

the Jewish Observer

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SHANA TOVA 5776

New Year Greetings, page 12

2016 annual campaign begins; aims to raise \$2.5 million to sustain Jewish communities here and around the globe

By CHARLES BERNSEN

There were plenty of stalwart veterans among the volunteers who gathered last month for the launch of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee's 2016 annual campaign. But there also were some eager young rookies.

Andrea and Kevin Falik, both 29, are co-captains of a team of volunteers who will focus on engaging young adults in the annual campaign, which is seeking to raise \$2.5 million that will be distributed to 77 institutions and programs in Nashville, Israel and Jewish communities around the world.

"Andrea and I look at this as an opportunity to help build a community of young Jewish adults who are involved and committed," said Kevin, the senior director of BBYO's Cotton States Region, which includes Nashville.

Andrea is a native of Nashville and Kevin of Houston, TX. While new to the



Andrea and Kevin Falik (on right) are co-captains of a team that will focus on engaging young adults in the 2016 annual campaign of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. Here they are talking with Batia and Aron Karabel, co-chairs of the philanthropic arm of NowGen Nashville.

campaign, both are continuing long family traditions of involvement in their Jewish communities. In fact, Andrea's aunt is Federation Campaign Chairman Lisa Perlen.

"We're here together as a team with the goal of having Jewish conversations and building the commitment that will continue to sustain our Jewish community," Perlen told the volunteers gathered in



THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE. THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

the meeting room of the Gordon Jewish Community Center for an initial hour-long workshop.

This marks the fourth year in which campaign volunteers have been divided into teams for a friendly competition called the Kehillah Cup Challenge. For the 2016 campaign there are eight teams, each with a captain and between five and eleven members who have been assigned to solicit up to half a dozen members of the Bonim Society, whose previous annual gifts range from \$1,000 to \$100,000.

The "players" score points not just for the donations they secure but also for arranging face-to-face conversations with prospective donors and taking photos with them. The team with the most points wins the opportunity to assign an

Continued on page 3

Meryl Kraft grew up at JCC and has "always kept coming back"

Sept. 24 tribute planned for retiring adult programming director

By CHARLES BERNSEN

Meryl Kraft's first job at the Jewish Community Center was as counselor in training for the summer camp program. That was back in 1967 when she was 13 – and she's been working there in some capacity pretty much ever since.

Kraft will retire at the end of this month after holding a remarkable variety of positions at the center, including stints as public relations director, summer camp

Continued on page 3



Meryl Kraft makes announcements at a recent TGIT luncheon for seniors. "Meryl is like the den mother of the seniors," says Joel Mazor, a TGIT regular.

The Deli Man



David "Ziggy" Gruber, owner of Kenny and Ziggy's New York Delicatessen Restaurant in Houston, Texas, will be on hand for the screening of *Deli Man* at the Nashville Jewish Film Festival, which begins next month. Gruber is the central figure in director Erik Greenberg's documentary on kosher Jewish delicatessens, the final installment of his trilogy on American Jewish culture. A full story is on Page 10 and schedule is on Page 11.

(Photo courtesy of Cohen Media Group)

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WWW.JEWISHNASHVILLE.ORG

Pardes scholar to be in Nashville for Global Day of Jewish Learning on Nov. 15. page 4

Federation Board opposes Iran nuclear deal; readers and columnists express their views, pro and con. pages 29 and 30

Partnership 2Gether projects will pair visual artists, young adults. page 9

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Campaign

Continued from page 1

additional \$10,000 to an area of service of its choice. As an added incentive this year, the player with the most points also will get to direct an additional \$2,500 to an area of service of his or her choice.

Though she acknowledged the team format is “a little kitschy,” Federation Campaign Director Naomi Sedek told the volunteers it has been quite effective. First, it helps build both camaraderie among the volunteers and enthusiasm among donors, who like being part of a friendly competition – especially for a cause they find meaningful. (At least three other federations have adopted some form of the team competition for their own annual campaigns, Sedek said.)

Just as important, it has helped the Federation achieve its goal of transforming the annual solicitations for donations of Bonim Society members into “Jewish conversations” in which the solicitor and potential donor meet face to face, make or deepen a friendship by sharing their Jewish stories, and discuss their visions for the Jewish community and how the



Dianne Berry (right) is captain of a team that includes Rae and Bruce Hirsch.

Federation can help fulfill them.

These kinds of one-on-one Jewish conversations are exactly the approach philanthropic organizations like the Federation must undertake if they are to be successful in the 21st century, said fundraising expert David Saginaw, the featured speaker at the kickoff workshop.

Fundraising used to be mostly about the institution, its goals and effectiveness, said Saginaw, who has been both a volunteer and professional with Jewish philanthropic organizations and runs a philanthropy consulting business. Today,



Fundraising expert David Saginaw told volunteers to translate their interest in donors into a Jewish conversations that are “both an expression of your commitment and their passion.”

with so many more options for charitable giving, the focus is explaining to donors how the institution fits their philanthropic goals. That means solicitors “need to know the interest of prospective donors,” Saginaw said.

“This makes a huge difference in terms of the Jewish conversations you will have,” he said. “They should reflect a genuine interest in the donor ... and be both an expression of your commitment and their passion.” •

Kraft

Continued from page 1

director, after school programming coordinator and, for the past 20 years, programming coordinator for seniors and adults. Oh, and for almost 19 years she also sold ads for *The Jewish Observer of Nashville* and helped former editor Judy Saks lay out the newspaper.

Even during her career as an educator – first as a public school art teacher in Nashville and Franklin and then as religious school director at The Temple – Kraft often held a second job at the center.

“I grew up at the JCC,” Kraft said, “and I’ve always kept coming back.”

To celebrate her contributions, the Gordon Jewish Community Center has designated Thursday, Sept. 24 as Meryl Kraft Day. It will include a tribute to Kraft at the weekly Thank Goodness It’s Thursday luncheon for seniors – TGIT is one of her many programming innovations – as well as a cocktail reception from 5-7 p.m.

“Meryl has done a tremendous job building an adult program that is truly a model for other JCC’S nationwide,” said Leslie Sax, executive director of the GJCC. “We are sad to see her retire, but we feel fortunate to have such a great base upon which to continue to grow.”

In addition to ongoing offerings like the GJCC book club, bridge lessons, mah jongg and oil painting classes, that programming includes an astonishing vari-

ety of special courses, events and presentations on arts and crafts, cooking, gardening, home photography, music, travel, current events, Jewish history and culture, health and personal improvement – not to mention regular outings to places like an archeological site at Harpeth River State Park or a performance at TPAC.

But senior adults are perhaps the biggest beneficiaries of Kraft’s programming innovations. The Prime Time group for seniors hosts regular dinner programs, parties, overnight trips, casino outings and cultural excursions. TGIT – the centerpiece of senior programming at the GJCC – is a weekly luncheon where 35-40 seniors regularly show up for light exercise, a blood pressure check, and a program that can be educational (a presentation on how to protect themselves from fraud, for example) or just fun and entertaining (musician Sheldon Kahan is a favorite).

“Meryl is like the den mother of the seniors. She does a remarkable job of taking care of us,” said Joel Mazor, who recalls that it was Kraft who showed him around the GJCC for the first time when he moved to Nashville 10 years ago. A TGIT regular, Mazor says the program is “a very important part of my life in Nashville.”

Likewise, the Jewish Community Center has always been an important part of Kraft’s life. As a youth, she recalls, it seemed she was there almost every day

– whether for summer camp, BBYO or attending other clubs with her family on Sundays. As an adult, the center is where she has always come to work out and play racquetball.

“The GJCC is like home. When you walk through the door, you enter a warm and welcoming environment with top-notch programs and activities for everyone from birth to 101,” said Kraft. “The GJCC ties the Jewish community together and welcomes every faith and every family or individual.”

Kraft said “the time is right” to retire.

“We have an excellent director and a great staff. The center is on an upswing, so it’s a good time to make a change.”

But just because she’s retiring doesn’t mean Kraft won’t remain a presence at the GJCC. She and her husband, Keith, are both Nashville natives with large extended families here.

“I’m definitely not going anywhere,” Kraft said. “I want to do more art classes. In fact, I want to participate in a lot of the activities we offer at the center. I may be retiring, but it’s still my Jewish Community Center.” •



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Rabbi Alex Israel from Pardes Institute will be in Nashville for Global Day of Jewish Learning on Nov. 15

Congregation Micah will host event

Nashville will hold its fourth annual Global Day of Jewish Learning from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15 at Congregation Micah, and for the fourth year it will feature a visiting scholar from the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Alex Israel, the Pardes Institute's director of community education and its summer program, will lead a morning plenary session on this year's theme – "Love: Devotion, Desire and Deception." That will be followed by a kosher lunch and panel discussion by local rabbis and then seven afternoon breakout sessions focusing on the Global Day theme, each led by a local Jewish clergy member or educator.

Following the breakout sessions, Rabbi Israel will conduct a special in-service session for the community's Jewish educators. Another program will feature a session for PJ Library toddlers and their parents.

Initiated by the Aleph Society in 2010, the annual Global Day of Jewish Learning is aimed at fostering Jewish unity and knowledge by bringing together hundreds of communities around the world to study the same sacred texts on the same day. To make the event truly global in nature, organizers will again



Rabbi Alex Israel

webcast 24 local plenary sessions throughout the day, one each hour. The Nashville session led by Rabbi Israel will be one of those seen by Jews around the world.

Rabbi Israel, a popular lecturer at campuses and communities on three continents who also teaches at Yeshivat Eretz Hatzvi, holds degree from the London School of

Economics; the Institute of Education, London, and Bar Ilan University. Born and raised in London, he was an active leader in religious Zionist youth movement B'nei Akiva, an experience he says "set me on the path of my educational career... We built a creative and vibrant educational enterprise and a community that sought to live out its ideology – Torah, *aliya* and an active contribution to the building of the State of Israel."

As in previous year's, the Pardes Institute faculty member's visit to Nashville is made possible through the generosity of Libby and Moshe Werthan.

Look for more details and registration information about Global Day in the October issue of *The Observer*. Online registration will also be available

at www.jewishnashville.org beginning Oct. 1.

Local Global Day events are funded by the Jewish Federation and Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. Local partners includes Akiva School, the Gordon Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Service, NowGen Nashville, Get Connected, PJ Library, Vanderbilt Hillel, Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad, Congregation Micah, Congregation Sherith Israel, The Temple, West End Synagogue, B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO), Chabad Jewish Student Center at Vanderbilt University, Hadassah Nashville Chapter, National Council of Jewish Women Nashville Chapter, B'nai B'rith Social Unit and B'nai B'rith Maimonides Lodge #46. •

From the Campaign Trail

Giving is a privilege

By LISA PERLEN

Last month we kicked off the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee's 2016 annual campaign. We are fortunate to have a broad spectrum of

the community with us, including members of NowGen Nashville, led by Batia and Aron Karabel, and team captains Dianne Berry, Andrea and Kevin Falik, Lori Fishel, Arthur Perlen, Gloria



Lisa Perlen

Sternberg and Irwin Venick. They and the other team captains, Ben Doochin and Janet Weismark, have assembled teams of dedicated members of the community who will be reaching out to contact each of you to talk about the annual campaign and how you can help.

David Saginaw from Philanthropic Strategies, LLC addressed the group and spoke about the evolving community and donor needs. He told us that the most important factors a donor considers in making a contribution is whether their philanthropic goals align with the mission of the organization and whether the donor can trust the organization to use the funds appropriately.

So what is the mission of the Nashville Federation? Our mission statement says Federation is the central voluntary communal organization of the Jewish community. Through its fund-raising, planning and community relations efforts, either independently or in partnership with other Jewish organizations, the Federation works to promote the general welfare, viability and cohesiveness of the local Jewish community as well as ensuring the continuity of the Jewish people in Israel and around the world.

Together, the Jewish Federation of Nashville and its service partners strive to realize our core values:

- Chesed: Care and compassion
- Torah: Jewish learning
- Tikkun Olam: Repair of the world
- Tzedakah: Philanthropy that insures that Jews everywhere are living safe, secure and meaningful Jewish lives

In bringing together Jewish Nashville and mobilizing its resources to strengthen our own Jewish community and others, the Federation provides mul-

multiple points of alignment to our donors' goals. Each program supported by Federation dollars is reviewed every year in light of how its objectives and outcomes fulfill its mission and the priorities established by the community.

Since stewardship of donor funds is very important, I am happy to report that the Federation's annual campaign distributes 91 percent of the funds it raises to support valuable programs both here and overseas. This community has experienced exponential growth in the number and quality of services provided in our community with Federation as a driving force and funding partner.

The Federation makes a real difference in the Hadera-Eiron, our Partnership2Gether region in Israel, and has been able to provide meaningful assistance to 146,322 at-risk Jews in the former Soviet Union. Most members of our community aren't aware of the needs in our community because we quietly meet those needs with the funds raised every year. Without an annual campaign, these programs and services cannot continue at current levels and certainly cannot grow to meet new challenges and needs.

John D. Rockefeller once said, "Think of giving not only as a duty but as a privilege." Please join us in the privilege of being part of a giving community. When you get the call from one of our campaign volunteers, take the call and make the gift. With your gift, you can Do All Everywhere, From Anywhere.

Thank you, one and all, for being part of our strong, giving community. •

Lisa Perlen is chairman of the 2016 annual campaign of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

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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.

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Community Relations Communiqué

Fighting the BDS effort to demonize Israel

By **ABBIE WOLF**

Many of us in the Jewish community are aware of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. But even if you follow the news closely, you may want to know more. Don't worry – you're not alone.

The BDS campaign is a global effort to isolate, punish and ultimately delegitimize the State of Israel because of its policies toward the Palestinians. While supporters of the BDS movement claim to embrace the tactic as a nonviolent way to pressure Israel into negotiations, the campaign is a biased effort to demonize Israel and place all responsibility for the conflict on one side: the Israelis. Some elements of BDS are not only anti-Israel but anti-Semitic as well.

The BDS movement is a three-tentacled creature employing a number of strategies. First, there is the boycott. BDS advocates pressure consumers to refrain from buying goods made in Israel and to avoid any companies that buy or sell Israeli products. Additionally, actors, performers, writers, major musicians and scholars are pressured into avoiding performing or speaking in Israel, with anti-Israel advocates like musicians Harry Belafonte and Roger Waters and author Alice Walker leading the effort. Happily, many artists don't bow to pressure and do come to Israel, such as Bob Dylan, Paul McCartney, Madonna, the Rolling Stones, Rhianna, Elton John, Lady Gaga, and Justin Timberlake.

Divestment is the second tentacle. Campaigns have been launched demanding that universities, cities, unions and other groups disinvest from companies that do business with Israel. Religious entities are involved in this effort as well. Recently, for example, the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly voted to divest from three companies (Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard and Motorola) they believe are helping to violate the rights of Palestinians.

Thirdly, there are sanctions. Proponents of BDS call for pressure on governments to impose embargoes and sanctions against Israel. The record of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in this arena is both dismal and infuriating: Since its creation in 2006, the UNHRC has lobbed more condemnations at Israel than the rest of the world combined. It has passed 62 resolutions against Israel and just 55 against all other countries. So out of 117 total resolutions, more than half have been levied against Israel. Meanwhile, many of the world's worst human rights violators – Syria, China, Russia, Iran, Sudan and Nigeria to name a few – brutalize their own citizens with far less condemnation.

The predominant motivation of the BDS campaign and its leadership is not criticism of Israel's policies; it is to demonize and delegitimize Israel. BDS



Abbie Wolf

supporters reject a two-state solution and deny the Jewish right to self-determination and statehood in favor of supporting the right of return for Palestinian refugees and their descendants. In fact, the BDS movement's official platform calling for "right of return" for all Palestinian refugees and their descendants would result in Jews being the minority and would be the end of Israel as a Jewish state.

The goals are chilling, and so are their words. Notorious BDS activist Omar Barghouti has said, "The current phase has all the emblematic properties of what may be considered the final chapter of the Zionist project. We are

witnessing the rapid demise of Zionism, and nothing can be done to save it, for Zionism is intent on killing itself. I, for one, support euthanasia."

Just as Israel belongs to all of us, so does the responsibility to fight this movement that seeks to eliminate Jews from their homeland. What can you do? What can we, as a community, do? Through its Community Relations Committee (CRC), the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee is hard at work on this issue.

The CRC applied for and has received a grant through the Israel Action Network to become one of 10

Community Impact Partnership (CIP) sites. This program provides the communities with free training and personalized, strategic guidance in how to combat anti-Israel activities in their communities. Though we're still in the planning stages, I'm excited about what this will bring to our community as we join together to fight attacks on Israel's legitimacy.

Please contact me at abbie@jewish-nashville.org if you would like to learn more about the CIP program. •

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



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Erev Rosh Hashanah
Sunday, September 13, 2015
Service begins at 6:00 p.m.

First Day of Rosh Hashanah
Monday, September 14, 2015
Service begins at 9:00 a.m.
Blessing of Babies born in the past year at 10:30 a.m.

*Family and Student Services at 11:00 a.m.
Tashlich —Meet at WES at 4:45 p.m.

Second Day of Rosh Hashanah
Tuesday, September 15, 2015
Service begins at 9:00 a.m.

*Family and Student Services at 11:00 a.m.

Kol Nidre
Tuesday, September 22, 2015
Service begins at 6:00 p.m.

Yom Kippur, Wednesday, September 23, 2015
Service begins at 9:30 a.m.

*Family and Student Services at 11:00 a.m.
Learners' Service Following Rabbi's D'var Torah
Havdallah—Ramah Style— Following the
Blowing of the Shofar at 7:21 p.m.

Sukkot

September 28–October 3, 2015

Services are at 9:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on September 28, 29 and October 3. Sukkot intermediate days' services are at 6:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Shemini Atzeret

Monday, October 5, 2015

Service at 9:30 a.m.—Yizkor will be recited.

Evening of Simchat Torah

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Simchat Torah Dinner & Service 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Simchat Torah

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Services 9:30 a.m.

For the complete service schedule, visit our website at www.westendsyn.org

** Separate services for Families With Young Children (preschool–1st grade), for children in grades 2–7, and for teens*

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*Rabbi Mark Shifman Rabbi Shana G. Mackler
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High Holy Day Schedule

Saturday, September 5, 2015

7:30 PM Selichot Service

Sunday, September 13, 2015

7:30 PM Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Monday, September 14, 2015

9:00 AM Family Service
9:00 AM Tot Yom Tov
10:30 AM Morning Service
12:45 PM President's Reception
1:00 PM Tashlich at the Creek

Friday, September 18, 2015

6:00 PM Shabbat Shuvah

Sunday, September 20, 2015

2:00 PM Memorial Service
at The Temple Cemetery



Tuesday, September 22, 2015

7:30 PM Kol Nidre Service

Wednesday, September 23, 2015

9:00 AM Family Service
9:00 AM Tot Yom Tov
10:30 AM Morning Service
12:45 PM Congregant's Hour
2:00 PM Afternoon Service
3:15 PM Study Hour
4:15 PM Yizkor & Concluding Service

**Break Fast will follow at The Temple
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Carolyn Hecklin Hyatt, the Federation's new community engagement associate, leads a planning session for the Rosh Bash.

Federation's new community engagement associate eager to see old friends, make new connections at Rosh Bash

By CHARLES BERNSEN

Carolyn Hecklin Hyatt's first task as the new community engagement associate for the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee has been to plan this month's sixth annual Jewish new year celebration for its young Jewish professionals group, NowGen Nashville.

"Rosh Bash is an opportunity for young professionals familiar with Nashville to renew friendships and for those who are recent arrivals to make new ones," said Hyatt.

Rosh Bash – whose co-sponsors include Reliant Bank, the Vanderbilt Hillel graduate student program, XMI Holdings and the Dog Spot – will be from 9 p.m.-midnight on Saturday, Sept. 12 at Harding House at Belle Mead Plantation. It will feature appetizers, cocktails and music. (Kosher food will be available.)

Advance tickets, which include a free drink, are \$20 (\$15 for Vanderbilt students). For more information or to buy tickets visit <http://www.nowgen-nashville.org/2015/07/2015roshbash/> or email Hyatt at carolynh@jewish-nashville.org.

Hyatt, 31, a graduate of Boston University, is the daughter of Steve and Sandra Hecklin. (Despite the coincidence of their names, she is not related to Federation President Carol Hyatt.) She succeeds Lauren Mielziner Bubis, who moved to Florida earlier this summer.

Though a Nashville native and graduate of University School of Nashville, Hyatt had lived in Boston and New York for more than a decade before moving back last year with her husband, Adam, and their 16-month-old son, Dylan.

"We are looking to find our path in the Jewish community, so this position at the Federation was perfect me," Hyatt said. "And it's nice that Rosh Bash is my first big event because it gives me the opportunity to get in touch with people I grew up with and many I'm meeting for the first time. That's what the event and NowGen are all about – helping people make connections and find their place in the Jewish community."

Naomi Sedek, the Federation's annual campaign director, said that NowGen will benefit from both Hyatt's knowledge of the Nashville Jewish community as well as her experience in public relations, sales and event planning from her career in the fashion industry. •

Those not selected in demographic survey can still give feedback

If you were not randomly selected to participate in the Federation sponsored demographic survey of the Nashville area Jewish community, you can still offer feedback through the following link: <http://www.sdr.org/njcs/opn>.

Your answers, which are completely

confidential, will be used in a supplemental analysis. All feedback will be considered, and this open link will not in any way impact the scientific validity of our survey, which is being conducted by Brandeis University. If you have questions, please contact Harriet Schifftan at harriet@jewishnashville.org or (615) 354-1687. •



May this New Year be filled with Health and Happiness, and Sweetness for you and your family.
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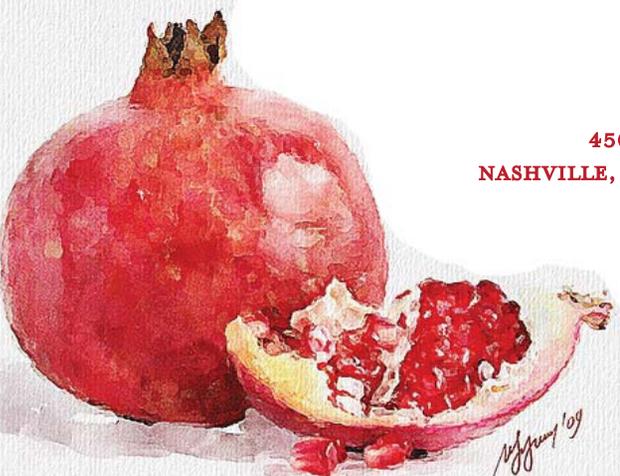
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Shana Tova!



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

The excitement of the first shofar blast

The sweet taste of an apple dipped in honey

The blessing of a New Year

What will you pass down to future generations?



For the New Year, you can inspire future generations of Jews with your legacy gift. Planning now will secure the education of our children, make certain our elderly will always be cared for, and assure that the Jewish traditions and culture we hold dear will live on and flourish. Shana Tova and may your legacy be a blessing.

For more information please contact:

Risa Klein Herzog, Director of Foundation
Development 615.354.1651 or
risa@jewishnashville.org



P2G Pairings

Artists from Israel and Southeast U.S. will join in project focusing on the Psalms

Planning is underway for a joint exhibition next year that will include the work of Jewish visual artists from Israel and 10 Southeastern U.S. cities, including Nashville.

With a theme based broadly on the Book of Psalms, the 2016 exhibition will be the third such collaboration sponsored by Partnership2Gether, an initiative of the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Jewish Federations of North America that builds connections between Israel and Jewish communities around the world.

Nashville is among the Jewish cities in the P2G Southeast consortium, which is paired with Israel's Hadera-Eiron. Jewish artists from those communities are invited to submit proposals for the exhibition, which will debut next spring in Israel during the P2G 20th anniversary celebration and then travel for about 18 months.

Similar collaborations resulted in exhibitions of artwork in 2012 and 2014 focusing on Jewish identity and the theme of water and Jewish culture. There will be a new wrinkle to this third artistic collaboration, however: Each American artist will be paired with an Israeli artist. Together, each pair will participate in an online educational program about the Psalms aimed at both inspiring them and establishing a personal connection between them. The pair will then select a particular Psalm and, working in partnership, produce either a single piece or two related pieces.

"This new project format will create deeper relationships among the artists before they begin to create their work," said Harriet Schiftan, planning and P2G director for the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. "We have had so many wonderful Nashville artists participate in the first two projects; we hope new and veteran artists will want to take this very unique opportunity to learn, to create, to travel, and to celebrate with Israeli artists."

The project is open to all forms of visual art – drawings, paintings, sculpture, photography, print creations, integrative art, glass, metal, ceramics, papier-mâché and the like – though there are size and weight limitations.



Prospective participants will be asked to submit a CV and electronic images of up to four pieces of their current work, making sure to include pieces showing the materials they intend to use for the project. The deadline for submission is September 8. Those in the Nashville area interested in taking part, receiving the full call to artists, or submitting their work should contact Schiftan at harriet@jewishnashville.org or (615) 354-1687. •

Young Nashville and Israeli professionals will study Jewish peoplehood in pilot online program

The Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee is seeking applicants for a Partnership2Gether pilot program that will pair young Jewish professionals in the United States and Israel for a three-month course exploring Jewish identity and culminate in a seminar next spring in Israel.

Project Zug will include up to 18 U.S. Jewish professionals ages 30-45 – three each from Nashville and five other communities in the P2G Southeast consortium – and an equal number from the Hadera-Eiron region of Israel. Each U.S. participant will take part in weekly online chavruta (one-on-one) study sessions with a partner from Israel as well as monthly webinars involving the entire group.

The P2G pilot program is an outgrowth of Project Zug (Hebrew for "pair"), a 3-year-old initiative under the auspices of a team of American and Israeli Jewish educators aimed at strengthening relationships among Jewish communities around the globe.

The online course for the P2G pilot program is being developed with the help of Rabbi Ethan Tucker of Mechon Hadar and will focus broadly on the topics of Jewish identity, pluralism, peoplehood and leadership. It will run from Nov. 8 through Feb. 7, including the three group webinars led by Rabbis Elie Kaunfer and Jason Rubenstein of Mechon Hadar. The concluding seminar is planned for March 27-27 in Israel, where the U.S. participants will stay in the homes of their Israeli counterparts.

Nashville area residents who wish to apply should contact Harriet Schiftan, the Federation's planning and P2G director, at harriet@jewishnashville.org or (615) 354-1687. The cost of the online course is \$36. •



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Hevruta
(one-on-one) learning partner from Israel

×
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with the entire group of US and Israeli learners

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Registration opens September 1, 2015

www.projectzug.org

For more information please contact your local federation
Contact: Harriet Schiftan | harriet@jewishnashville.org | 615-354-1687

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Star of documentary *Deli Man* will be in Nashville for 15th annual Jewish Film Festival

By CHARLES BERNSEN

Given the importance of food in Jewish culture, it seems fitting that the 15th annual Nashville Jewish Film Festival will conclude with a documentary about that iconic Jewish institution, the deli.

Even better, the guest of honor at the screening of *Deli Man* will be David “Ziggy” Gruber, a third-generation deli owner who is the central figure in director Erik Greenberg Anjou’s paean to knishes,

kreplach and fat pastrami sandwiches.

Still better: The screening at the Gordon Jewish Community Center will include a kosher deli dinner by SOVA catering.

Deli Man is part of a smorgasbord of 15 films in the NJFF lineup that includes comedies, dramas and documentaries from the United States, Israel, England, France and Canada. The festival kicks off on Oct. 13 with a cocktail dinner at the Nashville Children’s Theatre followed by a screening of *Dough*, a 2014 comedy-drama by the British director John Goldschmidt about the crusty Jewish owner of a failing kosher bakery whose young Muslim apprentice accidentally drops a stash of marijuana into a batch of challah dough.

The NJFF, a program of the GJCC and underwritten by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, is making a significant change in its screening schedule this year. Instead of an 11-day run that often included two screenings a day, the festival will stretch 15 screenings over the course of 25 days, with no more than one screening per day. (As usual, no screenings are scheduled on the Sabbath.)

Fran Brumlik, NJFF managing director, said the change is a response to a market survey of more than 2,900 people that indicated the longer scheduled would both ease “film fatigue” and be less disruptive to patrons’ normal routines, making it easier for them to attend more screenings.



As usual, the Belcourt Theatre in Hillsboro Village will be the main venue with nine screenings. There will also be two screenings at the Franklin Theatre as well as a free matinee for seniors at the GJCC and a special free Sunday morning screening at The Temple of a film especially for the community’s religious schools.

In addition to Gruber, the festival will host Israeli television personality Assi Azar for the Oct. 27 screening of *Mom and Dad: I Have Something to Tell You*, a Hebrew-language documentary that explores the journey of Israeli parents after their children tell them they are gay. Azar narrates *Mom and Dad* and will take part in a question and answer session after the screening.

Gruber will attend the festival’s closing to discuss *Deli Man* (2015), the final installment in Anjou’s cinematic trilogy on American Jewish culture. The first two films – *A Cantor’s Tale* (2005) and *The Klezmatics: On Holy Ground* (2010) – explored respectively Jewish liturgical music and the Ashkenazi popular musical genre known as klezmer.

Like those documentaries, *Deli Man* celebrates the past, present and prospective future of a Jewish cultural phenomenon – in this case, the delicatessen – through the prism of individ-

uals dedicated to keeping it alive. Aside from Gruber and other “deli men,” the film also features celebrities like Jerry Stiller, Larry King and Fyvush Finkel expounding on the joys of real delicatessen fare.)

Before studying at the Cordon Bleu in London and then opening his own delicatessen in Houston, Texas, Gruber learned the basics of East European Jewish cooking in New York delis run by his grandfather, father and uncles. But for him, being a deli man is more than making a living or even continuing a family tradition. It’s also a matter of preserving a quintessential element of American Jewish heritage.

“Many of the early Jewish immigrants to America were men who came over without their wives and families,” Gruber said. “Delis started out as a place where they could find familiar food, and they became important meeting places that provided a sense of home and community.”

As Jewish families assimilated, the deli’s role as a communal institution has all but disappeared. According to *Deli Man*, there are only about 150 kosher delis in all of North America today, less than 10 percent of the 1,550 that existed in New York City alone in 1931.

Explaining why he’s so passionate about preserving this aspect of the American Jewish experience, Gruber cited an adage: “You can’t know where you’re going unless you know where you come from.” •

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15th Annual Nashville Jewish Film Festival

Tickets are \$10 (\$8 for group sales of 10 or more) and can be purchased online through the Belcourt Theatre and Franklin Theatre box offices or by contacting Fran Brumlik, NJFF managing director, at (615) 356-7170 or fran@nashvillejcc.org.



Opening Night, Oct. 13, Children's Theatre, 6:30 p.m. cocktail dinner catered by Chef's Market, screening at 7:30 p.m.

Dough, starring Jonathan Pryce. What happens when a failing kosher bakery hires a kid from Darfur who accidentally drops his marijuana into the challah?

Oct. 14, Belcourt Theatre, 7 p.m.

Joachim Prinz: I Shall not be Silent, is a documentary about the man who spoke out against Hitler in the 1930s as a young rabbi in Germany and decades later helped organize the March on Washington, speaking right before Dr. Martin Luther King.

Oct. 19, Belcourt Theatre, box lunch at 11:30 a.m., screening at 12:15 p.m.

Look at Us Now, Mother! Filmmaker Gayle Kirschenbaum and her mother never got along, with Mildred being very hard on her only daughter. It takes a long time for them to reconnect in this autobiographical film that is funny, painful and ultimately poignant.

Oct. 20, Franklin Theatre, 7 p.m.

Very Semi-Serious: A Partially Thorough Portrait of New Yorker Cartoonists. This documentary by Leah

Wolchok is a behind-the-scenes story of the cartoons that appear in *The New Yorker* and the cartoonist who produce them.

Oct. 22, Gordon Jewish Community Center, noon, (free for senior GJCC members)

The Outrageous Sophie Tucker, is William Gazecki's documentary looks at the 60-year vaudeville, television and film career of a woman who was never afraid to be bawdy.

Oct. 22, Belcourt Theatre, 7 p.m.

Felix et Meira, a Canadian film by Maxime Giroux, tells the lovely and quiet love story of a young married Hasidic woman who is unhappy with the her life and a secular man struggling to find a way to live and love in the wake of his estranged father's death.

Oct. 24, Belcourt Theatre, 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. (double feature)

The Art Dealer, is a French film noir by the director Francois that looks at young French woman's quest in the after-

math of World War II to recovery art stolen from her parents.

Hill Start, is a lively new comedy from Israel about families, plastic surgery, mismatched couples, love and romance. (For mature audiences)

Oct. 25, Franklin Theatre, 7 p.m.

Chagall-Malevich, a fictionalized account of the Jewish artist Marc Chagall's days in Paris and Vitebsk in the early 19th century, includes lots of beautiful, color-saturated scenes reminiscent of the artist's modern style.

Oct. 27, Belcourt Theatre, 7 p.m.

Mom and Dad: I Have Something to Tell You, is a Hebrew documentary directed by Yair Qedar and narrated by Assi Azar that explores the journey of parents whose children tell them they are gay. (Co-sponsored by Vanderbilt Hillel)

Oct. 29, Belcourt Theatre, 7 p.m.

Apples from the Desert, is an Israeli film based on a story by writer Savyon Liebrich. It tells the story of a young

Orthodox woman who, seeking freedom from her overbearing father, takes a dance class, meets a handsome young man and moves to a kibbutz.

Nov. 1, The Temple, 9 a.m. (special screening for all religious schools)

Once in a Lifetime, is a French film inspired by a real-life French teacher who helps her working-class students, many of them Muslims, overcome their prejudice by doing a project about children under the Nazi regime.

Nov. 2, Belcourt Theatre, 7 p.m.

24 Days, is a feature film based on a true story about the 2006 kidnapping of Ilan Halimi in France by a gang whose members were sure his family was rich because they were Jewish.

Nov. 5, Belcourt Theatre, 7 p.m.

My Italian Secret: The Forgotten Heroes, a documentary written and directed by Warren Jacoby, recounts the bravery and creativity of ordinary Italians who tried to save their Jewish neighbors from the Nazis.

Nov. 7, Gordon Jewish Community Center, deli dinner catered by SOVA at 6 p.m., screening at 7 p.m.

Deli Man, the third documentary in Erik Greenberg Anjou's trilogy about Jewish culture, tells the story of the great delis and takes a good look at one of the best, Kenny and Ziggy's Deli in Houston. Owner Ziggy Gruber will be on hand for the film, which will be preceded by a deli dinner. •

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As long as our Jewish heart beats and we sing, read, speak, and act on our mission of Tikkan O'lam our HOPE is not lost. The Obligation to be alert and informed can not take a holiday!

Waiting for the calendar reminder of the New Year is not the only time we recognize the joys of our lives and what we can do to create change.

Dr. Fred and Martha Goldner

The Rice Family wishes the entire Nashville Jewish Community a Shanah Tovah! May it be a sweet and good year for all!

Wishing you a year of health, blessings and peace.
Shanah Tovah u'Metukah!
Rabbi Shana & James Mackler
Hannah & Sylvie

Wishing the entire Nashville Jewish community a wonderful new year, filled with blessing, inspiration, joy and growth. May we be inscribed for a sweet and healthy year ahead.

Shana Tova and
Ketiva V'Chatima Tova,
Julie Sugar and Rabbi Aaron
Finkelstein

Rabbi Saul Strosberg and Daniella Pressner, Rabbi Aaron Finkelstein & Cantor George Lieberman, extend warmest wishes for the New Year, in the spiritual and material senses, to our entire community, to all Israel and mankind, for a year of blessings - 5776

**From Our Family To Yours
FOR THE 5776th TIME
Wishing you a Sweet
and Blessed New Year.**

Rabbi Yitzchok and Esther,
Berel & Tzivi (Namdar),
Bassie, Levi, Chana
and Sarah Tiechtel

**Le-Shanah
Tovah Tikkatevu**

**Barbara & Ted
Mayden**



May the New Year bring peace, prosperity and a world filled with laughter and love. May you be inscribed for a sweet and good year!

Your friends at
Congregation Beit Tefilah and Chabad of Nashville

Our best wishes for a New Year filled with blessings and joy.

Rabbi Joshua, Jessica, Iara,
Abi & Meital Kullock



**Shana
Tova**

**Gene and
Reva Heller**

*Rosh Hashanah
Greetings*

from the Herzogs,
Drew, Risa,
Vivian and Tess

*Have a
Healthy, Happy
New Year!*

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KRAFT**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**Chuck and Alison,
Andrea and Kevin,
Jamie, Leslie
and Howard
Kirshner**

Rabbi Mark and Harriet Schifftan, and our children Ari, Sarah Rose, and Jacob Schifftan wish each and every one of you a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year.

Happy New Year!

Sara Cohan
& Eric Newell

"May G-d who makes peace in the heavens, grant peace to us and to all of Israel, and let us say Amen" (oseh shalom)

Wishing you and your families a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful year- 5776.

Liron Finkelstein,
your Community Shlichah

**L'Shana
Tovah-
Tikkatevu
Jackie and
Howard Tepper**

Wishing our Nashville Jewish community a happy, sweet and peaceful 5776.
L'shana tova u'metuka!

Cantor Tracy Fishbein
and Glenn Turtel

***A Happy & Healthy
New Year 5776!***

Leon Tonelson

**ROSH HASHANAH
GREETINGS**

Jill and Dan Eisenstein



B'nai B'rith Social Unit
wishes you and your family
a year of peace, health
and happiness.

Shana Tova
Umetukah

*Bobbie & Alex
Limor and Family*

Wishing all our
Friends in the
Community a Happy
and Healthy New Year

*Steven, Esther, Evan
and Jordan Remer*

**Warmest
wishes for
a healthy
New Year!**

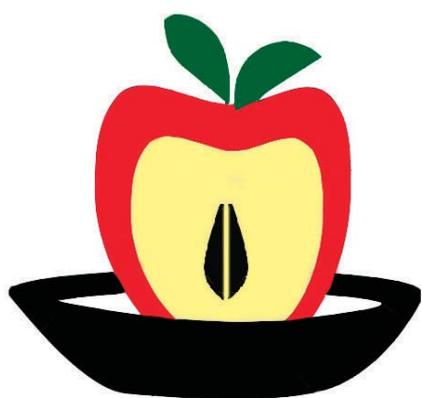
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AND
HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**

Marcia & Lee Stewart

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and
Healthy New Year!*

Gwen and Frank Gordon
and Family



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*L'Shana Tova to all of our
dear friends in Nashville...*

*We are so proud to call this
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our home.*

*May the year of 5776 be a good
and healthy one for all of you.*

**Mark S. Freedman
and Leslie J. Klein**

**שנה טובה
ומתוקה**





National Council of Jewish Women
Nashville Section

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National Council of Jewish Women, Nashville Section

Jamie Brook, Freya Sachs, Erin Zagnoev, Co-Presidents

Frances Pursell, Executive Director

Contact us at info@nashvillencjw.org

Continued wishes for a Healthy and Prosperous New Year for all!

Leslie M. Sax

“May G-d who makes peace in the heavens, grant peace to us and to all our people; and let us say, Amen.”

-Oseh Shalom

The Community Relations Committee (CRC) wishes you a Shanah Tovah Tikkatevu.

Arthur Perlen
CRC Chair

Abbie Wolf
Director of Community Relations



Jewish Federation
& Jewish Foundation
OF NASHVILLE AND MIDDLE TENNESSEE

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THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

From our Family to Yours, L'Shana Tova

Carla, Mark & Ben Rosenthal

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year

The Ducklo Family

We wish the Nashville Community a Very Happy and Healthy New Year.

May we all keep working together for a continued strong and vibrant Jewish community life in Nashville.

The Amsels
The Hanais
The Kogans



*On behalf of the Officers,
the Board of Directors
and the Staff of the Jewish
Federation we wish you, your
family and friends a happy,
healthy and sweet New Year.*

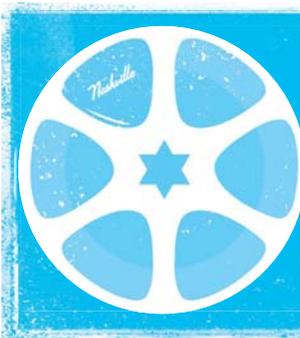
Carol Hyatt, President

Mark S. Freedman, Executive Director



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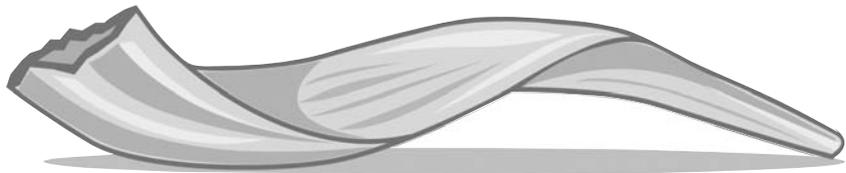
For information and events, please contact Leslie Klein at 615-649-8284 or leslieklein@gmail.com.



**With gratitude for the many
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Happy New Year to All!**

Carrie and Garrett Mills

**Have a Happy
and Healthy
New Year!**
Charles Bernsen



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High Holy Days - 5776

Congregational Schedules

Congregation Sherith Israel

3800 West End Ave.
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Saturday, Sept. 5

Selichot12:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 6

Memorial service (Lucas Chapel).....Noon

Sunday, Sept. 13 (Erev Rosh Hashanah)

Candle lighting6:40 p.m.

Evening service.....6:45 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 14 (First day of Rosh Hashanah)

Preliminary services.....8 a.m.

Torah reading.....9:30 a.m.

Rabbi's address/shofar10:15 a.m.

Musaf10:40 a.m.

Lunch (reservations required)12:45 p.m.

Tashlich (Richland Creek)2:30 p.m.

Mincha/Ma'ariv6:40 p.m.

Earliest candle lighting7:35 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 15 (Second day of Rosh Hashanah)

Preliminary services.....8 a.m.

Torah reading.....9:30 a.m.

Rabbi's address/shofar10:20 a.m.

Musaf10:40 a.m.

Mincha6:40 p.m.

Ma'ariv/havdallah7:34 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 16 (Fast of Gedalia)

Shacharit6:30 a.m.

Mincha.....6:30 p.m.

Fast ends7:20 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 22 (Erev Yom Kippur)

Shacharit6:30 a.m.

Mincha2:00 p.m.

Late Mincha.....6:00 p.m.

Candle lighting6:27 p.m.

Kol Nidre.....6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 23 (Yom Kippur)

Shacharit8:30 a.m.

Torah reading.....10:30 a.m.

Rabbi's address11:15 a.m.

Yizkor11:30 a.m.

Musaf11:40 a.m.

Reading of the names4 p.m.

Mincha.....4:45 p.m.

Neilah.....6:10 p.m.

Shofar/break fast.....7:21 p.m.

West End Synagogue

3810 West End Ave.
(Conservative)

Sunday, Sept. 13 (Erev Rosh Hashanah)

Evening service6 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 14 (First day of Rosh Hashanah)

Service9 a.m.

Blessing of babies born in previous year.....
10:30 a.m.

*Family and student service.....11 a.m.

Tashlich (meet at WES).....4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2015 (Second day of Rosh Hashanah)

Service9 a.m.

*Family and student services.....1 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 22 (Erev Yom Kippur)

Kol Nidre service.....6 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 23 (Yom Kippur)

Service.....9:30 a.m.

*Family and student services11:00 a.m.
(Learners' service follows the Rabbi's d'var
Torah)

Blowing of the Shofar7:21 p.m.

(Havdallah - Ramah style - follows Shofar
blowing)

*For families with young children

(preschool-1st grade), children in grades

2-7 and teens.

Congregation Micah

2001 Old Hickory Blvd.
(Reform)

Saturday, Sept. 5

High Holy Days text study9:00 a.m.

Shabbat morning service.....10:30 a.m.

Selichot service followed by oneg.....9 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 13 (Erev Rosh Hashanah)

Erev Rosh Hashanah service*.....7:30 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 14 (Rosh Hashanah)

Morning service with shofar*.....10:00 a.m.

Youth service (grades 4-7)3 p.m.

Parent Mixer3 p.m.

Young family service (birth to grad 3).....

3:15 p.m.

(The afternoon services will be followed by
Tashlich and a birthday party for the
World!)

Friday, Sept. 18 (Shabbat Shuvah)

Cemetery memorial service.....10:30 a.m.

Contemplative Shabbat service.....6 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 22 (Kol Nidrei)

Kol Nidrei service*7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 23 (Yom Kippur)

Morning service*10 a.m.

Young family service (birth-grade 3).....1 p.m.

Youth service (grades 4-7)1 p.m.

Study session.....1 p.m.

Healing service2 p.m.

Study session2 p.m.

Afternoon service3:30 p.m.

Yizkor followed by Neilah5 p.m.

*Babysitting available

The Temple

5015 Harding Road
(Reform)

Saturday, Sept. 5

Selichot service7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

(Includes Havdallah, screening of the film
From Swastika to Jim Crow, discussion,
dessert reception and Selichot services.
Participants are invited to continue with

Selichot prayers at 11:30 p.m. service at
Chabad of Nashville.)

Sunday, Sept. 13 (Erev Rosh Hashanah)

Erev Rosh Hashanah service.....7:30 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 14 (Rosh Hashanah)

Family service.....9 a.m.

Tot Yom Tov9 a.m.

Morning service10:30 a.m.

President's reception12:45 p.m.

Tashlich at the creek1 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 18 (Shabbat Shuvah)

Evening service6 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 20

Memorial Service 2 p.m. (at Temple cemetery)

Tuesday, Sept. 22 (Erev Yom Kippur)

Kol Nidre service7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 23

Family service.....9 a.m.

Tot Yom Tov9:00 a.m.

Morning service10:30 a.m.

Congregants' hour12:45 p.m.

Afternoon service2 p.m.

Study hour3:15 p.m.

Yizkor and concluding service4:15 p.m.

Break Fast follows concluding service
(reservations required)

Congregation Beit Tefilah/Chabad of Nashville

95 Bellevue Road
(Orthodox)

Saturday, Sept. 5

Selichot.....11:30 p.m.

(Hosted jointly with Congregation Sherith
Israel and open to the entire community)

Sunday, Sept. 13 (Erev Rosh Hashanah)

Candle lighting and service.....6:30 p.m.

New year's eve dinner7:30 p.m.

(Dinner reservations required. For more
information, please visit www.chabad-nashville.com)

Monday, Sept. 14 (First day of Rosh Hashanah)

Morning service9 a.m.

Children's service.....10:45-11:30 a.m.

Shofar sounding11:45 a.m.

Mussaf12:30 p.m.

Tashlich at Percy Warner Park5:45 p.m.

Candle lighting after.7:36 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. (Second day of Rosh Hashanah)

Morning service9 a.m.

Children's service.....10:45-11:30 a.m.

Shofar sounding11:45 a.m.

Mussaf12:30 p.m.

Holiday ends.....7:34 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 22 (Erev Yom Kippur)

Candle lighting.....6:28 p.m.

Kol Nidrei service.....6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 23 (Yom Kippur)

Morning service9:30 a.m.

Children's service.....10:45-11:30 a.m.

Yizkor (memorial service).....11:45 a.m.

Mussaf12:15 p.m.

The Inner Circle3:30 p.m.

Mincha.....5 p.m.

Ne'ilah (closing service).....6 p.m.

Havdalah service and break fast.....7:22 p.m.

(To RSVP or for more information please
call (615) 646-5750, email rabbi@chabad-nashville.com
or visit www.chabad-nashville.com)

Pomegranate and honey-glazed chicken makes for a tasty and symbolic Rosh Hashanah meal

By LIZ RUEVEN

Pomegranates, *rimonim* in Hebrew, are one of the most recognizable and highly symbolic fruits in Jewish culture. Originating in Persia, these reddish, thick skinned fruit (technically a berry) begin to appear in markets at end of summer and are typically available for Rosh Hashanah.

According to Gil Marks in *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Food*, the abundance of seeds nestled in the fruits white membrane and encased in a protective and leathery skin is associated with the 613 commandments in the Torah. They serve as symbols of righteousness and fruitfulness as expressed in the Rosh Hashanah expression, “May we be full of merits like the pomegranate (is full of seeds).”

This ancient fruit, prized for its juice and seeds (called arils), is mentioned in the Bible as one the seven most bountiful agriculture products of ancient Israel. It is associated with fertility and sensuality and is mentioned six times in the “Song of Songs.”

In biblical times, pomegranates were used to add tart flavors to ancient dishes before lemons and tomatoes were discovered. Since then, pomegranates have been used to add unique and complex dimensions to Sephardic and central Asian soups, stews, sauces, chutneys and desserts. They may be juiced, dried, reduced, ground or pressed into pomegranate oil.

Today, pomegranates are prized for their antioxidant and potent nutritional value, just as they were in ancient Egypt when the seeds were believed to heal



Courtesy of myjewishlearning.com

intestinal disorders. The fruit’s juice and arils are used in a wide range of applications including cocktails, glazes, syrups, simmer sauces and glistening toppings for green salads and vegetable dishes.

In *The New Persian Kitchen*, author Louisa Shafia offers numerous pomegranate dishes including a classic Iranian

stew called fesenjan, often served at celebrations. The chicken is cooked with beets and thickened with coarsely ground walnuts and pomegranate molasses. As in many Persian dishes, pomegranate seeds are used as a glistening, jewel-like garnish.

She illustrates removing the seeds a few different ways but I like the “water method” best. Simply slice off the two ends and quarter the fruit with a knife. Submerge the quarters in a bowl of cold water and pull out the seeds with your fingers. The pith and skin float to the surface as the arils sink to the bottom. Scoop out everything but the seeds and pour water and seeds through a mesh colander to collect them.

This Rosh Hashanah chicken is potent with pomegranates goodness as the symbolic fruit is used in 3 ways: juice, molasses and arils (seeds). The flavors are bold, tangy and slightly sweet — a Middle Eastern influenced sweet and sour!

(Note: the simmer sauce may be prepared 2-3 days ahead and refrigerated until ready to prepare the chicken.)

Ingredients

- 1 4-lb chicken cut into pieces
- 4 Tbsp canola oil (separated: 2 Tbsp for simmer sauce and 2 Tbsp for browning the chicken)
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ cup pomegranate molasses
- ½ cup sweetened pomegranate juice
- ½ cup honey
- 2 cups vegetable or chicken broth
- 1 tsp cumin
- ½ tsp powdered ginger
- ⅛ tsp allspice
- ½ tsp turmeric
- salt and pepper to taste
- For the garnish:
- 2 Tbsp parsley
- 2 Tbsp pomegranate arils (seeds)

Directions

Heat 2 Tbsp canola oil in a large pan. Sauté chopped onion until soft and translucent. Add minced garlic and saute for 2-3 minutes (do not brown). Add pomegranate molasses, juice, honey, broth and spices. Stir and bring to boil. Reduce to an active simmer, and cook uncovered, for about 20 minutes or until sauce is reduced by about ½ the volume and slightly thickened. Taste sauce and adjust seasoning. (Too tart? Add 1-2 Tbsp honey. Want more kick? Crack more black pepper.) Remove sauce from heat and pour into bowl. Set aside.

Wash pan. Rinse chicken parts, pat dry, season with salt and pepper. Heat remaining 2 Tbsp of oil in pan and place chicken parts skin side down. Brown on one side and flip to second side. Do not crowd chicken in the pan as this causes chicken to steam rather than brown. Lower heat, pour prepared simmer sauce over the chicken. Cover pan and simmer on low for 35-40 minutes.

Remove from pan and platter, garnishing with chopped parsley and pomegranate arils. •

This recipe first appeared in *The Nosh* blog on myjewishlearning.com.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

from

SOUTHEAST CONSORTIUM and HADERA-EIRON PARTNERSHIP REGION



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In each of 2012 and 2013, the Southeast Consortium and Hadera-Eiron Partnership Region sponsored exhibits which were on view in both Israel and the United States. Building on this past history, and fueled by a desire to generate creative, long-term partnerships between Israeli and American artists; and encourage artistic expression from a Jewish perspective, the Partnership is expanding the exhibition concept. We are planning this exhibit to coincide with the P2G Celebration in Israel in April 2016, with the intent that the artwork would be available to travel for approximately 18 months.

To start this project, the Partnership hereby issues this Call for Artists who reside in the Hadera-Eiron Region and the Southeast U.S. Consortium and invites them to present their artistic works in a joint exhibition.

Eligibility:

Artists living and/or working in the Partnership region in Israel: Hadera, Pardes Hanna-Karkur, the Menashe Regional Council and the Alona Regional Council. Artists from the cities of the Southeast Consortium Partnership: In Tennessee - Nashville, Knoxville, and Chattanooga; in Florida - Pinellas, Fort Myers, Daytona and Jacksonville; in North Carolina - Charlotte; in South Carolina - Charleston; in Virginia - Richmond.

General information

The theme of the exhibit, Psalms, will serve as a source of artistic growth and breakthrough, inspiration and empowerment-irrespective of limits, location or language. The motif of this exhibit opens a portal to a broad variety of possibilities; the Book of Psalms addresses all life areas as well as relations between people among themselves, with their G-d, and with their communities.

Each Israeli artist will be paired with a U.S. artist via the exhibition’s lead team not necessarily by similar media. Artists will be asked to participate, as partners, in an educational on-line program about the Psalms which will take place over five sessions or more at their chosen and has been tailor-made for this project. The joint course will establish a personal connection between the pairs and will make it easier to find an original topic to inspire their creation. The artist pair will select a Psalm and enter into a creative partnership, to produce two individual but related pieces, or if the pair chooses they can create one joint piece.

Each artist will appear in a printed catalog as well as an online catalog of the exhibition.

Works to be exhibited will not include pieces which are disrespectful with content that is political, sexual or includes black humor.

Commitment from Artist participants:

- Work with artist partner on a series of five on-line study sessions related to the Psalms through the Project Zug website at <http://www.projectzug.org/>
- Cooperation and direct online contact with the partner artist as they prepare an artistic work to be presented in Israel and in the U.S. communities.

- Artist will work with local federation to ship art to Israel NO LATER than Feb 8th .
- Artists will be asked to forgo the right to receive the work in return. We strongly encourage that the Artist works will be sold upon the conclusion of the exhibition. When you submit your Interest to Participate you will be asked: if you will be willing to donate your finished art work to the Partnership with the understanding that it will be sold to benefit additional programs.

Requirements for size of final submissions for exhibition:

Size limitations for two dimensional pieces 50X50 cm / 19X19 inches
Size limitations for three dimensional pieces 40X40X40cm / 15X15X15 inches
Total weight of no more than 8kg / 17pounds
Information needed to submit:

CV and electronic images up to four pieces of your current work. Please select pieces showing the materials you are proposing to use for this project. All sorts of works will be accepted - visual, drawing/painting, sculpture, photography, print creations, integrative art, glass, metal, ceramics, papier-mâché and so forth.

All artistic creations must be original.

Timeline:

September 8, 2015..... Deadline for registration through your local Federation
September 10, 2015..... Decision on your participation
October 1, 2015..... Match between Israeli and US artists
October 11, 2015..... Begin Psalms Course
November 15, 2015..... Final decision on work
November 22, 2015..... End of Course
February 8, 2016 Finished work at your local Federation
February 12, 2016 Work leaves the US for Israel
March 6, 2016 Work in Israel
March 30, 2016 Exhibition Opening in Israel
**These are approximate dates and may be subject to change.

Travel to Israel

Artist who wishes to be present for the Opening of the Exhibition will have the opportunity to be hosted in home hospitality in the Hadera-Eiron Region with their Israeli peers on the following weekend of the Exhibit between March 30 - April 2, 2016. This coincides with the P2G@20 Celebrations between April 4-7, 2016.

All questions and submissions should be sent to Harriet Schifftan at harriet@jewishnashville.org or 615-354-1687.

Challah for the Holidays

Chabad offering round challah, honey cakes and "High Holiday dinner-in-a-box"

Chabad of Nashville wants to help the metro Nashville Jewish community prepare for a happy, healthy new year with kosher food, including sweet round challah, and important High Holiday culinary tradition that symbolizes the cycle of life and provides a reminder of the ruler in heaven.

At chabadchallah.com, professional baker Melissa Sostrin will be making her signature delicious round challahs, apple cakes and honey cakes for the High Holidays and will offer challah and other kosher baked goods every Friday throughout the year. Melissa will also

provide gluten-free challah, which Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel of Chabad of Nashville said is kosher for ha-motzi (the traditional blessing for bread).

This year, Chabad Challah is also offering "High Holiday Dinner In A Box," which will include an entire homemade New Year's dinner for a family of two to 20. The "High Holidays In-A-Box" will include freshly baked round challah, gefilte fish, chicken soup with matzah balls, honey roasted chicken, tzimmes, farfalle, and Melissa's signature honey cake.

Over the past year Melissa's signature challah has been featured at almost every one of Nashville's congregations and

communal organizations as well as many b'nei mitzvah celebrations and weddings and Shabbat tables across Nashville.

"Melissa's challah is the best I have ever had, and the foundation by which I can't help but measure all others," said Crystal Gimesh, a regular customer.

For more information, or to place your order, please call 615.752.0639 or email chabadchallah@gmail.com •



Panima offering High Holiday challah

When Erika Shuman opened Panima in 2013, she never imagined that she would be baking almost 1,000 loaves of challah for the High Holidays alone.

"From day one, we resolved to make only the finest products using only the finest ingredients," Shuman says. "It is so rewarding to have so many happy customers come back week after week, year after year."

Shuman is offering a variety of options for the High Holidays this year:

- Round challah (\$6)
- Round Challah with raisins (\$7)
- Round whole wheat challah (\$7)

- Cinnamon swirl challah loaf (\$7)
- Chocolate swirl challah loaf (\$7)
- Challah rolls (8/bag, \$6)

Those who want to order can stop by the front desk of the Gordon Jewish Community Center, fill out a form and leave it with the receptionist along with payment. Orders can also be placed by contacting Panima directly at panimabakers@comcast.net or (615) 585-7496.

Rosh Hashanah challah orders will be available for pick-up in the lobby of the GJCC on Thursday, Sept. 10. Alternative delivery/pick-up arrangements can also be made by contacting Erika at panimabakers@comcast.net or (615) 585-7496. •

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The Herb Society of Nashville is having a Party!

Everyone is Invited!

September 19, 2015

Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art
1200 Forrest Park Drive
Nashville, TN 37205.



Speakers include:

Ralph Null, international floral designer, will demonstrate the use of herbs and other Southern landscape plants in floral designs.

Todd Breyer, landscape architect and designer, will share his expertise in landscaping outdoor patios and garden rooms.

Emily Frith, celebrated chef and caterer, will demonstrate the use of culinary herbs in food and libations served at lunch.

Vendors include:

Roy Overcast - pottery collection

Kathy Edwards - fairy houses and jewelry

Susie Ries - botanical watercolorist

and many more!

Music all day long by The Boomerangs - a popular local band playing music from the 60's and 70's!

Sign-in at 8:30 a.m.

9:00 am - Delicious breakfast foods prepared by the Herb Society of Nashville members.

3:00 p.m. - The educational program will conclude with a live auction of floral arrangements of Ralph Null.

For more information, visit herbsocietynashville.org or contact Rhonda Galligan at rhonda.galligan@gmail.com or by phone, 931-224-8947.

Please visit our Facebook for updates!

Accepting Early Registration!

Early Bird Registration is \$42.00 and September Registration is \$47 per person to cover expenses of speakers, entertainment and lunch.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sukkot - 5776

Congregational Schedules

Congregation Sherith Israel

3800 West End Ave.
(Modern Orthodox)

Sunday, Sept. 27 (Erev Sukkot)

Candle lighting.....6:20 p.m.
Mincha.....6:25 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 28 (first day of Sukkot)

Shacharit.....9 a.m.
Mincha.....6:20 p. m.
Candle lighting..... 7:14 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 29 (second day of Sukkot)

Shacharit.....9 a.m.
Mincha.....6:20 a. m.
Candle lighting7:13 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 2 (Chol Hamoed)

Shabbat candle lighting.....6:12 p.m.
Mincha.....6:15 p.m.
Dinner in the Sukkah
(open to the community).....7 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 4 (Hoshanah Rabbah)

Shacharit5:45 a.m.
Candle lighting6:09 p.m.
Mincha6:15 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 5 (Shemini Atzeret/Yizkor)

Shacharit..... 9 a.m.
Yizkor.....10:45 a.m.
Mincha.....6:10 p.m.
Hakafot.....7 p.m.
Candle lighting.....7:04 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 6 (Simchat Torah)

Shacharit.....9 a.m.
Hakafot.....9:45 a.m.
Lunch.....noon
Mincha.....6:10 p.m.
Ma'ariv/Havdalah7:03 p.m.

West End Synagogue

3810 West End Ave.
(Conservative)

Sept. 28, Sept. 29 and Oct. 3 (Sukkot)

Morning services9:30 a.m.
Evening services.....6 p.m.

Sept. 29, Oct. 1, Oct. 2 (Sukkot intermediate days)

Morning services6:30 a.m.
Evening services.....6 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 5 (Shemini Atzeret)

Service (including Yiskor).....9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 6 (Erev Simchat Torah)

Simchat Torah dinner and service
.....5:30-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 7 (Simchat Torah)

Service.....9:30 a.m.

Congregation Micah

2001 Old Hickory Blvd.
(Reform)

Friday, Oct. 2 (Simchat Torah Celebration and Sukkot Sleepover)

Campsite opens.....2p.m.
Pre-Neg libations and snacks.....5:30 p.m.
Shabbat service and Torah dancing.6:00 p.m.
Dinner followed by crafts, movie, overnight
camping.....7p.m.

Congregation Beit Tefilah/Chabad of Nashville

95 Bellevue Road
(Orthodox)

Sunday, Sept. 27 (Erev Sukkot)

Candle lighting6:20 p.m.
Service6:30 p.m.
Community dinner under the stars7 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 28 (first day of Sukkot)

Morning service9:30 a.m.
Lulav shake10:30 a.m.
Priestly blessings.....11:45 a.m.
Candle lighting after.....7:14 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 29 (second day of Sukkot)

Morning service9:30 a.m.
Lulav shake.....10:30 a.m.
Priestly blessings.....11:45 a.m.
Holiday ends.....7:13 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 2 (Erev Shabbat Sukkot)

Candle lighting6:12 p.m.
Shabbat service.....6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 3 (Shabbat Sukkot)

Morning service9:30 a.m.
Torah reading10:30 a.m.
Lunch in the *sukkah*12:00 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 4 (Erev Shmini Atzeret)

Candle lighting6:09 p.m.
Chassidic *hakafot*6:30 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 5 (Shmini Atzeret)

Morning service9:30 a.m.
Yizkor (memorial service).....11:15 a.m.
Priestly blessings11:45 a.m.
Simchat Torah dinner and *hakafot*.....7 p.m.
(Candle lighting after 7:04 p.m.)

Tuesday, Oct. 6 (Simchat Torah Service)

Morning service9:30 a.m.
Read concluding portion of Torah....10:30 a.m.
Holiday ends.....7:03 p.m.

The Temple

5015 Harding Road
(Reform)

Sunday, Sept. 27 (Erev Sukkot)

Conversion Conversations Dinner in the
Sukkah5 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 30

Renew dinner in the Sukkah.....6 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 2 (Erev Shabbat Sukkot)

Simchat Torah celebration and oneg6 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 3

Next Dor Sukkot under the Stars.....6 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 4

WELL "It's a Knitzvah" in the Sukkah.....1 p.m.

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14 years after her mother's death, writer finds a way to recite *Unetaneh Tokef*

By JENNIFER RICHLER

Like most Jews, I used to recite the prayer *Unetaneh Tokef* every year on the High Holidays. This is the prayer that states:

On Rosh Hashanah it is written, and on Yom Kippur it is sealed.

How many will pass and how many will be created?

Who will live and who will die?

The prayer goes on to enumerate various ways a person might die: by fire, water, sword, beast, hunger, thirst, earthquake, drowning, strangling, stoning. It ends by reminding us that *teshuvah* and *tefillah* and *tzedakah*—repentance and prayer and righteous acts—“avert the evil decree.”

Fourteen years ago, while she was on a hike with my father off the coast of New Brunswick, my mother slipped and fell to her death about a hundred feet from the edge of a precipice.

Although the *Unetaneh Tokef* had long made me uneasy with its stark imagery and invocation of a supernatural God I didn't believe in, after my mother died the prayer took on a very personal meaning: that God had taken my mother's life because she hadn't sufficiently repented, prayed, and/or performed righteous acts. I couldn't accept that. And I haven't said the prayer since.

Of course, the *Unetaneh Tokef* is but one extreme example of a prayer that portrays God as punishing and all-powerful. This notion of God has never made sense to me. If I believe in God at all, it's on a much more abstract level: God as transcendence, God as goodness. Shouldn't I reject all prayers to a supernatural God, I've wondered, instead of picking on just one prayer?

Despite my misgivings, on the High Holidays and at other times during the year when I find myself at services, something pulls me to continue saying other prayers: the familiarity of the melodies and even the connection to my mother, who was once president of our congregation and a regular at services. But since she died, whenever I pray, I feel like a fraud.

To work through this dilemma, I sought guidance from someone who I figured had given these issues some thought: my rabbi, Brian Besser. He helped me see my struggles in a different light.

First he pointed out that skepticism is a kind of prayer; when I sat silent in the sanctuary during the *Unetaneh Tokef*, arms folded in protest, I was praying. The word “Israel,” he reminded me, means “one who struggles with God.” As Jews, we're supposed to struggle. What we're



By Andrea Tsurimi courtesy of Tablet

not supposed to do, he said, is “throw up our hands” in apathy.

One way of dealing with my struggle, I realized, is to embrace it rather than try to resolve it. But why pray if I don't believe the words I'm saying?

Because, said Besser, rituals like prayer satisfy deep emotional needs that defy logic. When it comes to the realm of the emotional, it's OK not to be consistent.

I understand the emotional pull of ritual. After my mother died, I recited the Mourner's Kaddish every Sabbath for a year, as is traditionally required of mourners, even though the actual words, which sanctify God's name, didn't resonate with me. There was something powerful about standing up in the sanctuary with other mourners and uttering the same words, the same ones that have been uttered by Jewish mourners all over the world for many centuries.

Privileging the emotional over the rational is hard for me. I care about consistency, especially when it comes to my words and ideas. I'm a writer, after all; if the specific words I use don't matter, what does? So, perhaps it's not surprising that the idea that resonated with me most from my discussion with Rabbi Besser involved looking closely at the words of a prayer. He pointed that the *Unetaneh Tokef*, when properly translated, says that repentance has the power not to “avert the evil decree” but to “cause the evilness of decree to pass away.” The prayer doesn't say that bad things won't happen if we repent, but instead that the harshness of what happens will dissolve if we do.

In the aftermath of my mother's death, I certainly felt bitterness, self-pity, and despair. Sometimes, I still do. But whenever I can, I try to transcend those

feelings. I look for ways I can evoke my mother's memory, whether by telling my children about her, or using one of her favorite recipes. I smile to myself when I notice ways I resemble her.

This year, taking my rabbi's words to heart, I've decided to break my 14-year streak and recite the *Unetaneh Tokef*. I've found a way to understand the words so that they reflect my beliefs. I'm still not sure about other prayers. Many have words that are hard for me to endorse, but I can't imagine not saying them. Maybe that doesn't make me a fraud. Maybe that makes me human.

Jennifer Richler, a freelance writer living in Bloomington, Indiana, wrote this piece before the High Holidays last year for Tablet, a daily online magazine of Jewish news, ideas and culture at tabletmag.com.

Beit Tefilah and Sherith Israel to host Selichot service

To kickoff the upcoming High Holiday season, Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad will host a communal Selichot Service with Congregation Sherith Israel.

Selichot, the service of repentance, in preparation for the Jewish New Year, will take place at 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 5, at the Genesis Campus for Jewish Life, 95 Bellevue Road.

Selichot is an opportunity to examine one's deeds of the past year, direct one's heart and mind to the process of *teshuvah* (repentance) and seek forgiveness. Some of the prayers and music found in the Selichot service are taken from the High Holy Day liturgy, thus providing a transition between “old year” and the new year.

The service will include the musical talents of Rabbi Saul Strosburg of Sherith Israel and insights into the Selichot by Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel of Congregation Beit Tefilah. The evening will begin with a Chasidic Farberengen led by Rabbi Shlomo Rothstein of Chabad of Vanderbilt in which he will explore how Jewish wisdom and the art of gratitude can help people find life's deepest meaning, joy and inner peace. According to Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel, gratitude does not simply elevate the soul but also inspires us to act for the good and the right.

This event is being held in preparation for celebrating the High Holy Days and is free and open to the public. For more information call (615) 646-5750 or go to chabadnashville.com.

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Dan Perry
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About Your Speaker. Daniel resides in Franklin, Tennessee with his wife Catherine and their son William. He graduated from the University of Dayton School of Law in Dayton, Ohio, and received his Bachelors degree from Purdue University and his Associates Degree from Holy Cross College in South Bend, Indiana. Daniel serves as an Estate Planning Attorney with Rabalais Law that services the greater Nashville area with its office located in the West End.

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Five ways to focus your spiritual awareness for the High Holidays

By TAMARA COHEN

The Jewish month of Elul is traditionally a time for personal reflection and spiritual preparation for the New Year. It offers a structured opportunity to examine what is holding us back from being who we really want to be. If we use the period of Elul to take concrete steps towards becoming advocates for change, together we can make a difference!

Relationship with God

Tradition: The word Elul can be understood as an acronym for the Hebrew verse *Ani L'dodi V' dodi Li* – "I am for my beloved and my beloved is for me."

Suggestion: Think about your relationship with whatever you conceive of as the Divine Presence. Try to imagine a more intimate relationship, as if God were your beloved. You might want to write a letter addressed to this Beloved in which you speak as you would to a close friend. You may want to honor yourself as "created in God's image" by treating yourself as you would treat a beloved.

Human Relationships

Tradition: The *teshuvah* [repentance] process operates on two levels, one involving human relationships and the other involving our relationship with God. According to tradition, we resolve human relationships during Elul by asking forgiveness for wrongdoings. If we earnestly asks three times, the obligation is fulfilled.

Suggestion: As part of your *teshuvah* process, try to sort out difficult relationships (with people, organizations) that drain you of your creative energy. Think about what kind of closure you need in order to move forward into the next year.

Shofar

Tradition: The *shofar* (ram's horn) is blown at the conclusion of every weekday morning prayer service during Elul.

Suggestion: Use this month to listen for the shofar's rousing call. Carve out some time to think through the kinds of changes you want to make in the coming year. What's holding you back?

Psalm 27

Tradition: Psalm 27 — which begins with the words "God is my light and my helper, whom shall I fear?" — is recited every day from Rosh Hodesh Elul (the beginning of the month) through the middle of Sukkot (the Festival of Booths).

Suggestion: Honor the fact that change can involve fear. Think about keeping an Elul journal to help revive your internal dialogue. You may want to use some or all of Psalm 27 as a departure point for meditation and/or writing. Books like *The Artist's Way* by Julia Cameron may also be useful tools.

Kol Nidre

Tradition: Kol Nidre (the first prayer recited on the eve of Yom Kippur) serves to annul all existing vows and prepare us to begin the New Year with a clean slate. The *Al Chet* prayer enumerates the specific ways we have missed the mark.

Suggestion: Take some time to re-evaluate your participation in the community. Try to be more conscious of how you spend your time and money. Do your calendar and checkbook reflect your values and priorities?

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New Reform prayer book aims to make High Holidays more gender inclusive

By GABE FRIEDMAN

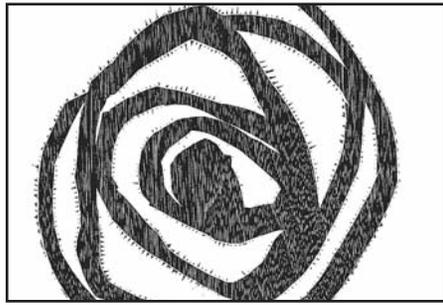
(JTA) – When some Reform synagogue-goers, including those at The Temple in Nashville, open up their prayer books this High Holiday season, they will be greeted with snippets of poems by the likes of Walt Whitman and Pablo Neruda. Feminist and LGBTQ-friendly terms and phrases will be subtly incorporated into the prayers; scattered among those prayers will be original woodcut prints inspired by the holidays.

The Central Conference of American Rabbis, the principal organization of North American Reform rabbis, has revamped its High Holidays prayer book for the first time since 1978.

The new prayer book, or *machzor*, reflects an effort to be more inclusive of women and LGBTQ Jews. In some cases, God is referred to as a woman. One passage substitutes the words “bride” and “groom” with the gender-neutral “couple.” In a blessing that calls congregants to the Torah, mention of gender is left out as a gesture to transgender people.

“There’s no way to give you a percentage [of what has changed] — it’s a totally new book,” said Rabbi Hara Person, the rabbinical group’s director of publications. “Of course, it’s based on the structure of any *machzor* ... but it’s not just a sort of tweaked version.”

The new prayer book, *Mishkan ha-*



Some of artist Joel Shapiro’s original woodcuts appear in print form in the new Reform holiday prayer book. (Joel Shapiro (C) 2015 by Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York)

Nefesh, also features what Person calls counter texts, which accompany traditional prayers and challenge their assertions. For example, the important *Unetaneh Tokef* prayer is followed by a philosophical Carl Sandburg poem and then by the new sentence: “I speak these words, but I don’t believe them ... clearly there’s no scientific foundation ...”

In addition to textual changes, the new two-volume book contains original artwork for the first time: 11 commissioned woodcuts by the renowned artist Joel Shapiro.

The goal, Person says, is to make all Jews, no matter how religious they are, feel more comfortable during High Holiday services, even if they only attend due to family pressure.

When the prayer book was unveiled

at the Central Conference of American Rabbis’ annual convention in March, 180 synagogues had already ordered it. That number has risen to approximately 300 as the holidays approach.

Among them is The Temple, which has been using it during Shabbat services to familiarize the congregation with it before the holidays, said Rabbi Shana Mackler.

“We are looking forward to using the new prayer book,” Rabbi Mackler

said. “We have been studying it, learning about all the innovations, returns to tradition and new, thoughtful prayers included.”

Person said there hasn’t been much negative backlash among Reform rabbis. The book had been in the pipeline for seven years, four of which involved testing the book in services at select congregations across the country, so those in the know have been expecting the changes for some time. •

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French Jews made 5775 the year of “*aliyah* by choice”

CNAAN LIPSHIZ

(JTA) — In their central Jerusalem apartment, Natan and Avital Sharansky can hear their new upstairs neighbors chatting in French on their patio.

The young family moved into the penthouse earlier this month, shortly after immigrating to Israel with help of the Jewish Agency for Israel — the semi-official organization for Jewish immigration to Israel, or *aliyah*, which Natan Sharansky has headed since 2009.

The family is part of a major increase in *aliyah* from France amid rising levels of anti-Semitism and economic stagnation in that country. In 2014, 6,668 French people made *aliyah* — a record number of newcomers in a single year from France — making that country the largest provider of Jewish immigrants to Israel for the first time in a given year.

But the Sharanskys and others don't need data to confirm the influx of French arrivals. They are in plain sight from Ashdod, where shop signs assure prospective customers that they have French-speaking staff, to Netanya, where some taxi drivers use broken, newly acquired French to communicate with tens of thousands of Francophones now living in the city.

Their presence is evident in Jerusalem, too.

“You used to be able to get by in our neighborhood with either English or Hebrew,” Sharansky told JTA of Old Katamon, an affluent neighborhood that's home to many American-Israelis. “Now you can add French to the list.”

The influx made 5775 “the year of the *aliyah* of choice,” according to Sharansky, who spent years in Soviet jails for his endeavors to make *aliyah* from his native Donetsk in present-day Ukraine. This wave of *olim* from France — a Western and relatively affluent democracy — is a major achievement for Israel and reward for Sharansky's efforts to reshape the Jewish Agency after it had been defined by decades of “*aliyahs* of necessity” from war zones as well as failed or dictatorial regimes.

Increasing *aliyah* of choice was one of Sharansky's major goals from his first day in office. Under his chairmanship, the Jewish Agency transformed from a bureaucratic, almost militaristic apparatus to a service provider and facilitator. The organization now employs consultants and professional problem-solvers who offer an array of preparatory sessions

tailored to particular *olim* groups, like pensioners or families.

Unlike North American Jews, who immigrate to Israel at a steady rate of approximately 3,500 people each year, French immigrants to Israel can also be seen as *olim* of necessity because many are fleeing anti-Semitism, Sharansky conceded. He last visited Paris in January, just two days after an armed Islamist gunned down four Jews at the city's Hyper Cacher kosher shop. He spoke there to French Jews who were too fearful to wear their kippahs on the street, who told him they would immigrate to Israel because they feel they're being chased out of their homeland.

Yet, Sharansky pointed out, nobody is forcing these emigres to Israel.

“Their arrival in such numbers is an achievement for Israel because the *olim* from France could have gone anywhere in Europe — to Britain, for example,” Sharansky said. “Many could have gone

to the United States or Canada or Australia, but they chose Israel, not only for emotional reasons, but also because it competes well against all these other options economically, culturally and in terms of quality of life.”

Meanwhile, *aliyah* of necessity is also making a comeback, with nearly 10,000 people leaving war-torn Ukraine for Israel over the past 18 months. During that period, more Ukrainians moved to Israel than during the preceding five years.

Since the eruption last year of a civil conflict in the country's east, *aliyah* figures from Ukraine increased dramatically, reaching 5,840 emigres in 2014 — a 190 percent increase over 2013. In the first half of 2015, Israel saw the arrival of 3,450 Ukrainians compared to 2,592 French Jews. Unlike French citizens, Ukrainians need visas to live in — or even visit — European Union member states. For Ukrainian Jews, Israel is often the only

Western country willing to take them in.

In parallel, immigration from Russia is also increasing due to the depreciation of the Russian ruble and the erosion of civil liberties under the government of Vladimir Putin, Sharansky said. In the first six months of 2015, a total of 2,958 Russian Jews — mostly from affluent cities like Moscow and St. Petersburg — made *aliyah*, compared to 1,944 in the corresponding period last year.

“They don't want to be locked in if the doors close again,” Sharansky said.

The Jewish Agency is well versed in handling immigration of that sort. As recently as 2013, *aliyah* from the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia and developing nations accounted for 50 percent of the total of 19,558 newcomers. But last year, *aliyah* from those countries accounted for 45 percent of the 26,627 total, with Western countries — France, especially — providing the difference that tipped the scale in favor of *aliyah* of choice. •

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Akiva welcomes students - new and returning - as school year begins

By CHARLES BERNSEN

As they were contemplating a move from Los Angeles, Joel and Heidi Roberts took the advice of a friend and visited Nashville, where they dropped their daughter Rebecca off at Akiva School before touring the city with a real estate agent.

When the couple returned a couple hours later, their daughter announced emphatically, "I want to go here," Joel recalls. "She just fell in love with the school."

And sure enough, as Akiva held its annual back-to-school picnic last month, Rebecca was among the dozens of children scampering through the lunchroom, hallways and classrooms in anticipation of the start of classes the next day.

Rebecca, an 8-year-old second grader, is among 75 students enrolled at Akiva, which represents a 34 percent increase over last year, according to Lynn Heady, who is beginning her second year as head of school.

"I'm just really excited about the new year," Heady says - and not just because enrollment us up. The school got a generous donation that will make it possible to expand its technology program this year, including distributing



New Akiva School second grader Rebecca Roberts and her parents, Joel and Heidi. When they visited last spring, "She just fell in love with the school," Joel says.

laptops to all fifth and sixth grade students, she said.

Akiva was an important factor in the decision of the Roberts family to relocate to Nashville. Joel and Heidi, a former radio talk show host and television producer respectively, own a media consulting business and could have moved anywhere. But Rebecca had attended a Jewish day school in Los



Children's band The Happy Racers plays to an auditorium packed with kids, parents and guests at Akiva's back-to-school picnic last month.

Angeles, and the couple wanted her to continue at one in their new city.

"We had a friend who moved to Nashville and sent us rhapsodic emails about the area," says Joel. "We just didn't think it was possible that Nashville would have a Jewish day school. So as a joke I googled it, and up popped Akiva."

The fact that Akiva has "a strong pluralistic aspect" - and that Rebecca seemed to take to it immediately - helped them decide to make Nashville their home, he says.

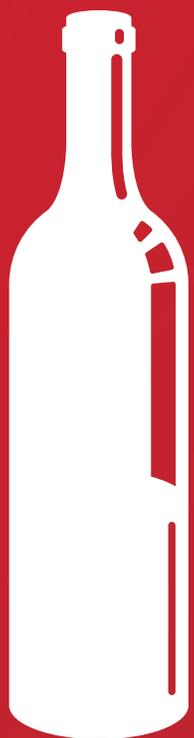
Among the new faces at Akiva this

year is kindergarten teacher Jennifer Hosey, though it might be more accurate to describe her as "new again." Hosey taught at Akiva several years ago and is returning after a stint at the Gordon Jewish Community Center's Early Childhood Learning Center.

Posey says she's excited about "the incredible program we have here" and encouraged by the big enrollment jump.

"When I was here in 2000, we had almost 100 students," she says, "And I think we're well on the way back to that." •

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Toni Heller among 4 to be honored with Council on Aging's Sage Award

In nominating Toni Heller for the Council on Aging's Sage Award, Jewish Family Service Executive Director Pam Kelner described her as "the type of person who sees a need in the community and builds something to address it."

The council apparently agreed. Heller is one of four recipients of the 2015 Sage Award, which is given annually by the council's Middle

Tennessee chapter to professionals or volunteers age 50 or older who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to improving the quality life in their community.

Heller and the other recipients – Ida K. Martin, Sophia Beamon and Emmie Jackson McDonald – will be honored at a luncheon from noon-1:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 23 at the Omni Nashville Hotel. To reserve seats or find out more about the luncheon, visit the council's website at <http://www.coamidn.org/sage-awards/>.

"It was instilled in me to be a mensch – to value family and community," Heller said, "so it is humbling to be singled out for recognition and to be among others who are today and in the past recipients of this honor."

The fruits of her efforts as a professional nurse and community volunteer can be found throughout both the Jewish community and the larger Nashville community.

• As a member of the National



The 2015 Sage Award winners are Ida K. Martin (from left), Sophia Beamon, Emmie Jackson McDonald and Toni Heller.

Council of Jewish Women, Heller helped found the local CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) program, which for more than 30 years has recruited and trained volunteers to represent the interests of abused and neglected children in the court system.

- She helped develop and served as coordinator for Camp Anytown and Camp MiniTown, programs pioneered by the National Conference of Christians and Jew and now of the auspices of the Oasis Center that help reduce prejudice by bringing teenagers together to explore their identities and biases.
- She was the major force behind the creation of a guide for Jewish Family Service to help seniors prepare a comprehensive plan for emergencies – and then took the lead in promoting and distributing it at houses of worship, community centers and

senior centers.

- In 2008, Heller conceived, chaired and implemented the JFS Free to Read initiative in which various Jewish organizations collected 600 books and distributed them to immigrant children with the twin goals of promoting literacy and building bridges between the Jewish and Latino communities. Other organizations Heller has

served include United Way, Fifty Forward, Our Kids, The Temple, United Way and the Vanderbilt Divinity School Board of Visitors.

"Each of us at some time has something – skills, talents or time – to contribute to give back to the community," Heller said. "What I did with communal agencies or groups was rewarding to me at the same time...I am growing as a person by remaining involved." •

Jewish Middle School of Nashville holds first classes

Nashville's newest Jewish day school began its first school year last month with five seventh through ninth grade students.

Though it is starting small, the Jewish Middle School of Nashville sees a promising future, said its founder, Rabbi Saul Strosberg.

Enrollment is up at Akiva School, and there are an increasing number of families in Nashville who would like to see their children continue their post-elementary school education at a Jewish day school, Rabbi Strosberg said.

"We're in a pilot phase now, figuring out what works and what doesn't," Rabbi Strosberg said. "We're also working on a

funding structure that will make JMS more accessible than typical private schools."

JMS, which holds classes at Akiva School, has an innovative educational format and curriculum that combines online coursework with collaborative, multi-disciplinary learning. Students are taking online courses through the Metro Nashville Public Schools Virtual School, while being supported in the classroom with a team of talented teachers. In addition to the online coursework and an array of traditional and progressive Jewish learning, students engage in what Rabbi Strosberg describes as extended learning projects under the supervision of Ron Heady, the school's dean and master teacher. •



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Local Jewish leaders participating in Gov. Haslam's Israel mission

Mark S. Freedman, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, is among a 35-member delegation traveling with Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam on the state's first business mission to Israel.

The weeklong mission, which departed on Aug. 28, was organized by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development and Conexx, an Atlanta based organization that promotes business ties between Israel and companies in the Southeastern United States.

The goal of the mission is to strengthen relationships between Israeli and Tennessee businesses and encourage bilateral trade and investment opportunities focused specifically on high tech, biotech and healthcare firms.

"I am particularly gratified that Governor Haslam has made trade with Israel an economic priority for the State of Tennessee," said Freedman before his departure. "This is of particular significance following the state legislature adopting and the governor signing a resolution last April condemning the Boycott, Sanctions and Divestment (BDS) movement targeted against Israel.

"The best response to insidious movements such as BDS is to make a



Gov. Bill Haslam



Mark Freedman

commitment to investment in Israel. Governor Haslam is making an emphatic statement that is the direction the State of Tennessee will take and it is sure to pay great dividends for business interests in Israel and across our State."

In addition to Freedman, the local delegation traveling with the governor and First Lady Crissy Haslam include philanthropist and private investor Bernard A. Pargh and his wife Maria, Jewish Federation Community Relations Chair and real estate executive Arthur Perlen, and Mark A. Cohen, the Justin Potter Professor of American Competitive Enterprise and professor of law at Vanderbilt University's Owen Graduate School of Management.

The group's itinerary includes visits to Hadassah Hospital, the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, Teva Pharmaceuticals, Nazareth Industrial Park, Ramban Medical Center and Technion. A visit is also planned to the Jewish Federation's Partnership2Gether city of Hadera, where the delegation will have an interactive session at Haklai High School, the base for many of the P2G teacher and student exchange programs. •

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SHANA TOVA 5776

Federation board votes to oppose Iran deal

The Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee approved a statement on Aug. 25 opposing the nuclear agreement with Iran and urging Congress to reject it.

The board's overwhelming vote in favor of the statement came a day after the Federation held an open, 90-minute community discussion of the issue at the Gordon Jewish Community Center attended by about 100 people. Moderator Mark S. Freedman, the Federation's executive director, outlined the parameters of the agreement, summarized arguments for and against it, reviewed the congressional approval process expected to take place this month, and then took more than a dozen questions and comments from both supporters and opponents of the deal.

STATEMENT ON THE IRAN AGREEMENT

It is with regret and deep concern that the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee urges the U.S. Congress to reject the Iran nuclear deal, which threatens to further destabilize the Middle East and will impact short and long-term security concerns in America, in Israel and throughout the world.

This statement represents the views of a majority of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. We recognize, acknowledge and appreciate that there are members of the board and in the wider Jewish community whose viewpoints differ from those reflected in this statement. We hope that those holding differing viewpoints will respect the thoughtful process we undertook in arriving at this position and that all members of our Jewish community will continue to support the important work



Federation Executive Director Mark S. Freedman moderates an open community discussion of the Iran deal on Aug. 24. The Federation board voted the next night to oppose the agreement.



From left to right: European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini; Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif; British Foreign Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Philip Hammond; and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry pose for a photo after the last working session in negotiations in Vienna, Austria on July 14. (Photo by Thomas Imo/Photothek/Getty Images)

of the Federation in assisting the most vulnerable in our community, in Israel and wherever Jews are in need.

After years of negotiations that began with the specific intent of dismantling Iran's nuclear infrastructure so it would have no path to a nuclear weapon, the current agreement does not provide this ultimate goal. The deal will only manage and contain Iran's nuclear capabilities. In addition, with the lifting of

arms embargoes, Iran will have access to conventional and ballistic weapons after five and eight years respectively if the current agreement is implemented. This troubling concession to Iran underscores the inherent weaknesses in the agreement now before Congress.

We had hoped that the diplomatic efforts of the Obama Administration and the P5+1 would prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, now and

in the future. This deal, as proposed, gives Iran full nuclear threshold status in just 15 years or less. Unfortunately this deal does not meet key objectives that we are comfortable with, including: 1) shutting down Iran's uranium enrichment pathway to a nuclear weapon 2) tracking Iran's nuclear activities with unprecedented transparency and 3) robust inspections throughout its nuclear supply chain, including suspected nuclear sites.

We believed 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 its past weaponization efforts. We now urge members of Congress to disapprove of the deal because we lack the confidence that Iran will meet its obligations specified in the agreement, including unfettered and unimpeded access to suspect nuclear sites.

We also remain concerned and 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. The specter of a nuclear armed, or an enhanced conventionally armed Iran, is untenable. As long as Iran continues to call for Israel's destruction and to pursue its terrorist activities and ambitions, Iran must be treated as the dangerous pariah state it has time and again proven itself to be.

This is a defining moment for America, for Israel and for the entire world. This is not a partisan issue — it is a moral issue which will have implications for our generation and for the generations that will follow us. For those who join with us in opposing this agreement, we urge you to contact your member of Congress and your senators and request that they vote against this deal. •

The Iran deal is a "surrender to tyranny"

By DAVID BROOKS
The New York Times

The purpose of war, military or economic, is to get your enemy to do something it would rather not do. Over the past several years the United States and other Western powers have engaged in an economic, clandestine and political war against Iran to force it to give up its nuclear program.

Over the course of this siege, American policy makers have been very explicit about their goals. Foremost, to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power. Second, as John Kerry has said, to force it to dismantle a large part of its nuclear infrastructure. Third, to take away its power to enrich uranium.

Fourth, as President Obama has said, to close the Fordo enrichment facility. Fifth, as the chief American negotiator, Wendy Sherman, recently testified,

to force Iran to come clean on all past nuclear activities by the Iranian military. Sixth, to shut down Iran's ballistic missile program. Seventh, to have "anywhere, anytime 24/7" access to any nuclear facilities Iran retains. Eighth, as Kerry put it, to not phase down sanctions until after Iran ends its nuclear bomb-making capabilities.

As a report from the Foreign Policy Initiative exhaustively details, the U.S. has not fully achieved any of these objectives. The agreement delays but does not end Iran's nuclear program. It legitimizes Iran's status as a nuclear state. Iran will mothball some of its centrifuges, but it will not dismantle or close any of its nuclear facilities. Nuclear research and development will continue.

Iran wins the right to enrich uranium. The agreement does not include "anywhere, anytime" inspections; some inspections would require a 24-day waiting period, giving the Iranians plenty of

Continued on page 32

An imperfect deal can still serve American interests

By THOMAS FRIEDMAN
The New York Times

From the minute Iran detected that the U.S. was unwilling to use its overwhelming military force to curtail Tehran's nuclear program — and that dates back to the George W. Bush administration, which would neither accept Iran's right to a nuclear fuel cycle nor structure a military or diplomatic option to stop it — no perfect deal overwhelmingly favorable to America and its allies was ever going to emerge from negotiations with Iran. The balance of power became too equal.

But there are degrees of imperfect, and the diplomatic option structured by the Obama team — if properly implemented and augmented by muscular diplomacy — serves core American interests better than any options I hear coming from the deal's critics: It prevents Iran from producing the fissile

material to break out with a nuclear weapon for 15 years and creates a context that could empower the more pragmatic forces inside Iran over time — at the price of constraining, but not eliminating, Iran's nuclear infrastructure and sanctions relief that will strengthen Tehran as a regional power.

Supporting this deal doesn't make you Neville Chamberlain; opposing it doesn't make you Dr. Strangelove. Both sides have legitimate arguments. But having studied them, I believe America's interests are best served now by focusing on how to get the best out of this deal and cushion the worst, rather than scuttling it. That would be a mistake that would isolate us, not Iran, and limit our choices to going to war or tolerating an Iran much closer to nuclear breakout, without any observers or curbs on the ground, and with crumbling sanctions.

"The nuclear agreement is a deal, not a grand bargain," argued the Wilson

Continued on page 32

Readers' views on the Iran deal

I totally agree with Carol Hyatt and Mark Freedman on the seriousness of the current agreement with Iran. Congress should hear from the Jewish community to vote against this agreement, which should be amended to include safe guards to ensure that Iran will not be allowed by the international community to develop nuclear weapons for decades.

It is never a bad idea to let your elected representatives know how important this issue is to the Jewish communities in the United States, Israel and worldwide. However, what was not said in the Federation statement is that the time is NOW for all Jews who have supported the Democratic Party with both donations and votes to re-access what is of the greatest importance to them, to the Jewish community and the security and the very existence of Israel.

All of us who know Jews and non-Jews in states represented by Democratic senators need to make calls or send emails to encourage them to let those elected officials know of the critical importance of voting against this agreement, not only for Israel, but also in the best interest of the long term security of the United States. Fortunately, our elected representatives in Tennessee will vote against this horrendous agreement.

If the Jewish communities and Jewish organizations all over the United States will make a concerted and well-coordinated effort to defeat this agreement, it is possible to have the votes needed in the Senate to override a presidential veto and safeguard Israel from its greatest threat.

James Fishel

Intense opposition to this Iran nuclear deal is driven by the fundamentally flawed premise that the United States had the capacity to create an environment of crushing financial sanctions to bring Iran to the table.

Without the participation of our negotiation coalition and the willingness of many other countries to sacrifice their own economic interests, that pressure would never have developed. To achieve that, there was a negotiation among the coalition partners, some of whom have strategic interests that conflict with ours. Assembling a critical mass of political and economic power to force Iran to the table (and agreement) meant focusing on the nuclear weapons program. Other obvious issues, like Hezbollah and Hamas, were wedges between us and nations we needed as partners.

Although the United States controls a substantial portion of the embargoed Iranian assets, many other nations, both among the negotiating partners and outside, control hundreds of millions of dollars and have sacrificed their own economies to participate in the sanctions. If the United States reneges, they will not be obligated to abide by earlier terms. Iran will get money and its nuclear program.

Politics is the art of the possible. Without Russia and China, other nations would not have participated; Iran never would have conceded. Remarkably, if they appear to be unreliable, all parties agreed that snapback options are available through a process that bypasses the Security Council. There are many other important issues

we need to press Iran on but we shouldn't throw this win out.

Steve Entman

The nuclear deal with Iran is morally corrupt and ill-conceived. While our diplomats are negotiating a deal with Iran, their citizens take to the streets yelling, "Death to America!"

Their government is not to be trusted to honor the terms of any agreement. They have proven this time and time again. If they can dig tunnels under Israel without detection, they will surely find a way to hide their contraband. They tried to destroy us many times since 1975.

They jail, torture and kill their own people. Is it a stretch of the imagination to think they would do worse to Israelis or Americans?

They will build their bomb sooner rather than later because of the billions of dollars they will reap due to dropped sanctions. Once they have annihilated Israel or as they call it; "The Little Satan," they will surely want to eliminate "The Big Satan."

For the first time in my 73 years I am frightened, not so much for myself but for our children and grandchildren. I want our grandchildren to continue to have the freedoms we enjoy in America. Free speech, freedom of religion and the right to assemble are important to me and why millions risk their lives to immigrate to America.

Stop this insanity! Kill the deal before they kill us and destroy our way of life.

Remember the words of Edmund Burke, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Rusty Groffman

In the United States most people received the news of the agreement with hope and reserved doubt. On the streets of Tehran, most people received the news with boisterous joy and wild frenzy shouting, Death to Israel and down with America!"

This must not be ignored. For years Iran has dedicated itself to creating a "new world order" – a caliphate based on Islamic law as decreed by Muhammad in the seventh century. In order for this to happen there would have to be a world calamity, like an Armageddon, and then a world peace when all non-believers and infidels submit to Allah or are put to death. For Iran and its dedicated leaders, to fulfill this terrible obsession, Iran and all its hell-bent cohorts will gladly make promises to abide by the flimsy rules of the nuclear agreement. But even under strict surveillance, they will circumvent the rules.

Iran's leaders are extremely patient. They will continue to pursue the creation of nuclear weapons in order to fulfill their goal – the creation of a global caliphate – with the destruction of Israel and America – and world domination.

In 1981 Israel destroyed Iraq's nuclear reactor, which stopped Sadaam Hussein's potential to create a bomb and helped thwart his grandiose intentions to seize power in the Middle East. Now Iran could be on a path to becoming a nuclear power, especially with the signing of this bad deal. Firm and active measures must be taken, stricter sanctions, stronger political pressure, even military force cannot

be ruled out. They must be stopped now!

Jerome S. Klein

We strongly support the Iran nuclear agreement.

After three years of intense negotiations with the United States and five world powers, Iran has agreed to curb its nuclear capability and has accepted the most stringent inspections ever agreed to regarding non-proliferation of nuclear arms. It is also the first time a country agreed to ban research on nuclear weapons, not only their manufacture. This goes beyond the limits imposed by the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty, the landmark arms control agreement of the nuclear age.

Nuclear experts as well as top security, scientific and military figures in both Israel and the United States broadly support the agreement, and indeed warn against the consequences of rejecting it. Among them: Ami Ayalon, former head of the Shin Bet as well as Israel's Peace and Security Association, representing hundreds of security experts, IDF veterans, Mossad, Shin Bet and police.

In addition, 29 top U.S. scientists, including five Nobel Prize winners, have written to President Obama, praising the agreement and arguing that it should be a model for future agreements limiting nuclear arms.

Rejection of this agreement by the Congress would both undermine our standing in the world as well as cause the sanctions instituted by this coalition to evaporate. Without the agreement Iran is free to develop its nuclear weapons and its economy as well.

Without any restrictions on Iran's nuclear aspirations, Israel, the United States and the world are much less secure.

Ruth and Bill Smith
Co-Chairs, J Street Nashville

It's terrible! And embarrassing! We are aiding and abetting our enemy and turning our back on our only ally in that part of the world. How foolish we look and are.

LeAnne Péters

I support the agreement with Iran. Those opposed say that we should reject the current agreement and return to the bargaining table. I think the hope that we can get a better deal is unrealistic. No country in the world other than Israel appears to oppose the agreement. Even in Israel many high-profile security experts support the agreement. And can Iran gain support in their country for a more restrictive deal? They were straining to make the concessions they did. Some say the United States is so powerful that Iran cannot afford to oppose us even though they have done so for decades. The United States will still have in place extensive sanctions that have been in place for years and not covered by the agreement.

Opponents say that releasing the assets now tied up will give Iran money to escalate its terrorist activities. I think it would be hard to argue, based on the years the assets have been tied up, that Iran has let financial restraints imposed on them keep them from supporting terrorism in the Middle East and elsewhere.

If the United States does not sign the agreement, the intrusive inspections and the constraints now in place will go away. The expectation is that within a year Iran will have a nuclear bomb. Other nations in the Middle East, many not having cordial relations with Iran, could well feel that they must have a bomb as well. Israel could be much less safe.

Bernard Werthan

We support the agreement with Iran. Opponents of the agreement have not offered any realistic alternative. The hope that another agreement can be renegotiated with better terms (whatever those are) is unrealistic. Many high-profile Israeli security experts outside the government, retired U.S. generals and U.S. nuclear physicists agree.

Vigilant supervision over the terms of the agreement is required. Should Iran violate the agreement the United States and its negotiating partners will have the tools and the political position of enforcement, something that the United States has been lacking since we invaded Iraq.

Opponents say that releasing Iran's restricted assets will give Iran additional funds to escalate its terrorist activities. The existing sanctions have not hampered Iran in its support of terrorism in the Middle East. Anti-terrorism sanctions will remain in effect. In the long run, Iran can only be restrained through continued international restrictions on terrorism and nuclear proliferation.

If the agreement is rejected, the intrusive inspections and the constraints now in place will evaporate. Without an agreement, the expectation is that Iran could have a nuclear bomb within a few months. (Remember Prime Minister Netanyahu's time bomb at the United Nations?)

President Kennedy negotiated a nuclear deal with the Soviet Union in 1963 during the height of the Cold War. The United States should conclude a comparable deal with Iran in 2015. This agreement is in the best interests of the United States and its allies, including Israel, and should be approved.

Irwin Kuhn
Avi Poster
Irwin Venick

Given that Iran has been chanting "Death to America! Death to Israel!" since 1979 and was still doing so this July, to claim that the recent agreement to free up millions of dollars for Iran to use in fomenting Muslim terrorism in Latin America while, at best, merely delaying Iran's nuclear bomb by a decade "avoids war" is to live in an alternate reality.

Secretary of State John Kerry, the guy who failed to join 1.6 million marchers against genocidal Islam in Paris but compensated later by bringing James Taylor tossing Kumbaya over the corpses that our president ethnically denigrated as "random folks in a deli," mewls that he is not personally informed of any explicit plans by Iran to attack the United States.

My great-grandparents, who died in a boxcar, probably heard Neville Chamberlain make much the same comment.

Giving aid and comfort to the enemy is treason. Obama and Kerry should be arrested.

David Altschul

B'nai Mitzvah

Alexa Claire Honigsblum will be called to the Torah as a *bat mitzvah* at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2015 at Congregation Micah. Alexa is the daughter of Jennifer Abel Ferguson of Nashville and Abel Honigsblum of Woodstock, Ga. She is the younger sister of Makale Honigsblum, granddaughter of Elliot and Sandra Abel of Memphis and the late Aron Honigsblum of Brownsville, TX.



Alexa Claire Honigsblum

Alexa is in eighth grade at DuPont-Hadley Middle Prep in Old Hickory. She is a strong all-around student and looks forward to starting high school, where she hopes to enter the pre-nursing academy in Metro Nashville Public Schools. In her spare time, Alexa dances at Bellevue Dance Center, she also enjoys spending time with friends, shopping and being creative through her love of Pinterest.

Alexa's *Mitzvah* Project has been devoted to the care of adults living with dementia and Alzheimer's. She has given her time to The Barton House in Bellevue, a memory care assisted living center. She enjoys reading, baking and doing arts n crafts projects with the residents. Alexa is excited to share her *bat mitzvah* with so many family and friends who have traveled to support her on this wonderful journey.

Janyce Cutler, Rachel Schaffer Lawson, and Matthew Stafford will be called to the Torah as adult *b'nai mitzvah* at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015 at Congregation Micah.



Janyce Cutler

Janyce Cutler and her husband Joel have been a part of the Congregation Micah family for 17 years. In 2014 Janyce enrolled in the Hebrew course for adults out of a strong desire to learn to read Hebrew.



Rachel Schaffer Lawson

Having grown up in an orthodox family, she was excluded from the opportunity of a *bat mitzvah*. Her newly acquired knowledge of Hebrew and a desire to more profoundly express her spiritual connection to her Jewish heritage and community culminated in her decision to be a *bat mitzvah*.



Matthew Stafford

Janyce and her husband, both retired, are enjoying their travel opportunities. Most prominent in her activities is her renewed pursuit of her art as both artist and student. She also continues to pursue her quilting and knitting and is a voracious reader.

Rachel grew up in an entrepreneurial family — both her mother and grandfather owned their own businesses — so it seemed quite natural that she found the study of business alluring. Rachel triple

maored in marketing, entrepreneurship and music business at Northeastern University in Boston. After graduating, she attended Loyola University College of Law in New Orleans.

When she decided she wanted to pursue entertainment law full time, she knew there was no better place than Nashville. In 2011, she launched Schaffer Law Firm PLLC. Rachel loves helping local entrepreneurs succeed in their business ventures and delights in seeing her clients open their doors for business for the very first time.

When she's not striving to help business owners succeed, you can find Rachel training for marathons, trail running, power lifting at her favorite CrossFit box, cuddling one of her five "fur babies," and enjoying a local craft brew with her husband, Tyler.

Matthew is a native Tennessean who grew up in Gainesboro and graduated from The University of Tennessee in Knoxville. When he isn't enjoying Friday night service at Micah, he may be found seeing films at The Belcourt or one of the other local cinemas, or listening to cherished records at a coffee shop. As a relative of big band era singer Jo Stafford, Matthew grew up loving the records of vocalists, and he greatly enjoys singing along during services. Matthew converted to Judaism at Congregation Micah in 2013, and he is thrilled to finally become a *bar mitzvah*.

Benjamin Miller will be called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015 at Congregation Micah. Ben is the son of Ian Miller and Kathy Miller, older brother of Brooke Miller, the grandson of Alan and Barbara Miller and Helen and Harold McDermott, and the great-grandson of Elsie Miller. Ben was born in Plantation, FL but moved to beautiful Franklin with his family when he was 2.



Benjamin Miller

Ben is a seventh grader at Page Middle School. He is a straight-A student who has a passion for math and science and plays the trumpet in the school band. Outside of school he plays tennis and is a blue belt in Isshinryu karate. In his spare time he enjoys traveling, movies, video games, and hanging out with his friends and family.

For his *mitzvah* project, Ben is putting his love of animals to good use by organizing a fundraiser for Happy Tales Humane and will be volunteering at the veterinary office his family frequents.

Abigail (Abby) Fay Moschel will be called to the Torah as a *bat mitzvah* at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015 at Congregation Micah. Abby is the daughter of Michael and Lisa Moschel, granddaughter of Rich and Lynn Moschel of Cincinnati and the late Richard and Gail Jennissen of Carlton, MN.



Abigail (Abby) Fay Moschel

Abby is an honor roll student in the seventh grade at Harding Academy. She plays middle school volleyball and is on the cheerleading squad. Abby enjoys spending time with her friends, family, and listening to music.

Abby enjoys volunteering, including making meals at the Ronald

McDonald House, sorting food at Second Harvest, rebuilding trails at Radnor Lake, and working on the garden at the Gordon Jewish Community Center with BBYO.

Sympathy

... to the family of Lee Notowitz Gryll, who died on July 26 after a courageous fight of more than four years with chordoma, an extremely rare cancer.

Lee was born August 14, 1957 in Memphis. She graduated from Vanderbilt University with a degree in mathematics and chose to make Nashville her home. She was employed at Metro Water Services as a systems analyst and worked there for over 30 years until her recent retirement.

Lee is survived by her husband, Michael; son, Andrew (Shira), and her four precious grandchildren, Chava, Yisroel, Yocheved and Temima of Baltimore. She is also survived by her parents, Max and Fannie Notowitz of Memphis, sister, Ida (Terry) Eleazer of Hickory Valley, TN, and brothers,

Joshua and Daniel of Memphis. Services were conducted by Rabbi Joshua Kullock at West End Synagogue on July 27 and burial was at K.K.A.I. Cemetery. Donations may be made to West End Synagogue, Hadassah or the Chordoma Foundation, P.O. Box 2127, Durham, NC 27702.

... Jean Dell Smith, who died peacefully on July 30. She is survived by her daughter, Simone; son-in-law, Colin, and grandchildren, Jenna and Daniel. A graveside service was at Congregation Micah. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Alive Hospice.

... the family of Bertram King, 94, who died on July 31. He lived a long and prosperous life. He was born in New York City, served in WW II and was a retired optometrist. He was preceded in death by his wife, Beatrice, and his son, Harvey. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Lloyd and Laura King; his daughter-in-law, Andrea King, and his four grandchildren, Michael, Stephanie, Philip and Ian. A graveside service was held on Aug. 2 at K.K.S.I. cemetery.

letters to the editor

To the wonderful Jewish community of Nashville, THANK YOU! In September 2014 I packed up my bags and moved to Nashville, a place to which I had never been and where I didn't know a single person. Upon my arrival, I was welcomed with open arms.

I was fortunate enough to spend a year as the Nashville BBYO city director as well as the Gordon Jewish Community Center's teen director and Camp Davis assistant director. On Aug. 19 I moved back to my hometown of Pittsburgh, PA. I have been given the opportunity to see my career come full circle by becoming the regional director of Keystone Mountain Region (KMR)

BBYO, where I was a member as a teen.

I want to thank you all for being so welcoming when I arrived in Nashville. This is an amazing community with unique qualities, and I will not forget my wonderful experiences there. Nashville is a booming city with a growing Jewish population, and I will always be keeping an eye on its progress. I know it is only going to continue to get better.

Once again, thank you all for being so welcoming to me during my time in Nashville. Please never hesitate to reach out to me at aexler@bbyo.org.

Sincerely,
Andrew T. Exler

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.

Happy New Year



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Brooks

Continued from page 29

time to clean things up. After eight years, all restrictions on ballistic missiles are lifted. Sanctions are lifted once Iran has taken its initial actions.

Wars, military or economic, are measured by whether you achieved your stated objectives. By this standard the U.S. and its allies lost the war against Iran, but we were able to negotiate terms that gave only our partial surrender, which forces Iran to at least delay its victory. There have now been three big U.S. strategic defeats over the past several decades: Vietnam, Iraq and now Iran.

The big question is, Why did we lose? Why did the combined powers of the Western world lose to a ragtag regime with a crippled economy and without much popular support?

The first big answer is that the Iranians just wanted victory more than we did. They were willing to withstand the kind of punishment we were prepared to mete out.

Further, the Iranians were confident in their power, while the Obama administration emphasized the limits of America's ability to influence other nations. It's striking how little President Obama thought of the tools at his disposal. He effectively took the military option off the table. He didn't believe

much in economic sanctions. "Nothing we know about the Iranian government suggests that it would simply capitulate under that kind of pressure," he argued.

The president concluded early on that Iran would simply not budge on fundamental things. As he argued in his high-handed and counterproductive earlier this month, Iran was never going to compromise its sovereignty (which is the whole point of military or economic warfare).

The president hoped that a deal would change the moral nature of the regime, so he had an extra incentive to reach a deal. And the Western, Russian and Chinese sanctions regime was fragile while the Iranians were able to hang together.

This administration has given us a choice between two terrible options: accept the partial-surrender agreement that was negotiated or reject it and slide immediately into what is in effect our total surrender — a collapsed sanctions regime and a booming Iranian nuclear program.

Many members of Congress will be tempted to accept the terms of our partial surrender as the least bad option in the wake of our defeat. I get that. But in voting for this deal they may be affixing their names to an arrangement that will increase the chance of more comprehensive war further down the road.

Iran is a fanatical, hegemonic, hate-

filled regime. If you think its radicalism is going to be softened by a few global trade opportunities, you really haven't been paying attention to the Middle East over the past four decades.

Iran will use its \$150 billion windfall to spread terror around the region and exert its power. It will incrementally but dangerously cheat on the accord. Armed with money, ballistic weapons and an eventual nuclear breakout, it will become more aggressive. As the end of

the nuclear delay comes into view, the 45th or 46th president will decide that action must be taken.

Economic and political defeats can be as bad as military ones. Sometimes when you surrender to a tyranny you lay the groundwork for a more cataclysmic conflict to come. •

David Brooks is a columnist for The New York Times, where this piece first appeared.

Friedman

Continued from page 29

Center's Robert Litwak, author of "Iran's Nuclear Chess." "Obama and Iran's supreme leader Khamenei are each making a tacit bet. Obama is defending the deal in transactional terms (that it addresses a discrete urgent challenge), but betting that it will empower Iran's moderate faction and put the country on a more favorable societal trajectory. Khamenei is making the opposite bet — that the regime can benefit from the transactional nature of the agreement (sanctions relief) and forestall the deal's potentially transformational implications to preserve Iran's revolutionary deep state."

We can, though, do things to increase the odds that the bet goes our way:

1. Don't let this deal become the Obamacare of arms control, where all the energy goes into the negotiation but then the implementing tools — in this case the verification technologies — don't work. President Obama should appoint a respected military figure to oversee every aspect of implementing this deal.

2. Congress should pass a resolution authorizing this and future presidents to use force to prevent Iran from ever becoming a nuclear weapons state. Iran must know now that the U.S. president is authorized to destroy — without warning or negotiation — any attempt by Tehran to build a bomb.

3. Focus on the Iranian people. The celebrations of this deal in Iran tell us that "the Iranian people want to be South Korea, not North Korea," notes Karim Sadjadpour, Iran expert at the

Carnegie Endowment. We should reach out to them in every way — visas, exchanges and scholarships — to strengthen their voices. Visiting Iran taught me that Iranians have had enough Islamic fundamentalism to know they want less of it and they've had enough democracy to know they want more of it. (Iran's hard-line Revolutionary Guards know this well, which is why they are still trying to persuade Iran's supreme leader to reject this deal and its opening to the world.)

4. Avoid a black-and-white view of the Middle East. The idea that Iran is everywhere our enemy and the Sunni Arabs our allies is a mistake. Saudi Arabia's leadership has been a steadfast U.S. ally in the Cold War; many Saudis are pro-American. But the Saudi leadership's ruling bargain is toxic: It says to the Saudi people that the al-Saud tribe gets to rule and in return the Saudi Wahhabi religious establishment gets billions of dollars to transform the face of Sunni Islam from an open and modernizing faith to a puritanical, anti-women, anti-Shiite, anti-pluralistic one. The Saudis have lost control of this puritanical-Salafist transformation of Islam, and it has mutated into the ideology that inspired the 9/11 hijackers — 15 of 19 of whom were Saudis — and the Islamic State.

Iran aided the U.S. in toppling the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, and, at the same time, Tehran, and its cat's paw, Hezbollah, have propped up the Syrian regime while it has perpetrated a genocide against its own people, mostly Syrian Sunnis. We need to confront Iran's regional behavior when it contradicts our interests, but align with it when it comports with our interests. We want to balance the autocratic Sunnis and Shiites, not promote either. Neither share our values.

Finally, when it comes to the Middle East broadly, we need to contain, amplify and innovate: Contain the most aggressive forces there, amplify any leaders or people building decency there, and innovate on energy like crazy to keep prices low, reduce oil money to bad actors and reduce our exposure to a region that is going to be in turmoil for a long, long, long time. •

Thomas Friedman is a columnist for The New York Times, where this piece first appeared.

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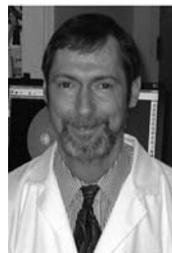
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around the town

Hadassah plans "Sukkah Hop" progressive dinner

The Nashville chapter of Hadassah will hold its annual "Sukkah Hop" progressive dinner on Thursday, Oct 1.

The event will begin at 7 p.m. with wine and cheese in the sukkah at the home of Jessica Kullock. From there, groups will travel by car to several more sukkot before returning to the Kullock home for dessert. The dinner should end by 9 p.m.

The cost is \$15. RSVP by Sept. 21 at RSVP.NashvilleHadassah@gmail.com. For more information, call Nili Friedman at (615) 498-4564.

Local rabbis aid effort to restore Galilee church damaged by Jewish extremists

Though it happened half a world away, several members of Nashville's Board of Rabbis have taken a stand against Jewish extremism by donating \$1,500 to a fund helping to restore a Galilean church that was heavily damaged in an arson fire in July.

In an email to his rabbinic colleagues, Rabbi Saul Strosberg said the contribution to the fund, Restoring Friendship, would serve as "a statement that we will tolerate hatred and that our love and respect for other human beings and their faiths is greater than any act of violence."

The fund was established in the wake of an arson fire that damaged part of the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes in Tabgha, on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Five Israeli youths indicted for the crime in July are described as members of the Hilltop

Youth, a loose network of young Jews who gravitate toward illegal West Bank settlement outposts and, according to the Shin Bet security agency, espouse violence against non-Jews.

The church, which is operated by Catholic Benedictine Order, was built 33 years ago on the same site of the first one erected 1,600 years ago to mark the spot where, according to the Gospels, Jesus is said to have fed more than 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish.

Rabbi Strosberg said the donation was made in the name of the entire Nashville Jewish community, which will be recognized with a plaque at the church. More information about the fund can be found at <https://www.mimoona.co.il/Projects/2748&ChangeLang=English>.

Christian clergy will share reflections of recent mission to Israel at The Temple

Rabbi Mark Schifitan and local Christian clergy who participated in a recent fact-finding mission to Israel will share their reflections on the Israeli-Palestinian situation at 7 p.m. on Sept. 1 at The Temple.

The entire Jewish community along with members of the churches served by the clergy are invited to attend. A reception will follow.

The mission, funded by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, included nine pastors from local mainline Christian churches. It was led by Rabbi Schifitan and Mark S. Freedman, executive director of the Federation.

Maccabi Medals for GJCC



The Gordon Jewish Community Center sent 11 competitors to the Maccabi Games in Milwaukee last month, all of whom brought home medals. The boys flag football team, shown here with coach Andrew Exler, lost a heartbreaking semifinal game 34-32 but came back to win the bronze medal in the consolation game. Ilanit Sedek, pictured here shortly after being presented one of her two bronze medals by two-time Olympic gold medalist Garrett Weber, competed in 10 swimming events and beating her original times in over half of them. She also won a Midot Medal for being such a great sport and competitor. And Jonathan Reilly caught three games and pitched another while playing with a softball team from San Diego that won the silver medal.

Photos by Andrew Schulman



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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.



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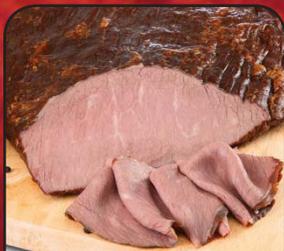
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Happy New Year!

A people who have been around as long as we have know a thing or two about celebrating the new year. Like the members of NowGen, our group of young professionals, who rejoice and bring in the new year at our annual Rosh Bash celebration!

But, Rosh Hashanah is not only about celebration. It's about reflecting on our past year and resolving to be kinder and more generous in the coming one.

And here's a sure way to do that—give to Federation. You'll be nurturing and sustaining our people wherever they're in need. Helping thousands to connect to their Jewish identity wherever there's a longing. Sweetening the new year for our entire global Jewish community.

Please give as generously you can. You'll make 5776 sweet indeed!



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