Public opinion researcher Klein shares facts, strategies on talking about Israel

By Kathy Carlson

Q: What do most Americans have in common with most Palestinians?
A: Both want their leaders to do more to create jobs.

That’s one of many intriguing, sometimes surprising kernels of data to come from pollster Nathan Klein’s Aug. 30 talk at the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

Klein, director of research and messaging with The Israel Project (TIP), spoke on “Israel: Why Should I Care?” as part of a series of events on Israel advocacy sponsored by the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville. The program, which drew more than 140 people, was made possible by a grant from the Federation’s New Initiatives Fund, an outgrowth of the Best Jewish Nashville priority-setting project.

During his 24 hours in Nashville, Klein met with the Tennessean Editorial Board, had dinner with 30 Jewish high school students (many of whom are Get Connected alumni), had a breakfast meeting with the Community Relations Committee and the protests. The committee will be releasing its suggestions for socio-economic reforms in the next few weeks. Yet Israelis are wondering precisely what sort of change will result from the summer of protest. Will it come to an abrupt end with recommendations to cut some budgets and augment others, or will there be a more far-reaching transformation of Israeli politics?

U unquestionably it is the first time that “Israelis got a sense of empowerment that they can change things, that they can get organized,” said Tomer Minuskin, whose mission is to disseminate facts about Israel and the Middle East to the Nashville audience. “He was very articulate,” said Matthew Strauss. “I like that he both gathers and presents information on Israel. He could speak from firsthand information.”

People under 30 needed to hear Klein’s message about Israel, Tomer Minuskin said. Israel is in “all of our hands — it belongs to all of us.”

TIP’s polling has identified the two most highly ranked reasons to support Israel, Klein told the group. The strategic reason focuses on Israel as our most important ally in the Middle East. This message resonates with people on the political right, and Klein suggested that those making this argument also offer concrete reasons why Israel is our most important Mideast ally, such as a new missile defense system Israel is sharing with the United States. The system currently protects Beersheva in southern Israel from rocket attacks from Gaza.

The second reason centers on the many values we share with Israel: religious freedom, supporting the rights of women, a democratic form of government that includes Arabs. The “shared values” reason appeals to those on the political left, he said.

Klein urged listeners to stress the positive things Israel does, without first comparing Israel with its neighbors. People don’t want to hear us criticizing Arab states, he said. “We have to give them reasons to support Israel,” Klein said, “not reasons not to support Israel.”

Continued on page 2
Public opinion researcher Klein shares facts, strategies on talking about Israel

Klein also noted that TIP’s polls show people are more receptive to hearing that Jerusalem should remain a “unified city,” rather than that it remain an “undivided city.” And the most compelling reason for advocating that Jerusalem should remain in Israeli hands is that Jews will better protect religious sites for shared use by “Christians, Muslims and Jews,” he said, adding that mentioning the religions in that order does better in polling than in reverse.

Polls also show people are more sympathetic to Israel as the Jewish homeland, where Jews can live safely, he said, rather than as the Jewish state, which some view as an inflexible nation run only by Jews.

Another strong argument for supporting Israel, TIP’s research indicates, is to point to its humanitarian aid. Israeli Defense Force medical teams were first on the ground to aid Haiti after the earthquake last year. This happened despite Haiti’s ambassador to the United Nations having voted against Israel many times, Klein said. TIP continues to reach out to Haiti’s and other UN ambassadors, taking them to Israel so they can see it firsthand and continuing dialogue with them.

TIP polling also indicates that there’s bipartisan American opposition to the Palestinians’ effort to unilaterally declare independence (UDI), and nearly two in three Americans believe it’s important for Israel and the Palestinians to reach a peace agreement. The problem for Israel with the UDI is that “going to the United Nations is not only about legal definitions. … It’s about the delegitimization of Israel,” Klein said.

He offered two arguments for opposing the UDI: first, that lasting peace cannot come from a unilateral declaration, and second, that a division of territory won’t bring peace so long as there’s a Palestinian culture of hate against Israel. It’s hard to persuade anyone to oppose the UDI if they’ve just heard a Palestinian leader make conciliatory statements toward Israel.

And even though TIP’s polling of Palestinians indicates they want Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to concentrate on jobs, healthcare and infrastructure issues more than they want him to push for independence at the UN, other polling data offers less hope to Israel.

Only 30 percent of those polled were amenable to the idea of a Jewish state, and young, well-educated Palestinians are less favorably inclined toward Israel. Many Palestinians see a two-state solution of neighboring Jewish and Arab states as a two-part solution, Klein said, with the second part being all of the two states’ land under Arab control.

A bright spot for Klein is the interest of young American Jews in learning more about Israel. He praised Nashville’s Get Connected teen trip program, saying that the last two years of high school and first two years of college are crucial years for young people to learn the complex issues Israel faces and to form opinions. That’s where The Israel Project can help. “We have kids that want to know more, we have messages that work,” he said. “We can encourage people within our own community to speak up more.”
Federation annual meeting introduces new executive director, new programs

Meet Mark Freedman, the Federation’s new executive director, at the 2011 annual meeting of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and learn how the community is building connections with Jews around the world. The meeting takes place on Thurs., Oct. 6, at 7 p.m. at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. The community is invited.

Community members will elect officers and board members to serve the Federation [see box]. These persons have been nominated to serve as the Federation’s officers: Ted Mayden, president; Andy May, vice president; Jan Liff, secretary; and Adam Landa, treasurer. The following have been nominated to serve on the board: Lori Fishel, Steve Hirsch, Mindy Hirt and Afshin Yazdian. Mayden has nominated as a presidential appointee to the board Faith Haber Galbaitah.

Outgoing board members, Cindee Gold, Steven Hecklin, Terry Kasselberg, Howard Kirshner, David Lewis, Judy Metzman, Colin Meyerowitz, Rabbi Kiel Rose, Bruce Zeitlin and Fred Zimmerman will be recognized for their service. A special recognition will be given to Sharon Bell, past chair of the Southeast Consortium for Partnership.

Mayden will speak about the Federation’s Best Jewish Nashville success stories highlighting newly funded initiatives that make a huge impact on our Nashville Jewish Community thanks to the participation of our community’s donors. Among these initiatives were Federation-funded participation by eight area young adults in two programs: four attended the Young Leadership Summer Mission to Israel sponsored by the Jewish Federations of North America and four were part of a mission to Beltsy, Moldova, organized through the Jewish Federation of Greensboro, N.C. Freya Sachs will speak at the annual meeting about her experiences in Moldova and Vlada Mekhlik will share her experiences in Israel. The two missions were part of the Local Global Initiatives, which grew out of the Best Jewish Nashville project.

Annual Campaign chair Sandy Averbuch will talk about the 2011 Annual Campaign as well as launch the Jewish Federation’s 2012 Annual Community Campaign. Leon Tonelson, the outgoing interim executive director, and Freedman will address annual meeting attendees as well. This is your opportunity to learn how your donations to Federation impacts Nashville and beyond. All are encouraged to attend.

For information on the meeting, contact Barbara Schwartz at Barbara@jewishnashville.org or 354-1630.

Jewish Federation of Nashville & Middle Tennessee Announces Annual Meeting

The Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee will hold its 75th Annual Meeting Thursday, October 6, 2011 – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

The following slate of Officers and Board members has been nominated:

Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee 2011-2012 Slate of Nominees

OFFICERS
President: Martin Ted Mayden
Vice President: Andrew May
Secretary: Adam Landa
Treasurer: Jan Liff

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
First Three-Year Term
Lori Fishel
Steve Hirsch
Afshin Yazdian

Additional Three-Year Term
Mindy Hirt

Continuing Three-Year Term
Dianne Berry
Daniel Biller
David Hanchrow
Saul Kelner
Adam Leibowitz
Ellen Rosen

Any 25 members of the Jewish Federation may nominate additional people in accordance with the Constitution by submitting the names to Ted Mayden, Federation President, or to Leon Tonelson, Interim Executive Director, at least 20 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Persons nominated for officer positions must be or have been members of the Board of Directors.

Save the Date: December 8, 2011
From Darkness to Light: Natan Sharansky

25 years ago the Jewish world and the world at large watched as Natan Sharansky crossed the Glienicke Bridge from nine years in prison to freedom and Aliyah. This was a very special moment for millions of Jews around the world who were privileged to see the fruits of their collective relentless campaign to free Soviet Jewry.

On December 8, 2011 Jewish leaders from across the Southern United States will come together in Memphis, Tennessee for a private reception with Natan Sharansky to celebrate Mr. Sharansky’s unwavering dedication to freedom and human rights and his enduring commitment to our global Jewish community. The evening will be dedicated to support for critical programs of the Jewish Agency for Israel that are ensuring our Jewish future here at home, in Israel, the former Soviet Union, and around the world.

The Jewish Agency invites you to show your support and to share your memories and messages with Mr. Sharansky through a special tribute journal which will be presented to Mr. Sharansky at the Darkness to Light reception.

The Evening of Thursday, December 8, 2011
Historic Peabody Hotel, Memphis, TN

For more information on the event or the tribute journal, please contact Gila Gewirtz at D2LSouthernRegion@jafi.org or www.action.jewishagency.org/D2LSouthernRegion or 212-339-6057

Tribute journal listing available from $18. Event attendance for major gifts donors to the Jewish Agency for Israel.

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT
C
coming soon to a school or congregation near you: Masada, the Warsaw Ghetto and the Old City in Jerusalem.
It’s all possible through the Building Blocks program, which brings families together to work as a group to create models of these sites with Legos. Building Blocks is the brandchild of New Jersey architect Stephen W. Schwartz. The program is coming to Congregation Micah from Fri., Sept. 16, through Sun., Sept. 18, and to Akiva School on Mon., Sept. 19. The program was made possible through a grant from the Jewish Federation of Nashville under the Best Jewish Nashville priority-setting program.

Building each model is a finely choreographed endeavor in which a family works as a team to build its assigned part of the model in less than two hours, using Lego blocks to bring to life a site of Jewish history. Participants are guided through the project by a model-building expert who provides an overview of the historical background and context of each site.

The programs provide an engaging and educational experience for families, offering a unique way to learn about Jewish history and the events that took place at these significant sites. Participants not only build the models but also gain a deeper understanding of the historical events and their significance in Jewish history.

The program is free to attend, and participants are encouraged to bring their own Legos. For more information or to register, contact Akiva’s Evans at 615-1880 or cevans@akiva.net, or Micah’s Greenberg at jgreenberg@congregationmicah.org.
High Holiday Services 2011 - 5772

**Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad**
Orthodox
142 Belle Forest Circle
Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel
615/269-4592

**Erev Rosh Hashanah**
Wednesday, September 28
6:20 p.m. Candle lighting and service
7:30 p.m. New Year’s Eve Dinner (Reservations are required; please visit www.chabadnashville.com)

First day of Rosh Hashanah
Thursday, September 29
9:00 a.m. Morning Service
10:15-11:15 a.m. Children’s Service
11:15 a.m. Shofar
12:30 p.m. Mincha
3:30 p.m. Youth Service
6:00 p.m. Neilah
9:30 p.m. Kol Nidrei

**Yom Kippur**
Saturday, October 8
10:00 a.m. Morning Service
1:00 p.m. Family Service (For young children led by Rabbi Flip and Lisa Silver)
1:30 p.m. Youth Service (For 3rd through 6th graders and up Led by Rabbi Laurie and Michael Ochs)
1:30 p.m. Study Session: Is Tomorrow Really Written?
2:30 p.m. Healing Service (Rabbi Laurie, Lisa Silver and congregants use contemporary and ancient liturgy to restore spiritual balance)
2:30 p.m. Study session: Undress the Stress
3:30 p.m. Afternoon Service
5:00 p.m. Yizkor/Memorial Service, followed by Neilah - Concluding Service

Yom Kippur
Shabbat, October 8
9:30 a.m. Morning Service
10:30-11:30 a.m. Children’s Service
11:30 a.m. Yizkor Memorial Service
Noon Mussaf
3:30 p.m. The Inner Circle
5:30 p.m. Mincha
6:00 p.m. Ne’ila Closing Service
7:01 PM Havdalah Service & Break Fast

**Kol Nidrei**
Friday, October 7
6:06 p.m. Light Yom Kippur candles
6:10 p.m. Kol Nidrei Service

**Yom Kippur**
Shabbat, October 8
9:30 a.m. Morning Service
10:30-11:30 a.m. Children’s Service
11:30 a.m. Yizkor Memorial Service
Noon Mussaf
3:30 p.m. The Inner Circle
5:30 p.m. Mincha
6:00 p.m. Ne’ila Closing Service
7:01 PM Havdalah Service & Break Fast

The Temple - Congregation Ohabai Sholom
Reform
5015 Harding Rd.
Rabbi Mark Schifman
Rabbi Shana Mackler
615/352-7620

Erev Rosh Hashanah
Thursday, September 29
5:00 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Service
5:30 p.m. Mincha and Tashlich - Knesset Centennial Park Event Shelter.
6:15 p.m. Kol Nidre

Rosh Hashanah
Thursday, September 29
9 a.m. Family Service
9 a.m. Torah Reading
10:30 a.m. Morning Service
12:30 p.m. Shacharit at the Creek
3 p.m. Rosh Hashanah Afternoon Service

**Kol Nidre**
Friday, October 7
7:30 p.m. Kol Nidre

**Yom Kippur**
Saturday, October 8
6:30 a.m. Shacharit
10:15 a.m. Torah Reading
10:45 a.m. Rabbi’s Address
11:15 a.m. Yizkor
11:20 a.m. Musaf followed by “Ask the Rabbi”
4:15 p.m. Reading of the Names
4:45 p.m. Mincha
6 p.m. Neilah
6:59 p.m. Shofar followed by Break-Fast

**North Shore Synagogue**
Reform
3810 West End Ave.
Rabbi Kliel Rose
3814 West End Ave.
Rabbi Saul Strosberg
3600 West End Ave.
Rabbi Dan Levitt

**Erev Rosh Hashanah**
Wednesday, September 28
5:30 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

**First Day of Rosh Hashanah**
Thursday, September 29
9:00 a.m. Morning Service
10:15 a.m. Rabbi’s Address/Shofar
12:45 p.m. Lunch (Reservations Required)
3 p.m. Tashlich at Richland Creek
at foot of Carden Avenue
6:25 p.m. Mincha/Maariv
7:12 p.m. Earliest Candle Lighting (Rabbi Shana Mackler)

**Second Day of Rosh Hashanah**
Friday, September 30
5:00 p.m. Yizkor
5:30 p.m. Mincha and Tashlich - Knesset Centennial Park Event Shelter.
6:15 p.m. Shabbos Candles

Erev Rosh Hashanah
Thursday, September 29
5:00 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Service
5:30 p.m. Mincha and Tashlich - Knesset Centennial Park Event Shelter.
6:15 p.m. Shabbos Candles

Rosh Hashanah
Thursday, September 29
9 a.m. Family Service
9 a.m. Torah Reading
10:30 a.m. Morning Service
12:30 p.m. Shacharit at the Creek
3 p.m. Rosh Hashanah Afternoon Service

**Kol Nidre**
Friday, October 7
7:30 p.m. Kol Nidre

**Yom Kippur**
Saturday, October 8
6:30 a.m. Shacharit
10:15 a.m. Torah Reading
10:45 a.m. Rabbi’s Address
11:15 a.m. Yizkor
11:20 a.m. Musaf followed by “Ask the Rabbi”
4:15 p.m. Reading of the Names
4:45 p.m. Mincha
6 p.m. Neilah
6:59 p.m. Shofar followed by Break-Fast

**The Temple - Congregation Ohabai Sholom**
Reform
5015 Harding Rd.
Rabbi Mark Schifman
Rabbi Shana Mackler
615/352-7620

Erev Rosh Hashanah
Thursday, September 29
5:00 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Service
5:30 p.m. Mincha and Tashlich - Knesset Centennial Park Event Shelter.
6:15 p.m. Kol Nidre

Rosh Hashanah
Thursday, September 29
9 a.m. Family Service
9 a.m. Torah Reading
10:30 a.m. Morning Service
12:30 p.m. Shacharit at the Creek
3 p.m. Rosh Hashanah Afternoon Service

**Kol Nidre**
Friday, October 7
7:30 p.m. Kol Nidre

**Yom Kippur**
Saturday, October 8
6:30 a.m. Shacharit
10:15 a.m. Torah Reading
10:45 a.m. Rabbi’s Address
11:15 a.m. Yizkor
11:20 a.m. Musaf followed by “Ask the Rabbi”
4:15 p.m. Reading of the Names
4:45 p.m. Mincha
6 p.m. Neilah
6:59 p.m. Shofar followed by Break-Fast

**Erev Rosh Hashanah**
Wednesday, September 28
6:30 p.m. Mincha/Maariv
6:19 p.m. Candle Lighting Time

First Day of Rosh Hashanah
Thursday, September 29
8:30 a.m. Shacharit
9:30 a.m. Minyan Sulam and Musaf Services
10:30 a.m. Blessing of Babies Born in Past Year
11 a.m. Klono Service for Families with Children up to 6 Years Old
11 a.m. Junior Congregation (Supervision available for third through sixth graders before and after Junior Congregation.)
5:30 p.m. Mincha and Tashlich - Centennial Park Event Shelter.
(7:13 p.m. Candle Lighting Time)

Second day of Rosh Hashanah
Friday, September 30
8:30 a.m. Shacharit
11 a.m. Family Services.
Preschool through First Grade
11 a.m. Family Services Second through Seventh Grade (Supervision available for third- through sixth-graders.)

**Kol Nidre**
Friday, October 7
6:30 p.m. Mincha
6:06 p.m. Candle Lighting Time Blessing of the past year’s B’nai Mitzvah

**Yom Kippur**
Saturday, October 8
9:30 a.m. Shacharit
10:30 a.m. Minyan Sulam and Musaf Services
11 a.m. Junior Congregation Services (Supervision available for third- through sixth-graders before and after Junior Congregation)
3:15 p.m. Study Session (Miriarn Halachmi)
4 p.m. Mincha
4:45 p.m. Congregant’s Talk
5:15 p.m. Yizkor
6 p.m. Neilah
6:59 p.m. Sounding of the Shofar
7 p.m. Community Break Fast (Reservations required)
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The Observer

**Taste of Partnership trip aims to build bonds between Nashville, Hadera**

If you've ever wondered why Nashville teens rave about the time they spent in Hadera-Eiron during their Get Connected trips to Israel, have we got a trip for you! The trip is called A Taste of Partnership and is set for Tues., Feb. 28, through Sun., March 4, 2012. Its goal is to cement friendships between members of American Jewish communities including Nashville and residents of Hadera-Eiron, which have been linked for 10 years through the Partnership2Gether or P2G program.

P2G, a program of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), pairs hundreds of North American Jewish communities with communities in Israel. The Jewish Federation of Nashville helps fund P2G, along with other federations.

Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, several cities in Florida and Charlotte, N.C., make up the Southeast Regional Consortium, which JAFI has paired with Hadera-Eiron. The region includes the City of Hadera; the Katzir-Harish and Pardes Hanna-Kfar Tavor Local Councils; and the Menashe and Alona Regional Councils. The region is bounded on the east by what's commonly referred to as the West Bank territory.

Hadera is marking its 120th anniversary this year as a city and its 10th year in P2G, so it will be a special time to visit. Participants are free to make their own arrangements to reach Israel, and are also free to spend additional time there before and after the Partnership activities with residents of Hadera-Eiron. Land-only cost of the trip is $986, and members of the Jewish communities in all of the Southeast Regional Consortium cities are encouraged to be part of the trip. Deadline to sign up is mid-October.

For the first three days of the trip, participants will spend time in Hadera, getting to know residents, touring the region and learning about life there. They'll tour the sea line and learn about the complexity of the Palestine-Israeli border. They'll talk with teens participating in leadership activities and visit the Ben Yakir Youth Village.

For the last three days, participants will spend Shabbat in Jerusalem with their peers from Hadera, with time during the last day of Taste of Partnership to visit museums and participate in other programs in Jerusalem.

“We are focused on creating real, personal connections between individuals and groups from both sides of the ocean,” said Sharon Bell. “Our core programs have been educator delegations, summer camp counselors, educational programs, and various teen delegations. Additionally, our friends and part-time staff in the region in Israel work with Federation community missions and family and synagogue trips when they visit Israel to make the visits personal and real to provide visitors from the Southeast Regional Consortium a Taste of Partnership.”

For information about the trip, contact the Jewish Federation at 356-3242.

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**New shlicha gets acquainted with Music City**

By Kathy Carlson

One week into her assignment in Nashville as the community’s new shlicha, Inbar Shaked is getting her bearings in town and marveling over the Middle Tennessee landscape.

“It’s amazing — I’m still amazed by all the green,” she says one recent weekday. “I’m very, very glad to be here.”

She’s over her jet lag, settling into an apartment, checking out the grocery stores for fresh produce for a daily Israeli salad, making friends. And there are plans to see more of the United States — an upcoming conference in New York, a trip out of town to visit a cousin.

Inbar (pronounced een-bahrt, with the accent on the second syllable) will be in town for a year. Her presence in Nashville grows from the Local Global Initiative of the Jewish Federation of Nashville’s Best Jewish Nashville project, which helped the community determine its priorities and make them a reality.

The project identified a need to build ties between Nashville and Israel, and bringing a shlicha to Nashville was a tangible way to do just that. Nashville turned to the Jewish Agency for Israel for candidates and the Local Global Committee, headed by Ellen Levitt, reviewed resumes and chose Inbar.

Her Skype interview with Levitt, Rachel Koch, Carol Hyatt, Harriet Schiftan and Federation Interim Executive Director Leon Tonelson helped her decide to work in Nashville. “They were so nice,” she said. She just felt Nashville was the right place for her. “Even though it’s not such a big community, I prefer it small and warm,” she said.

Shaked, 23, wants to help people here understand what’s going on in Israel, such as the current protests over the high cost of living. “Because I studied political science and journalism, it’s something I can bring from myself and Israel.”

Israelis work very hard, she said, and many still can’t afford high rents and homeownership costs. “My generation cannot buy a house,” she said.

In her opinion, there’s a connection between the “Arab spring” protests that continued on page 9.
Jewish Family Service steps up service in times of economic uncertainty

By James Mackler

In this time of financial uncertainty, many non-profit community service agencies are reluctantly scaling back their services. Jewish Family Service (JFS), however, has not only maintained its commitment to service, but has actually expanded into new areas of giving. “We wouldn’t be able to provide these expanded services without the generous support of our community,” explained Pam Kelner, JFS executive director. “In addition,” she added, “we have great institutional partners like the Federation and NHC.

Many people already know about JFS’ commitment to provide mental health counseling without regard to a client’s ability to pay. The organization employs professionally licensed clinical social workers who provide expert services on a sliding scale basis to anyone in need. Although the existence of this service is well known, its details are deliberately kept confidential. Individuals who never thought they would need assistance find themselves seeking affordable counseling. In the words of one JFS social worker, ‘more and more of our clients are former donors. We understand the desire for privacy, which is why we maintain a confidential entrance and waiting area in the back of the Gordon Jewish Community Center’.

Just as JFS’ counseling workload and client base is changing, so too is the need for its other services. JFS has long offered emergency financial assistance to members of the community who, although they are generally self-sufficient, have suddenly encountered a financial barrier that they cannot overcome alone. For example, Jewish Family Service will pay rent, a utility bill or supply a food card for a client who simply cannot meet this burden in a time of economic downturn.

As a result of its partnership with the Federation, JFS has been able to expand its emergency assistance program by administering what is known as the “The Gesher Fund.” “Gesher” is Hebrew for bridge. The fund, created by the Federation, enables JFS to meet the increased need for assistance caused by the current economic downturn on a larger scale. The value of both emergency financial assistance and the Gesher Fund can be heard in the words of one grateful recipient. “My family and I are thankful to you for your help and involvement.” She added, “You do lend a helping hand. May G-d bless you and see your good deeds.”

Of course, temporary assistance can only go so far. Aware of the need to help people move from emergency assistance to long term stability, JFS developed a comprehensive network of community leaders with whom job-seekers can connect. The Jewish Job Network is a confidential committee of 30 compassionate and expert business leaders, who review resumes, respond if they have related opportunities or send resumes to colleagues where appropriate. Prospective applicants need only send a resume to JFS, which will submit it to the network. As unemployment has grown and job openings become increasingly competitive, knowing the “right people” has become even more important. JFS knows the “right people.”

Children and the elderly are being hit particularly hard during this economic downturn. Although it might have been understandable for JFS to reduce its commitment to these vulnerable populations, just the opposite has occurred. JFS has improved its Kosher Food Box program and has implemented a new program to ensure that children in need have adequate school supplies.

JFS has an ongoing partnership with the National Council of Jewish Women to provide Kosher Food Boxes to families in need in Middle Tennessee. Until recently, the Kosher Food Box program was limited to shelf-stable foods. With the help of individual contributions and institutional support, JFS now has the required infrastructure to provide a limited amount of refrigerated food as well. One food box will feed a couple for a week or a family of four for four days. By providing this supplemental food, JFS can prevent community members from making what, for many of us, is an unimaginable choice. Recipients don’t have to decide between food and medication or other basic necessities.

The most recent addition to JFS’ services is its highly successful school supply drive. The beginning of the school year can be particularly stressful for families working to stay within a limited budget. The financial burden of purchasing school supplies can push a family’s budget over the edge. JFS implemented the school supply drive this year so that children can focus on learning. The recipients don’t have to go to school with inadequate supplies or fear the trade-off between a backpack at school versus a meal at home.

As a new academic year begins, 18 children are walking into schools with a brand new backpack equipped with all the supplies they require along with a confident attitude that this year will be different. They will not have to worry about what happens when they run out of paper, the crayons are broken and the pens are low on ink. Thanks to community donations, each child received enough school supplies to last for an entire year.

Jewish Family Service has been helping the community since its founding in 1853. During that time, the organization has seen many economic crises come and go. This latest challenge has only served to highlight that JFS is here for the long term — providing emergency financial assistance, a path to a new job, mental health counseling or simply a fresh box of crayons.

Anyone who is in need of assistance should contact JFS at 615/356-4234. □

James Mackler is a recently installed JFS board member, husband of Rabbi Shana Mackler, and an attorney at the law firm of Bone, McAllester, Norton, PLLC.
A big climax to Israel’s summer of protest, but no one can predict the next steps

September 9, 2011 The Observer

and protest in a peaceful way,” said David Nachmis, a lecturer in the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya. “They want social justice, they want to change public policy.”

How this desire will translate into the realm of politics is an open question. Many signs at the protests assailed Netanyahu and his government, and the leader of the opposition Kadima Party, Tzipi Livni, urged Israelis to attend the Sept. 3 demonstrations on Facebook. Protest organizers, however, have tried to keep the political world at a distance from their movement in the hopes of appealing to wide segments of the Israeli public.

Several leaders emerged from the tent cities and weekly protests as nationally prominent figures, including Daphne Leef, who was the first to set up a tent in central Tel Aviv to protest her inability to find an affordable apartment, and Itzik Shmuli, the chairman of National Student Union. Both were featured speakers at the main rally that featured speakers at the main rally that

Trajtenberg Committee as a cynical effort to keep the political world at a distance from their movement in the hopes of appealing to wide segments of the Israeli public.

Shmuli is “one of the people to look for” as an emerging political leader, said Hani Zubida, an assistant professor of public policy at IDC Herzliya who helped organize a coalition of Israel’s peripheral populations for the summer protests that included single mothers, Arabs and lower-income communities.

“They are calling for their campaign tour for the next primaries,” Zubida said. “The fact that we saw him week in and week out on the stage means something.”

Jazz and R&B concert kicks off Rosh Hashanah at Sherith Israel

The music of world-renowned jazz and R&B saxophonist Mark Fineberg will kick off the 5772 Rosh Hashanah season at Sherith Israel with a pre-Slichot Concert on Sat., Sept. 24, featuring Fineberg, Rabbi Saul Strosberg, Jonathan Yudkin, Mosh Koch and others.

The concert is free and open to the public.

The concert will be preceded by a catered Shabbat dinner on Friday night, Sept. 23, following the Shabbat service. There is a cost for the dinner. For reservations, call the shul office at 292-6614 by Sept. 21.

The concert on Sept. 24 will begin at 8:30 p.m. Fineberg is an internationally known musician whose credits include Broadway, recordings, radio and TV commercials and major live concerts. He has played with such musical greats as Donna Summer, Lou Rawls, Gladys Knight and the Pips, The Temptations, Frankie Snow, The Spinners, and James “JT” Taylor (Kool and The Gang) a Billy Joel band.

In the world of Jewish music, Fineberg has played with nearly every Jewish superstar, including Avraham Fried, Mordechai Ben David, Dudu Fischer, Shwekey and the famous Neshoma orchestra, where he performed for several years with a young keyboard player and trumpeter named Saul Strosberg, before Strosberg went to Yoshihara to become a rabbi.

On Sun., Sept. 25, Strosberg will lead Sherith Israel’s annual Memorial Service at the Lucas Chapel at the Sherith cemetery at 12:30 p.m. The Jewish Community is invited.

For more information about any of these events, call the Sherith Israel office at 292-6614.
Sympathy

... to the family of Gerald Cooper, 82, who died Aug. 27. He was preceded in death by first wife, Brenda; son, Kenny. Gerald is survived by his wife, Sharna; daughter, Susan Greenbaum of Carmel, Calif.; son, Glenn Cooper of Chicago, Ill.; sister, Jane Haas of West Orange, Calif.; son, Glenn Cooper of Chicago, Fla.; brother, Sheldon Cooper of Ft. Lee, N.J.; five grandchildren. Memorials may be made to your favorite charity.

... to the family of Rick Dewey, 57, who died Aug. 29. For reasons that no one will ever know, Rick took his own life. He is survived by his 4-ever loving wife Eileen Wallach; mother-in-law, Janet; daughter, Kimberly Smith; and two grandchildren, Tanner and Packer. Donations in Rick's honor may be made to www.musicares.com.

... to the family of JoEllen Scott Couch who died Aug. 29 after an extended illness. She recently moved back to Nashville. She is survived by her husband, Jack Couch; daughter, Valerie (Eric) Greenberg; grandchildren, Max and Lily; numerous nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews. JoEllen was preceded in death by her parents, Bill and Adalyne Scott, and her brother, Larry Scott. Born in Pittsburgh, Pa., she moved to Nashville as a toddler and was a graduate of Hillsboro High School and George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University. She was a member of the Tree of Life Temple in Columbia, S.C., and a life-long member of The Temple O哈shui Shalom in Nashville. A life member and board member of the Nashville Council of Jewish Women, she also served as past chairperson of The Central Citizens Advisory Committee to the Nashville Board of Education. JoEllen was owner of The Nettle Creek Shop in Green Hills for many years. The family requests that memorial gifts be made to Alive Hospice, 1718 Patterson Street, Nashville, TN 37203 or www.alivehospice.org

... to the family of Ann C. Dubrov, 89, of Nashville who died Aug. 31. Formerly of Chattanooga, Tenn., she was preceded in death by parents, Herman and Fannie Cohen; sister, Deena Cohen; and husband of 63 years, Harry Dubrov. She is survived by her daughter, Joyce Fox (Gil) and Cheryl Mason (John); son, Ronald Dubrov (Judy); grandchildren, Jennifer Romps (Dennis), Dana Fox, Karen Elwell (Ken), Andrew Dubrov, Alliyson Dubrov, Annie Mason and Kate Mason; and great-grandchildren, Jason Romps and Zac Romps. Mrs. Dubrov was a life-long member of Hadassah, and served as treasurer of the Chattanooga chapter. She was also chairman of the Gift Shop at B'nai Zion Synagogue for many years. Memorial contributions may be made to Hadassah, B'nai Zion Synagogue or the charity of your choice.

Sympathy

JoEllen was owner of The Nettle Creek Shop in Green Hills for many years. The family requests that memorial gifts be made to Alive Hospice, 1718 Patterson Street, Nashville, TN 37203 or www.alivehospice.org

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New shliacha gets acquainted with Music City

Continued from page 6

Women’s Naot Headquarters
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Real Estate

2700 North Highlands Drive Open House
Wealth of fall activities on tap for young adults

P"luck Shabbat, a New Year’s bash, networking galore. All are on the menu for young adults in Nashville’s Jewish community.

Here’s an outline of key dates and information:

Fri., Sept. 16 - Join with new friends, old friends and friends you haven’t met yet to usher in Shabbat. All ages are welcome. Email Joel Abramson, joel@jewishnashville.org, to sign up and be placed with a dinner group.

Mon., Sept. 26 - Time to be announced – Men’s Jewish Networking program event. Open to all men in the Young Adults Division age group.

Sat., Oct. 1, 9:30 p.m.-midnight - New Year’s bash at Merchants Restaurant, downtown Nashville, third-floor party room. Dress: cocktail attire. There is a small fee.

A breaking-the-fast party is being planned for Yom Kippur, Sat., Oct. 8. The Young Adults division is also looking for volunteers to help build sukkahs this fall and for volunteers to work at food banks around town, Abramson said.

For full information, check the listings at www.jewishnashville.org or contact Joel Abramson at joel@jewishnashville.org.

GJCC Invitational Golf Tournament welcomes NFL alumni to the greens

The first annual GJCC Invitational Golf Tournament will be held at the 18-hole Old Natchez Golf Club on Mon., Oct. 3.

The community is invited to participate. Your support and participation will directly benefit the Gordon Jewish Community Center’s programming.

Register as a single player or as a foursome – and possibly get to play with NFL alumni such as Jim Arnold, Brad Hopkins, Paul Guidry and Craig Henrich.

A random draw at registration will determine who the lucky golfers are who get to play along side these guys.

To register, contact Harry Baker at harry@nashvillejcc.org. There are also multiple sponsorship levels available; Harry can assist with choosing the right sponsorship level for you or your business.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. The Old Natchez Golf Club is located at 115 Gardengate Drive in Franklin.

Buy Israel!

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

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

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

See the updated list, below and in the community.

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Cedar Halva – Whole Foods
refrigerated section
Steit’s Quinoa and Israeli
Couscous – Harris Teeter
Jaffa Oranges – Publix
Muscato wine by Golan Wineries – Bud’s Wine and Liquor
Green Hills
Carries musical instruments made in Israel – Gymboree Play & Music, Cool Springs
Schechter candles – Whole Foods
Naot shoes and sandals – Cute and Comfy Shoes, Green Hills

The Observer
Jewish groups say U.N. resolution is inevitable, but its wording isn’t set

Washington (JTA) — All but resigned to the inevitability of a Palestinian push for statehood at the United Nations later this month, Jewish groups are hoping that its effects can be blunted through aggressive diplomacy and the threat of action by the U.S. Congress.

Jewish groups are urging foreign diplomats to push for language that would make any resolution more palatable to Israel and supporting a renewed push to restart the peace process as an incentive. Meanwhile, they are counting on congressional penalties against the Palestinians should the eventual resolution be unfavorable to Israel.

“It’s still interesting,” said Daniel Mariaschin, the executive vice president of B’nai B’rith International, expressing cautious optimism characteristic of a range of conversations with Jewish officials that engage in U.N. forums. “We don’t know what kind of resolution will be introduced.”

The Obama administration is pressing hard to avoid any resolution, and is hoping instead to get the parties back to the table under the aegis of the Quartet, the grouping of the United States, Russia, the United Nations and the European Union that guides the peace process.

The administration recently dispatched Dennis Ross, the National Security Council’s Middle East adviser, and David Hale, its Middle East peace special envoy to the region, to try to come up with a formula for moving forward that will convince the Palestinians to shelve their U.N. bid.

“I have been in contact with the White House, with Dennis Ross, David Hale and the team, and I know they’re working extremely hard with the Quartet,” Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.), the senior Democrat on the foreign operations subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives, told JTA. “They’ve been working nonstop to be creative with their language.”

Insiders with information about the Quartet negotiations, however, say they don’t have much hope that the American efforts will succeed. The Palestinians and Russia oppose language in a statement that would relaunch negotiations that include recognizing Israel as Jewish state as well as “realities on the ground” — code for large settlements.

Palestinian officials continue to insist that they intend to go through with their statehood effort and will ask the U.N. Security Council to admit a Palestinian state as a U.N. member. The United States has made clear that it would veto any such resolution before the Security Council, insisting that the proper venue for achieving Palestinian statehood is at the negotiating table with Israel.

A resolution recognizing Palestinian statehood in the U.N. General Assembly would likely gain the support of a majority of member nations, but a General Assembly vote would be largely symbolic and would not grant U.N. membership to the Palestinians.

Jewish groups say efforts are under way to persuade key countries to shape a resolution that would be more favorable toward Israel.

“We’re in a much better place than a couple of months ago,” said Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, the president of The Israel Project. “A lot more of the diplomats are better educated about nuances and challenges and opportunities.”

A resolution recognizing the eventual necessity of Palestinian statehood might even be beneficial if it included the right language, Mizrahi said. “A watered-down resolution that doesn’t say where lines are, doesn’t talk about refugees and recognizes the validity of a Jewish state, it’s a victory for all sides, it would be win-win for everybody,” she said.

Leading the outreach has been the American Jewish Committee, which has had 300 meetings with diplomats from 70 countries in the past three months — and expects a last-minute flurry of another 100 such meetings before the matter comes to a vote, which is expected by Sept. 21.

The AJC’s executive director, David Harris, said the message was getting across. “There have been some in the Arab world who have said recently that this is not going to work, it’s not going to advance the goal of a Palestinian state, it may backfire, it may set the prospects for peace back, and the Palestinians may be blamed because this was their idea,” Harris said.