifeCare®, and you and your family gain peace of mind, security for the future and you have more time to enjoy life.

Call 615.507.2686 or visit [www.TheHeritageLCS.com](http://www.TheHeritageLCS.com).

# Rosh Hashanah is Coming!

A NEW YEAR!

Your Ad/Greeting will reach the entire Jewish Community! Be sure to be a part of this special annual issue.

**Publication date is September 2015**

**Deadline for ads is August 15, 2015**

Contact:

Carrie Mills, Advertising Manager

615-354-1699

e-mail: [carrie@nashvillejcc.org](mailto:carrie@nashvillejcc.org)

fax 615-352-0056



the Jewish Observer

Advertise In

the Jewish Observer

## Entertainment & Dining Out Issue October 2015

Reach the Entire Jewish Community of Middle Tennessee

We know that you will want to be included in this issue. Advertisers who contract an 1/8 page ad or larger can contact us for inclusion in articles pertaining to your business.

**Publication Date: October 1, 2015**

**Ad Deadline: September 15, 2015**

**Contact  
Carrie Mills  
615.354.1699  
or e-mail  
[carrie@nashvillejcc.org](mailto:carrie@nashvillejcc.org)**

# the Jewish Observer

has been bringing our community the latest Jewish news and features from Nashville and beyond for more than 70 years.

With all the talk about failing newspapers, we want to assure you, once again, that we plan to be appearing in your mailboxes on a regular basis. In addition, we now are online at [www.nashvillejewishobserver.org](http://www.nashvillejewishobserver.org), in an easy-to-read format. But, as with most things, our costs are rising, especially for printing and mailing. We continue to look for ways to reduce our expenditures in whatever way we can.

## BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Now, more than ever, our annual OBSERVER PATRON CAMPAIGN could spell the difference between an 8-page paper or a 12-16-page paper; between only black and white photos or color photos; between no national or international/Israel features or ample coverage of the issues that affect our Jewish community, here and abroad.

The Observer brings you Lifecycles, information about all of our congregations and organizations, about community programs, interesting people and events. This is not available anywhere else in Middle Tennessee, because it is OUR community newspaper.

## PLEASE HELP US KEEP ALL THE NEWS FLOWING TO YOU.

You can make a tax deductible donation to the Observer Patron Campaign.

There are several categories:

- Publisher for \$150
- Editor for \$100
- Reporter for \$50
- Actual cost for \$25

Please send your donation to:

The Observer  
801 Percy Warner Blvd.  
Nashville, TN 37205

THANK YOU!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR MANY MORE YEARS

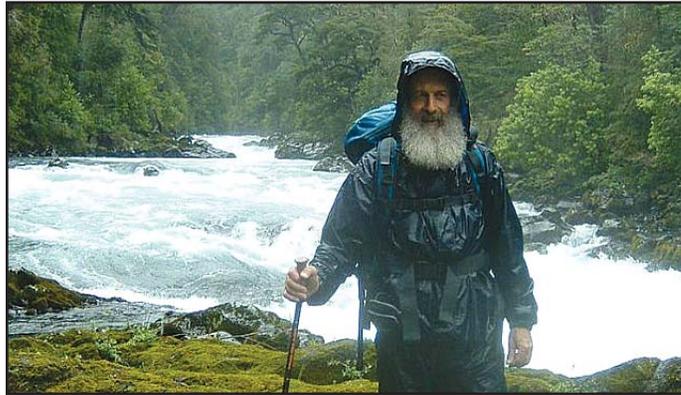
# When an Israeli is lost or in trouble, families often turn to the “national rescuer”

By **ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN**  
Israeli 21c

Soon after the 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit Nepal on April 25, phone calls, text messages and emails began pouring into Magnus International Search & Rescue headquarters in Ramat Gan. Hundreds of SOS messages arrived from the personal locator beacons (PLBs) that many Israeli trekkers in Nepal had with them as part of a travel-insurance package from Magnus.

By that night, five rescuers were on their way to evacuate the stranded and the injured on behalf of worried parents and the five Israeli insurance companies partnered with Magnus. Six more rescuers joined them in the week that followed, during which they reached dozens of victims by foot, jeep, bus – even helicopter.

It was the only mission in which founder Yechiel “Hilik” Magnus did not participate since founding the company with his wife in 1994. Unwilling to leave his terminally ill mother, he coordinated the operation from afar and stayed in touch with travelers via the battery-operated PLBs, which were often the only working form of communication after the earthquake, he said in an interview from his home in Dekel, south of the Gaza Strip. SMS messages revealed that most trekkers were safe but marooned due to weather and road conditions.



Hilik Magnus on a search-and-rescue mission in Huilo-Huilo, Chile.

“We immediately sent a group of very experienced people — no doubt the most experienced in the world because they’ve done missions all around the world for the last 22 years. You can’t find another group with a record like this,” said the white-bearded Magnus, widely referred to as Israel’s “national rescuer.”

### Lost, drugged-out, kidnapped

The mass disaster in Nepal was unusual for Magnus. The company usually responds to individual crises in Europe, Southeast Asia and South America — lost hikers, mountain-climbers and rafters; travelers in trouble with the law or tripped out on unfamiliar narcotic substances; hostages and kidnapping victims.

Thinking back over many dangerous operations in the past 22 years, Magnus says perhaps the most extreme was in Alto Mayo, Peru, where he and his team

navigated a steep wall of ice to find a man missing after an avalanche.

Or perhaps it was the mission to find an Israeli snowboarder four years ago at an Alpine ski resort on the Swiss-Italian border. Search-and-rescue teams from the two countries had given up due to blinding snowstorms, and initially refused to cooperate with Magnus personnel.

“We got an experienced snowboarder, equipped him with a GoPro camera and put him in the direction we thought the guy was going,” Magnus relates.

When the scout returned with evidence of where to find the climber, the skeptical Swiss and Italians reluctantly accompanied the Magnus team up the cliff and recovered the body of the Israeli victim within minutes.

“Now they’ve become groupies of us,” Magnus says with a chuckle. “They asked us to arrange a small course to explain how we work.”

### Only one fail

Magnus International Search & Rescue is an internationally known address for people to turn when hunting for loved ones.

“People call from all over for my help. Every day there is another story,” says Magnus. “Most of the people who contact me are afraid because their trav-



Magnus (far left) coordinating a rescue in the Italian Alps.

eling child is not calling or responding to messages. Mostly there are happy endings.”

But not always. Among hundreds of other missions, Magnus and his team were involved in searching for Austrian couple Katharina Koller and Peter Kirsten Rabitsch, who were kidnapped and murdered in 2006 while traveling in Bolivia; and German tourist Jonathan Simon, who drowned in Ecuador’s Pastaza River in 2011.

Finding missing people, whether alive or not, is a mark of success.

“During the last 22 years, we have had only one failure,” says Magnus. “We looked for a missing boy in Manali, in the north of India, and couldn’t find him. For every other job we found solutions.”

Magnus was born in 1949 in Sweden and moved to Israel with his family at the age of one. He served in a special-operations battalion in three wars and remained a reserve officer for 20 years, also serving in intelligence. After the army, he worked for the Israel Nature and Parks Authority as director of nature conservation in the southern region and Sinai Desert.

In the mid-1980s, Magnus became involved in Israeli-Japanese cultural and tourism projects and soon was advising Israeli backpackers headed for the Far East. His first rescue operations were voluntary, using out-of-pocket funds. In 1994, he and his wife, Esti, established their business and began working with insurance companies to offer travelers full search-and-rescue coverage.

“My only motivation is to help people. I do it because I know how,” Magnus says. “It’s a very hard, frustrating job. But when someone approaches me and I know I can help, I cannot resist.” •

## Pool Work Underway at GJCC



Workers create a dusty haze as they jackhammer the plaster lining of the Gordon Jewish Community Center’s indoor pool, which undergoing an eight-week, \$200,000 renovation that will transform it literally from top to bottom. Aside from putting in a new lining, workers will replace the old tile surface on the deck with a non-slip surface, sandblast and repaint the ceiling metal work and install a new heating and ventilation system. “The renovation will be amazing and help us keep a competitive edge and the results will be noticeable to members and the community,” said GJCC Executive Director Leslie Sax. The GJCC is planning an open house in October to showcase the new pool.

**NASHVILLE MUSIC GEAR**  
- AN ONLINE MUSIC BOUTIQUE -  
Specializing in new, used & refurbished instruments, gear, accessories, apparel & rentals  
We Deliver!  
**NashvilleMusicGear.com**  
Michael Simon  
michael@nashvillemusicgear.com  
615.457.1063 • cell: 615.943.8441

### Crossword solution

|    |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| J  | A | V | A | L | I | T  | H | E | K | N | I | Sh |    |
| E  | L | I | S | I | D | E  | A | L | G | I | R | T  |    |
| W  | A | D | S | S | E | D  | R | A | B | N | A | I  |    |
| I  | R | E | O | T | S | E  | T | S | E | N | C |    |    |
| Sh | M | O | O | Z | E | Sh | M | E | N | D | R | I  | K  |
|    |   |   |   | P | E | N  | A | L | D | I | E |    |    |
| P  | A | R | T | N | E | R  | E | D | P | S | A | L  | M  |
| T  | I | K | I | R | A | M  | A | T | I | V | E | S  |    |
| A  | R | O | M | A | M | I  | R | R | O | R | I | N  | G  |
|    |   |   |   | U | L | T  | E | N | A | T | E |    |    |
| Sh | L | A | M | A | Z | E  | L | Y | I | D | D | I  | Sh |
| T  | E | L | S | I | D | I  | F | S | A | L | P |    |    |
| A  | G | A | G | V | I | M  | R | U | B | N | E | I  |    |
| R  | A | N | I | O | C | T  | A | L | A | C | N | E  |    |
| K  | L | A | L | S | T | A  | N | S | R | E | E | L  |    |



**Bar/Bat Mitzvah DJ's**  
615-824-4881  
www.SpanglerEntertainment.com

See what's happening in the community. Go to [www.jewishnashville.org](http://www.jewishnashville.org)

## Federation statement on agreement with Iran

In the wake of the announcement of an agreement with Iran regarding the lifting of sanctions in return for curtailment of its nuclear program, the following statement has been issued by Carol Hyatt, president of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, and Federation Executive Director Mark S. Freedman.

“After years of difficult negotiations, today we find an agreement has been struck that falls far short of the original intent, which was to dismantle Iran's nuclear infrastructure so it would have no path to a nuclear weapon.

“While we remain hopeful that these diplomatic efforts will prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons and while we recognize the hard work President Obama, Secretary of State

John Kerry and Under Secretary of State Wendy Sherman have put into crafting this agreement, a long and treacherous road remains to be traveled to ensure that Iran's nuclear weapons quest will be blocked for decades, not just for five, eight or ten years.

“President Obama and his administration have repeatedly said that any deal with Iran must shut down Iran's uranium enrichment pathway to a weapon, cut off all of Iran's potential pathways to a bomb, and track Iran's nuclear activities with unprecedented transparency and robust inspections throughout its nuclear supply chain. We agree. We also believe that phased sanctions relief should commence only after Iran complies with all of its commitments under the new accord including calling on Iran to account for all of its past weaponization efforts.

“We remain concerned and deeply

troubled by Iran's support for Hezbollah, for its propping up of the despotic regime in Syria, for its support of Houthi rebels in Yemen, for its tacit backing of Hamas, and for its human rights violations and its aggressive threats toward neighboring countries – including Israel. All of this and more makes the specter of a nuclear-armed Iran untenable. As long as Iran continues to call for Israel's destruction, we must treat Iran as the dangerous pariah state it has time and again proven

itself to be.

“We urge members of Congress to give this accord the utmost scrutiny and if they have any doubt at all about Iran's ability to meet every single obligation specified in the agreement, including unfettered and unimpeded access to suspect nuclear sites, then we believe Congress should consider rejecting this agreement and endeavor to keep sanctions in place that brought Iran to the negotiating table in the first place.” •

### Submission Policy

The Observer accepts original opinion pieces and letters from Nashville area residents on topics of interest to the Jewish community as long as they have not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere. Submissions should be sent by the 15th of the month prior to publication to Editor Charles Bernsen at charles@jewishnashville.org or 801 Percy Warner, Suite 102, Nashville 37205. The Observer reserves the right edit all submissions for clarity, length and style.

Let Beaman's four dealership locations, offering nine brands, find you the "New" or "Pre-Owned" vehicle of your choice.



**Peter Katseff**  
**(615) 708-5469**

[pkatseff@beamanauto.dealercrm.com](mailto:pkatseff@beamanauto.dealercrm.com)

Peter specializes in "New" Toyota vehicles as well as a wide range of makes and models of "Pre-Owned" vehicles

**BEAMAN**  
**TOYOTA - SCION**

TOYOTA, SCION, BUICK, GMC TRUCKS, FORD, DODGE, RAM TRUCKS, CHRYSLER, JEEP, LEASING, USED CARS

1525 Broadway • Nashville, Tennessee 37203 • [www.beamanauto.com](http://www.beamanauto.com)

5th Annual  
Rosh Bash  
2015 | 5776

The premier New Year's Eve event for young adults.

**THE HARDING HOUSE**  
**AT BELLE MEADE PLANTATION**

5025 HARDING PIKE | NASHVILLE, TN | 37205

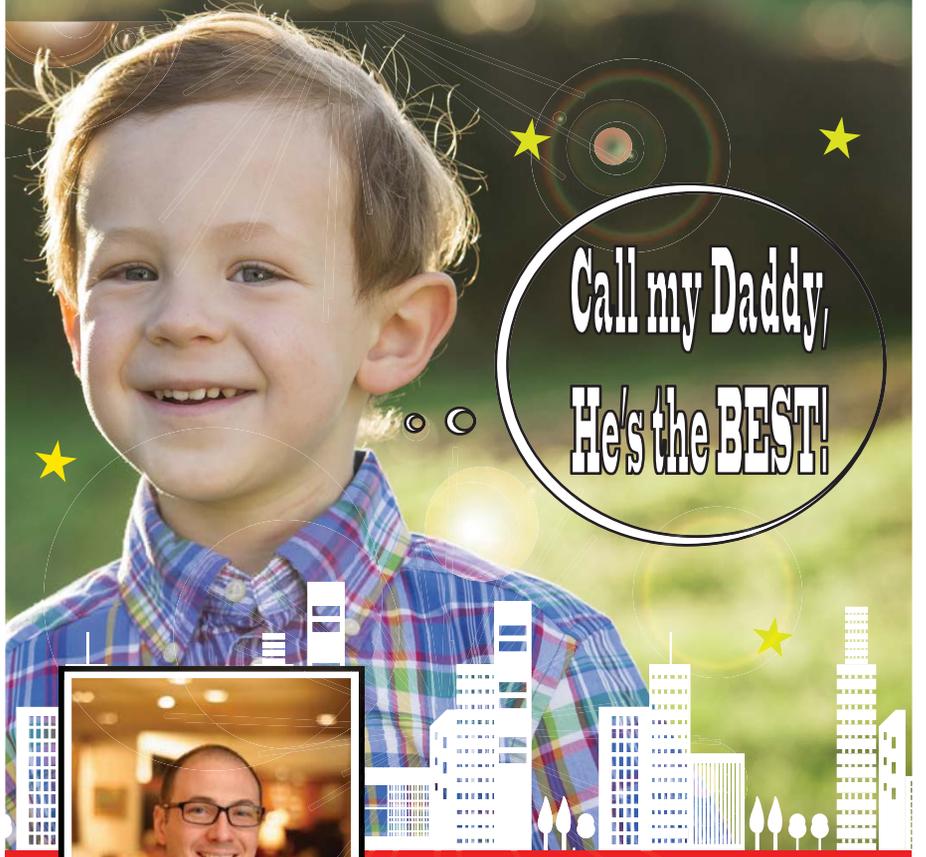
**Saturday, September 12th, 2015**  
**9pm-12am**

Tickets: \$20 (includes free drink ticket)  
Get yours now at [nowgennashville.org](http://nowgennashville.org)!

Sponsored by:



★ Buying, Selling, or Investing  
Residential Real Estate is What I do! ★



email: [fpargh@me.com](mailto:fpargh@me.com)

**FRANKLIN PARGH**  
REALTOR

Cell: 615-351-7333  
Office: 615-371-2424  
Fax: 615-371-2429

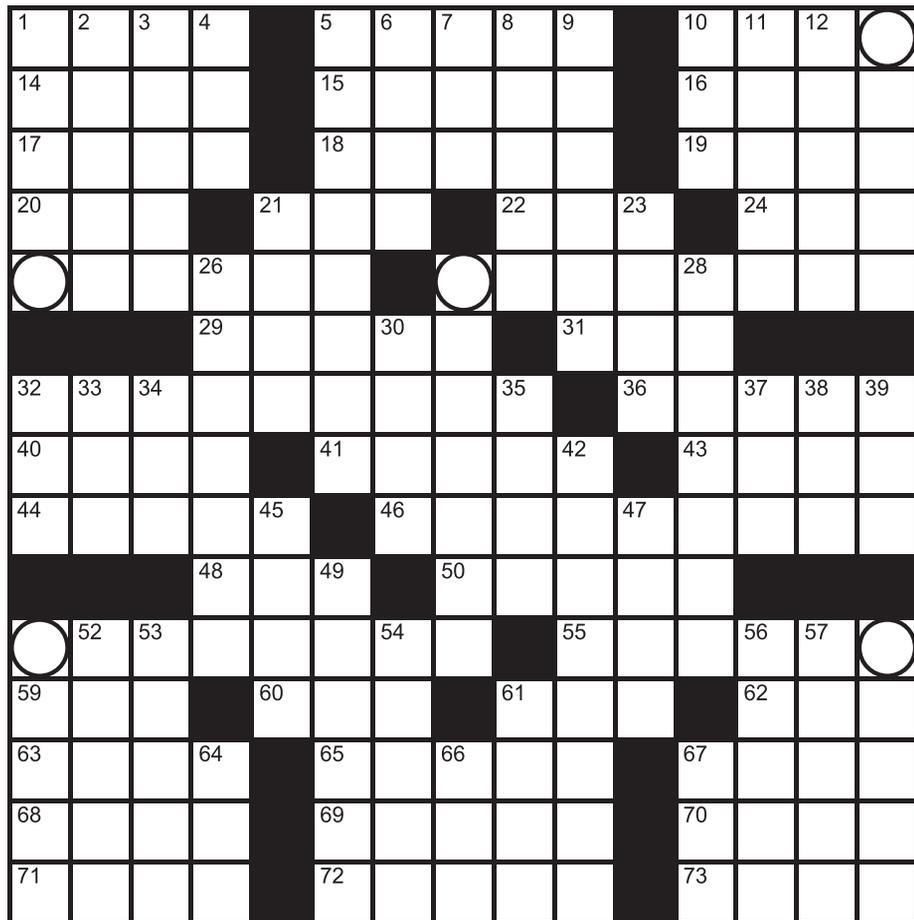
[franklinpargh.com](http://franklinpargh.com)



1585 Mallory Lane  
Suite 103  
Brentwood, TN 37027

# "A Moment of Silence" By Yoni Glatt

Editor: DavidBenkof@gmail.com • Difficulty Level: Challenging • Solution on page 18



## Across

1. \_\_\_ Chip Frappuccino (option at Howard Schultz's chain)
5. Like Natalie Portman in "Black Swan"
10. Deli staple
14. Roth and Wallach
15. Like a day when "chatzot" is noon, Talmudically
16. At first, David did it with his sword before deciding to use pebbles against Goliath instead
17. Oodles of shekels
18. Parsha
19. \_\_\_ Yisrael
20. Location of the Limerick Boycott of the Jews: Abbr.
21. Moments of pressure for Abe Saperstein's team
22. Some Abrams extras
24. Abbr. in a bar mitzvah invite
25. Have a chat
27. Yutz
29. Dreyfus was sent to Devil's Island, which was this kind of colony
31. "To \_\_\_ For", 1995 Phoenix film
32. \_\_\_ up, as Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield did in Vermont in 1978
36. One of many works attributed to David
40. Word that appears three times in the title of a Sherman Brothers song written for Disneyland
41. It comes before Gan?
43. Burl who co-starred with Newman in "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof"
44. Coffee chain with 125 Israeli branches
46. "\_\_\_ Evil: Nazi Imagery/Recent Art" (Jewish Museum exhibition)
48. Like Deuteronomy, verse 24:15, for the Torah: Abbr.
50. Like traditional Jewish descent
51. Word before "Hasenpfeffer Incorporated!" on TV
55. Source of many theme answers in this puzzle
59. Israel's Megiddo
60. Caesar known for his strength (and humor)
61. Ketubah conditions
62. Mount in a Hammerstein musical
63. Ancestor of Haman killed by Samuel
65. "And let us say..."
67. \_\_\_ Brak

68. Florida philanthropist Garfinkle
69. Involving a Chanukah number
70. Skin woe for Adam Levine, once
71. \_\_\_ Yisrael
72. Whence some refuseniks
73. Holder of Spielberg work

## Down

1. 55-Across translated
2. Air raid siren, e.g.
3. Alex Clare's "War Rages On," e.g.
4. Where Samson's jawbone came from
5. Follower of Israel's Galei Tzahal
6. March's was on Purim in 2014
7. \_\_\_ Talks (what ELI Talks are modeled after)
8. Ahasuerus had one
9. In Heaven
10. Asian version of Mossad
11. Two-time Super Bowl champ John Frank, once, for short
12. One from Shushan, now (Var.)
13. Routine
21. Ayin alternative
23. Upsherin sound
26. First class on El Al, e.g.
27. Bungler
28. Coveted
30. Much of Syria, biblically
32. A Schechter might have one: Abbr.
33. In 2015, JTS sold this kind of rights to its campus
34. Sarnoff's studio
35. "Too \_\_\_ Hot" (number in a musical with a book by the Spewacks)
37. Marvelous Arad?
38. Sportscaster Berman
39. Site of a 1933 anti-Hitler rally: Abbr.
42. Cafeteria latke measures
45. "\_\_\_ O Lord God! Behold, I know not to speak for I am a youth" (Jerem. 1:6)
47. Sidekick in Donner's "Superman"
49. \_\_\_ Hashem, youth group
51. Strong
52. Regarding one of 613
53. Haim sister
54. Spain's 1492 Alhambra Decree, for example
56. Abdul art
57. Graff of "Mr. Belvedere"
58. Spoof
61. "If \_\_\_ the World- The Life of Lyn P. Meyerhoff" by Karen Folk
64. Marks of a kosher cookbook?
66. Org. with its own "Jewish lost and found"
67. Start of a celebration

## Classified Ads

### FOR RENT

2 Bdrm 2 Bath Spacious Second Floor Condo Flat, Westfield/Bellevue; Range, Refrigerator, Dishwasher, Washer & Dryer, Fireplace. All amenities; pool, tennis, sauna, gym. \$1250 per month water included. Francine (615) 293-5200

ADVERTISE TODAY  
e-mail Carrie Mills  
carrie@nashvillejcc.org

See what's happening in the community.  
Go to [www.jewishnashville.org](http://www.jewishnashville.org)

# BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

YOUR GUIDE TO FINE BUSINESSES  
AND SERVICES AROUND MUSIC CITY.  
PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS,  
THEY'RE THE BEST!

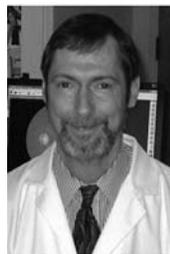
615.356.3242 EXT. 299



Green Hills

**LISA SPILLER-BLAUSTONE**  
Director of Sales and Marketing

2324 Crestmoor Road, Nashville, TN 37215  
(615) 777-0001 • fax (615) 986-5200  
email: lspillerhisgh@aol.com  
[www.hamptoninn.com/hi/nash-greenhills](http://www.hamptoninn.com/hi/nash-greenhills)  
A Rochford Hotel Group Property



### Bellevue Eyecare Center

Dr. James W. Kirkconnell & Assoc.

Treatment of Eye Disease  
Eye Exams • Contacts • Eyeglasses  
Dry Eye & Allergy Clinic  
Free Lasik Consultations

Baptist Bellevue Medical Center  
7640 Hwy 70S Nashville, TN 37221 (615) 662-7588



A DIAMOND IS FOREVER,  
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE YOUR PRONGS CHECKED

Belle Meade Plaza  
4548 Harding Pike  
615-269-3288

Jewelry & Watch Repair Specialists

[www.bellemeadejewelry.com](http://www.bellemeadejewelry.com)

## B'nai Mitzvah

Noah Jacobs will be called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 8 at Congregation Micah. Noah is the son of Larry Johnson and Laura Jacobs, and the brother of Bray Jacobs, all of Bowling Green, KY, and the grandson of Mike and Gail Jacobs of Chapel Hill, NC, Harlis and PJ Johnson of Brentwood, TN, and the late Joyce Johnson.



Noah Jacobs

Noah is an 8th grader at Drakes Creek Middle School in Bowling Green. He is a straight-A student who has a passion for science, especially space. Noah is a member of the Drakes Creek Academic and Math Counts teams. Outside of school, he actively participates in Kung Fu, in which he holds a purple belt, and Boy Scouts, in which he has earned a First Class rank. In his spare time, he enjoys playing video games, reading, and building with LEGOs. His favorite book is the Lord of the Rings. He hopes to be an astrophysicist when he grows up.

For his *mitzvah* project, Noah is putting his love of computers to good use by building a website for his local synagogue, Congregation Am Shalom in Bowling Green.

Andrew Kiepek will be called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 15 at Congregation Micah. Andrew is the son of Jonathan and Wendy Kiepek, the brother of Kimberly, and grandson of David and Phyllis Anchel of Jacksonville, FL and Donna Novelli of New Port Rickey, FL.



Andrew Kiepek

Andrew is an 8th grader at Woodland Middle School in Brentwood. He is an avid trumpet player and played in the Gold Band for the Middle Tennessee State Band and Orchestra Association. Andrew excels academically and was selected to participate in the Duke Talent search program. In his spare time, Andrew loves snorkeling, kayaking, hiking, mountain biking, camping and spending time outdoors.

For his *mitzvah* project, Andrew worked with Heifer International to raise money through different fundraising events. Enough money was raised to purchase a cow in Africa. Andrew is also a volunteer for the Second Harvest Food Bank, Nashville Rescue Mission and at Radnor Lake.

Eli Kirith will be called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 22, at Congregation Micah. Eli is the son of Leslie Kirby and Craig Smith and the brother of Samara Kirith and Aaron Novick. His grandparents are David and Linda Kirby of Richmond, KY, and George and Edith Smith, of blessed memory, formerly of Hanover, MA.



Eli Kirith

Eli will be an 8th grader at Martin Luther King Academic Magnet School, where he is a member of Destination Imagination. Last year his Destination

Imagination team, in their first year of competition, made it to the state finals. Eli wants to be an architect and is looking forward to the engineering program at MLK.

Eli is a creative, adventurous soul, with an amazing sense of humor. He almost always has a smile on his face, and is often able to bring out the comedic angle, even of stressful events. Eli has a black belt in karate and has been studying guitar for the past two years. He enjoys playing with and caring for his two new pet cats, and looks forward to adding a puppy to the mix ASAP. He also loves reading, a variety of sports, and an endless array of video games.

For his *mitzvah* project, Eli is doing 13 good deeds, including recognizing a child killed during the Holocaust as a part of the Remember Us program and sending care packages to IDF soldiers. The combined focus of all 13 good deeds is to help make the world a more just, caring and compassionate place.

Sarah Jacobs will be called to the Torah as a *bat mitzvah* at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 29 at The Temple.



Sarah Jacobs

Sarah was born on Aug. 29, 2002 in Chicago, IL. Her parents are Erica and Billy Jacobs. Her grandparents are Dr. Kenneth and Ellen Jacobs of Nashville, Sheila Wiselman of Chicago, IL and Mitchell Weinstein of Rockland County, NY.

Sarah is in the 7th grade at University School of Nashville. Her interests include art, soccer and spending time with family and friends.

For her *mitzvah* project, Sarah volunteered at The Red Wagon Project for Monroe Carell, Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt University.

## Mazel Tov

... to **Gina Klein Jorasch** for being named the Harpeth Hall Distinguished Alumna of 2015 for her remarkable career in the predominantly male world of high tech. A founder or early executive of five successful start-up businesses, including one bought by Shutterfly, Gina also teaches at Stanford Graduate School of Business and has both led and consulted with international efforts to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in third-world countries.

Gina was valedictorian of her 1981 Harpeth Hall Class, graduated magna cum laude from Yale University in 1985 and received her MBA as an Arjay Miller Scholar from Stanford Graduate School of Business and also earned a master's degree in education public policy. She is the daughter of Mimi and Dr. Jerry Klein and sister of Risa and Drew Herzog.

## Sympathy

... to the family of **Diane M. Trachtman**, who died on June 19. She was born on July 10, 1941 in Brooklyn, NY to Reuben and Adelle Balfu, who preceded her in death. She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Seymour "Sy" Trachtman, whom she adored and loved dearly, and her two daughters, Michelle and Alyssa, who were her source of light. Her brother Larry was always there when she needed him, and she adored him. His late wife Roberta was like a sister to her. During her 50 plus years of living in Nashville, Diane was very involved on boards for the Gordon Jewish Community Center, United Way, Komen Race for the Cure and Dan Rudy Cancer

Center. She was a life member of both Hadassah and the National Council of Jewish Women. Her Mahjong Mavens, golf buddies and numerous acquaintances were so kind and caring. Her dearest friends and community rallied with her until the very end. The funeral service was on June 22 at The Temple. Memorial contributions may be made to Jewish Family Service of Nashville.

... to the family of **Edwin B. Raskin**, who died on July 1 at the age of 96. A longtime Nashville real estate executive, committed civic leader and devoted husband, father and grandfather, he was preceded in death by his parents, Isaac and Hannah Berner Raskin; his beloved wife, Rebecca Anne Kornman Raskin, and his brother, Sidney L. Raskin of Savannah, GA. He is survived by his daughters, Susan R. (Norman) Law and Joan K. Raskin, and two grandsons, Andrew R. Law and Peter B. Law. He is also survived by a niece and several nephews.

Mr. Raskin was born in Savannah, where he attended Benedictine Military School (1936). He graduated from Tulane University with a degree in business administration (1940). He was partner and manager of National Shoe Company and Superior Shoe Company, both in Savannah. Mr. Raskin enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 and graduated as a captain from the Army Air Forces School later that year. While stationed in Nashville, he met his wife, Beck, and they were married in 1946. In Nashville, he worked at A.L. Kornman Clothing Company before founding Edwin B. Raskin Company in 1954, a firm specializing in development, sales, leasing and management of real estate investment properties with primary attention on apartments, office buildings, hotels, and shopping centers. Following the sale of the company in 1999, he acted in a consulting capacity with Raskin Holdings, LLC, an asset management firm owned by his daughters. Mr. Raskin was associated with retail, banking and manufacturing operations throughout the years and at one time was an owner and operator of the original Maxwell House Hotel at the corner of Fourth and Church, which was destroyed by fire in 1962.

Mr. Raskin was a member of the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, Greater Nashville Association of Realtors, Tennessee Association of Realtors, National Association of Realtors and the Institute of Real Estate Management and was a past President of the Middle Tennessee chapter. He also held the designation of Counselor of Real Estate from the American Society of Real Estate Counselors. Mr. Raskin was also a past President of the Nashville City Club and recently received a Lifetime Rotarian Award.

Mr. Raskin was an exceptional and fastidious gentleman. While quiet in manner, he was tenacious in business negotiations as well as golf, and promoted "THINK URGENCY" as the way to succeed. He deeply enjoyed the arts, had an insatiable curiosity and enjoyed trying new things. In his 96th year he once again took up playing the piano and the violin.

The family extends heartfelt appreciation to Jeri Campbell Moore, his secretary, for her affection and loyalty to him for over 32 years, as well as his close friends and associates Bud Zander, Jimmy Small, Monnie Lusky, Bernard Werthan, Jr., Skip Wild and John W. Campbell, Jr. The family is also most grateful to his kind and caring staff including Richard, Paulette, William, Kalisha, Andrew, James, Julia, Lyric and Kristy.

The funeral service was July 6 at

The Temple. Remembrances may be made to The Rebecca Kornman Raskin Temple Beautification Fund at The Temple, Congregation Ohabai Shalom, 5015 Harding Road, Nashville, TN 37205 or the fund of your choice.

... the family of **Daniel John Liff**, 56, who died peacefully at home in Santa Barbara, CA on June 27.

Born in Nashville, Daniel was predeceased by his parents, Nina and Noah Liff. He is survived by siblings, Jan Abby Liff and Adam J. Liff, and nieces and nephew, Emily Hauber, Natalie Liff and Jonathan Liff.

Known for his sincerity and clever sense of humor, Daniel will be fondly remembered as a wonderful man, son, husband, brother, and friend. Daniel was a non-ferrous metals buyer for many years in his family's business Steiner-Liff Iron and Metal Company. Prior to the metals business, Daniel was a chef in numerous four- and five-star restaurants. He was a 1979 graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY. He also graduated from Ensworth School, White Mountain School, and National Outdoor Leadership School.

Daniel was a sensitive soul who always marched to the beat of his own drummer. He was creative and artistic with an amazing attitude of gratitude and generosity. He loved his God, his family and his country. Daniel was delighted by nature, cooking, art, Jerry Garcia and the Grateful Dead, German cars, rock 'n' roll, college and professional sports and his cats. He was a proud member of Congregation B'nai Brith and of the Coral Casino Swim Club in Santa Barbara.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Congregation Sherith Israel, 3600 West End Ave, Nashville, TN, 37205 or a charity of one's choice. Arrangements for Interment in Nashville will be announced soon.

... the family of **Roy Shainberg**, who died peacefully on June 23 at Alive Hospice. He was born August 29, 1928 in Memphis and was the son of Louis and Deena Shainberg. He is survived by his wife Roslyn, daughters Michele Friedenber (Todd) and Sarah Hornick (Chad), son Louis, and grandchildren Alexa, Zack, Ellie and Lindsay. He was a managing broker at Westgate Realty Co. and an avid golfer until two years ago. He was a Shriner and a 32nd Mason. Services were at West End Synagogue with pallbearers Jimmy Small, Leon Strauss, Julian Zander Jr., Dr. Jerry Klein, Raymond Shainberg, Mark Goldstein, and Jeffrey Spark. Donations may be made to West End Synagogue at 3810 West End Ave, Nashville, TN. 37205.

...to the family of **Erich R. Westfield**, who was born in Germany in 1921, emigrated to Nashville in 1936 and died in Tulsa, OK June 11, just 19 days before his 94th birthday. He was the son of Dietrich and Grete Westfield, who followed him to Nashville. He is survived by his wife Doris, sons Bill and Ken, five grandchildren and brother Fred Westfield of Nashville. Erich graduated here from West End High and Vanderbilt University as a chemical engineer, winning the Gold Founders Medal. He served in the Navy during World War II, then obtained his master's degree from M.I.T. He pursued a career in the petroleum industry in Texas, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York and Oklahoma, where he retired from Texaco. After retirement he served as a volunteer in numerous non-profit organizations in Tulsa. A memorial service was held at his retirement home in Tulsa.

# around the town

## Freiberg and Cohan join GJCC staff

The Gordon Jewish Community Center has added two new staff members: Dara Freiberg took over as membership and development director on July 26 and Sara Cohan became marketing and public relations manager on July 6.



Dara Freiberg

"I feel very fortunate to have these two talented women joining us and I know we all look forward to working with them," said GJCC Executive Director Leslie Sax.

Freiberg, a member of the GJCC board, brings both a passion for the GJCC and years of experience to the position, Sax said. She served as assistant director of individual giving for the Frist Center for the Visual Arts for the past four years. Previously she was the development director for the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival and the Goizueta Business School at Emory University, and has worked in the Office of Development at Yale University.

Frieberg will be supported by membership associates Ruth Johnson, Leah Koesten, Gail Zelizer and Alex Benick.

Cohan, whose focus will be telling the GJCC story and publicizing its programming, previously worked as the development director and tutor at Learning Matters and as the education director at the Genocide Education Project. As a candidate for the position, Sax said she provided "tremendous feedback on the JCCA branding guidelines and suggested improvements to our website."

## Maimonides Lodge will sponsor keynote speaker for upcoming historical society conference in Nashville

B'nai B'rith Maimonides Lodge #46 is sponsoring the keynote speaker at the annual conference of the Southern Jewish Historical Society, which will be held Oct. 30-Nov. 1 in Nashville.

Dr. Ira Sheskin, professor and chair of the Department of Geography and Regional Studies at the University of Miami, will be give a talk titled "The Changing Demographic Profile of Jews in Southern Cities, 1950 - Present and Future" following lunch on Saturday, Oct. 31. Sheskin is an expert on the geography and demography of American Jews.

The Maimonides Lodge also announced that its annual scholarship for a deserving blind student has been awarded to a graduate of Hume Fogg

High School. The student, who is now attending Georgetown University, received \$1,100. This is the fourth scholarship awarded through a fund established with the Community Foundation for Middle Tennessee students who are legally blind and plan to attend a post-secondary educational program.

Established in 1863, the Maimonides Lodge is the oldest Jewish service organization in Nashville. Aside from the scholarship it is involved in a number of other activities, including an annual Braille Challenge for students at the Tennessee School for the Blind and an annual event with Jewish Family Services in which it distributes visual aids for those with impaired vision.

## Temple social outings this month focus on baseball and bourbon

Next Dor, The Temple group for young adults and couples, has scheduled an Aug. 6 outing at First Tennessee Park, Nashville's baseball stadium, to see the Nashville Sounds play the Memphis Redbirds. The game begins at 7 p.m. For details about the outing or Next Dor, contact Rabbi Michael Shulman, director of education and next generation programming, at rabbishulman@temple-nashville.org or (615) 352-7620.

On Saturday, Aug. 22, Rabbi Mark Schifman will lead visit to Bowling Green, KY, where participants will tour the Corsair Distillery, taste some bourbon and learn about the Jewish connection to the development of Kentucky's bourbon industry. The group will also tour the Corvette plant in Bowling Green. The outing will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To RSVP, please call Mitzie Russell at (615) 352-7620.

## Yard sale, bluegrass picnic bookend August at Micah

Congregation Micah has scheduled special events for the first and last Saturdays of August.

A community yard sale will be held in the Micah parking lot on Saturday, August 1. The sale starts at 6:30 a.m. and ends at 10:30 a.m. The confirmation class will be selling breakfast items and will have their own tables setup to help pay for their trip to New York City this fall.

On Saturday, Aug. 29, everyone is invited to Micah's backyard for a bluegrass picnic at 6 p.m. The event will include music from a 5-piece bluegrass band led by Micah member Greg Reish with John Fabke, Casey Campbell, David Talbot, and Brian Christianson.

Tickets also include hamburgers, veggie burgers, or hot dogs for dinner; dessert; and refreshments - including local beer from Little Harpeth Brewing. Bring a chair or blanket, and tents are allowed.

Tickets are \$15 for children and \$25 for adults. They can be purchased online at [www.congregationmicah.org/backyardevent](http://www.congregationmicah.org/backyardevent) or in person at Congregation Micah.

## B'nai B'rith Social Unit installs new officers

B'nai B'rith Social Unit #5508 has new officers for the 2015-2017 term: Joyce Fox, president; Jackie Harrison, vice president of membership; Paula Kirwan, vice president of programming; Gayle Lipp, secretary; Mark Mitzman, Treasurer, and Larry Goldberg, immediate past president.

The unit was founded in 1994 and serves as a model for other B'nai B'rith social groups nationwide. A group of active adults 50 and older, the unit's goal is to promote friendship and fellowship while conforming to the values of Judaism. Events include an annual winter party, dinner get-togethers, theater, Shabbat dinners and other social events that promote camaraderie among members. The group also creates and participates in Jewish education events and takes part in charitable endeavors.

For additional information, Joyce Fox at [jdf3@comcast.net](mailto:jdf3@comcast.net) or Jackie Harrison at [jackieharrison1951@gmail.com](mailto:jackieharrison1951@gmail.com).

## Hadassah event will focus on financial planning

Nashville Hadassah will sponsor a dinner presentation on long-term finan-

cial planning at 7 p.m. Aug. 25 at Anatolia Turkish Restaurant. The event will feature Dwayne Vick of Peachtree Planning.

Attendance is limited to 24 on a first-come, first-served basis. To make a reservation or for more information, email [nashvillehadassah@hotmail.com](mailto:nashvillehadassah@hotmail.com).

## GJCC team gets softball 3-peat

The Gordon Jewish Community Center softball team completed a 3-peat, winning its third straight Warner Park Softball League championship. The GJCC team defeated St. Henry's No. 2 twice in a row - 8-7 and then 12-1 - to win the round robin tournament.

"I thought this was going to be a transition season since we had several longtime players not playing this year and not knowing how the new players would mesh in," said player/coach Andy Neuman. "With everyone's super busy schedule, we struggled all year just to field a team every game."

The team finished 10-5 this year, including a 5-1 record in the tournament. Since 2001, the GJCC team has made it to the finals 10 times and won the title seven times, including four out of the past six years.

One "pretty cool thing" about this season, Neuman said, is that five father-son pairs played for the team at various points, including Steve and John Eisen in the final game.

Also on the team were Chad Hornick, Jarad Garshnick, Nate Nicholson, Ty Gottstein, Jon Rotker, Eliot Goldfarb, Dave Brown, Dave Kellman, Joseph Levy, John Eisen, Rich Berkman, Blake Hammon, Billy Jacobs, Daniel Jacobs, Jonah Neuman, Alex Rotker, Josh Rotker, Jarvin Thompson, T.J. Thompson and Chip Weinstein.

I like to come here, Franz. As I have for nearly twenty years now.

And the rose bush has turned into a lovely little tree.

# Franz

I never had such a green thumb as you did, Franz. Probably you helped me there a little bit, don't you think? And if one of the roots reaches down to you, then that means a little bit of you is in the blossoms and you can see the summer every year.

The people who run the cemetery said that the rose bush can stay when the lease on the plot runs out.

Hebrew lettering included.  
Compliments of All Seasons

## ALL SEASONS MEMORIALS

6014 Lenox Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37209  
615.356.0738

Hunt Memorials, Inc.  
Quality and Craftsmanship Since 1928  
4807 Gallatin Road  
615-262-1313

# PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

## ACCOUNTANTS

**Cathy Werthan, CPA, PFS**  
CPA Consulting Group, PLLC  
Providing traditional tax and accounting services in a non-traditional way  
109 Kenner Ave., Suite 100  
(615) 322-1225 • www.cpacg.com

## ADVERTISING

**The Observer** Carrie Mills  
The best use of your advertising dollar.  
801 Percy Warner Blvd. 356-3242 x299

## APPLIANCES

**ELECTRONIC EXPRESS** now carries a full line of home appliances as well as consumer electronics! We have the brands you know and trust: Whirlpool, KitchenAid, Maytag, General Electric, Frigidaire, and LG. Count on Electronic Express to help you make the best choice. Nobody beats our prices. Free basic delivery and pick-up of your old appliances with this ad. Available at any of our 16 stores. Visit us on the web at [www.electronicexpress.com](http://www.electronicexpress.com) for a location near you.

**HERMITAGE LIGHTING GALLERY**  
Lighting • Appliances • Hardware  
Custom Cabinetry and Baths  
We Light Up Your Life!  
615-843-3300  
[www.hermitagelighting.com](http://www.hermitagelighting.com)

## ATTORNEY

**MARTIN SIR, ATTORNEY**  
Family Law / Personal Injury / Probate  
Fifth Third Center  
424 Church Street, Ste. 2250  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
(615) 256-5661  
[www.martinsirlaw.com](http://www.martinsirlaw.com)

## BALLOON DECOR

**PARTY ANIMALS**  
*Balloon Decor & Entertainment*  
615-941-3177  
[www.PartyAnimalsTN.com](http://www.PartyAnimalsTN.com)

## CARE GIVER

**FAMILY STAFFING SOLUTIONS, INC**  
Stay Independent\*At Home\*In Charge®  
"Personal Care Assistance At Its Best"  
2000 Richard Jones Road  
Nashville, TN 37215  
615-383-5656  
208 Uptown Square  
Murfreesboro, TN 37129  
615-848-6774  
119 McGrew Street, Suite A  
Shelbyville, TN 37160  
931-680-2771  
309 North Jackson St.  
Tullahoma, TN 37388  
931-222-4080  
109 Holiday Court, Suite C-8  
Franklin, TN 37067  
615-472-1563  
[www.familystaffing.com](http://www.familystaffing.com)

## HOME COMPUTER REPAIR

**YOUR PERSONAL COMPUTER TECHNICIAN**  
Brian Coulam 615-266-4155  
References Available  
[brian.coulam@gmail.com](mailto:brian.coulam@gmail.com)

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**YOUR HOME HANDYMAN**  
Rich Adler, Small Job Specialists.  
Free estimates, Excellent references.  
615-646-4900 or 615-972-3093 cell  
[Natcheztrace100@aol.com](mailto:Natcheztrace100@aol.com)

## INSURANCE

**FRIDRICH, PINSON & ROTHBERG**  
Jamie Rothberg  
3825 Bedford Ave. Suite 203  
Ph 327-9105 Dir 277-1483  
[jrothberg@FPRinsurance.com](mailto:jrothberg@FPRinsurance.com)

**ROBINS INSURANCE**  
Bruce Robins, CPCU, CIC, ARM;  
Tom Loventhal; Marsha Jaffa, CIC;  
Van Robins, CIC  
Auto, Home, Life, Health,  
Business Insurance  
30 Burton Hills, Suite 300  
Ph. 665-9200 • [www.robinsins.com](http://www.robinsins.com)

**ZANDER INSURANCE GROUP, INC.**  
Julian "Bud" Zander, Jr., CIC  
Jeffrey J. Zander, CIC  
Michael Weinberger  
Auto, Home, Life, Health, Business,  
Long Term Care, Identity Theft Protection  
212 Ocoola, Nashville, TN 37209  
356-1700 [www.zanderins.com](http://www.zanderins.com)

## MUSICIANS AND DJs

**BLUE TONE MUSIC**  
Jewish Wedding Ceremonies  
The Nashville Blue Tones Party Band  
DJ Services. 615-352-6358  
[www.BlueToneMusicUSA.com](http://www.BlueToneMusicUSA.com)

## OPHTHALMOLOGIST

**HOWARD ROSENBLUM, M.D.**  
Eye Physician & Surgeon  
Nashville Eye Center  
St. Thomas Hospital • Ph. 386-9200

## OPTOMETRIST

**DR. MICHELE SONSINO**  
Optique Eyecare & Eyewear  
2817 West End Ave., Nashville  
615-321-4EYE (4393)

## ORTHODONTISTS

**A. JOEL GLUCK, DDS, MS**  
**JONATHAN GLUCK, DDS, MSD**  
Specialist in Orthodontics  
Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics  
Green Hills 269-5903  
2002 Richard Jones Road, Ste. A-200  
[www.drgluck.com](http://www.drgluck.com)

## PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

**THERAPY IN MOTION, P.C.**  
Dr Michael J. Malawey, PT  
Dr Cindy M. Malawey, PT  
- Orthopedic disorders of the Neck,  
Back and Extremities including post surgery  
- Stroke and Brain injury recovery  
- We bring the clinic to your home  
- 40 years of combined experience  
Therapy in Motion, P.C.  
Call 760-224-3081 or 760-715-4789

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

**GHERTNER & COMPANY**  
Homeowner Association and  
Condominium Management  
Full Service and Financial Management  
Property Management since 1968  
255-8531  
[www.ghertner.com](http://www.ghertner.com)

## PSYCHOTHERAPY & COUNSELING

**IRA HELDERMAN, LPC/MHSP**  
Licensed Professional Counselor  
Individual, Adolescent and Couples  
Counseling  
For consultation please contact:  
615-473-4815  
or [Ira.p.helderman@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:Ira.p.helderman@vanderbilt.edu)

## REAL ESTATE

The Lipman  
Group

Sotheby's

INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Local Expertise...Global Exposure!

Jackie Roth Karr, REALTOR®  
[www.JackieKarr.com](http://www.JackieKarr.com)  
[JackieKarr@gmail.com](mailto:JackieKarr@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 615.330.9779  
Office: 615.463.3333

## REAL ESTATE con't



**Patricia Straus, Broker, MBA, CRS**  
**RE/MAX Elite**  
Platinum Club Award Recipient  
Marketing Real Estate to a Global Clientele  
[www.PatriciaStraus.com](http://www.PatriciaStraus.com)  
O: 615.661.4400  
M: 615.305.8465



**Residential & Relocation Specialists**

**JESSICA AVERBUCH**  
*Managing Broker, ABR, CRS, ePRO*  
383-0183 (bus.) • 294-9880 (cell)  
[jessica.averbuch@zeitlin.com](mailto:jessica.averbuch@zeitlin.com)  
[www.jessicaaverbuch.com](http://www.jessicaaverbuch.com)

**LORNA M. GRAFF**  
*Broker, GRI, CRS, ABR*  
371-0185 (bus.) • 351-5343 (cell)  
[lorna.graff@zeitlin.com](mailto:lorna.graff@zeitlin.com)  
[www.lornagraff.com](http://www.lornagraff.com)

**NAN SPELLER**  
*Broker, GRI, ABR*  
383-0183 (bus.) • 973-1117 (cell)  
[nanspeller2014@gmail.com](mailto:nanspeller2014@gmail.com)



**Franklin Pargh**  
Synergy Realty Network  
FranklinPargh.com  
C. 615-351-7333

## SPORTING GOODS

**TEAM NASHVILLE**  
Your Running/Walking  
Swimming Headquarters  
3205 West End Ave.  
Nashville, TN 37203  
(615) 383-0098

## TUTORING

**OMEGA LEARNING BELLE MEADE**  
K - 12 Tutoring and Test prep  
Email: [bellemeade@omegalearning.com](mailto:bellemeade@omegalearning.com)  
Phone: 615-678-1927

## Advertise in our Professional Services Directory

Reach thousands of readers in the Nashville and Middle Tennessee area by taking advantage of this cost-effective way to reach a loyal repeat audience!

Call Carrie Mills, Advertising Manager  
to Place Your Professional Listing.  
Phone 615-354-1699  
or e-mail [carrie@nashvillejcc.org](mailto:carrie@nashvillejcc.org)

NEW & RENEWING ADS ARE SHADED

# YOUR NASHVILLE SYMPHONY | LIVE AT THE SCHERMERHORN



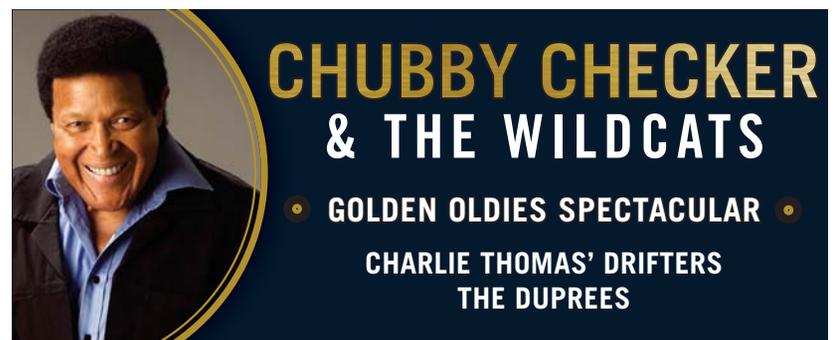
August 7



August 14



August 16



August 27



August 28



September 4



September 10 to 13



September 24 to 26



Nashville  
Symphony

615.687.6400

NashvilleSymphony.org