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November/December 2014

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*Jewish Scene is dedicated to creating awareness among the Jewish community; and promoting and supporting the religious, educational, social and fundraising efforts of Jewish agencies and organizations.*



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From gadgets, games and books, to wine, beauty and fashion, here's a sneak peak at some of the holiday finds we've uncovered in time for your holiday shopping. There's more added weekly at [jewishscenemagazine.com](http://jewishscenemagazine.com).

## + On The Cover

*Geralyn Lucas by Zoe Hiigli Studio*

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connecting jewish communities

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### Volume 9 Number 2

Cheshvan/Kislev 5775

November/December 2014

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*Jewish Scene* is published by Jewish Living of the South, Inc. Subscription rates for the U.S.: single issues \$5, annual \$18. Canada and foreign: single issues \$10, annual \$36.

Send name and address with check to:

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Dear JSM Readers,

Our *Tikkun Olam* (Repairing the World) issue has always been one of my favorites. This year is especially important to me as we honor the first recipient of the Alice G. Drake Tikkun Olam Award. This award was established in my mother's memory to honor those who, like she, spend their lives giving their time to make the world a better place for all.

Please join Jewish Scene Magazine in congratulating Maurice Buring who has "enriched the lives of thousands of Jewish elderly in the last 31 years at Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab," Joel Ashner said in her nomination. Read more, on page 6, about the Burings and how they are carrying on this rewarding tradition from generation to generation, *L'dor V'dor*.

During the MJCC Jewish Literary Arts & Cultural Festival, on Thursday, Nov. 20, is the Ruth Bernstein Celebrating Empowered Women Luncheon. Guest speaker, cancer survivor and author Geralyn Lucas will be interviewed by fellow breast cancer survivor and news anchor Pam McKelvy (page 8).

Several authors will visit the MJCC during November. One must-read is *Fugitive Colors* by Lisa Barr. I couldn't put this book down! Lisa and I discuss her book on page 12. Spoiler alert! You might want to read the book first. An extended Q&A and articles about the book appear at [www.jewishscenemagazine.com](http://www.jewishscenemagazine.com).

If you are ready to travel, read on page 4 how Crystal Cruises is expanding its Jewish Heritage Excursions. The cruise line was recognized by readers of *Condé Nast Traveler* as "World's Best Midsize Cruise Ship" for a record 21 years.

Jewish Scene printed our first issue in September 2006 to share stories of tikkun olam, tzedakah, the continuity of Jewish life and celebrating simchas in Memphis and throughout the world. Our hope is to inspire our readers and congratulate those who are passing on our traditions.

Leigh Eisenberg and Jackie Evans, tell us about their commitment to the Memphis Jewish Community as we continue our Young Professionals series on page 10. And high school senior Emily Faber shares her Israel experience on page 13.

Ken Harris is an NFLPA Certified Athlete Agent and sports law attorney who has negotiated more than 70 NFL contracts totaling more than \$200 million. Read about how he connects to his players, whom he considers family, on page 14.

Once again we feature Hot Hanukkah Finds. On pages 16 and 17 you'll find a small sampling, and many more at [www.jewishscenemagazine.com](http://www.jewishscenemagazine.com).

As the cost of postage keeps rising, we ask that you pick up your copy of Jewish Scene Magazine at Jewish organizations, libraries, hospitals, restaurants and retailers throughout Memphis. If you prefer to receive Jewish Scene Magazine at home, please fill out the form on this page and send your check for \$18 (or more to help others) to 4641 N. Ocean Dr. #12, Lauderdale By The Sea, FL, 33308.

Happy Holidays!  
Shalom,

*Susan C. Nieman*

Susan C. Nieman - Publisher/Editor



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## CRYSTAL CRUISES WINS RAVE REVIEWS AND EXPANDS JEWISH HERITAGE EXCURSIONS

BY: DEBBIE ROSENTHAL

Crystal Cruises was recognized by the discerning readers of Condé Nast Traveler as **"World's Best Midsize Cruise Ship"** for a record 21 years. Crystal's winning score of 90.1 was the highest overall of all Small, Midsize and Large-ship cruise lines. The *Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards* are the longest-running and most prestigious recognition of excellence in the travel industry and are commonly known as "the best of the best in travel." If this is in any way tempting to you, then read on to see why!



### *Crystal Cruises Redefines the "Fine" in Fine Dining*

It's about experiences: rare, refined and beyond memorable. After four-plus years in development, ultra-luxe Crystal Cruises unveils an all-new nightly dinner experience served in the main Crystal Dining Rooms of Crystal Symphony and Crystal Serenity, all complimentary. Using the doctrines of molecular gastronomy, new high-tech galley equipment, expanded local sourcing and the creativity of Crystal's highly-trained executive chefs, the innovative new program – which debuted fleet-wide this spring – features more than 100 new dishes showcasing modern epicurean artistry. Crystal expanded its commitment to highlighting "local" experiences around the world, via cuisine, whenever possible. The use of seasonal, farm-driven is paramount: provision masters work with local vendors to obtain the highest-quality fish, produce, dairy, herbs and spices possible. Chefs are familiar with foods available in ports during different times of the year and have shaped dishes around market availability. On Crystal, one can indulge in cutting-edge culinary exploration every single night, from the industry's first specialty restaurants and onboard herb gardens to the only place to find Nobu Matsuhisa cuisine at sea.

### *Expanding Mind, Body and Soul Worldwide*

Digital filmmaking, magic classes, wellness seminars, wine appreciation, sushi-making, keyboard lessons, computer instruction, language immersion and art and knitting workshops are among dozens of classes offered through Crystal Cruises' Creative Learning Institute. This highly regarded Crystal Visions® Enrichment Program includes renowned speakers, special-interest lecturers and celebrities. Collaboration with prestigious organizations such as USC's School of Cinematic Arts, Hollywood's Magic Castle, Yamaha, Berlitz, Odyssey Art, the Cleveland Clinic and others allows Crystal Cruises to deliver the highest caliber of personal fulfillment. "Travel today is not only about embracing new cultures and destinations. It's about taking time to learn, discover and rejuvenate," says Bret Bullock, Crystal's vice president of entertainment. "The comprehensive structure of the Creative Learning Institute allows our guests to tailor their enrichment

activities to suit individual interests, making the vacation more about one's overall personal journey."

### *Crystal's Soothing Feng Shui Spa and Ocean-View Fitness Center*

The world's most discriminating travelers agree: Crystal Cruises offers the ultimate in a luxury vacation and indulgent pampering with the unequalled world-class Crystal Spa & Salon and extensive wellness programs. As a Readers' Choice Award winner by *Spa Finder* and *Condé Nast Traveler* magazines, the Crystal Spa consistently ranks among the world's most renowned resort and destination spas. For mind, body and spiritual wellness, there's no better place to start than the world's first Feng Shui-inspired spa at sea.

### *Crystal Expands Jewish Heritage Excursions*

With continued growing interest in its Jewish Heritage excursions, Crystal Cruises is expanding its spiritual offerings ashore. In Istanbul, a Crystal Adventure explores the city's storied Jewish history and some of the most enduring spiritual landmarks, including:

- **Centuries-old Jewish heritage**, visiting Ahrida Synagogue – Istanbul's oldest, dating back to the early 1400s – boasting a refreshed splendor since its 1992 refurbishment;
- **Ashkenazi heritage**, with visits to Eskenazi, the last remaining active synagogue of its kind in Istanbul; and the "Tailors Synagogue," founded by a group of Ashkenazi Austrian clothiers in 1900 and now serving their traditions as a fashion art gallery and research center;
- **The city's Jewish quarters, then and now**, exploring the Balat quarter, where Jewish culture began to thrive during the Ottoman Empire, and the Galata district, where a modern bustling Jewish community has increased since the 1950s.
- **The juxtaposition of Turkey's Jewish and Muslim cultures**, with a visit to the Quincennial Foundation Museum of Turkish Jews, celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Jewish odyssey from Spain to Turkey, along with exhibits of the country's corresponding Muslim history.

In addition to the new excursion in Istanbul, five other thoughtfully crafted tours explore Jewish history in Europe, such as:

- An intimate glimpse inside the lives and stories of a Jewish family in **St. Petersburg**;
- Otto Weidt's broom factory in **Berlin**, where many disabled Jews were employed and protected from deportation.
- The **Amsterdam** house where Anne Frank hid and penned her famous memoirs.
- **Stockholm's** memorial to 8,500 Swedish Holocaust victims.
- One of the best preserved Jewish quarters in Europe, in **Palamós, Spain**.

Crystal's passion for creating exclusive, eye-opening luxury shore-side experiences are cornerstones of its Crystal Adventures program, earning the line top ratings for two decades.

Crystal Cruises is the world's leading luxury cruise provider, having earned more "World's Best" awards than any other cruise line, hotel, or resort in history. Crystal Cruises provides worldwide vacations of five to 100+ days, and new "Getaways" enable time-strapped travelers to enjoy more choices of shorter Crystal Cruises. For more information call Debbie Rosenthal with CruiseOne at 901.682.5600. Book your Crystal cruise by Nov. 30, to receive a CruiseOne exclusive offer of up to \$200 onboard credit.



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# DO SULFITES IN WINE CAUSE HEADACHES?

By Gary Burhop



One of the most common requests we encounter at Great Wines & Spirits is the desire for 'no sulfite' wines.

**Why?** It is certain that the question wouldn't have arisen before 1987. Since July 1987 wine sold in the USA has to have a declaration if the contents contain sulfites, and the EU required a similar declaration beginning in 2008.

Since that statement appeared on wines, sulfites have been blamed for numerous perceived ills following drinking of wine, including rashes, flush, raised temperatures, allergic reactions, stuffy noses, sinus issues and headaches.

Scientific research continues, but to date, there is absolutely no evidence that the presence of sulphur in wine causes headaches. Some people do have headaches after consuming wine for unknown reasons, but sulfites have been ruled out.

The fermentation process that turns grape juice into wine is a complex biological process that causes many chemical reactions – a miracle in many senses. Grapes create sulfites to ward off harmful pests and are not eliminated during fermentation – hence there are no 'no sulphur' wines. Fermentation also creates histamines and biogenic amines, both of which are possible candidates for causing headaches. But excess alcohol consumption and the resulting dehydration can also cause headaches.

As well as being naturally produced during fermentation, sulphur is used

in the vineyard and winery to prevent bacterial spoilage and as a sterilizer, and has been for about 6,000 years. Sulphites are widely used throughout the food industry and are found in dried fruits, processed potatoes, in dough and seafoods. Most people have no problem with sulphites, they're essential for life and indeed our bodies internally produce sulphites daily.

So why is there a sulfites warning? The US Food and Drug Administration determined that approximately 1% of the population has some sensitivity to sulphur, in particular about 5% of people with asthma. But, there are many other foodstuffs with much greater sulphur contents that do not have to carry a similar label.

If a wine has more than 10 parts in one million, or .01% sulfites then it must have the warning. Most wines have between 50–80 parts per million. Wines carry the warning because even if no sulfites are used anywhere in production, the amount of sulfites produced naturally during fermentation exceeds .01%.

Gary Burhop owns Great Wines & Spirits located at 6150 Poplar Avenue in Regalia, Memphis, Tenn., 38119 and invites your questions and patronage. Contact him at 901.682.1333 or [garyburhop@greatwinesmemphis.com](mailto:garyburhop@greatwinesmemphis.com)



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# NEW TENNESSEE LIVING TRUST HAS INCOME TAX ADVANTAGES FOR A SURVIVING SPOUSE

Provided by the estate & trust attorneys at Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, LLP

A relatively new Tennessee law (effective July 1, 2010) allows spouses to create a joint revocable trust and convert assets to “Community Property.” This is known as a Community Property Trust, and has many advantages over a traditional revocable trust or a will. First, it will allow a husband and wife to keep all the assets titled jointly. Second, it has a significant income tax benefit for the surviving spouse. Third, it ensures that half of the assets in the trust will be available to utilize the estate tax exemption of the first spouse to die.

## How it Works

You and your spouse retain the right to amend the trust acting together, and either spouse may revoke his or her one-half of the trust. If you get divorced, the trust will be divided in the same manner as marital property, which means equitably between the spouses as you agree, or if you are unable to agree, then as the judge determines.

At the time of first spouse’s death, one-half of the property in the trust can be used to create any necessary trusts for the surviving spouse to reduce estate taxes, or it can pass directly to the surviving spouse. The other half of the trust will continue on as a revocable trust for the surviving spouse.

The surviving spouse can serve as trustee of all these trusts, and can have full access and control of the assets in the trust. The surviving spouse can also decide how assets in any trust pass to the children, in case circumstances change after the first spouse’s death. When both spouses are deceased, the assets from all of the trusts are typically divided among their children, either outright or in trust.

The advantages and disadvantages of a Community Property Trust are discussed in more detail below.

## Advantages

1. **Simplicity.** The Community Property Trust allows a couple to keep all of their assets titled jointly. Without this trust, it may be necessary for estate tax reasons to separate some assets into each spouse’s name.
2. **Income Tax Advantage.** The Community Property Trust provides a significant income tax advantage for the surviving spouse because assets in the trust will be the “community property” of both spouses. Since 1948, Internal Revenue Code Section 1014(b)(6) has granted a full “step up” in basis for ALL community property owned by a couple upon the death of the first to die spouse (as

opposed to only the assets in the decedent’s sole name). This allows the surviving spouse to sell any asset in the trust virtually income tax free, if done soon after the first spouse’s death. This is extremely useful to diversify an investment portfolio or sell a closely held business with low income tax basis.

3. **Probate Avoidance.** All revocable trusts avoid the delay, hassle, expense, and public nature of Probate Court upon death and/or disability (called a Conservatorship). Although a Financial Power of Attorney usually avoids Probate, many banks prefer dealing with a trustee than a power of attorney.
4. **Asset Management.** Preparing and funding the trust requires a person to review, list, and organize their assets. This process often leads to consolidation of assets and accounts, and even rediscovering forgotten assets. All of the above makes it much easier for the successor trustee to manage the trust upon a person’s death or disability.
5. **More Efficient Planning for Estate Tax.** Because everything is titled jointly in the trust, half of the assets in the trust will always be available to utilize the estate tax exemption of the first spouse to die.

## Disadvantages

1. **Funding.** Though you will invest additional time and effort in funding the Community Property Trust, a properly funded trust will pay dividends later through avoidance of Probate Court. Your attorney and financial advisors can work with you to make this process easier.
2. **Cost.** Drafting the more complex provisions of a Community Property Trust and funding it properly require a higher cost than a will-based estate plan.
3. **Asset Protection.** Assets owned by the trust may not have as much protection from lawsuits and creditors as it would be if owned by a husband and wife. You may therefore want to consider increasing your personal liability (“Umbrella”) policy.



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\* Certified as Estate Planning Specialists by the Tennessee Commission on CLE and Specialization

# Empowered Women Luncheon Features Breast Cancer Survivors

By Amy Israel

Geralyn Lucas,  
author *"Then  
Came Life"*



Pam McKelvy, Action News  
5 Anchor

Geralyn Lucas, author of *"Then Came Life"* and *"Why I Wore Lipstick to my Mastectomy,"* will delight guests with her powerful message at the Ruth Bernstein Celebrating Empowered Women Luncheon on Thursday, Nov. 20, at 11:30 a.m. at the Memphis Jewish Community Center.

Geralyn is an award-winning TV producer, author, lecturer, and women's health advocate who had breast cancer at age 27. In her most recent book, *"Then Came Life: Living with Courage, Spirit, and Gratitude After Breast Cancer,"* Geralyn connects with women everywhere, not just cancer survivors. She explores that it is one thing to survive; it's another to do it crying and laughing, especially when there's nothing to laugh about. She is now living the life that she thought she'd never have.

Memphis news anchor and fellow breast cancer survivor Pam McKelvy will interview Geralyn.

Pam, a familiar face to the Mid-South, having appeared on both WMC and WREG, is a respected community figure for her work with several non-profits throughout the Memphis area. After a breast cancer diagnosis in 2012, Pam underwent a double mastectomy, bi-lateral reconstruction, and four rounds of chemotherapy. In March of 2014, she courageously removed her wig on air to reveal her natural hair. The video became a viral sensation, resonating with women across the globe.

Laurie Scheidt and Amy Kirshbaum are co-chairing the luncheon with the help of committee members Sheryl Alexander, Alison Blen, Tova Cooper, Sandy Goldstein, Mimi Grossman, Jenny Herman, Sally Kesselman, Susan Labovitz, Jackie Mandell, Stacy Sanderson and Joy Wilk.

Breast cancer awareness organizations will be on hand to discuss volunteering, advocacy and early detection. "We are excited that the Baptist Women's Health Center Mobile Mammography

Unit will be at the MJCC throughout the morning to offer mammograms," said Laurie. "Schedule your mammography at the MJCC Member Services Desk 901.761.0810."

"Raffle items include jewelry pieces donated and made by local artists, Becca Belz, Debbie Lazarov, Jill Notowich and Myrna Halpern, along with gift certificates from Eden Day Spa and Interim Restaurant," said MJCC Cultural Arts director Amy Israel. "Everyone attending will have a chance to win a gift." Dietary Laws will be observed.

The Okeon/Bernstein Family has generously named the event in memory of Ruth Bernstein, an amazingly empowered woman, who is remembered as "strong but gentle, driven but peaceful, disciplined but loving – and always smiling," explains Beth Okeon.

Ruth was a woman ahead of her time in so many ways. The youngest of nine children, she was born and raised in Midtown Memphis, an area she would call home for the rest of her life. However, she was just as content traveling the world as being in her hometown. In her lifetime, Ruth visited several continents, dozens of countries and hundreds of cities, way before the modern luxuries of traveling existed. Ruth's career spanned 30+ years at the National Bank of Commerce (now SunTrust Bank). She was the first female to attain the title of vice president at NBC. She was the officer solely responsible for the custodial management of the bank's cotton warehouse

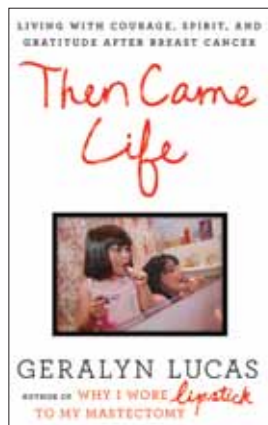
receipts, which are enormous, negotiable assets. At that time, the bank handled more cotton receipts than any other bank in the United States.

The same characteristics that made Ruth successful at work also gave her the ability to be a loving and devoted family member. Nieces and nephews have fond memories of Ruth taking them on fun outings when they were young. Ruth loved to be of service. She had an inner peace that was unshakeable, and its abundance overflowed into everyone around her.

After Ruth retired, she lived at Trezevant Manor. She remained actively involved in the community, volunteering at the Memphis and Shelby County Library and working as a docent for several of the Wonders Series exhibits. She walked the nature trail at Trezevant nearly every morning and continued her lifelong hobbies of reading and catching an occasional horse race on TV. Late in life, Ruth began showing signs of dementia and was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. It was no surprise to those close to her that Ruth handled this with all of the dignity and grace that only a contented soul like Ruth's could. Ruth's legacy lives on today, as she was a shining example to her younger relatives that they could achieve anything to which

they set their minds.

For tickets or more information, visit [www.jccmemphis.org/culture](http://www.jccmemphis.org/culture), call 901.761.0810 or stop by the MJCC located at 6560 Poplar Avenue Memphis, TN 38138.



Ruth Bernstein

# 2014

## Alice G. Drake Tikkun Olam Award Winner Maurice Buring Shares Love of The Home

By Susan C. Nieman

**M**aurice Buring has devoted 31 years of his life ensuring that Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab residents and families can participate and celebrate Shabbat mornings and Jewish holidays together in a warm and loving atmosphere.

"It brings me so much pleasure to be a part of their lives," said Maurice, who was almost speechless when he was notified of being nominated and winning the first annual Alice G. Drake Tikkun Olam Award. "I don't do this for awards or thanks," he said. "I do it because it makes me happy. It is the best part of my week."

Maurice has served on the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab (the Home) board for many years, but spends more time outside the boardroom than inside. He's learned a lot about life from current and past residents, whom he fondly recalls, such as Edith Linkon (108), Hattie Bass (105), both of blessed memory and others.

"How many people can say they have attended services and shared life stories over lunch with congregants and residents, some even in their their 100s?" said Maurice. "I wish I had had the opportunity to know some of them in their earlier years. One woman in particular, Becky Crowe, of blessed memory, had no close family. She called me every day to tell me she loved me. 'You made my day,' she would say. You just can't imagine how good that made me feel."

Since visiting the old Tucker Ave. B'nai B'rith Home, even before his own father lived there for a short period, Maurice has spent each Shabbos among those whom he considers family. And his promise to Memphis philanthropist Philip Belz, of blessed memory, is one reason he continues to this day. "I sat with Mr. Belz during lunch one afternoon, and he thanked me for taking care of the synagogue at the Home that he and his family established in memory of his wife, Sarah. He gave me a blessing and asked that I continue and that I pass it on."

In the entire 31 years, Maurice has only missed two Saturdays – one because of an ice storm warning and the other for his son, Jacob's bar mitzvah. And even then, he made arrangements for the residents who could, to attend the bar mitzvah.

Jacob Buring has been coming to the Home with his father since he was a small boy – before he can even remember – and now brings his own two sons – fulfilling the legacy promised to the late Mr. Belz. "It is because of my father that my two sons are who they have become," said Jacob. "How many children do you know who could be so caring and comfortable being together every

week with the elderly residents of the Home?

"We have each been blessed to meet the many residents who make each Shabbat so special," he continued. "I have had opportunities to move away from Memphis and even lived in Cape Girardeau, Mo., driving back for Shabbat each weekend. But because of my dad and our love of the Home, I am still here and now instilling in my sons that love and caring."

Grandsons, Townsend (7) and Caleb (5), love dressing in their suits every weekend "and sometimes all four of us wear the same ties," said Maurice. "They like handing out the prayer books and at the end of Shabbat they write about their experience in a Mitzvah Book that we made together." For the first time this year, Townsend spent the night with Maurice at the Home for the High Holidays. The family even celebrated the boys' bris' at the Home.

"Every Shabbat morning, Maurice makes sure our Jewish patients and residents are able to maintain and sometimes even rekindle their spiritual lives and connections to their Judaism," said MJH&R community relations director Joel Ashner. "If a resident is too sick to come to the synagogue for services, he will visit, arrange to have the shofar blown, and do whatever he can to make sure each feels connected."

"A few years ago on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, a resident was in hospice, in his room, unable to attend services as the final hours of his life elapsed," recalled Joel. "Maurice sent someone to open the man's door, and he opened wide the doors of the Shul and called this man to the Torah. He said the blessings in the man's name and allowed him to have a final Torah honor before passing away."

It's easy to see the love and devotion he has for the residents when he greets them with a warm smile and a hug. And for those families who attend services with their loved ones, he shows the same warmth and kindness. After services when the group gathers for lunch, he personally serves all the residents.

"This Shabbos and holiday experience that Maurice provides goes far above and beyond what I ever expected when my mother came to the Home," said Teresa Kaplan Case. "I found myself attending services among a group of family members and friends of current and past residents. Many of us had come initially to visit and attend a service, and soon found ourselves being weekly regulars because of the warmth and welcoming atmosphere that Maurice brings to this synagogue. It is clear to see how these

services inspire those who participate when you find that there are many men and women who have continued to be a part of this very special congregation long after their own loved ones are no longer at the Home. Maurice never fails to wish every individual a 'Good Shabbos' and to thank each guest for coming. No matter what one's synagogue affiliation may be or what branch of Judaism one comes from, each person who comes into the Shul is made to feel that each is a valued guest. It is Maurice's generosity and commitment to Judaism that makes it possible for my mother and me to sit side-by-side each Saturday in Shul, share Shabbos lunch and celebrate holidays together. I know that the other residents' families would agree with me when I say that this is a gift for which we will always be grateful."

An owner and president of a farm/agricultural parts supply company with customers all over

Maurice Buring is grateful for the ongoing devotion and assistance of the Minyannaires who help make each Shabbat and holiday so special for all. Three years ago Jacob established the Maurice Buring Volunteer Award to thank these men for their time and commitment. Some come every week even picking up those who cannot drive themselves. The recipient's name is added to a plaque, which hangs near the synagogue.

*Recipients denoted with \**

### Minyannaires

Jacob Buring

Ron Cooper

Philip Evans \*

Randy Evans \*(of Blessed Memory)

Dave Forgosh \*

Sidney Franklin

Sandy Lichterman

Jerome Lit \*

Lester Lit \*

Harvey Reisman

Morris Weiss

Sidney Seligstein

Billy Nickol

Simon Waksberg\* (of Blessed Memory)

Sid Brumberg\* (of Blessed Memory)



*Maurice Buring  
with son Jacob and  
grandsons Townsend  
(7) and Caleb (5)*

the United States, Maurice certainly has a great deal on his plate. But the residents and staff have always been a priority for him. Several years ago he established the annual Ruth and Jacob Buring Spirit Award, in honor of his parents, to recognize the employee with the most spirit in caring for residents. The recipient receives a cash award and their name is added to a plaque that hangs in the main hallway. Maurice provides other staff treats throughout the year such as ice cream, pizza and even food for the holiday party.

During strategic planning processes over the years, the board has looked to Maurice for leadership and guidance with respect to the spiritual wellness of MJH&R patients and residents. He has always had the best and most accurate perspective on what the Jewish patients and residents need during their stay.

"It is hard to quantify the value of Maurice's commitment to the residents of the Home," said MJH&R board president Minton Mayer. "It would be much more difficult to create and maintain the Jewish environment we want for our elders without his dedication to the hundreds of Jewish patients and residents that have come

through our doors in his 31 years of involvement. We're so grateful to him for his spiritual leadership, his time, and his passion for the Home."

"My wife's grandfather was one of the pillars of the Memphis Jewish Home when it was known as the B'nai B'rith Home in the mid-20th century," said board member and son of a resident Jonathan Epstein. "He had a favorite quote that became synonymous with him. 'There are two types of people in this world, those who do the work and those that get the credit. Try, if you can, to belong to the first class, there's far less competition.' That quote could be the epitaph for Maurice Buring. Maurice does so much behind the scenes to improve the lives of the residents and staff of Memphis Jewish Home it's difficult to enumerate."

Our thanks to Joel Ashner for nominating Maurice Buring for the Alice G. Drake Tikkun Olam Award and our congratulations to Maurice for enriching the lives of the thousands of Jewish elderly he has touched in the last 31 years.

"I feel truly blessed to spend this time with my boys at the Home," said Maurice. "I cannot imagine being anywhere else."

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# Meet Leigh and Jackie



Leigh Eisenberg and Jackie Evans

*Leigh Eisenberg, account coordinator at Archer Malmo and her sister, Jackie Evans, education assistant at Temple Israel, grew up in Memphis and returned after college where they are now leaving their mark on the Memphis Jewish community.*

## **Both of you left Memphis to attend college. Why did you decide to come back to Memphis?**

**Jackie:** I left Memphis after high school for Indiana University, but I was drawn back to be near my family and my husband, Alex Evans.

**Leigh:** I received an internship right after college at the University of Tennessee with the Memphis Redbirds, and just haven't left since.

## **Tell us a little about your family.**

**Leigh:** Our parents, Bill and Annette Eisenberg, both grew up in Memphis. Our brother, Jon, lives in Denver and runs Blackspy Marketing, a Denver-based street team, grassroots and digital promotions company.

**Jackie:** Alex and I met at Ridgeway High School and have been together since – almost 16 years! We've been married for almost 10 years. I'm so lucky to have found a nice Jewish boy (that isn't related to me) at a public high school. It's special that we were high school sweethearts and have spent half of our lives together. Our son, Ethan, is in the 4th grade at Bornblum Solomon Schechter School. I was in their first 8th grade graduating class, and now my son is following in my footsteps.

## **What is your view of Jewish Memphis?**

**Jackie:** I was born and raised here and couldn't see myself anywhere else. I love how close knit our community is and how I know and have a connection with fellow Jews everywhere I go. We are all here for each other. You don't get that anywhere else.

**Leigh:** Coming back to Memphis made me realize how big and close our Jewish community is. I went to UT Knoxville where there were very few Jewish students. So it's nice to be home, and to see a familiar face almost anywhere I go.

## **What would you tell people thinking about making the move to Memphis?**

**Jackie:** You will not meet friendlier people anywhere else. No matter if we're reform, conservative, or orthodox, we are all the Jewish people and all have a connection and bond with one another. We have a vibrant Jewish Community Center and lots of synagogues to meet each person's needs.

**Leigh:** Memphis has a lot to offer. We have such a welcoming and involved Jewish community, plus the Grizzlies, Tigers, and a fun Midtown and Downtown scene!

## **Why did you want to be involved in the Jewish community and with Memphis Jewish Federation?**

**Leigh:** It's easy to be involved when I'm surrounded by Jewish professionals! My roommate, Stacy, is the director of the Young Adult Division at Memphis Jewish Federation, my sister works in the Education Department at Temple Israel, and my mom is a teacher at Bornblum Solomon Schechter School.

**Jackie:** I grew up in the Jewish community. I attended the MJCC ECC, the Hebrew Academy for first grade, and when Bornblum Solomon Schechter School (then SSDS) opened up, I attended second through eighth grade. I was a counselor and then Unit Head at the MJCC summer camp for many summers. Throughout high school I was involved in BBYO, especially with Kriger BBG. I taught Religious School at Beth Shalom and then at Temple Israel for many years before making Temple Israel my home and my workplace. I would not want to be anywhere else every day. I guess being involved in the Jewish community is in my blood! I want my son to have a strong Jewish background and be proud of who he is as a Jewish child here in Memphis. I also want to give back to the Memphis Jewish Federation for all the help and support they have given us to make sure my son is able to do so.

## **How long have you been a part of Federation and how did you get involved?**

**Jackie:** Federation has been a part of my life since Ethan started BSSS four years ago by ensuring he would be at a great school and get an amazing Jewish education. I started volunteering about two years ago on the YAD committee.

**Leigh:** About two years ago I started attending YAD events. I have now helped plan a few and look forward to working on more.

## **How would you like to leave your footprint on YAD and the Memphis Jewish community?**

**Jackie:** I would love to get everyone involved and

make connections. If we can make everyone see just how special our Memphis Jewish Community is then people will want to become involved.

**Leigh:** I hope to get more young people to come to YAD events. YAD is a great way to get everyone involved whether they're moving back to Memphis and not sure who is here that they know, or are new to Memphis.

## **What is your favorite (Jewish) childhood memory?**

**Jackie:** Rosh Hashanah and Passover at my Bubbie's. My sister, brother and our cousins, Rebecca and David Feldbaum, and I would always sit at the card table – the kids' table. We'd have so much fun together and of course, we behaved!

**Leigh:** For me it's celebrating Chanukah with the family, which of course was my favorite holiday as a kid. I remember one year I was so upset when I opened my gift and it was a Dr. Pepper chap stick. Thanks mom and dad!

## **Favorite Activities?**

**Jackie:** Keeping up with Ethan! And of course Memphis Grizzlies and Tigers basketball games.

**Leigh:** Staying active, whether it's running, classes at the JCC, or my new obsession...hot yoga. I'm also happiest when I'm with friends and family.

## **What do you wish that everyone knew about Memphis Jewish Federation and the Memphis Jewish community?**

**Leigh:** It's a great way to get to know people and a super easy way to get involved.

**Jackie:** You can't live in a better place! The Jewish community is amazing here. We are all connected and here for each other. The Jewish Federation is here to help you and bring the Jewish people closer together...what else could we ask for?!

## **Any other fun info you'd like to share?**

**Jackie:** I finished all 710 levels of Candy Crush in my spare time and now I'm waiting for the new update with more levels!

**Leigh:** I have a habit of randomly breaking out into song.

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## "FUGITIVE COLORS"

### An Interview with Lisa Barr

by Susan Nieman



*Lisa Barr's first novel, "Fugitive Colors," will captivate readers from the very first chapter. I could not put this book down! Lisa takes readers behind the scenes as the Nazis begin eliminating artists and 'degenerates' prior to World War II. Her characters, Julian, Rene', Felix, Adrienne and Charlotte come to life as she paints a painful and intriguing story of love, life and loss."*

**SPOILER ALERT:** Read the complete interview with Lisa at [www.JewishSceneMagazine.com](http://www.JewishSceneMagazine.com). But, if you haven't read "Fugitive Colors" yet, you may want to wait until you have!

**JSM:** I know you've been a journalist for many years, have you always wanted to write a novel?

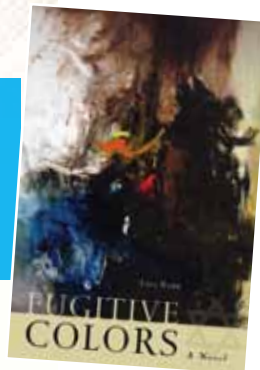
**LISA:** Yes, ALWAYS. It is in my first grade essay, "I want to become a famous writer like Judy Blume." I knew at 11 years old, after sneaking my parents' hidden copy of "Fear of Flying," that this was destined to be my journey.

**JSM:** How did you decide upon this topic for your first book?

**LISA:** ... I was 26 years old, serving as the managing editor of Today's Chicago Woman and was sent on assignment in 1991 to cover the "Degenerate Art" Exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago. Entering the museum, I literally stopped in my tracks – I had found my story. What I saw at that exhibit would later morph into the historical-fiction tale of my first novel *Fugitive Colors*. Even as a daughter of a Holocaust survivor, I never knew about the Nazis relentless mission to destroy the avant-garde – particularly painters. How could someone like Hitler be both an artist and a murderous madman? I wanted to – had to – explore this in-depth.

**JSM:** Did you already know people in the publishing business that thought the topic was a great idea?

**LISA:** I had to pitch it, find an agent, and a publisher – the whole shebang. It helped that the "unpublished manuscript" won first prize at The Hollywood Film Festival several years back. (Opus Magnum Discovery Award).



**JSM:** What was the writing process like?

**LISA:** Torturous, amazing, hypnotic – writing is breathing for me. Ask anyone who knows me – I'm hyper – and yet, when I write it is the only time I stop moving, and it feels as though I'm playing the piano. Time stands still.

It permeates my soul. Everything else in my daily life – my kids, my hubby, carpooling, etc. – races.

**JSM:** Did you write over the course of years or sit down everyday during a time period?

**LISA:** Both. This book took nearly four

years of research/interviews and several years of writing/revisions. I began the real first version when I was on nine months' bed rest (yes, you read that right) while pregnant with my eldest daughter. I'm very disciplined. I write the second my kids are off to school, and divide my day – Me Time (writing); Mommy Time (the rest of my world). When the girls were little, if a 20-minute video was on – I wrote for 20 minutes. I owe a lot to Dora the Explorer.

**JSM:** Did you know your characters before you started writing or did you develop them as you wrote?

**LISA:** I knew my characters intimately before I put a single word down, and then once I began typing – the characters led the way, and told me to move over.

**JSM:** Did you base the characters off of people from history, stories you've heard?

**LISA:** Given this is historical fiction, my characters are composites of real people/fictional people and those, who have characteristics of random people I may have seen at a cafe or on the street. When you live the Writer Life, you have one foot in reality, and the other outside "The Normal." There's a reason why creative types are "Out There." My husband always says, "You are the smartest flake I know."

**JSM:** I was fascinated by the way all of the male characters began with leaving their families, especially their fathers to pursue their own dreams. Was that intentional?

**LISA:** It is true, each of the male characters had a Daddy issue ... hmm, I bet Freud could tackle that. Would you believe me, if I said, "It just happened." Is it overly-Jewish or Jewish ironic to state, "But he loved his mother ...":)

**JSM:** Julian leaves his religious Jewish roots in America where he would have been safe from Hitler's regime, but then falls into Nazi hands not only once but on several occasions. Were his decisions all for the art? or friendship?

**LISA:** It was ALL for the art in the beginning, and it evolves into decisions based on friendship/unbreakable bonds/loyalty. Julian Klein (then known as Yakov Klein) left his religious upbringing to pursue his art/his freedom in Paris, not knowing the "price tag" of his passion. The theme of the novel is How Far Would You Go For Your Passion? Julian Klein goes all the way.



# Hummus and Hamas: My Bronfman Experience

By Emily Faber

It is a crisp night in Jerusalem as I dine at the Shabbat table. I am surrounded by teens from 14 states, accredited faculty and their children, alumnae, and even a monk. Just five weeks earlier, I boarded a plane to Israel on the Bronfman Youth Fellowship and embarked on a journey with 25 people I had never met with backgrounds wildly different than my own. When I heard about Bronfman, I knew I wanted to apply: through text study, travel and speakers, participants develop their Jewish identity and sense of self. It is the fluidity of past, present and future, and making sense of it all.

When the Bronfman Youth Fellowship selected 25 North Americans and me for an all-expense-paid five-week trip to Israel, I was eager to return to the country I thought I knew fairly well. I had explored Israel the summer of 2013 on an adventurous fun-filled tour with NCSY, but this visit would be different. Stationed in Jerusalem at a youth village, we took expeditions to the mystical town of Tsfat, the deserts of the Negev, and the bustling city of Tel Aviv. Each morning began with a text study, followed by a visit to a related site and conversation about the central theme presented in the morning. The war, although not included in the agenda, was ever-present: while learning about the Jews who fought for Jerusalem 2,000 years ago, we heard a siren and retreated to the bomb shelters for the war that affects us today.

Many of the speakers began their talks by assuring us, "Israel is different than usual." We encountered authors, politicians, rabbis and activists, each of whom had an opinion on the

conflict as well as Israel's future. One day we met with Israeli author Etgar Keret, who ridiculed the Israeli Defense Force, and later that afternoon we met with Israeli historian Gadi Taub, who venerated Israel's military efforts. This variety of opinion not only characterized our speakers, but the Fellows themselves.

Without a doubt, those were the 25 most passionate, intellectually curious people I have met. The program is committed to pluralism, which it achieves by selecting Fellows of different backgrounds, locations and mindsets. I studied with Fellows such as an Orthodox Jew from Ohio, a non-denominational girl from Massachusetts, and a Reform teen from California; each person would interpret the text differently, which made learning a dynamic conversation.

The war influenced my summer in other ways besides spending time in bomb shelters; I watched a woman bury her fiancé who had died in the tunnels; I comforted an Israeli colleague when she heard her brother would be moving to the front lines of Gaza. In Israel, the death tolls were more than just numbers – potentially they were our cousins, friends and siblings. Bronfman helped me internalize my experiences, and the Fellows and I often debated such issues as the morality of the Israeli army, good and evil, and the possibilities of peace.

Another component of the trip was meeting the Israeli parallel of our program, the Ametef Bronfman. Studying with those 20 Israeli teens gave me perspective on living in a war zone. For one weekend, we American Fellows paired up to visit the home of an Israeli Fellow. My hostess told

me her family's story of emigration from Ethiopia, and I learned about immigrants' struggles in their journeys to Israel. Even though her family spoke little to no English, we still communicated over cooking and through Hebrew prayers. I treasure this immersion in Israeli culture.

That last Shabbat meal in Jerusalem embodied Bronfman: a room full of diverse opinions converging over something as Jewish as a Shabbos evening. I returned to Memphis with a new affinity for this pluralism, along with questioning, studying Judaism and global engagement. I encourage anyone to apply who loves learning and is not afraid to sit at the table with people of other faiths, as well as Jews from around the world.

Emily Faber is a senior at Hutchison in Memphis. She is co-editor of her school's print newspaper, The Signpost, and co-created and edits her school's online newspaper, The Beeline. Emily is also co-editor of her school's literary and art magazine, The Emblem, and president of Live Poets Society, an organization of Hutchison students passionate about the English language. She is Fine Arts Council president, has appeared in over 25 plays, and has played piano for 12 years. Emily is a founding committee member of the Jewish youth group, JPYO (Jewish Pluralistic Youth Organization), which was created to connect Memphis Jewish teens of all sects. She teaches Sunday school through Teen Team at Temple Israel, and sings at services. Emily also creates the curriculum and leads a mentoring program for inner city girls at Streets Ministries.



Ken Harris

## We Are Family

By Mark Hayden

Ken Harris prefers the size and scope of his sports agency just the way it is – thank you. It's taken him a while to realize that a small client base comes with its own set of advantages.

Building close relationships between client and agent is special. When it happens often it's priceless. He's been lucky that way.

But, don't take my word for it. Recently, one of his clients walked Harris and his girlfriend to his car. They embraced and both agreed that their relationship had become more like family. "That's when you know you've arrived," he said. "That's worth more than any invoice I could ever send."

That's the feeling Harris tries to relate all of his clients. After starting his agency in early 2000 with 17 clients, he soon downsized his client base to a number he could better handle. "I found out that I didn't have a life anymore," he explained. "So I made a commitment to get it down to fewer than 10 players. At some point you realize that you can make a living in this business without making a financial killing."

It's worked well for him. His social life is back, leaving more time to be with family and friends. Work has become more fun. Harris, who serves as owner, president and agent at Optimum Sports Management, has always presided over a one-man shop.

"I've never felt the need to have a multi-agent firm," he said.

His small-client list allows him time to visit his players and their families on weekends. By his count he'll attend 21 regular-season games this season.

Those games can be fun but they can also include their own tense moments – like checking on the well-being of his clients. He loves the game of football, but he's there primarily to watch his player. "I watch my

guy on every play – coming off the field to make sure he's not limping or if he goes over to the trainer. Every time he comes off the field I get a little nervous."

While most agents see dollar signs in the balance when a player gets hurt, Harris worries for the health of his client – and friend.

That close bond he shares with his clients wasn't as possible when he started his business. "All I did then was eat, drink and sleep football contracts," he said.

Don't get him wrong. Harris has won some fairly lucrative contracts for clients like Jared Allen of the Chicago Bears and kickers Josh Scobey of the Jacksonville Jaguars and Graham Gano of the Carolina Panthers, but he's proud of the men that they've become off the field, too.

With Scobey, it was the hug after that recent Jaguars' game.

With Allen, he's seen him grow and mature in front of his eyes. "Allen has settled down and applied himself," said Harris. "He's also a pillar in his community and



Jared Allen's first game this year as a Chicago Bear



Jared Allen

**"When you go out on your own, you don't represent anyone, and it makes it extremely tough."**

does an incredible amount with his foundation for wounded warriors."

Allen's foundation helps raise money to retrofit homes for soldiers who've returned home from various war zones. On a few occasions, he's been fortunate to get the houses donated. "It's an amazing thing that he's been doing, and I've been able to watch the man that he's become both on and off the field."

Harris has represented Allen since he graduated from Idaho State, but the arrangement may not have occurred had it not been for a major lobbying effort from one of his other clients.

"Is he a good kid or a bad kid?" Harris would ask a team president or scout when out recruiting college athletes. He shied away from representing players with violence issues and drug problems, or even players who liked to party and drink on the side.

But Harris made an exception on a young player who just needed "to settle in and mature," he recalled. "I thank my lucky stars that I did change my mind, because Jared Allen turned out to be one of the greatest joys of my career."

That kind of business relationship doesn't happen very often and the competitive nature of sports agencies makes it all the more difficult. "It's very hard at the start because the recruit's family wants to know who you represent," explained Harris. "When you go out on your own, you don't represent anyone, and it makes it extremely tough. Basically, in the end, you've got to find someone who will believe in you."

"There are a lot of agents out there – especially in football," he added. Football execs told him early on that of the 1000 certified agents only 300 have clients. The rest are still looking.

"So, you feel like you're between a rock and a hard place," he said. "I feel lucky and blessed, and I've got nothing to complain about."

He's also lucky because most of his clients might say the same thing about Harris.



Free Agent Deuce Lutui with Ken Harris and Marla Walberg after an Arizona Cardinals game

Mark Hayden has been a frustrated athlete almost all his life. If you know of any untold stories out there, let me know. Any comments or suggestions are welcome at [marktn67@gmail.com](mailto:marktn67@gmail.com).



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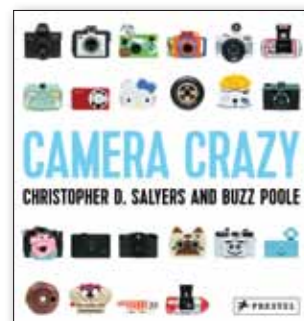
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**Farmhouse Fresh's®** Natural Body Milks hydrate the skin without feeling heavy. 90.5 - 97.5% natural, vegan & gluten-free. The travel-friendly gift set includes Sweet Cream, Fresh Melon and Ginger Sorbet, Backcountry Caramel (2.4 oz.). [farmhousefreshgoods.com](http://farmhousefreshgoods.com) \$14



**Jabu'she:** Share Sweden's secret skin care line that provides an unparalleled feeling of beauty. A luxurious anti-aging skin care line for beauty-crazed family and friends. Available in Sweden and the U.S. [Jabushenorthamerica.com](http://Jabushenorthamerica.com) \$30-\$50



Stay organized with **Lil' Holsters** silicone blend pocket that naturally clings to any smooth, non-porous, surface without the use of suction cups or adhesive. The drainage holes on the bottom allow a sponge or brush to dry between uses. [LilHolster.com](http://LilHolster.com) \$9.99

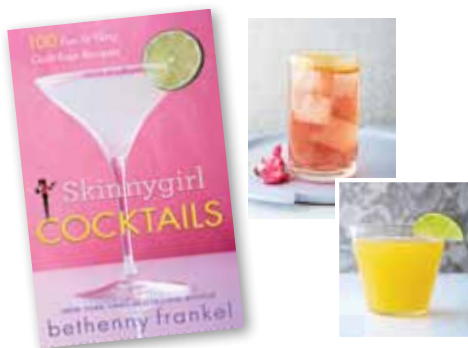


**Midrash Manicures:** Jewish-themed nail art decals put the perfect Hanukkah gift at your fingertips. 49 images include dreidels, candles, menorahs, chocolate gelt and more. [midrashmanicures.com](http://midrashmanicures.com) \$11.99

# HANUKKAH FINDS



**Moleskine (RED)** Special Edition Collection includes a Notebook, 2015 Planner, Pen, and Luggage Tag, with 5% of the retail price going to Project RED's Global Fund to Fight AIDS. Purchase of this luggage tag could provide over 1 day of medication. [mymoleskine.moleskine.com](http://mymoleskine.moleskine.com) \$9.95 - 24.95



**Skinnygirl Cocktails:** 100 Fun & Flirty Guilt-Free Recipes. Bethenny Frankel offers 150-calorie cocktails and party-foods for any occasion, from theme parties to romantic evenings to "girls only" nights. [skinnygirlcocktails.com](http://skinnygirlcocktails.com) \$15



**Nerium:** Exclusive patented NAE-8 extract – antioxidants with anti-aging properties and aloe that hydrate, firm and soothe skin. Night and day creams reduce appearance of fine lines, wrinkles, discoloration, enlarged pores and uneven skin texture. NeriumFirm helps improve the appearance of cellulite and dimpling on common problem areas [MyNerium.com](http://MyNerium.com), \$165 Day and Night Creams; \$110 NeriumFirm



**SHOLDIT:** The ultimate travel accessory that every handbag-wielding woman would LOVE. Looks like a fashionable infinity scarf, featuring a hidden zippered pocket. Excellent for travel, sightseeing, concerts, theme parks, sporting events. [sholdit.com](http://sholdit.com) \$40+

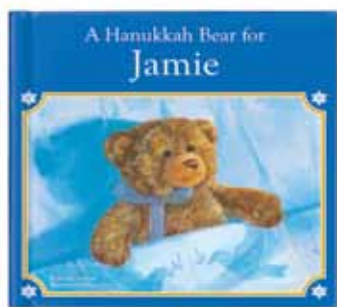


**Winter Cocktails:** María del Mar Sacasa: Stunning full-color photography and well-crafted recipes, this gorgeous and informative hardcover cookbook is the perfect drink compendium. Perfect for novice bartenders or veteran cocktail slingers. [quirkbooks.com/wintercocktails](http://quirkbooks.com/wintercocktails) \$22.95



**Hall Wines:** ARTFUL GIVING is a 3-bottle set wrapped in red gift box and ready to go. 2011 HALL "Kathryn Hall" Cabernet Sauvignon, 2011 HALL "Eighteen Seventy-Three Cabernet Sauvignon, 2011 HALL "T Bar T" Cabernet Sauvignon. [hallwines.com/gifts](http://hallwines.com/gifts) or [gifts@hallwines.com](mailto:gifts@hallwines.com) \$275

## Children's Books



**A Hanukkah Bear for Me:** Make your child the star of the story with this beautifully illustrated personalized Hanukkah book! Complete with a cuddly Hanukkah teddy bear. [iseeme.com](http://iseeme.com) \$39.95



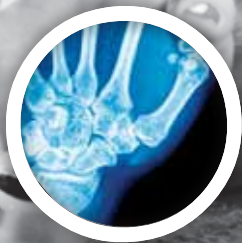
**Eight Candles and A Tree:** Beautifully illustrated and fun-to-read book that shows how an interfaith family celebrates holidays, as Sophie introduces her blend of Hanukkah and Christmas traditions to her friend Tommy. Order through author Simone Bloom Nathan at [simonebloomnathan.com](http://simonebloomnathan.com) for the special price \$15



**Classic Bedtime Stories** by artist Scott Gustafson. His unique style makes this a volume to be cherished for generations to come. Stories include The Country Mouse and the City Mouse, Sleeping Beauty, The Tortoise and the Hare and more. Available at bookstores. \$14



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