

## Perlen: Gave 150 percent

*Federation elected new leadership at June 12 annual meeting, celebrated Life and Legacy*

By **LARRY BROOK**

June 12 was a night of transitions for the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, as Lisa Perlen completed three years of what is usually a two-year stint as president, passing the gavel to Steve Hirsch.

For her extended service, Perlen was lauded by Hirsch for giving “150 percent” as president.

After his first year as executive director, Eric Stillman said the evening wasn’t his first time at our annual meeting, and after frequently visiting every agency and every synagogue, there are fewer “firsts” for him to list – though there still are many new things to do.

The evening also included an update on the Annual Campaign, with Campaign Chair Fred Zimmerman reporting that this year’s campaign is just over \$2 million toward an anticipated total of just under \$2.5 million. “That means we’re holding our own,” he said.

Just before the meeting, there was a celebration of the second year of the Life and Legacy initiative, which has the participation of 13 local agencies, congregations, and Jewish organizations. It was announced that 656 letters of intent had been signed, representing \$18.5 million in future gifts to the participating groups.

The 83rd annual meeting was held at the Gordon Jewish Community Center in the Pargh Auditorium.

In his D’var Torah, Sherith Israel Rabbi Saul Strosberg spoke of how even Aaron, with his high position in the community, needed to feel needed, and “the most important way we can value people is to need them.” He charged the community to “always be sure to show each other how much we need them.”

The 2019 Sandy Averbuch Young Leadership Award was presented to Jacob Ruden and Christie Wiemers. Perlen explained that the award had been reinstated in 2013, and in 2017 had been renamed in memory of Averbuch, who had been the first recipient, in 1972.

Ruden was on his honeymoon, “so he really couldn’t break away to be here tonight,” Perlen said.

In a pre-recorded video, Ruden said he moved to Nashville four years ago and “we have felt so welcomed by the community,” and he is “so happy I have been able to give back.”

Wiemers said she was “honored and deeply humbled” as there are so many great young leaders in the area. “Y’all created that envi-



Photos by Rick Malkin

**Eric Stillman congratulates Lisa Perlen on her completion of three years as Federation president**

ronment,” she said, by supporting programs to develop leadership among the next generation “and give us a seat at the table.”

Perlen said since she took office three years ago, the community has experienced many transitions, in professional leadership, losing long-time leaders and finding new leadership.

“We continue to find new ways to engage people,” she said, including the new community-wide volunteer portal.

Perlen said she hoped the community continues “to work to benefit the Jewish community at home, in Israel and worldwide.” She also thanked her family for “support, patience and understanding – especially your patience.”

In his report, Zimmerman said the campaign’s goal is “to make sure everyone in the community has the opportunity to be part of the great enterprise we call the Federation.”

Though he said the campaign is holding steady, “our work is not done. It is never done. We left needs unattended this year.” He noted that 15 percent of the community lives in economic un-

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## Nashville Jewish Film Festival Announces Season

The Nashville Jewish Film Festival has announced its 2019 season will feature 18 films from Oct. 16 to Nov. 7 at three venues, opening with a new documentary, “Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles,” the origin story behind one of Broadway’s most beloved musicals, “Fiddler on The Roof,” and its creative roots in early 1960s New York, when “tradition” was on the wane as gender roles, sexuality, race relations and religion were evolving.

The Festival will be at The Belcourt Theatre, the Bellevue AMC and the Gordon Jewish Community Center. In its 19th year, the festival has shown more than 200 films that reflect upon contemporary Jewish life in Tennessee, the U.S., Israel and the world. The festival began as a way to celebrate the 150th anniversary of The Temple, and is now a program of the Gordon JCC.

### Other featured films include:

“Sefarad” on Oct. 17 at the Belcourt Theatre. In 1496, King D. Manuel prohibited Judaism in Portugal. 400 years later, Barros Basto, a Portuguese army captain, converted to Judaism, and with 20 Jewish merchants founded the Jewish Community of Oporto, in the north of Portugal. Professor Julia Phillips Cohen will be the featured guest at the screening, which is hosted by the Program in Jewish Studies of Vanderbilt University.

“The Keeper” on Oct. 19 at Bellevue AMC is the extraordinary love story between a young English woman and a German PoW, who together overcome prejudice, public hostility and personal tragedy. While visiting a PoW camp near Manchester at the end of World War II, Margaret Friar, the daughter of the manager of the local football team, notices young German soldier Bert Trautmann. Her father is so taken by Bert’s prowess as a goal-keeper

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## PENCIL in some friendship building

*Muslim, Jewish communities unite to benefit Nashville public schools*

By **LARRY BROOK**

Nashville’s Jewish community is partnering with the Islamic Center of Nashville this month on Iqra, a volunteer project for Metro Nashville Public Schools.

The two groups are working with LP PENCIL Box, an organization that provides necessary school supplies to students in need. The organization collects school supplies and has a brick-and-mortar location where teachers can equip their classrooms at no cost to them, and last year

provided supplies to all but a handful of the metro area’s public schools.

The groups are running a supply drive throughout the community from July 8 to 26, and then volunteers will go to LP PENCIL Box on July 28 to help sort the items and stock the shelves.

Iqra was selected as the name of the project as it is the future third person form of “reading” in Hebrew, and for Muslims it is the first word in Quranic revelation, a directive to seek education in the religious

and scientific realms.

The supply drive will include yellow bins at community congregations and the Islamic Center. Needed supplies include pencils, dry-erase markers, washable marker packs, Sharpies or other permanent markers, wide-ruled filler paper, spiral notebooks, glue sticks, crayons, pencil sharpeners, colored pencils and small calculators.

The volunteers will start sorting in

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# Annual Meeting

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certainty, and there are needs around the world.

The 2020 campaign “will need to grow, because our needs are growing,” Zimmerman said. “We want to make this community the best it can be.”

Foundation Development Chair Adam Landa said he was going to “do some bragging on behalf of all of you” in reporting on the Jewish Foundation and the Life and Legacy initiative.

In the past year, the Foundation had distributed \$1.42 million in donor advised funds, including 42 percent to the Annual Campaign, an additional 10 percent from endowed campaign gifts, 17 percent to national Jewish organizations, 9 percent to local Jewish organizations, and 32 percent to other groups.

Meanwhile, contributions to the Foundation were at \$2.5 million.

“It is ultimately your values that drive the Foundation’s success,” he said.

This past year, the Foundation held four Professional Advisory Council seminars on financial and estate planning, with an emphasis on philanthropy. Four more sessions will be held this coming year, Landa said.

He also announced that the B’nai Tzedek program, where teens open philanthropic funds, usually around their Bar or Bat Mitzvah, added 11 participants this past year, with over 400 total participants in the program. A “Philanthropy Throughout the Year” teen program drew over 40 participants.

In all, the Foundation has over \$33 million in assets. Landa said the goal is to take the community’s values and the Founda-

tion’s expertise to “make a difference.”

Stillman laid out priorities for the coming year, including a greater emphasis on “outreach and engagement,” total financial resource development, and building community-wide alliances in the face of resurgent anti-Semitism “coming from both sides of the ideological spectrum.”

The Federation needs to reach out and engage everyone in the Jewish community, Stillman said. In building a bigger tent, there has been greater outreach to the interfaith community, LGBTQ and people of differing abilities. “We are making strides and will continue to do so.”

The Federation is also working at diversifying revenue streams.

In the greater community, the Federation is fighting anti-Semitism “through coalition building, allies from other religious communities, law enforcement and government,” building deeper relationships with more groups.

There is also a need to “be sophisticated” about reacting to incidents, assessing how serious something truly is, whether the person in question is apologetic or defiant, and how to move forward.

Community security is also a priority, Stillman said. The community received a \$100,000 Homeland Security grant in 2018 to which the Federation added an additional \$50,000 matching grant and is applying for another Homeland Security grant in 2019. The community agencies held a June 20 security meeting with the Secure Community Network of the Jewish Federations of North America.

Hirsch echoed Stillman’s remarks, saying it is good to see professional and lay



Photos by Rick Malkin

Above: Christie Wiemers receives the Young Leadership Award. Right (from top): Fred Zimmerman gives Annual Campaign report; Adam Landa talks about Life & Legacy, and incoming President Steve Hirsch talks about the future



leadership have the same agenda.

He said the community embraces “intelligent change” aimed at Jewish continuity.

“We’re living in a golden age for Jews in Israel and America, but there have been other golden ages in our history and that doesn’t mean we are without challenges,” Hirsch said. “Jewish Nashville in 2019 is a great place to live and work, and raise our families.”

With new companies flocking to the area, Hirsch asked, “are we up to the challenge of welcoming and engaging these newcomers?”

The Federation must remain true to its mission of assisting the most vulnerable, and be more effective in fundraising in a more individualized environment.

Stillman said with strong lay leadership, the Nashville Jewish community is “in good hands, and we are going from strength to strength.”

## Board Changes

At the annual meeting, Steve Hirsch was elected president; Aron Karabel, vice president; Janet Weismark, secretary; Martin Satinsky, treasurer.

Elected for three-year board terms were Jacob Kupin, Hayley Levy and Christie Wiemers. Marjean Coddon and Gary Fradkin were elected to one-year terms.

Lori Fishel was named the presidential appointee to the board, and Rabbi Joshua Kullock of West End Synagogue became

the congregational rabbi representative.

Departing officers were Lisa Perlen, Lori Fishel and Michael Doochin. Board members finishing their terms were Frank Boehm, Mark Cohen, Carol Hyatt, Suzanne Schulman and David Steine, Jr. Fred Zimmerman completed his term as Campaign Chair, and Michael Doochin finished as finance committee chair. Mindy Hirt was grants committee co-chair, and Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel finished his term as congregational rabbi representative.



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## Letters

### Our Holocaust Survivors and Their Joie De Vivre

Attending the funeral and celebration of the life of Rachel Chojnacki, I was struck by the realization that our Nashville Holocaust Survivors, those left to tell the story from their firsthand experience, will all soon be only memories in our hearts and minds. The reality of L’dor V’dor has never been more vital in our community.

Looking around at the loved ones who attended the funeral were the offspring of Ignatz and Dvora Slomovic, Jacob and Sara Seidner, David and Lea Naft, Abe and Esther Freeman, Rosemary May, and many others.

One of the common threads running through the lives of Mrs. Chojnacki and our other Survivor families, is one of joie de vivre, in spite of the horrors they endured. Those of us who knew them never publicly saw bitterness, sadness, or fear. Their gratefulness for surviving was palpable and it manifested in their ability to laugh and to enjoy life, which was passed to their children, grandchildren, and so on.

That ability is truly a phenomenon. It is amazing and a lesson for us all. It bears out the truth of what we have heard, which is that the strength to endure came from their desire to live, so that our Judaism would never become extinct. Thank G-d.

Rae Levine

# Federation hosts first workshop on inclusion

On May 9, the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee hosted the first-ever community-wide workshop on inclusion issues. With the leadership of the Fishel family and their dedication to these issues on behalf of Lori Ann, professionals and lay members of the community came together for a half-day gathering, whose goal was to begin a community-wide conversation on inclusion as a topic.

The day began with an exercise, where every attendee was asked to write down what the term inclusion meant to them and post that statement by a Jewish text that represented their ideals. The session was officially opened by Eric Stillman, executive director of the Federation. Stillman spoke of the importance of being an inclusive Jewish community, and this workshop is a step in that direction.

James Fishel, one of the members of the Fishel family behind the Lori Ann Fishel Fund to Enhance the Lives of Those with Disabilities, spoke of the importance of Lori Ann's legacy, and how important this work is to the family, and how dedicated they are to helping make the Nashville Jewish community a home for anyone with inclusion needs.

The rest of the workshop included a panel discussion of professionals from across the city who work on inclusion issues on a daily basis, and a World Café-styled discussion where participants were asked to identify what inclusion means to them as a group, existing inclusion programs, and inclusion activities that they wish would be present in the community.

The workshop was concluded by an announcement of the first organization-based grant from the Lori Ann Fishel Fund to



the Gordon Jewish Community Center's Camp Davis, as a start for a new grant-making process that will allow organizations throughout the community to access funds for inclusion purposes, as well as a process by which professional and interested community members will be able to gather and share best practices, concerns, needs, funding opportunities and more on a regular basis.

With a morning full of new information and hands-on activities to encourage people to think broadly about "inclusion," attendees came away with many new ideas. Evelyn Koch, a representative of Congregation Sherith Israel, commented it was "very inspiring to join with other members of our Nashville Jewish organizations in a

commitment to focus on inclusion."

These sentiments were echoed by Julie Greenberg, education director of Congregation Micah. Greenberg stated that she enjoyed "the opportunity for our community to gather around such an important topic" and thanked the Federation for "prioritizing the topic and organizing us."

Lori Fishel, a member of the family that has driven this process from the outset, commented that the workshop "was outstanding. The knowledgeable facilitator and panel explained the importance of inclusion and taught us all ways to become more inclusive. I am sure everyone there benefited from being a part of the workshop."

For more information about how to

become involved in the Federation's work on inclusion, please contact Adam Bronstone, Director of Planning, at adam@jewishnashville.org or at (615) 354-1687.

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## Temple Social Justice Team Presents Walk the Talk on Voting Rights:

### A Conversation on Protections, Suppression, and Restoration



**Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>  
at The Temple ~ 7:00 PM**

**Moderated by: David Plazas, The Tennessean**



#### Panel to include:



**Steve Dickerson**  
TN State Senator



**Tricia Herzfeld**  
Davidson County  
Elections Commissioner



**Debby Gould**  
Past President, Nashville's  
League of Women Voters



**Tequila Johnson**  
Co-founder and Vice President,  
The Equity Alliance

\*Voting Day for Metro General Election for Mayor, Vice Mayor and Metro Council is August 1, 2019  
\*Voter Registration deadline for August Election is July 2 \*Early Voting for Davidson County is July 12 -27



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# Here and There, Now and Then. Adventures in the Mother Land

Summarizing the Get Connected Teen trip to Israel

By SHARON BEN AMI

On June 4 I met with Skylar Haas, Nashville BBYO director, and 15 of our community's finest teens for a two-week unforgettable adventure to our mother land, Israel, as a part of the Get Connected program that this year celebrated its Bar Mitzvah, its 13th birthday. It was originally created by Rabbi Flip Rice at Congregation Micah. Over the years the program expanded and was ultimately taken under the wing of The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, and is now part of the Partnership Together program connected to the Hadera-Eiron Region in Israel.

Last year was my first year chaperoning and helping organize the Get Connected High School trip to Israel. I got to see Israel through the eyes of the teens, which makes the old views feel new and exciting every single time. Each of the participants connects to each place from a different angle, which introduces me to so many new outlooks about the same place I grew up in — Israel. This year I got 15 of those different perspectives. More than that, I got to meet and know 15 unique individuals who think, behave and approach things differ-



ently but get along so well. I was introduced to this generation of teens, who are so often presented in a negative way, but during these two weeks proved those misconceptions to be so wrong.

Dealing with teens can be at times challenging, as I'm sure it is challenging for the teens to be away from home with complete strangers (and let's face it, dealing with me, too). After a minor disciplinary issue with one of the participants who had a rough first couple of days, I saw a complete change in behavior. I thought it might have been the awesome way I approached the situation, but just to make sure, I asked: "I see such a change in your behavior since we last spoke, what changed?" and the response I got amazed me (surprise surprise, it wasn't my awesome self): "It was the Western Wall. While we were there, I decided that this trip is going to be great and I'm going to have a good time." This response brought me back to basics, to the essence of my Jewish being and reminded me why I decided to become a Shlichah. The connection to our Jewish heritage, the love of Israel and the aspiration to Get Connected with Jewish peoplehood. Thank you (you know who you are) for this teachable moment.



This Get Connected experience introduced me to many other teachable moments. Having spent two years as a Community Shlichah in Nashville taught me so much about myself, my community and life. While meeting other Israeli educators on the trip I witnessed the differences between us — how we hold a discussion, how we frame what we say and how we conduct ourselves. By the end of the trip, I realized that I was not only different from them, but from the person I was two years ago, before I started this journey as a Shlichah who was sent here by the Jewish Agency for Israel.

I noticed that the exclamation points at the end of a sentence were replaced with question marks. My goal in a discussion is to exchange ideas and not to prove my point (usually, I'm still human after all) and even when it comes to Israel, my home that I feel a very certain way about, I now come to realize that some people might feel

differently and although listening to them can be challenging, I have everything to gain by hearing other points of view and try to understand where they are coming from.

Get Connected is only one of many meaningful projects that I have taken part in while working here and I am so grateful for all of the experiences and life lessons I have gained during my time here. Every student, participant, guest, co-worker and friend I have communicated with has enriched my experience and I can truly say it was my privilege to know all of y'all (and I am also thankful for the word y'all that is now in my vocabulary).

Next month will be my final Sharing with Sharon article for the Observer as I am concluding my two years and moving back to Israel. I would love to meet as many people from our community before I head back, so please reach out to me if you would like to connect! [sharon@jewish-nashville.org](mailto:sharon@jewish-nashville.org)



By SKYLAR HAAS

For two weeks in June I was given the opportunity to co-lead Nashville's Get Connected trip with our amazing community Shlichah, Sharon. Together we guided 15 of Nashville's brightest Jewish teens through Israel and its history. North to South, East to West, we explored the incredible things that Israel is still known for around the world today, while being exposed to some of the scary realities that its citizens face daily.

We began our trip overlooking the Tel-Aviv skyline, a view reminding us how far the country has come in terms of development and modern authenticity. As we moved along in our trip visiting different kibbutzim, old cities and ancient archeo-

logical sites we really began to understand that we were in the place where it all began.

After a week of traveling we headed to Pardes Hanna where the teens connected with their Israeli hosts and began to endeavor on the experience of a lifetime. Nashville teens lived amongst the Israeli culture in real time.

They went to graduation parties, shopped in their malls, had Shabbat dinner with their families, and hung out on the beach with their new friends from halfway across the world.

It is such an honor to be a part of this partnership and get the chance to experience the magic of breaking down cultural differences and embracing love and acceptance from around the world.



# Federation joins calls to censure Coffee Co. DA Northcott

Coalition petitions Board of Judicial Conduct after his posts that Islam is “evil,” and he won’t prosecute same-sex domestic violence

For the second time in two months, the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee is taking part in a coalition to petition the state’s Board of Judicial Conduct about comments made by a public official.

In social media posts, Coffee County District Attorney Craig Northcott referred to Islam as “an evil belief system” similar to belonging to the Ku Klux Klan or Aryan Nations. He said he will not “be covered into pretending that their belief system is legitimate or one of peace,” and called for protecting the U.S. from “this present and growing threat.”

He also stated that he refuses to prosecute domestic violence cases involving same-sex couples. In a speech, he stated domestic violence laws protect the sancti-

ty of marriage, but he does not recognize same-sex marriages. “There’s no marriage to protect. So I don’t prosecute them as domestics.”

Also joining in the petition effort are the Knoxville Jewish Alliance and the Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga, along with the Tennessee Equality Project, First Christian Church of Tullahoma, Islamic Center of Nashville and the American Muslim Advisory Council. Over 200 Nashville lawyers signed a letter also calling for an investigation.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations filed a complaint against Northcott on May 28, and received confirmation that the Tennessee Supreme Court Board of Professional Responsibility has opened an investigation.

The lawyers’ letter refers to the anti-LGBTQ and anti-Muslim statements, saying “By specifically singling out two groups on different occasions and expressly rejecting equal protection for these groups, there is more than merely an ‘appearance’ of bias against them. Additionally, every other minority or protected group he may not deem worthy is at risk.”

Similarly, the letter says Northcott completely misinterprets Tennessee domestic violence law, which does not state the parties must be married. “Marriage or even romantic status is not an essential element for a charge of domestic assault. This is the highest level of prosecutorial misconduct and abuse of discretion.”

Northcott is not backing down, saying “I didn’t give up my God given right to

freedom of religion or speech when I took office.”

Recently, Northcott was named special prosecutor in an assault case where an activist threw a cup of liquid at House Speaker Glen Casada.

## Correction

*In the June 2019 issue of the Observer, a fund was mis-identified in the article “Camp Davis Taking Steps Toward Inclusion.” The fund is the Lori Ann Fishel Fund to Enhance the Lives of Those With Disabilities. We apologize for the error!*

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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.

## Corrections Policy

The Jewish Observer is committed to making corrections and clarifications promptly. To request a correction or clarification, email editor@jewishnashville.org

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# At Our Congregations...

## The Temple

### Walk The Talk on Voting Rights

Temple Social Justice Team presents "Walk the Talk on Voting Rights: A Conversation on Protections, Suppression, and Restoration" on July 17 at The Temple, at 7 p.m. The panel will include Tennessee State Senator Steve Dickerson, Davidson County Elections Commissioner Tricia Herzfeld, Nashville League of Women Voters Past President Debby Gould, and The Equity Alliance co-founder and Vice President Tequila Johnson. The panel will be moderated by David Plazas of The Tennessean. Voting Day for Metro General Election for Mayor, Vice Mayor and Metro Council is August 1. The voter registration deadline for the August Election is July 2. Early Voting for Davidson County is July 12 to 27.

### Red, White & Blue Jean Shabbat

Join us on July 5 at 6 p.m. for services, with a Picnic Oneg to Follow

### A Taste of Judaism

Everything you always wanted to know about Judaism in three easy lessons, led by Rabbi Rami Shapiro and meeting on Tuesdays in July: July 16, 23 and 30 at 7 p.m.

### We Need Your Help to Do a Mitzvah!

Cook and serve dinner with Urban Housing Solutions: Helping Nashville's disabled and working poor. On July 27, show off your culinary talents and do a real mitzvah by cooking and/or serving a delicious meal for 50 people at the "Last Saturday Dinner." Because many residents get food subsidies on the first of each month, they often find themselves hungry by the end of the month when money is short. There will be cooking at The Temple from 2:30 to 5 p.m., followed by serving at Mercury Court Apartments from 5:30 to 7 p.m. RSVP to Rabbi Michael Shulman at (615) 352-7620 or rabbishulman@templenashville.org.

### Post Confirmation Graduation

This will be held on July 26 at our 6 p.m. Shabbat service.

### Talmud Study: Genders in Judaism

Throughout the month of July, Rabbi Shana Mackler will be conducting a 3-part series regarding genders in Judaism. The series will be taking place in The Temple Library on Tuesdays from July 9 to 23 at 10 a.m. Please contact Rabbi Mackler for more information or if you would like to sign up.

### Temple Songwriter's Shabbat

On July 19 at 6 p.m., The Temple will host our third annual Shabbat service featuring music written by our own Temple members and community! We hope you will join us as we showcase the newest musical settings of our Shabbat prayers written by Ellie Flier, Nina Pacent, Russ Davis and others from our Temple family. The music will be performed by Cantor Fishbein and members of our congregation, with special participation by our Temple Volunteer Band. This is a Shabbat not to be missed!

### Crafternoon at The Temple!

Come join the Caring Connection Committee one Sunday a month for an afternoon of fun, creativity and a way to give back to our congregation. Our next Crafternoon will be on July 14 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Come for as long as you wish! We'll have a craft each month (handmade note cards, knitting hats, blankets, etc) for people to work on together, or you can bring your own project to work on. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact Alyssa Trachtman at atmittens@gmail.com or Anne Ginsberg at annemginsberg@gmail.com. We look forward to crafting with you!

### Golden Lunch Bunch

Join the Golden Lunch Bunch for lunch, entertainment and fun at 11:30 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at The Temple. This month's gatherings are July 2 and 16. To reserve, call Anna Sir, 354-1686.

### Lunch with the Rabbi

The summer session will meet on July 8 at 11:30 am.

## Micah

### Micah Readers

The Book Club meets every first Friday of the month in the library. Because of Independence Day, this month it will be on July 12. This month's book is "The Stret of Crocodiles" by Bruno Schulz.

### Men's and Women's Grief Group

If you are managing grief due to loss of some kind, you are welcome to join us for Grief Group. Questions? E-mail Rabbi Laurie: lrice@congregationmicah.org.

### Bagels, Love and Torah

Torah Study starts at 9 a.m on Saturdays. Join us for fresh bagels and coffee! Bring your friends for some nourishment of both mind and body — Jewish style!

### Schmooze and Views

Held on Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. Current events discussion with the Rabbi; snacks and coffee.

### Mah Jongg

Meets Tuesdays from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. For beginners (lessons at 12:30) and established players. Questions? Contact Paula Kirwan at pgkwn@comcast.net .

## West End

### WES BBQ – Save the date

On August 18 after the 6:20 p.m. minyan, join us for the WES BBQ. The cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children ages 4-10, children 3 and under are free. There is a family maximum of \$50.

Payment in advance is required. Your payment is your reservation. You can pay online at <https://www.westendsyn.org/donate> then click register for the event or send in a check. Accounts will not be billed.



The first graduating class of the Revere Jewish Montessori Preschool celebrated their graduation with great joy and exuberance as they tossed their graduation caps up in the air and jumped for joy as they reached great heights.

The Revere Montessori Jewish Preschool is offering a one-time opportunity of granting a 50 percent scholarship to any new families applying for the academic year beginning in August 2019. These scholarships are for children in the ages 18 months to 5 years old, and are being granted on a first come first serve basis, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor. For more information, please call (615) 646-5750.



## Registration Open for CHS

Directed by Esther Tiechtel, the Bertram and Beatrice King Chabad Hebrew School has earned a 20-year reputation of being an innovative program in which students excel in their Hebrew reading, Jewish knowledge, and pride for their heritage.

Located at the Genesis Campus for Jewish Life, CHS meets weekly on Sunday mornings, and caters to students ages 5 through 13. The new academic year will begin on Sept. 3, with a special program introducing this year's theme, "Living Jewishly as a Community of One."

The school "emphasizes exploring Jewish heritage in a creative and fun way, putting the FUN in FUNdamentals, with special focus on not only accumulating knowledge, but applying those lessons to our everyday life," said Tiechtel. She adds that through, "art, drama, songs, contests, and interactive activities, Judaism becomes real and alive to the students."

CHS prides itself on developing a community among its students, staff and parents. The Hebrew School's most important message is embedded in the culture and relationships it fosters, taking the time to build a community that attends to the needs of individual children, embracing them in an environment where their classmates become their good friends. The school is connected to congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad, sharing a feeling of warmth and hospitality, establishing values and morals that are at the core of our Jewish heritage.

During classes on Jewish values and holidays, children engage their minds of through peer discussions and hands-on experiences, and are challenged to analyze, evaluate, and compare texts, ideas, and ethical dilemmas. The cohesive, whole-school curriculum focuses on developing Emunah – Faith as the cornerstone in our lives. Children learn through stories of our heroes and heroines, illustrating how they used faith and connection to keep them grounded and strong.

CHS creates confident Jewish learners by giving them the tools to read Hebrew and participate in the davening/prayer services. The Alef Champ Program is famous for instilling a love as well as fluency in Hebrew reading. This year, students will enjoy centers on Hebrew writing and language as well as interactive vocabulary.

For more information and to request registration forms, contact Chabad at (615) 646-5750, or email [chabadnashville@gmail.com](mailto:chabadnashville@gmail.com).

## PENCIL

*Continued from front page*

groups at 9 a.m. on July 28. After 11 a.m., there will be an interfaith brunch.

Volunteers can sign up on the Jewish Nashville volunteer portal, [jewishnashville.galaxydigital.com](http://jewishnashville.galaxydigital.com), where there is a wide range of volunteer opportunities.

Space is limited for the July 28 program.

Eric Stillman, executive director of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, said this is part of an effort to deepen the long-standing ties between the local Jewish and Muslim communities.

"After the Islamic community came to express their support for the Jewish community at a memorial service following the deadly attack at the synagogue in Pittsburgh, the Jewish community came to express our support for the Islamic community at a service following the deadly attack at the mosques in New Zealand," Stillman said. "We wanted to strengthen the connection between our faith-based communities beyond times of tragedy, and we are creating opportunities to do so through joint activities, celebrating special occasions, a shared volunteer project, and getting to know one another on a personal basis over meals together."

Kamel Daouk, president of the Islamic Center, said after the New Zealand attack, they held a vigil on Sunday evening. While the crowd was diverse, "the Jewish community showed up in great numbers,"



and about 60 or 70 members of the Jewish community attended Friday prayers at the Islamic Center in a "beautiful gesture of support."

He and many members of the Muslim community attended Seders this year, he added. While there have been relationships between the two communities for many years, the ties have strengthened in the past year.

Conversations began to figure out a joint service project for the two communities to work together and learn more about each other, and the groups focused on the PENCIL project.

Joel Wright, manager of LP PENCIL Box, said "obviously, I'm thrilled to get more groups involved."

He said in addition to the Jewish and Muslim community drives, there will be a city-wide supply drive on July 27, so having the volunteers come in on July 28 is very beneficial.

PENCIL is grateful for the chance to participate in the joint program, and hopes participants "have a meaningful volunteer experience" and learning opportunity.

Daouk said the project "is a good example for other communities to do something similar."

## Chabad to Host tribute to the Rebbe

On July 6, Chabad of Nashville will host a tribute lunch in honor of the Rebbe, Rabbi M. M. Schneerson of blessed memory, in commemoration of his 25th anniversary of passing.

For more than 40 years, the Rebbe led the Jewish people towards a spiritual renaissance out of the ashes of the Holocaust and the specter of assimilation. The Rebbe revolutionized the way we think of ourselves as people. He taught us to think of the Jewish people as a single whole, as a community, in which every individual is irreplaceable, and to embrace every Jew with the same concern and devotion.

Over 25 years after the Rebbe's passing, his presence is felt stronger than ever. His teachings continue to inspire and guide us, and his insights remains as fresh and relevant as if it were given today. Each of us is a beneficiary of the Rebbe's inspiration in one way or another, and our lives are affected by his visionary leadership.

On the anniversary of his passing, let's honor his life's mission to bring goodness and kindness into this world.

We invite you to join us for Shabbat lunch as we celebrate the Rebbe's life and vision. The event will include a beautiful sit down lunch replete with Shabbat delicacies, L'Chaim, Chasidic melodies and words of inspiration, with stories and insights about the Rebbe and his inspiration and impact on our lives.

Shabbat morning services are at 10 and will be followed at 12:15 by a Kiddush lunch and Farbengen in honor of this occasion.

## WES hosts Muslim community for Iftar event



It is common for mosques in the United States to open their doors for Iftar meals as a way to educate people about Islam and build interfaith understanding.

On May 29, there was a similar effort, but it was West End Synagogue that hosted the Iftar meal with the Islamic Center of Nashville.

During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset each day, breaking the fast in the evening with Iftar, a communal meal. Like the Jewish calendar, the Muslim calendar is based on the lunar cycle.

Rabbi Joshua Kullock invited the Muslim community to hold Iftar at West End. Over the past year, the communities have stood together after a series of attacks on houses of worship, from the synagogue shootings in Pittsburgh and Poway to the mosque shootings in New Zealand.

Saying that communities are good at

reacting when bad things happen, he wanted to "be proactive in building the bridges and building relationships" to create a better Nashville.

The event started an hour before sunset with the two faiths' respective prayer services and a question-and-answer session with Kullock and Imam Ossama Bahloul. Both spoke about being immigrants to the U.S., as Kullock is from Argentina and Bahloul is from Egypt.

After the sun set, they shared dates, which are traditional for breaking the fast, then sat down for the meal and continued the conversation.

Afterward, the Islamic Center said it was a "truly magical evening of love and fellowship," and "may God continue to bless our communities, behold the power of such beautiful bonds with our brothers and sisters of all faiths."

# Deborah Lipstadt to speak in Nashville

The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, in partnership with the Vanderbilt Holocaust Lecture Series, will host Deborah Lipstadt in Nashville on Sept. 12 to speak about her newest book, "Antisemitism: Here and Now."

Lipstadt is the Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University.

The award-winning author of "The Eichmann Trial" and "Denial: Holocaust History on Trial," Lipstadt gives a penetrating and provocative analysis of the hate that will not die, focusing on its current, virulent incarnations on both the political right and left: from white supremacist demonstrators in Charlottesville, Va., to mainstream enablers of antisemitism such as Donald Trump and Jeremy Corbyn, to a gay pride march in Chicago that expelled a group of women for carrying a Star of David banner.

Over the last decade there has been a noticeable uptick in antisemitic rhetoric

and incidents by left-wing groups targeting Jewish students and Jewish organizations on American college campuses. And the reemergence of the white nationalist movement in America, complete with Nazi slogans and imagery, has been reminiscent of the horrific fascist displays of the 1930s. Throughout Europe, Jews have been attacked by terrorists, and some have been murdered.

Where is all this hatred coming from? Is there any significant difference between left-wing and right-wing antisemitism? What role has the anti-Zionist movement played? And what can be done to combat the latest manifestations of an ancient hatred?

In a series of letters to an imagined college student and imagined colleague, both of whom are perplexed by this resurgence, acclaimed historian Deborah Lipstadt gives her own superbly reasoned, brilliantly argued, and certain to be controversial responses to these troubling questions.

More information on the Sept. 12 talk will be announced in the near future.

# Finding Captain Gross

By **ALEX HAMLIN**

I came upon Capt. Gross' photo in an antique store. His name and death date were written on the back, and I wanted to know his story. I felt drawn to his kind-looking young face and curious about who he was in life.

I began my search online where I learned about his unit, the "Hell Hawks" from the 365th fighting group. On the Hell Hawks site, I saw he was from Nashville. I also utilized Ancestry.com to discover that he went to Vanderbilt University and the address he enlisted with. Next, I searched at the Metro Nashville Library, where I found a wonderful book about World War II soldiers from the area. Sure enough, I found Capt. Gross in this book.

The reference guide for the photos said courtesy of the Jewish National Archives. Another internet search yielded fruit! The archives were located just outside Nashville, and I was excited to see what all they held. I went to the Gordon Jewish Community Center and was met warmly by everyone.

The archivist, Lynn Fleischer, who works for the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, brought me the folder for the Gross family, and in it were countless family photographs and newspaper clippings. The clippings were from a paper in Atlanta where Capt. Gross' letters home were published for others to hear about life for the soldiers across the Atlantic. I was about to hear his voice across time through those pages, and it brought history to life! I saw how he looked as a child through photographs as well as photos of him in his Army Air Crew uniform.



The archives held more documents, such as his grandparents' wedding certificate, mother's death certificate, and priceless photos.

I tell everyone who will listen about the treasure trove of information at the archives. I hope more people contribute and connect to their heritage using the archives!

For more information about the Jewish Federation's archives and how to access them, please contact Leona Fleischer at [archives@jewishnashville.org](mailto:archives@jewishnashville.org) or by phone at (615) 354-1655.

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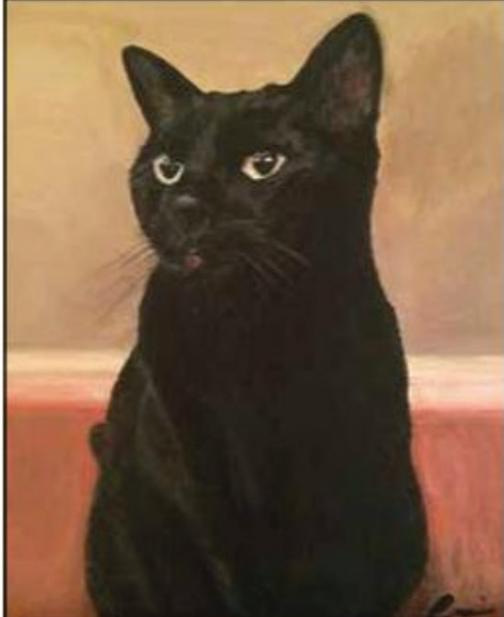
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## Nashville's Jewish Genealogy Society joins international group

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Nashville, which was formed this past January, is now officially a member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies.

The association is an independent non-profit umbrella organization coordinating the activities and annual conference of more than 70 national and local Jewish Genealogical Societies around the world.

The Nashville group's most recent meeting was a June 23 cemetery tour at The Temple's cemetery.

## Jewish Book Series looks for local authors

The Nashville Jewish Book Series kicks off in October 2019 and runs through April 2020. The series features Jewish authors or authors whose books hit on Jewish topics and themes, and whose work was published in the last several years.

This year the Series offers three tracks: Author Talks — talks by individual, notable authors held at the Gordon Jewish Community Center; Behind the Book — deeper conversations and moderated discussions on contemporary Jewish and local themes; and Jewish Life in the Community — panels and events hosted with our various community partners or commemorating key holidays.

The Gordon JCC and the Nashville Book Series seek submissions from local authors for the upcoming track, Behind

the Book. The goal is to provide an introduction to local authors and an excellent and diverse mix of literature for attendees, featuring books from the following genres: Fiction — including all genres, such as thrillers; Narrative Nonfiction — history, biography, memoir, and essays; Graphic Novels; Cookbooks and food-related titles; Poetry; Children's and Young Adult literature; and titles with a Nashville/Middle Tennessee focus.

All authors who are invited to participate will be featured in a panel and book signing in early to mid-spring 2020. Submissions are open through Sept. 30. Please contact Alex Heller or Michael Gross at (615) 356-7170 or visit [nashvillejcc.org/book](http://nashvillejcc.org/book) for submission guidelines.

# Jewish Persian Cooking Series Kicks Off

July 15 session with Louisa Shafia focuses on spices



The Gordon Jewish Community Center's series on Jewish Persian Cooking, with Nashville cookbook author Louisa Shafia, kicked off on June 4 with "Cook the Books: Intro to Persian Food."

The menu at the sold-out event included an herbal plate, eggplant and tomatoes stew, cucumber and yogurt salad, and Persian rice. Shafia described the background of Persian cooking, gave tips on using spices, and participants assisted with the cooking.

The classes, which are co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, are held at The Kitchen Nashville at Westgate Center, from 6 to 8 p.m. On July 15, the topic will be "Seasons, Spice and Everything Nice: Spice Up Your Meals."

There will be two sessions in September. "Just Desserts: Persian Sweets" will be on Sept. 5, and "Table for One: Recipes and Dinner for One (or Two)" will be on Sept. 24.

Michal Eskenazi Becker, adult outreach coordinator of the Gordon JCC and the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, said these experiences "are a great way to learn and engage with other people in the community — through learning and doing."

The sign-up link for the July 15 session is at <https://persianspices.eventbrite.com>. Tickets include the ingredients and wine.

## July Art at Gordon JCC

Kathy Meisner, Elizabeth Braswell and Camp Davis featured

The Gordon Jewish Community Center's July art exhibit will feature the work of Kathy Meisner, Elizabeth Braswell and Camp Davis.

The Janet Levine March Gallery will feature the work of Meisner, who is a member of the Visual Arts Collective and the Artist Collective at Monthaven. Her work has been shown in juried and other exhibits in the Nashville area, including Student/Faculty Exhibits at Centennial Art Center, Tranquility and Minimalism exhibits at Chromatics Gallery, The Art Event at Lipscomb, The Art Show and Marketplace at Brentwood Academy, The Del Webb Art Crawl and Art Fair, A Fine Affair local art event, and The Monthaven Arts and Cultural Center MAS exhibit.

The JLMG2 Gallery will feature the work of Braswell. Braswell has considerable experience as an arts professional though studio art, teaching, consulting and arts management. The latter included a position in her father's art consulting company, Norman Worrell Associates, Inc. Worrell was the founding director of the Tennessee Arts Commission.

Currently, Braswell works in watercolor, acrylic, oil and ink. Over the last two years, she has mostly painted images inspired by nature and her travels.

Braswell was raised in a family of artists, arts educators and arts administrators. She is a professional artist and art teacher. She has taught adult painting classes at Watkins College of Art and the University School. She currently teaches watercolor and acrylic painting classes at Little Art House, and privately.

Previously, she taught online Spanish full-time for Austin Peay State University. Before that she worked as a corporate art consultant and an artist's agent.



Kathy Meisner "Emergence"

Braswell has a Master's degree in the Art of Teaching Foreign Languages and a BA in Spanish. Additionally, she studied painting under Corina Ramirez, studio director at Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Emilia Ortiz, Tepic, Mexico.

Her paintings are in private and public collections. She is a member of the Chestnut Group of plain air painters and the Tennessee Watercolor Society. She is the founder of the Creative Circle of Nashville, an artists' community of support and exploration.

The Sig Held Gallery will feature the work of the campers at Camp Davis.

Exhibition dates are July 1 to 30. The reception for the artists is on July 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Gordon JCC. There will be music by DJ Joseph, henna painting by Seemi Rivzi along with complimentary food and beverages to accompany the event. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the GJCC at (615) 354-1699, Curator Carrie Mills at [carrie@nashvillejcc.org](mailto:carrie@nashvillejcc.org), or go to [www.nashvillejcc.org](http://www.nashvillejcc.org).



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## Wedding

Harrison Joseph Buc and Hope Carly Spector were married on May 4 in Philadelphia, Pa. Parents of the groom are Jodi and Fred Buc of Nashville. Parents of the bride are Dori and Mark Spector of Media, Pa. The couple is living in Nashville.

## Obituaries

### Inna Sanovich

Inna Sanovich passed away on May 28. The funeral was held at the Sherith Israel cemetery on June 2.

### Rachel Chojnacki

Rachel Chojnacki, 92, passed away in her sleep on May 29. She was born on Sept. 5, 1926, in Belchatov, Poland. She is preceded in death by her parents, Udl Lipka and Avram Gliksman, as well as many brothers and sisters who perished in the Holocaust. She is also preceded in death by her best friend and husband of 55 years, Wolf Chojnacki.

She is survived by her two children: Adele (Roy) Berkon and Esther (Steven) Remer; grandchildren: Elyse (Michael) Morceau, Adam Berkon, Brian (Julie) Berkon, Evan (Carolyn) Remer and Jordan Remer; and 9 great-grandchildren.

Rachel will be remembered as a strong, brave, and resilient woman who loved her family and friends. Her love, humor and kindness will continue to bring comfort to those who knew her. The family thanks her wonderful caregivers: Deborah Belue, Linda Carr, Cutina Ivey, Annetta Moore and Katrina Owens.

Burial was at the Sherith Israel cemetery on June 2. Contributions may be made to Sherith Israel Synagogue, West End Synagogue or the Holocaust Memorial on the Jewish Community Center Campus in Nashville.

### Manuel Sir

Manuel Sir, 91 of Nashville, passed away peacefully on May 30. Manuel was born to the late Rachel and Sam Sir of Manchester, Tenn. He graduated from the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga in 1949, and received his degree in dentistry from University of Tennessee-Memphis in 1952. Shortly after beginning his practice in general dentistry, he became the first Endodontist in Nashville, founding Endodontics Associates. He was a widely recognized professional in his field.

Manuel met and married his true love Gloria Bernstein in 1957, and they shared 62 years of love and devotion to each other, and to their children and grandchildren. In addition to Gloria, Manuel is survived by his daughter Debra Klar (Steve) of Atlanta, son Greg Sir (Erin) of Phoenix, grandchildren Jeffrey Klar, Stephanie Klar Isenberg (Matt), and Laney Sir. He was preceded in death by his brothers Louis Sear, and Joe Sir, along with his sister Rose Levine.

Manuel served his profession in many ways. He was a diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics, and the president of the Nashville Dental Society. He also taught at Meharry College of Dentistry for 5 years, along with serving as a consultant for the Veterans Administration staff.

Manuel was a captain in the U.S. Air Force. He served on the board of the Temple Brotherhood and the Jewish Community Center.

Manuel's wife Gloria commented that not only was he the most loving and caring husband, father and grandfather, he also consistently demonstrated a genuine care and concern for all of his patients. Manuel truly enjoyed playing golf with friends, and was an avid reader of history.

The family expresses special appreciation to Manuel's personal care givers as well as the excellent care he received at St. Thomas Hospital and Alive Hospice.

Funeral services were held at The Temple on June 2, followed by interment at The Temple Cemetery. Honorary pallbearers were Barrett Rosen, Larry Speller, Steve Wolf, Jimmy Small, Steve Heckin, Eric Chazen, and Bill Strauss.

Contributions may be made to The Temple, Interfaith Dental Clinic, and Alive Hospice.

### Eugene Nelson Bunt

Eugene Nelson Bunt, age 90, died on June 8 in Spartanburg, S.C. After earning a degree in theology in 1961 and pastoring churches in Rhode Island and Georgia, Gene answered the call to serve in the mission field where he served in Brazil from 1967-1986, Georgia from 1986-1997 and Bible Studies by Mail in New Mexico from 1997 to 2005. From 2005 on, he continued to serve with Source of Light Ministries as Regional Director to Central and South American branches.

Gene was preceded in death by his first wife Grace Sobin Bunt (married 36 years) and second wife Grace Poelman Arsenault Bunt (married 17 years), a son David Bunt, and his two brothers David and Morris. Gene is survived by his wife of 13 years, Hortense Koth Davis, and his five children, Eugene Bunt Jr, Gail B Johnson (Dan), Paul Bunt (Beth), Rachel B Jones (Wesley) of Nashville, and adopted daughter Anna C Bunt. Also surviving are 17 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

### Morton Malkofsky

Morton Malkofsky, 84, died on June 7 in San Jose, Calif. He was the father of Rena (Josh) Malkofsky-Berger, grandfather of Jeffrey, Hannah and Jason. A memorial service was held in California. Memorials can be made to Congregation Micah.

### Richard Anderle

Richard Anderle of Oconomowoc, formerly of Brookfield, Wisc., passed away on June 10. He is survived by his wife, Lois; daughter Maya (Marc) Wank of Nashville. The funeral was held on June 13 in Milwaukee.

### Lawrence James Pass

It is with profound sadness, but also a sense of sincere gratitude for a life well-lived, that the family of Dr. Lawrence James Pass announces his passing on June 19, at the age of 67 years. Dr. Pass will forever be remembered and loved by his wife of 42 years, Jan, his two sons, David and Michael, and his daughter-in-law, Alexa. He is also survived by his sisters Joan Kozoll and Linda Neuringer and his in-laws Isabel and Mark Schiffer, Margo and Jeff Barbakow and Charles Kozoll.

Pass was raised in Nashville by his parents, Dr. Bernard and Ann Pass. Following his completion of Hillwood High School in 1969, he attended Vanderbilt University, Northwestern Medical School and trained as a cardiothoracic surgeon at the University of Rochester and Yale University. After returning to Nashville in 1989 with his family, Dr. Pass practiced cardiothoracic surgery at Centennial Medical Center until his death.

He participated to the fullest in all of his endeavors. He served as president of the student body and captain of the football team at Hillwood, president of the Sigma Chi Fraternity at Vanderbilt, Chief Resident and Instructor of

General Surgery at Rochester and Chief Resident and Instructor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Yale. Dr. Pass also served on the Northwest Medical School Alumni Board and the Board of Centennial Medical Center.

The pillars of Larry's life were his love of family, his dedication to his patients and colleagues, kindness to all he encountered and a deep sense of joy in life. He relished his years as a camper at Camp Hylake and later being camp doctor at Thunderbird in Minnesota where his sons were campers. Larry coached both of his sons in little league baseball and basketball; he actively participated in their lives and supported them in all their endeavors. His constant companion and partner was Jan, with whom he enjoyed a happy marriage of over 42 years.

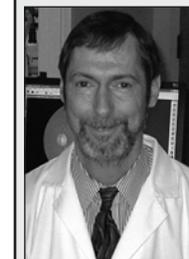
He loved classic rock – in particular Steely Dan, The Eagles, Eric Clapton and Ringo Starr. He attended concerts across the country and internationally with his wife. Larry was an avid golfer and could be found most weekends on the course at Hillwood Country Club. He treasured friendship and maintained close relations with friends from elementary school, high school, college, medical school, the golf course and work; he also cared deeply for the friends of his wife and his children.

For Larry, the life of the mind was a noble and essential pursuit. His dedication to the field of medicine was both academic and clinical. At Vanderbilt, he majored in psychology and English, and he pursued a keen understanding of human nature through literature and philosophy. Throughout his life he read widely; the subjects he chose – whether literature, history or sciences – were often sparked by conversations with friends and colleagues and his wife and sons, and he would discuss these topics with passion.

The funeral was held on June 23 at The Temple Congregation Ohabai Sholom. Burial at The Temple Cemetery followed the service. Memorials to the charity of your choice.



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WEST END SYNAGOGUE

To learn more about the Jewish Federation & Jewish Foundation and its LIFE & LEGACY program as well as about what options may be best for you, contact Naomi Limor Sedek at [naomi@jewishnashville.org](mailto:naomi@jewishnashville.org) or 615-354-1642.

# Sparking a Vanderbilt Jewish Renaissance

Ben Schulman, who sparked the Center for Jewish Life and vast expansion of Jewish enrollment, dies at age 102

Ben Schulman, who is credited with sparking the huge growth in Jewish enrollment at Vanderbilt University, died on June 2 in La Costa, Calif., at the age of 102.

In January 2017, Vanderbilt held a celebration of Schulman's 100th birthday at the Schulman Center for Jewish Life, which he helped endow. During the weekend, Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos said "Vanderbilt is a better place because of Ben Schulman's thoughtful generosity. The Schulman Center for Jewish Life fulfilled a need for building community and recognizing and celebrating cultural and religious identity."

Vanderbilt Hillel Executive Director Ari Dubin said Schulman's decision to underwrite the center's construction led to a "Jewish renaissance" at Vanderbilt after it opened in 2002. Previously, the university did not have a great reputation as a destination for Jewish students.

In an interview leading up to the birthday weekend, Dubin said Schulman "forever changed the Jewish experience on campus. The community of Jewish students grew from just a few dozen to thousands in just over a decade, which meant not only was there an exponential increase in the number of students but also an incredible expansion in programming as well."

Jewish enrollment during that time went from 3 percent of the student body to 15 percent.

A native of Decatur, Ala., Schulman

was 11 years old when his father died. His mother moved the family to Nashville, where he graduated from Vanderbilt with a chemical engineering degree in 1938. In 1940, he joined the U.S. Naval Reserve's new officer training program and would eventually serve as part of the original crew (plank owner) on both the Battleship USS Massachusetts and Battleship USS Missouri. He saw hostile action in both the European and Pacific Theaters in World War II and was in Tokyo Bay aboard the cruiser USS Springfield when the Japanese surrendered in 1945. Shortly thereafter he was released from active duty having obtained the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

During his Navy years, Schulman met and married Boston-born Ruby Gryzmish in 1944. The couple adopted five children, including a boy and a girl with the initial help from Jewish Family and Children's Services.

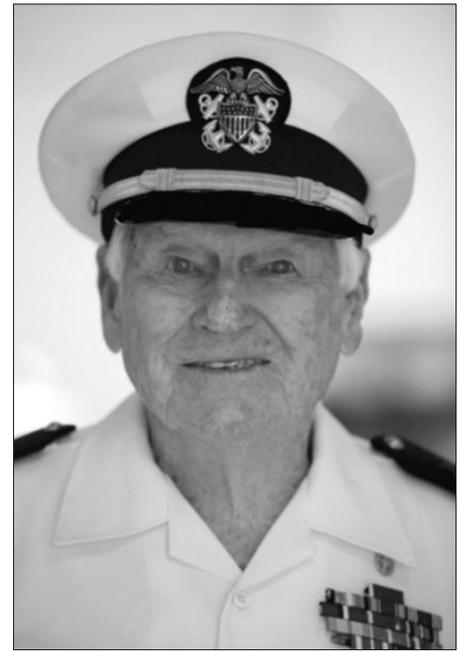
After working for his father-in-law's cigar business, JA Cigars, he moved into hotel finance with Hotel Corporation of America, which later became Sonesta International Hotels. He then became founding chairman of Boston's Liberty Bank and Trust.

The Schulmans moved to La Costa for the weather and because of their love of golf. Due to his engineering background, Schulman became involved in financing of trucks for remote TV broadcasts of sporting and other events. One of his initial clients was ESPN in its infancy. His compa-

ny, Schulman Mobile Video, moved from Anaheim to Hollywood and was one of the longest active independent video production companies in Los Angeles.

In addition to Hillel at Vanderbilt, the Benjamin D. and Ruby G. Schulman Foundation has supported a variety of institutions and charities, including Jewish Family Services in Boston and San Diego, Scripps Clinic of La Jolla, the Carlsbad Library, the College of Criminal Justice, Northeastern University, the preservation of USS Massachusetts and the USS Missouri, and the Wounded Warrior Project.

He is predeceased by his wife, Ruby; his sisters Sadye, Dorothy, Jean and Margaret and his brother Marvin; his daughter Ellen and son David. He is survived by his sister, Bettie, daughter Karen and sons Henry and Richard; along with five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.



## Films

Continued from front page

that he gets him out of the camp to play for his local team. Bert's heroics in goal are noticed by Manchester's City Football Club. Rather than going back to Germany like nearly all the other camp inmates, Bert marries Margaret and signs for Man City. His signing causes outrage to thousands of Man City fans, many of them Jewish. But Margaret wins support from an unexpected direction: Rabbi Alexander Altmann, a Man City supporter who fled the Nazis, who publishes an open letter opposing the campaign against Bert.

"King Bibi: The Life and Performances of Benjamin Netanyahu," Oct. 23 at the Belcourt Theatre. The film, which will be screened a month after Israel's next election, shows Netanyahu's rise to power, relying solely on archival footage of his media performances over the years: from his days as a popular guest expert on American TV, through his public confession of adultery, and his mastery of the art of social media. From one studio to another, "Bibi" evolved from Israel's great political hope, to a controversial figure whom some perceive as Israel's savior, and by others as a cynical politician who will stop at nothing to retain his power.

"Rescue Bus 300" on Oct. 26 at Bellevue AMC is based on a true story. On April 7, 1980, Ilan Halevi closed the doors of his bus and set out on his daily route from Tel Aviv to Ashkelon. In many ways the bus passengers were a microcosm of the colorful and diverse Israeli society. Residents of moshavs, kibbutz members, city folk, new immigrants and Sabras of almost all ethnic origins. Another passenger on the bus was Jamal Mahmoud Gablan, a young resident of a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip who commanded over his three friends who were seated in the bus, waiting for his signal to begin the takeover.

"My Polish Honeymoon" is the Monday matinee on Oct. 28. Anna and Adam, a young couple from Paris with Polish Jewish origins, leave for the first time of their lives as new parents to go to Poland, where they were invited to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the destruction of the birth village community of Adam's grandfather. If Adam is not very excited about this trip, Anna is excited to discover the

land that is also her grandmother's. They will not find exactly what they came for.

"Extra Innings" on Oct. 30 features special guest Albert Dabah, writer and director. Set against the enchanting backdrop of 1960's Brooklyn, Extra Innings tell the story of a young man who is caught between pursuing his dream and staying devoted to his Syrian Jewish family that is afflicted with mental illness.

"The Unorthodox" will be a matinee on Oct. 31 at the Gordon JCC. Set in 1983, Yaakov Cohen, the owner of a Jerusalem printing press, is tired from being pushed around. It seems that he was born on the wrong side, with the wrong family name and in a moment's decision he decides to establish a Sephardic-ultra-Orthodox list that will run for office in the Jerusalem municipality. He gathers two friends, and together they improvise a campaign — no means, no connections, no money, but with much rage, passion and a sense of justice.

"Shoelaces" on Nov. 2 at the Gordon JCC portrays a developmentally disabled young man who is forced to live with his father after his custodial mother dies. As the son and father develop a bond, he also becomes an important part of his community.

"Prosecuting Evil" on Nov. 4 is a portrait of Ben Ferencz, the last surviving Nuremberg Trial prosecutor, who continues to wage his lifelong crusade in the fight for law and peace.

Based on the international bestseller by Robert Seethaler, "The Tobacconist" on Nov. 6 is a tender, heart-breaking story about one young man and his friendship with Sigmund Freud during the Nazi occupation of Vienna.

The final film, "Tel Aviv on Fire" on Nov. 7 is a comedy about Salam, an inexperienced young Palestinian man, who becomes a writer on a popular soap opera after a chance meeting with an Israeli soldier. His creative career is on the rise — until the soldier and the show's financial backers disagree about how the show should end, and Salam is caught in the middle.

For more information and additional films, visit [www.Nashvillejff.org](http://www.Nashvillejff.org).

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# Back to School

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## Currey Ingram Academy

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## Joyous Jewish education at Micah’s religious school

Congregation Micah’s Religious School is the home of joyous and progressive Jewish education. Our weekly family service fills our sanctuary with music, prayer and playful participation in the ever-present Jewish story.

We are a diverse community that celebrates our common bonds of Jewish identity — intellectually, spiritually and culturally. We explore many disciplines of Jewish tradition: Hebrew, History, Ethics, Social Justice, Israel, Tzedakah... with Torah as our anchor.

Beyond the sanctuary, our students find delight and meaning as they study in both traditional (reading, writing, discussion, liturgical expression) and non-traditional (drama, photography, ceramics, culinary, visual art, music and nature) realms. Every activity is designed to strengthen the relevance of Judaism as the foundation of everyday living, and each dedicated teacher helps our students not only learn, but also form special and sustaining friendships with one another.

We strive for Jewish enrichment in the classroom, in the home and in the world. Our campus includes demonstration gardens, a gaga pit, a memorial garden, a cemetery, a labyrinth and a beautiful playscape. We honor and respect the value of each of our students, which is likely why so many of our teens continue after becoming b’nai mitzvah. Following travels to New York, Washington and Israel as part of our CHAI Society high school program, our NFTY and BBYO members, madrichim, Confirmants and graduates have the commitment and confidence to participate fully in Jewish life on college campuses and in their new careers, which makes us all incredibly proud.

## Unlocking student potential at Currey Ingram Academy

“Every child is given the opportunity to fully unlock his or her potential — to be recognized, welcomed and appreciated for his or her unique strengths, challenges, gifts, and passions — to become the very best version of who he or she was made to be!” — Currey Ingram parent

At the core of Currey Ingram Academy is a belief that every child can learn. Founded more than 50 years ago, Currey Ingram is an exemplary K-12 school that empowers students with learning differences to achieve their fullest potential. We deliver on this mission by providing:

- Small classes (3 to 8 students);
- Evidence-based instruction taught by highly qualified teachers;
- Individualized Learning Plans for every student;
- Speech-language and academic occupational therapies for students who need it;
- Executive function skill development and social-emotional learning and coaching.

At Currey Ingram Academy, we understand that students learn differently, so we must teach differently. Our teachers use evidence-based instructional practices and present material through individualized, structured and multisensory approaches (visual, auditory and kinesthetic) to best meet the learning needs of students. Through a very intentional and personalized approach to teaching and a nurturing school environment that encourages both academic learning and social growth, Currey Ingram gives students the tools to thrive and grow.

On an 83-acre campus in Brentwood, students participate in robust arts and athletics programs, service learning and leadership opportunities. Currey Ingram is a place where students achieve and grow academically, socially and emotionally. What a difference the right school can make in your child’s life? Learn more at [www.curreygram.org](http://www.curreygram.org).

## Gordon JCC Early Childhood nurtures at two locations

The Gordon Jewish Community Center’s Early Childhood Learning Center provides nurturing childcare and preschool experiences for children ages 6 weeks through Pre-K at two locations. Using an emergent curriculum in light-filled Reggio Emilia inspired classrooms, teachers create and implement activities that promote constructive learning and enhance young children’s skills, self-concepts and independence.

We enhance our curriculum with swimming lessons at the J for children ages 2 and up and teach the importance of physical activity and how to develop life-long healthy eating habits through Discover: CATCH, and learning through play on age-appropriate, modern playgrounds.

Our program is part of the JCC Association of North America’s Sheva Center, where the Discover: CATCH program was created. There are seven core elements that make up the foundation for our program: Children as Constructivist Learners; Early Childhood Directors as Visionaries; Early Childhood Educators as Professionals; Families as Engaged Partners; Environments as Inspiration for Inquiry; Israel as a Source and Resource; and Discover: CATCH.

Monthly, we incorporate a Jewish value into our curriculum such as Midah Ohev et Habriyot, which is loving all of God’s creatures, in order to help grow children into caring, thoughtful, and loving human beings who will carry these values with them throughout their lives. We end our week with Shabbat to show our thankfulness for all we have learned and enjoyed.

If you would like more information about the ECLC at the JCC, please contact Director Sharon Golden at [sharon@nashvillejcc.org](mailto:sharon@nashvillejcc.org), or for WES, Director Bobbie Worthington at [bobbie@nashvillejcc.org](mailto:bobbie@nashvillejcc.org). Learn more at [www.nashvillejcc.org/early-childhood](http://www.nashvillejcc.org/early-childhood).

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## Beit Miriam at WES focuses on living Jewishly

If you want to know how big the smallest sukkah is or how long it takes to make matzah, visit Beit Miriam at West End Synagogue. Depending on the season, you might see our K-7 students constructing their own life-size sukkot or the entire school making oil in our olive press, “just like the Maccabees.” In addition, you will find b’nai mitzvah students debating whether Judaism is a nationality, religion or ethnicity, 6th graders making their own tallit and students receiving individual and customized Hebrew training, ensuring that they are taught at their level. This wide and diverse programming is an example of the innovative and interactive educational initiatives that are the core of Beit Miriam.

Beit Miriam educates children from 3 years old through 11th grade, focusing on learning and living Jewishly. Many of our graduates return as teacher aides in their senior year, giving back to the

program that has given them each so much.

Beit Miriam is proud of its faculty. Classes cover a breadth of Jewish literacy, including Jewish History, Customs, Holiday Celebrations, Israel, Torah, Talmud and Hebrew. Students come together as a kehilla (community) for interactive learning through music, art, and technology.

All students attend on Sundays from 9AM until noon. Second through seventh graders attend midweek-Hebrew, Wednesday afternoons from 4:15 to 6:30 and once a month “camp based” Shabbat services led by our students.

Our school also offers opportunities for teen involvement in Synagogue life and parent parallel learning sessions. Contact Sharon Paz, director, at (615) 269-4592, ext. 17, or spaz@westendsyn.org for more information.

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## Harpeth Hall encourages girls to pursue leadership

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Our teachers encourage collaboration and instill excellence. They're thoughtful and intrepid innovators in the classroom and labs, and mentors on the stage and the playing field, creating coursework that brings out the very best in their students.

Girls matter at Harpeth Hall. Visit our website, HarpethHall.org, to learn more about how Harpeth Hall educates girls and

young women to think critically, to lead confidently, and to live honorably.

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## Akiva School inspires path to lifelong learning



Akiva School is a community K-6 school that is committed to maintaining a diverse population with regards to its socio-economic, denominational and cultural composition. We strive to foster a love of learning that supports our children's social, emotional, spiritual and intellectual growth. It is founded on helping children deepen their curiosity, morality, perseverance, communication, collaboration and creativity.

Akiva children are known for their sense of self, their ability to delve into diverse learning opportunities, and their meaningful contribution in their communities, within the school and beyond. The Akiva philosophy is predicated on the idea that we are all lifelong learners. We model what it means to ask questions, to take risks, to fail and learn from these failures. These freedoms and responsibilities permeate the learning at Akiva. In doing so, our children develop their confidence, competence, and reflective practice.

Students are empowered to understand their needs and to advocate for them as both individuals and as a community. We strive to help our children gain a rich understanding of their culture and heritage, their individual purpose, and their profound responsibility to the world. Our students become lifelong learners, leaders and thoughtful contributors to this world.

Akiva strives to create an environment where every child is loved and nurtured, and where every child recognizes his/her role in the Akiva community. We commit to these ideals so that the environment is both physically and emotionally safe so that each child can learn to his/her potential. We encourage you to come witness this yourself and experience the Akiva advantage.

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Director: Bobbie Worthington  
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## Jewish values a cornerstone of Micah Children's Academy

Micah Children's Academy is situated on a large, beautiful campus at the corner of Old Hickory Boulevard and Hillsboro Pike, conveniently serving the communities of Brentwood, Franklin, and Nashville.

MCA's building has wonderful light-filled modern spaces with windows looking out onto the grounds, providing inspiration to both teachers and children. This strong connection with nature is continued in the natural playscape, where a child's imagination can run wild performing on the outdoor stage, digging in the sand, or cultivating the vegetable gardens. Students always find tremendous joy there as well as a connection to nature that is undeniable.

Jewish family values are the cornerstone of MCA's curriculum and help to shape students' budding social mores with lessons on helping others, or mitzvahs, protecting the earth, and promoting peace. In Judaica class, these teachings are reinforced with innovative dramatic play and hands on activities. MCA's curriculum also utilizes the Tennessee Early Learning Developmental Standards to establish goals for every age group and adapt them to each child's specific needs. A focus on project based learning, where children work together to solve a problem or create a finished work, promotes big picture thinking and investigative minds.

MCA offers flexible schedules ranging from two to five days per week, with early and late care options and open doors from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Children are also provided with a variety of healthy snacks twice a day, a place to nap comfortably, and most of all, a nurturing place to learn, paint, read, play, sing, dance and be themselves. Micah Children's Academy has been accredited as a Tennessee 3-star pre-school (the highest rating) every year since opening its doors in 2010.

For more information or to schedule a tour, call Theresa LePore at (615) 942-5162 or visit [www.micahchildrensacademy.org](http://www.micahchildrensacademy.org).

## Pathfinder helps find the right college match

Finding the right college match is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. It's not only about being accepted by a college. More importantly, it's about finding a fit that offers the best environment for each student's educational and personal growth where they can thrive and be successful.

With colleges becoming more expensive and competitive, families and students feel increased pressure to make the right college choice. Today, going to college represents a significant family investment of time and financial resources. Pathfinder Counseling provides valuable help to navigate the college search, application and financial aid process, while keeping everything as stress-free as possible.

Francine Schwartz M.A, LPC, NCC, founder of Pathfinder Counseling LLC, is a highly regarded professional counselor and educator as well as a parent. She understands that at times the transition to college can feel equally rewarding and overwhelming. With the explosion of information out there, busy family schedules, the desire to find the right school, not to mention today's college costs, where do you begin?

Francine established Pathfinder Counseling to serve as a guide and mentor, helping navigate the entire college process from exploring potential careers and majors to applying for financial aid and scholarships. Her goal is to ensure that each student finds the best possible college match, one where they can fulfill their potential. You can rely on Pathfinder Counseling to get to the heart of your student's aspirations and empower them to be ready for the next step in life.



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## Julian Goldner named Morehead-Cain Scholar

Julian Goldner of Costa Rica, the grandson of Nashville's Fred and Martha Goldner, was selected as a Morehead Cain Scholar, one of the most selective scholar programs in the United States.

The mission of Morehead-Cain is the "formation of future leaders," providing them a holistic education, in an environment that emphasizes not only their individual development, but also leadership, group development and also research in areas that will benefit humanity. The four-year educational experience at the University of North Carolina is fully funded for each of the 75 members of the class of 2023.

According to the program, its 3 percent acceptance rate means it is "easier to get into Harvard, Columbia, Duke, and Yale than to be selected by Morehead-Cain."

Usually, high schools across the U.S. nominate candidates. As Goldner and his family live in Costa Rica, the admissions department at North Carolina identified and nominated him.

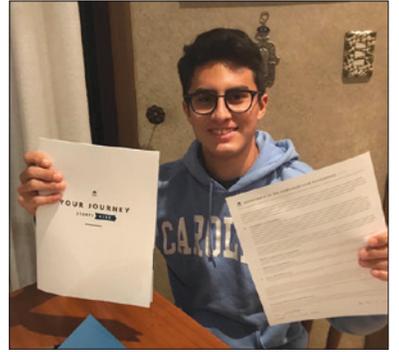
Goldner is the first Morehead-Cain scholar in his region, and although he was accepted to Columbia University and Johns Hopkins to study Biomedical Engineering, he decided to become a Morehead-Cain scholar given the life-changing opportunity that it represents.

Beyond having tuition paid for, the Morehead Scholar program is designed to maximize the scholar's potential. During the summers he is to involve himself in three different programs each vacation. He is to work in programs focused in the areas of social action, the private sector and the public sectors. Students in the past have worked on programs all over the world in these three areas, such as Swaziland, Ecuador, the Middle East and others. Morehead-Cain encourages a world view and immersion for these future leaders.

After graduating from Lincoln High School in Santo Domingo De Heredia, Goldner decided to take a gap year — also funded by Morehead-Cain — before starting his studies. He will do projects in Israel, Iceland, Portugal and Patagonia. The end of his year will be capped off by a National Outdoor Leadership program, most likely in Wyoming, and he will be a counselor for a leadership course in California.

An avid gardener, Goldner is the founder and CEO of a social business that produces biodegradable flower pots. Captain of the school cross-country and track teams, he also founded a club that teaches running techniques to local children. He was senior class president, National Honor Society secretary, and Mu Alpha Theta treasurer. He also enjoys hiking and watching Brazilian films.

Goldner is interested in studying sustainable development and biomedical engineering. He is the son of Fred Joseph Goldner and Carmen Porras of San Jose, Costa Rica.



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## Two community trips planned

*Hamilton's Jewish roots in Caribbean, Jewish Spain and Portugal*

The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee has two Jewish travel experiences in the next few months — an exploration of Alexander Hamilton's Jewish roots in Nevis and St. Kitts this December, and a March 2020 community trip to Spain and Portugal.

The Jewish Journey to the Caribbean will explore the area's rich Jewish history, from Dec. 9 to 13. Highlights include Jewish Nevis, visiting Jewish Alley and the Jewish cemetery, and Fort Charles.

The scholar in residence will be Andrew Porwancher, a core faculty member of the Institute for the American Constitutional Heritage at the University of Oklahoma. He is the author of "The Devil Himself: A Tale of Honor, Insanity, and the Birth of Modern America" and "John Henry Wigmore and the Rules of Evidence: The Hidden Origins of Modern Law," an inaugural book of the series "Studies in Constitutional Democracy."

His new book, "The Jewish Life of Alexander Hamilton," is under contract with Harvard University Press. The trip will include visits to Hamilton's House and Museum, and the Hamilton Estate.

Eric Stillman and Steve Hirsch will lead the trip. For more information, call (615) 354-1660 or email [eric@jewishnashville.org](mailto:eric@jewishnashville.org).

The Nashville community trip to Spain and Portugal starts in Madrid on March 15, continuing to March 22. An extension to Portugal is available from March 22 to 26.

Chaired by Larry and Carol Hyatt, the trip will start in Madrid, then visit Toledo

and Cordoba to explore the Golden Age of Jewish Spain, highlighting the interplay among the Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities and visiting medieval sites.

The tour continues in Granada, exploring Jewish life before the Inquisition and the expulsion of the Jewish community in 1492. In Seville, the beginning and end of Spain's previous Jewish community will be highlighted, and with a Shabbat experience, the renewal of Jewish life in Spain will be experienced.

In Portugal, experiences include the Jewish history of Porto, home of the largest synagogue on the Iberian peninsula; Tomar and Belmonte, where a vibrant community of anusim continues; and Lisbon, where today's Jewish community is building its future.

The Hyatts said "We are excited by the opportunity to learn about and meet members of the community who are reviving Jewish life in a part of the world where Jews were expelled over 500 years ago."

Naomi Limor Sedek, Federation assistant director, said the ghosts of the Golden Age of Sephardic Judaism can be felt walking the streets of Spain and Portugal. "Engaging with members of the Jewish community in Spain and Portugal reminds us that each individual matters and has a hand in building our Jewish community in Nashville and revitalizing the Jewish community in Spain."

For more information on the Spain and Portugal trip, contact Sedek at (615) 354-1642, or [naomi@jewishnashville.org](mailto:naomi@jewishnashville.org). Deposits are due by July 30.

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JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE

# Jake Bengelsdorf receives 2019 Kehillah Award

By SKYLAR HAAS

The Kehillah Award, formerly known as the Ralph Shepard Award, is given annually by the Gordon Jewish Community Center to a Jewish Nashville high school senior that exemplifies the characteristics of outstanding Jewish youth.

He or she must have demonstrated a positive attitude, maturity, achievement and participation in our Jewish community throughout their high school career. This includes involvement in a Jewish youth group, Jewish educational study and taking part in congregational life, as well as participating in community service within the congregation, the larger Nashville community and in school.

The teens are nominated by their synagogue, educational director, rabbi or youth group advisor. Nominated teens are asked to complete an application with two essays. The completed applications are then redacted to ensure anonymity and sent to past Kehillah/Ralph Shepard Award winners, who review the applications and cast their vote.

The Kehillah Award nominations are for teens that have shown great dedication and motivation both in the Jewish community as well as the greater Nashville community. These seniors are enthusiastic about making the world a better place. The winners receive a \$500 gift, provided by Doyné Family Fund at the Jewish Foundation, to be used toward their education.

Our nominees this year, Jake Wolfson, Jake Bengelsdorf and Jolie Diskin, are all recognized in our community as teens of this stature. Of the past recipients who voted, this was repeatedly recognized as the toughest decision yet.

This year's winner, Jake Bengelsdorf, Franklin High School Class of 2019, served as chapter president for the Middle Tennessee United Synagogue Youth for the past two years. Holding leadership positions in organizations like Youth in Government and Model U.N., Jake's leadership spans outside the Nashville Jewish community. Participating in the Science Olympiad and being a member of the Math, English, Music, and National Honors society, academics were maintained as a priority throughout his high school career. As the founder and president of his school's badminton club and vice president of Franklin High School Climbing Club, Jake's achievements in high school go beyond academics.

Jake's passion for Jewish life is seen through his work as a teacher's aide and Tefillah teacher at Beit Miriam Religious School. Since a young age, Jake has spent his summers at Camp Ramah Darom, where he is now a counselor this summer. Jake is the recipient of the USY Chapter Excellence Slinky Award and won first place in the Memphis Jewish Federation's 10th Annual Holocaust Essay Contest.

With Tikkun Olam being an important value to Jake from a young age, he understands that his community has done so much for him and he feels the responsibility to do the same in return. It has guided him through his high school career and given him the profound passion that he carries for Jewish life.

Skylar Haas is BBYO CSR regional director and Nashville BBYO/teen director.



# Denise Alper named interim president of Gilda's Club

On June 13, Gilda's Club Middle Tennessee announced the appointment of Denise Alper as its interim president and CEO. Alper takes the reins for the non-profit cancer support organization from Sandy Obodzinski, whose last day was June 14.

"We are pleased to announce that longtime Gilda's Club friend and advocate Denise Alper will serve as our interim president and CEO," said Board Chair Jim Brown. "In addition to being an enthusiastic, committed activist for our cancer support community, Denise is a respected non-profit professional. Her servant's heart and extensive leadership experience made the Board's decision an easy one. We are excited and grateful for her willingness to serve Gilda's Club in this role."

Alper brings to Gilda's Club Middle Tennessee more than 25 years' leadership experience in consulting and project management in both the non-profit and healthcare spaces. Most recently, she served Alive Hospice, where she co-created and founded The Gift Initiative, a collaborative, educational endeavor focused on end-of-life care that was recognized with a \$100,000 Humana Community Benefits grant. Denise also has served The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, The Women's Fund, Compass Executives, St. Thomas Hospital, and HCA.

Gilda's Club was founded in memory of Saturday Night Live cast member Gilda Radner, who died from ovarian cancer in 1989. The club provides a free gathering place where people with cancer, as well as their families and friends, can join with others to actively involve themselves in building social and emotional support as a supplement to regular medical care.



## New information service

Observer readers who wish to receive email notification of obituaries as the newspaper receives the information may be placed on a new e-mail list being created for this purpose by the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. Please send your request via e-mail to [obits@jewishnashville.org](mailto:obits@jewishnashville.org).

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# Let the (Pan Am) Maccabi Games Begin

Two Nashvillians taking part in major Jewish athletic competition in Mexico

Two two-time International Maccabiah Games soccer gold medalists from Nashville will be in Mexico City this month, taking part in the 14th Pan American Maccabi Games.

Dana Schwartz, assistant coach at the University School of Nashville, will be with the Women's Open soccer team, and Ryan Jones, assistant women's soccer coach at Murray State University, will be an assistant coach on the Men's Masters Over-35 soccer team.

The Maccabi World Union organizes the Pan American competition every four years, alternating with the World Maccabiah Games held in Israel every four years. This year's competition, in Mexico City, runs from July 5 to 14, and will feature athletes from 15 North and South American countries, Australia, Hungary, Israel and the United Kingdom.

Schwartz played for Brentwood High School, then was on the Vanderbilt soccer team. In 2009 and 2013, she was on the gold medal-winning U.S. women's soccer team at the World Maccabiah Games in Israel.

After finishing at Vanderbilt in the fall of 2012, she looked for international opportunities to continue playing soccer. By the time she headed to Israel for the



Observer file photo

Dana Schwartz with her Israeli passport in 2013

2013 Maccabiah, she had offers in Israel and Australia.

In a 2013 interview, she said "A couple weeks into my trip, I made the decision to stay. I realized that there was some meaning to playing in Israel. It wasn't just another country. The added religious significance of living in Israel was ultimately what made me choose it over Australia."

She joined ASA Tel Aviv in the Israeli Women's Premier League and signed a contract for the 2013-2014 season, and in November 2013, she made Aliyah with Nefesh B'Nefesh.

Now back in Nashville, in addition to coaching boys and girls at the high school level, she works for Techne Futbol, an indi-

vidual technical training app that delivers weekly sessions to one's phone. "It's a great resource for players of all ages and levels," she said.

She got involved in the Pan Am Games through Shira Averbuch, a teammate on the 2013 U.S. team. Her sister, Yael Averbuch, founded Techne.

Though a two-time veteran of the Maccabiah, this is Schwartz's first Pan American Games. "I'm looking forward to being a part of these Games and this organization again in a different city and environment," she said. "Any opportunity I have to represent my country and meet other people around the world that share my interests and religious beliefs is one that's hard to pass up."

Jones originally grew up in Philadelphia and moved to downtown Nashville when he became assistant women's soccer coach at Murray State. In his first year under head coach Matt Lodge, the team went 13-5-1, winning the Ohio Valley Conference and making an appearance in the NCAA tournament.

At the Pan Am Games, he will join head coach Scott Rowling, a longtime friend and classmate of his brother. Rowling was also a teammate on the historic 2013 U.S. Maccabiah men's soccer team.

Jones played college soccer at Marywood University, joining the U.S. Maccabiah team after he graduated in 2013. Coached by Birmingham-Southern College legend Preston Goldfarb, the 2013 team was the first U.S. squad to win the gold medal in men's soccer at the World Maccabiah Games.

Being selected in 2013 "was amazing," and he went because Rowling had suggested it to him. "The games in '13 were unbelievable for so many reasons; the lifelong friendships, my goal against Mexico that put us through to the quarter-finals, my PK in the finals, and having my parents there to watch me play. These games ended with the USA's first Gold Medal and dubbed the 'Impossible Dream' Team," he said.

After the 2013 competition, he played for Eccleshill United while participating in the International Academics and Soccer Academy in Leeds, England. He then played professionally for PS Kemi Kings in Finland.

The 2017 World Maccabiah Games would be even more memorable for Jones, as he had torn his ACL/meniscus. After putting off surgery, he underwent the procedure on Labor Day Weekend in 2016.



Ryan Jones, left, with Scott Rowling after winning gold in the 2013 Maccabiah

Goldfarb asked him to return for 2017 to help defend the gold medal, and he was not sure if he would be ready. "Living in Philadelphia and working at a large pharmaceutical marketing company, I made the hard decision to step away from coaching a local U16/U17 Boys team to focus on my rehab for the games," he said.

As a Maccabiah veteran and four years more experienced, he and the four 2013 teammates played a more advisory role for the younger players, guiding them through the experience. "After my injury and rehab, I was immensely grateful to be able to play again. I took things to heart more, spoke with younger players, and look at things through a different light."

In the first game, the team went up 2-0 "fairly quickly." During the game, Goldfarb told him to "go finish this game" and "once he told me that everything came back and I was ecstatic to run back on the field."

Not only did he finish, he launched a loose ball into the roof of the net, celebrated with his teammates, "and then just as I did when I was back in college, I pointed to the stands to where my Mom, older brother, and (then girlfriend) Jess were celebrating!"

After the 3-0 victory, he broke down in tears with his family. "After everything that happened, the injury, the trouble, the surgery, the rehab, it all culminated with that goal and we were all bursting with emotions... it summed up a tiresome journey."

When the U.S. team won the gold medal in Goldfarb's finale, the coach dubbed them the "Forever Team."

Jones said that experience showed "the heart of these games and how they can elicit such emotion between teammates."

State '15), Jones played integral parts in both the 2013 and 2017 performances.

"It was amazing back in 2013 to have represented the United States and win gold then, as the first U.S. Men's team from any age group to win Gold in soccer – but to return, especially after a major surgery, to win back-to-back gold medals in consecutive Maccabiah Games is astonishing," Jones stated.

He knew he wanted to get into coach-

ing, and started getting coaching licenses. "I had great coaches throughout my playing career that I looked at that inspired me to be a better player," he said. "It was because of them that confirmed I wanted to coach and do the same for the next generation of players."

In addition to Goldfarb, Jones credits Dave "Weltie" Weitzman of FC Sonic in the Lehigh Valley, who he played for when the team won the NPSL national title in 2012. He stays in touch with both coaches, as "they have shaped me into how I act and coach today and I cannot express my gratitude for either them enough." He has spoken to both coaches for advice on coaching in the Maccabi Games.

Before moving to Nashville, Rowling called Jones to see if he would be the assistant coach in the Pan Am Maccabi Games. "I was honored just from the call and wanted to take a look and learn more about it," he said.

He has never been to the Pan American Maccabi Games, and "I am excited to participate in a Maccabi event on the other side of the white lines, as a coach instead of a player."

Because he will be coaching on an Over-35 team, he is about six years younger than the youngest player on the team, as teams can have three players as much as two years younger than 35. In 2013, "I was one of the younger players, and in 2017 I was one of the older ones, but still in that Open team range from 18-34."

Training camps in New York "laid a great foundation for the games as we build momentum prior to leaving for Mexico City."

Jones added, "if we take it one game at a time and stick to the tasks at hand, it will be enjoyable both on and off the field with this team!"

"The Pan American Maccabi Games are a celebration of Jewish unity, culture and heritage through athletic competition and I am so honored to be a part of Team USA, now as a coach! I am excited to not only represent the United States, but also to connect with coaches and players from around the world to learn and make myself a better coach."



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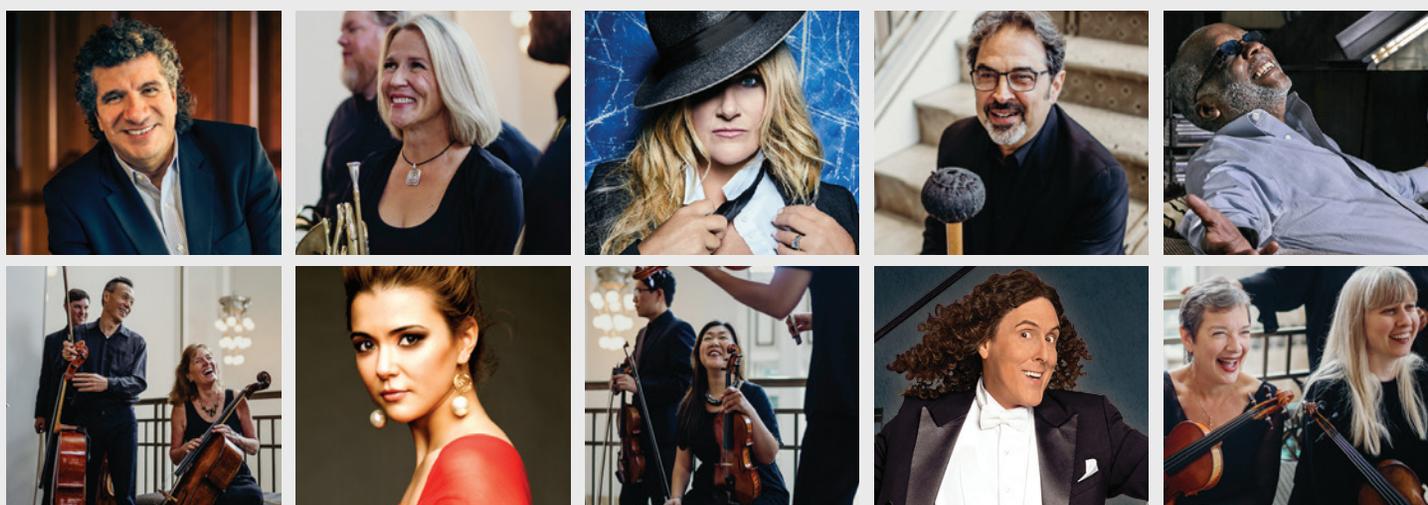


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