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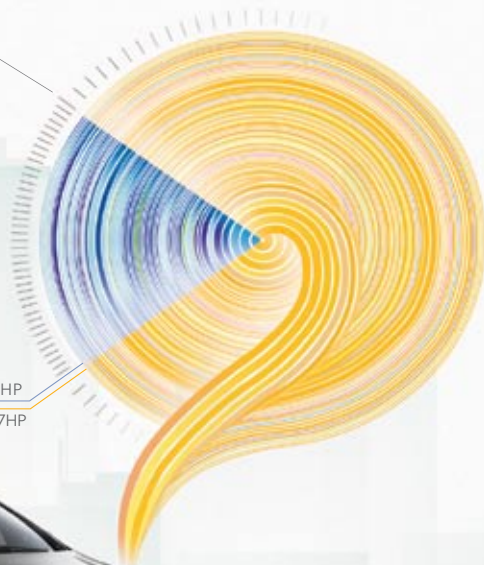
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Jewish Scene is dedicated to creating awareness among the Jewish community; and promoting and supporting the religious, educational, social and fundraising efforts of Jewish agencies and organizations.

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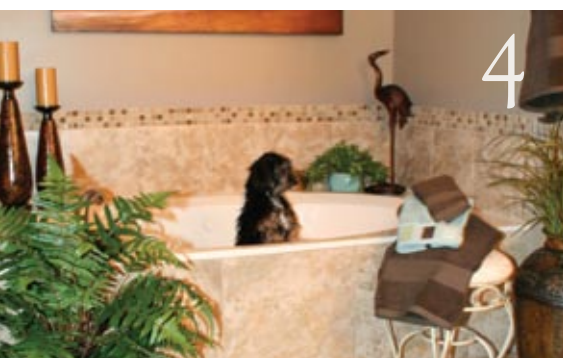
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## From the EDITOR



Dear Readers,

Today I had the pleasure of meeting Deanna McAlexander 's 7th grade class at Bornblum Solomon Schechter School in Memphis – the majority of our first annual 2010 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Essay Contest participants. Thanks to Ms. McAlexander, who assigned the topic to her entire class, (some of whom did not qualify based on their bar/bar mitzvah dates) the top three winners were BSSS students. While some of the prizes appealed more to the parents who were encouraging their students to enter at home, the kids will really enjoy their vacation get-a-ways, golf certificates and other prizes provided by our sponsors listed on page 10.

As we begin the New Year 2010 with high hopes of success, health and happiness, I hope you will consider supporting the ongoing efforts of *Jewish Scene Magazine*. We remain committed to bringing you inspiring, heart-lifting stories, photos of agency happenings and online listings of your events. All made possible with the support of loyal *Jewish Scene* advertisers, many who are struggling in this crazy economy.

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*Susan C. Nieman*

Susan C. Nieman - Publisher/Editor

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# WHEN IT DRAINS IT POURS

Story and Photos  
Susan C. Nieman

It seems odd that some of our Jewish Scene associates are going through unexpected renovations at the same time. So we thought it would be fun to share our woes and give our readers some first-hand advice. Read about a few of them in upcoming issues.

How many times have you caulked your shower floor only to have the seams come apart – sometimes even after the first day? There came a time last year when we just gave up. That was a huge mistake.

I knew there was trouble the morning I found our bathroom rug soaking wet. By the time I pulled up the carpet, I knew it was a disaster. *By the way, whose idea was it to ever lay carpet in master bathrooms, even though it does make the room toasty warm in the winter?* Needless to say we took a shower upstairs that morning and for the next several weeks while we called the insurance company and began getting estimates. *Did you know that neither shower-pan leakage nor the damage it wreaks on your home is covered by some homeowners insurance?* Read your policy!

With the kids coming home for Thanksgiving weekend, we were under the gun. Had I realized the choices we were making would affect more choices the next day, we would have shared the upstairs bath with the kids for a few days. Meanwhile, the unexpected estimates were staggering. We were amazed at price differences among equally talented craftsmen. Luckily, the relationships we'd developed and the people we had featured over the years during the production of our Home and Garden column saved us time and money.

The day Gus, the tile guy, scheduled our job and guaranteed it to be finished on time, we had to call and ask Jamie at Savannah Tile & Stone to stay open so we could drive across town. Jamie helped us choose tiles that wouldn't break the bank while ensuring they would last a long time – certainly longer than the rest of the builder's grade materials in our home. *Did you know that the tiles on the floor of your shower should never be more than 4 to 6 inches square to ensure the perfect drainage slope?*

Not only do they have to rip the walls down to the studs, if your home is more than 10 years old, you need to replace the shower valve (*you commit to a brand at this time*) before they put up the backer board. And since they remove the front tub panel to tile, it's best to change that faucet valve too. *Now, who would have thought that changing a couple of valves would lead to changing all the bathroom fixtures.* Sara Phillips at Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting helped





us chose the faucets and finishes that would stand the test of style redesign. *Choose carefully, the price difference in brands and finishes can be astronomical.*

Anne at Mr. Rooter sent out a plumber in time to prepare the shower and scheduled a return visit to finish up when the tile guys were ready. Little did we know we'd see him sooner when the toilet water valve wouldn't turn off for them to remove the toilet. *Wow, you should turn all faucets on and off periodically to keep them in good working condition.*

We ran into a few more snags along the way, such as the stud connecting the wall between the shower and floor not going from floor to ceiling. It was just hanging there.

The shower was completed on Wednesday before Thanksgiving. It took a little longer than expected to get it all back together when we realized our towels, racks and paint didn't match anymore. We finally turned to the pros that helped bring it all together. Terri Panitz of DCI Gallery and her mother, Doris Turner, owner of Designer's Choice Interiors, helped bring together the finishing touches by selecting accessories that compliment and brighten the neutral earth-tone walls and tile. Their extensive knowledge and talent helped create a warm, relaxing spa-like room, that while still in transition, beckons me home every day. ■



Facing page top: The combination of neutral ceramic tile and natural shower floor and ceiling stones gives us the option to choose from a variety of accent colors and accessories.

Facing page bottom: Tile installer, Gus Jose, recommended using larger 16 x 16 tiles on the floor and tub panel. Painting by Terri Panitz, DCI Gallery. Doris Turner of Designers Choice Interiors helped choose a variety of possible accessories.

Above: The once-pickled cabinets were painted dark brown. The handles were an unexpected find to compliment the new lighting from DeSheilds. Orange vase and floral from OldTime Pottery. Teal vase, Designer's Choice Interiors.

Right: Gus designed a custom ledge for shampoo, soap and necessities.



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# Thinking In the Box

BY SUSAN C. NIEMAN

When it comes to raising money to help others in need, Jews around the world have been collecting coins in boxes since they were children.

So when it came to raising awareness about the work of Memphis Jewish Federation (MJF), instead of thinking 'out of the box' for a change, board member Marlene Gerson decided it was time to think 'in the box' again. Thus the Tzedakah Project was born.

Since then, Marlene, co-chairs, Diane Mendelson, Tracey Mendelson and MJF staff have been traveling around the city to Jewish organizations to help educate people of all ages about the work of the Memphis Jewish Federation and how donated money is spent.

Agencies, religious schools, day schools, senior living facilities and other groups are being asked to decorate a Tzedakah (charity) box and make it their own with agency stickers, Israeli Flags and other fun adornments. Some have been making it a collaborative effort.

"The kindergarten class at the Memphis Jewish Community Center worked with a senior group to decorate their boxes," said Diane.

As Diane and Marlene talk to students and relate stories about needy people in Memphis and around the world, special things are taking place.

"At one of the day schools, I mentioned a family who needed money to help pay their rent," recalls Diane. "They also needed a refrigerator. The next day I received a call from a teacher who said she had a refrigerator in her garage that she would like to donate."

It was important to the committee that young people be involved with and learn more about how the Federation helps others. They were delighted with the response from Temple Israel Religious School.

"Each Sunday we collect tzedakah that goes into a general tzedakah fund," said Temple Israel Education Director Barb Gelb. "Every year we pick one organization or cause as the major recipient where over half of the money goes. The rest of it will go to a few places we support every year, including St. Jude, Special Olympics and a few other places that might come to us with needs. Our kick off this year was called "Think Inside the Box" and we spoke about the need for Jewish people to support the Jewish community. The teachers learned about the Federation system and heard about the needs of Jews in Memphis, Israel and all over the world. They shared this information with their students, and each student made a box to take home to collect tzedakah and bring to the Federation's Super Sunday event. Each class also has a box they use each week to collect tzedakah."

The Memphis Jewish Federation's Annual Community Campaign provides support for our local Jewish Communal Agencies as well as in Israel and approximately 60 other countries around the world. In addition, MJF provides educational programs to raise consciousness of humanitarian concerns and advocacy for Israel.





Tzedakah, a Hebrew word commonly translated as charity, is based on a root meaning justice (tzedek). In Judaism, Tzedakah refers to the religious obligation to perform charity and philanthropic acts, which Judaism emphasizes, are important parts of living a spiritual life. The idea behind the boxes is to help everyone understand the importance of community-wide support and a collective responsibility.

Spokespeople also talked to the groups about The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), which delivers food boxes to needy people overseas. Throughout the year, Federation also sent fliers to educate groups about each recipient agency and included a list of its current needs.

MJF encourages participants, young and old, to collect tzedakah in their box from now until Super Sunday on Feb. 7, 2010, to be held at the Memphis JCC. Participants are asked to bring the money they have collected over the past six months and “allocate” their funds to two or more agencies of their choice.



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# PASSION FOR BASEBALL LIVES ON

BY MARK HAYDEN

**It started as a religious school project, proved to be an invaluable friend during his final days and now, for wife Esther Roberts, stands as a loving testament to her husband.**

As a hobbyist Richie Roberts collected thousands of baseball cards but his passion always remained the personal bond he established with scores of Jewish players from the major and minor leagues. His collection included a player from the All-American Girls Professional League and even a batboy.

"My husband was always a huge baseball fan – more of the sport rather than a particular team," said Esther. "He enjoyed the history of it, looking into it and going to the ballparks. He liked the old parks better than the new ones."

So it's no wonder that Roberts wanted to locate as many Jewish players as possible. He mailed out letters to dozens of former players – after almost six years a few responses are still trickling in.

"I got a letter two months ago, I opened the mailbox there was an envelope with my husband's handwriting on it. Now that's eerie," Esther said.

Roberts worked in the family auto business much of his life. He also taught at Beth Sholom's religious school and tutored once he returned to college. It was at the religious school, though, when his idea started to take root.

"He just wanted to foster some pride in their Jewish heritage in a subject that interested them," she said of his fifth graders.

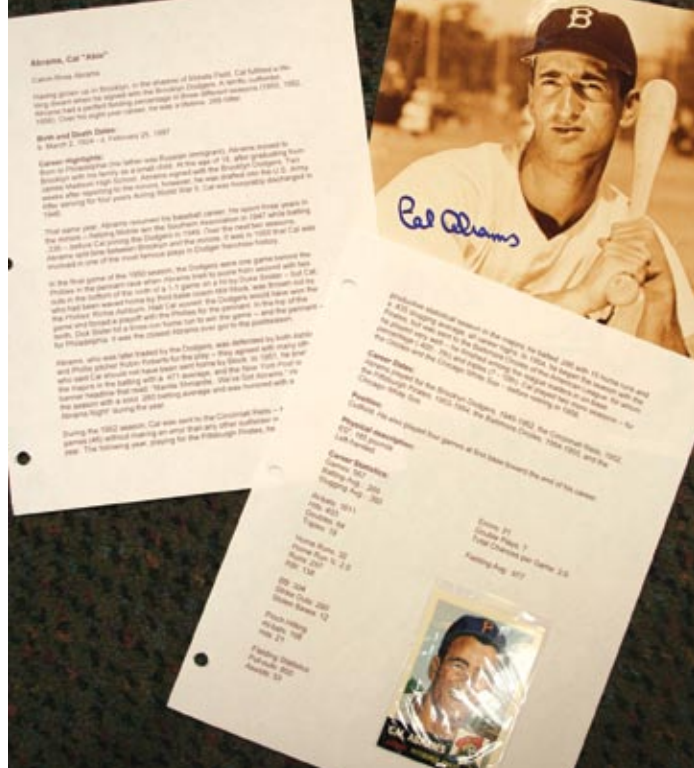
But as time went on, it became his mission. Soon after his cancer diagnosis in 2003, most of his time and energy went into his collection, which he aptly named Richie's Big Book of Jewish Major Leaguers.

"He was really into baseball, but once the season was over he had nothing to do," she laughed. "He would work on it when he was in the middle of chemo, when he was in the hospital or just when he was sitting around. I had no clue he was doing all this."

Now that she knows how extensive his collection is, she'd like to share it with others. "When I started to realize how many biographies he has and how many people responded to him, I just realized that this really needs to be seen. I would love to find a way to display it," said Esther.

Biographies include Sam Fishburn, who played infield for nine games for the 1919 St. Louis Cardinals; Jesse Baker, whose one-day cup-of-coffee for the 1915 Washington Senators ended when he got spiked by Ty Cobb; and to Syd Cohen who settled for a three-year career with the Washington Senators. His claim to fame – he was the final American League pitcher to strike out Babe Ruth.

Roberts began his research through SABR (Society for American Baseball Research) detailing yearly statistics for Jewish players that



include home runs and runs batted in to won-loss percentages and earned run averages.

Others who share space in his collection are Thelma Eisen, who played eight years in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League from 1944-1952, owner Walter Haas, who owned the Oakland A's from 1981-1995 and Sam Cantor, a Philadelphia Athletics bat boy from 1951-1953.

"A lot of these players included their baseball backgrounds," said Esther. "But they also include personal details, like their battles with cancer. It just became a very personal thing – not just plain on-the-field statistics."

"Richie loved baseball movies, too," she continued. "Field Of Dreams" and "The Natural" were favorites, but he had a lot of fun with "Bull Durham."

Richie and Esther did share some baseball memories together, too. They attended the final game at St. Louis' old Busch Stadium and had planned on attending the first game at the new ballpark, but illness kept him away. They lucked out in 2007; early in the year they reserved tickets for a Red Sox game at Fenway Park in Boston – little did they know it would turn out to be the division clincher.

Four years later those ties remain vivid for her. Thanks to Roberts and his catalog, our Jewish memories don't have to stop with superstars Sandy Koufax and Hank Greenberg. And for baseball fans that's like heaven.



Mark Hayden has written about Memphis sports for a variety of magazines. For story ideas please contact Mark at [marktn58@aol.com](mailto:marktn58@aol.com).





# DOLLARS AND SENSE

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## RETIREMENT ISSUES TO WATCH IN 2010

— Provided by Lawson Arney, Financial Advisor, Morgan Keegan —

**Recent years have seen a flurry of legislation impacting retirement plans. Here are some of the more significant changes that take effect in 2010.**

### **Nonspouse rollovers must be permitted**

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allowed, for the first time, nonspouse beneficiaries to make a direct rollover of inherited funds from an employer plan to an IRA. While the provision seemed fairly straightforward at the time, confusion arose as to whether plans were actually required to allow these rollovers. Congress addressed this in the Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008--beginning in 2010, employer plans must let nonspouse beneficiaries make a direct rollover to an IRA if they so choose. The new law also clarified that prior to 2010 employer plans could, but were not required to, allow the rollovers.

### **IRA conversions for (almost) everyone!**

Beginning in 2010, if you own a traditional IRA, you'll be able to convert it to a Roth IRA. The income limits and marital status requirements that previously applied to Roth conversions were repealed by the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 (TIPRA).

In addition, if you convert a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA in 2010, you'll be able to report half the income on your 2011 tax return and half on your 2012 return. Or, if it's to your benefit, you can instead elect to include the entire amount in income on your 2010 return. It's up to you.

If you inherit a traditional IRA from your spouse, and you elect to treat that IRA as your own, you'll also be able to convert the inherited IRA to a Roth IRA in 2010, regardless of your income or marital status. Nonspouse beneficiaries, however, still can't convert an inherited traditional IRA to a Roth.

Note that the income limits for contributing to a Roth IRA haven't changed for 2010. If your income is high enough, your ability to make regular contributions to a Roth IRA in 2010 may be limited, or even eliminated. The ability to convert a traditional IRA to a Roth without income limits, however, provides a potential workaround--you can make your annual contribution to a traditional IRA, and then immediately convert that traditional IRA to a Roth. You'll have to aggregate all your traditional IRAs when calculating the tax effect of the conversion, so speak with a financial professional first to make sure this strategy works for you.

### **Employer plan conversions for everyone!**

Beginning in 2008, employees and beneficiaries were permitted for the first time to essentially "convert" employer plan distributions by rolling the funds over to a Roth IRA. This was allowed, however, only if the payee satisfied the income and marital status limits that applied to traditional IRA conversions. The elimination of those restrictions by TIPRA, described above, also applies to distributions from employer plans--so beginning in 2010, anyone who receives an eligible distribution of non-Roth funds from an employer plan can roll those funds over to a Roth IRA, regardless of income or marital status. This applies even to nonspouse beneficiaries--but only if the transfer to the IRA is done in a direct rollover.

While the special 2010 deferral rule described earlier doesn't apply to rollovers from employer plans to Roth IRAs, there's another potential workaround--you can simply roll your employer plan distribution over first to a traditional IRA, and then convert that traditional IRA to a Roth in 2010. (Again, however, you'll need to aggregate all your traditional IRAs to determine the tax consequences of the conversion, so first make sure this strategy works for you.)

### **Here comes the DB(k) ...**

Beginning in 2010, "small employers" (those that generally employ at least 2 and no more than 500 employees) can adopt a DB(k) plan--a single plan that incorporates both a 401(k) plan and a defined benefit plan (including a cash balance plan). A single trust is used, but there is separate accounting for the defined benefit and 401(k) portions of the plan.

The plan must meet certain benefit, contribution, vesting, and nondiscrimination requirements. In return, the plan will be exempt from top-heavy rules and certain 401(k) testing.

Because the DB(k) plan is one plan instead of two, it is expected that the plan will be simpler to administer and less costly than maintaining two separate plans. This, in turn, may provide an incentive for employers to begin offering defined benefit plans to their employees in addition to 401(k) plans. Whether this proves to be the case, however, remains to be seen.

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*Lawson Arney is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and works as a financial advisor at Morgan Keegan with his uncle, Elkan Scheidt. Lawson and his team work with their clients to provide comprehensive custom solutions for their financial and investment needs.*



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# 2010 First Annual Jewish Scene Bar/Bat Mitzvah Essay Contest

**Jewish Scene Magazine** would like to congratulate every boy and girl who became a bar or bat mitzvah in the past 12 months. We'd especially like to thank those who participated in the 2010 First Annual Jewish Scene Bar/Bat Mitzvah Essay Contest "*What My Bar or Bat Mitzvah Means to Me*," and congratulate our winners!

The judges and I enjoyed reading about how your lives have been changed by this unique learning and growing experience. We know how busy and hectic life has been while you prepare(d) for your special day and realize that entering the contest was an additional responsibility. We hope the experience was well worth it.

I'd like to thank our judges, Sandy and Rae Jean Lichterman of The Villages, Fla.; and Judy Holzer, David Katz and Sharon Prager of Memphis.

We had some really great prizes! Please support the sponsors that made this contest possible.

We hope that after seeing these well-written and creative entries that others will be inspired to enter and our number of participants will continue to grow each year. So if you are becoming a bar or bat mitzvah in 2010, get out those thinking caps and start thinking about entering next year's contest.

Please enjoy reading the top three winning essays on the following pages. You may also view them online at [www.jewishscenemagazine.com](http://www.jewishscenemagazine.com).

## Winners .....

### 1st Place: Joshua Stern

(The Beach Club Resort, Gulf Shores, AL; \$250 Parmasters Gift Certificate)

### 2nd Place: Aaron Canales

(Chalet Village, Gatlinburg, TN; \$250 Parmasters Gift Certificate)

### 3rd Place: Hailey Zuvers

(The Arlington Hotel and Spa, Hot Springs, AR; \$250 Parmasters Gift Certificate)

**Jonah Roberts:** Parmasters Certificate for a 4-person round of golf  
**Avi Katz:** Photo session and (2) 8x10 prints: Norman Gilbert Photography, LLC  
**Hayley Shwer:** Basketball signed by University of Memphis Tigers Basketball Coach Josh Pastner  
**Jonah Baer:** Mid-20th Century commemorative half-dollar and \$20 cash

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## Bar Mitzvah Planning Timeline

### 2 years

- Set A Date With Your Synagogue

### At least 1 year

- Set A Budget
- Hire An Event Coordinator
- Determine Number Of Guests
- Book Hotel Block
- Book Party Site
- Book Entertainment (DJ)

### 6 months to 1 year

- Have Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child Start Noticing Likes/Dislikes At Other Events
- Book Photographer / Videographer
- Book Caterer
- Choose A Mitzvah Project
- Choose Colors And Themes
- Talk To Florists Or Centerpiece Designers
- Send Out Save-the-Date
- Book Any Novelty Party Vendors
- Search For Invitations
- Pull Photographs For Montage - Give To Vendor Making It
- Practice Torah / Haftarah Portions

### 3 to 4 months

- Work On Mitzvah Project
- Order Invitations
- Order Favors
- Order Sign-In Board
- Order Kipot
- Finalize Guest List With Addresses
- Envelopes To Calligrapher
- Choose Menus With Caterer
- Practice Torah / Haftarah Portions

### 2 months

- Work On Mitzvah Project
- Send Out Invitations
- See Floral Or Centerpiece Sample
- Choose Aliyot And Honors
- Design / Print Program
- Meet With DJ - Give Songlist - Discuss Games
- Practice Torah / Haftarah Portions

### 1 month

- Write Speeches
- Hotel Room Block Closes
- Work On Hospitality Bags For Out Of Town Guests
- Practice Torah / Haftarah Portions

### 2 weeks

- Finalize RSVP List
- Make Seating Arrangements
- Make Room Layout For Party
- Practice Torah / Haftarah Portions

### 1 week

- Final Numbers To Caterer
- Pay All Balances To All Vendors
- Practice Torah / Haftarah portions

The party details are necessary, but lets remember; it is the Bar/Bat Mitzvah that is the most important!

### Sheril Greenstein Shindigs by Sheril

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# Surviving Bar/Bat Mitzvah Planning with your Teenager!

By Sheril Greenstein

Photo: Norman Gilbert Photography, LLC

## You have your child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah date two years ahead... what now?

First step is to email your close friends and relatives to put the date in their blackberries and iPhones! Next step is to relax for a year.

One year ahead – Contact an event planner. An event planner is not only a professional to help guide you throughout the process but is a peacekeeper, arbitrator and your advocate between you and your teenager. After working with hordes of teens, I have found a neutral person can help make the planning much more peaceful. Your child may be an “adult” in the Jewish tradition, but at home, you are the boss!

Teens tend to “want” whatever they see, especially at the last event they attended! That is why, in the beginning of the planning process, I sit down with the parents (the CEOs) and discuss their budgets, needs, values and ideas. Only later do I sit with the teen and hear their ideas along with the parents. It's an opportunity to share likes and dislikes on every conceivable subject from colors and music to themes and favors. Following that discussion, all planning is between the planner and parents. Your child can then concentrate on his/her Torah and Haftarah portions, leading services, a Mitzvah Project and the most important milestone in their lives to date. No child has ever walked into their luncheon or evening celebration and been unhappy! It is a special weekend for the entire family!

Planners get to know all the vendors and can steer you to the one who is best for you and your venue. With fresh ideas, your event can be original and fitting for your child and family. A planner is a great sounding board who knows what will and will not work. They are skilled with details, floor plans, set-up and organizational details throughout, as well as on the day itself. This enables parents and family to be present with family and friends and not worry about a thing!

Sheril Greenstein is an event coordinator specializing in bar/bat mitzvahs, weddings and parties. Contact her at 901-335-3959 or email her at sherilbess@aol.com.

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**FIRST PLACE**



## “What Becoming a Bar Mitzvah Means to Me” By Joshua Stern

My decision to become a bar mitzvah was made by me alone. It wasn't a requirement or an expectation in my family. My Bar Mitzvah will be on April 17, 2009, at Temple Israel. I just began learning Hebrew this past January. To become a Bar Mitzvah has changed me by becoming closer with G-d and taking higher responsibilities in my actions and having a mitzvah project has made me more appreciative of how good my life is.

I have found comfort and happiness and have developed a strong connection with G-d. I caught myself singing my prayers and realized the joy inside of myself from the sound and spirit. I know that there is much preparation for this special occasion. The process has really been between me and myself.

Inside myself, I questioned if I could really prepare myself with all the learning ahead of me, especially since I just began learning Hebrew six months ago. I wondered if I had the commitment and discipline that it would take. So I began my study with one of my favorite teachers and mentors, Morah Sharon Knafo, not really knowing what was to become of it. After I learned my aliyah, I had no doubt in myself and officially committed myself. I grew from this process because I realized that I could stick with something, that my Judaism is important to me, and that my Jewish education is influencing me to go the extra mile within myself. I realized that this is a sign of maturity and respect for myself, as well as an obligation which the Torah commands.

A Bar Mitzvah project is something in which I help other people and show what Jewish people do for one another and for others who can't help themselves. For my bar mitzvah project I am going to have a book drive for the needy. To do good acts of kindness in my community makes me feel grown up and proud of myself in the real world.

As I study and learn to become bar mitzvah I see and feel the changes of maturity that are occurring around and within me. Making the decision to be a bar mitzvah was one of the best decisions I have made so far in my personal and spiritual Jewish life, and I am very proud of myself.

*Joshua was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and lived there until the age of 8. He attended Punahou School (where President Obama attended as well as Steve Case of AOL). He spent the next 3 ½ years in Burlington, VT, where he was an avid snowboarder. He has a 14-year-old sister, Caroline, who lives in Vermont with Josh's dad. Joshua is in the 7th grade at Bornblum Solomon Schechter School. He lives with his mom, Susan, and grandmother Barbara Danciger. Josh enjoys skateboarding, bowling, tennis and playing cards with his family.*



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## “What Becoming a Bar Mitzvah Means to Me” By Aaron Canales

My Bar Mitzvah was held October 17, 2009. That day was very meaningful to me, but the days leading up to it were just as important. I started my studying at Beth Sholom Synagogue a year before my Bar Mitzvah with the Cantor there. A week or two into my

studying, the Cantor left the synagogue, and I began studying with Rabbi Rubenstein. I became more connected to G-D throughout my studies. Prior to my studies, I was less concerned about His judgment, and I only prayed for my own selfish reasons. As my studies progressed, however, my understanding of Holy Scripture, and Hebrew in general, increased and deepened. This helped with my studies at the Jewish day school that I attend next door to the shul, Bornblum Solomon Shechter School. It was also at this Jewish school that I learned Hebrew, which allowed me to be familiar with the prayers, correct pronunciation of the words, and some background into the prayers I would be chanting soon. As my studying progressed, I began to feel more and more connected to G-D and to my synagogue. I prayed on Saturday morning more often and when I prayed, I sang with more purpose than before. School became more difficult, however, as my studies went on because the time for the Bar Mitzvah grew nearer and the material became harder. I knew that this would not become easier, so I persisted. This I did with all my studies, English and Hebrew. Now, when I look back at the chaotic situation, I see the whole thing was entirely worth the sacrifice.

Another important thing to me is the ritual objects that came with the Bar Mitzvah. The beautiful tallit which I received was a gift from my aunt, uncle and cousins. It was made and bought in Israel, making it all the more special to me. It matches my father's tallis, chiefly because I would like to follow in his path of religious truth. My aunt made a beautiful yad, Torah pointer, for me. It matches the ones she made for my cousins at the time of their B'nai Mitzvah. Eventually, all of my first cousins will have matching yadaim. The tefillin given to me also have significance. They were my great grandfather's, now deceased. These sacred objects will be with me for all of my years.

After the Bar or Bat Mitzvah, people ask you “Do you feel any different?” In reality, you do not feel any physical difference at all, unless you fell off the chair as they lifted you in the air. Rather my mental state has changed. I feel much closer to G-D, my shul, and my family and friends, especially the ones who mentored me and those who motivated me toward this special time in my life. I am grateful for my parents and for those close to me who have promoted my education, my quality of life, and this event. I also appreciate all of the sacrifices everyone has made for me. I have also made sacrifices of time and mental capacity for this time in my life. This accomplishment gives me an amazing sense of pride which almost nothing else can give. This feeling is true gratification. Through all the fanfare, I realized that what I have done is not just what my parents want, not what my family wants, but what I have wanted, what I have hoped for basically since I first learned about Bar or Bat Mitzvah. We all share this feeling after our Bar or Bat Mitzvot. That is truly what being a Bar or Bat Mitzvah means to me and to everyone.

*Aaron Canales (13) celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on Oct. 17, 2009, (29 Tishrei 5770) at Beth Sholom Synagogue. He is the son of Stacy and Art Canales and grandson of Marilyn and Herb Notowich, and Juanita and Arturo Canales (both of blessed memory). Aaron is an 8th grade student at Bornblum Solomon Schechter School and a member of the MJCC Blue Dolphin swim team. He has volunteered with the Special Olympics Memphis Wave Swim Team since September 2008.*



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THIRD PLACE



## “What Becoming a Bat Mitzvah Means to Me”

By Hailey Zuvers

When I had my bat mitzvah on June 22, 2009, in Israel at a little synagogue called Moreshet Israel, I had to think all about my responsibilities, actions, and rights after I became a bat mitzvah. My bat mitzvah meant a lot to me. My family converted when I was four. I had been looking forward to that day since my family converted. Learning about different holidays, prayers, and rituals interest me a lot. Now that I've had that wonderful experience, I can't wait to raise a Jewish family.

In Israel, I saw many historical sites. The ones that interested me the most were the ancient synagogues. All the history, rituals, and gatherings there fascinated me. The responsibilities I have to face include going to shul every Saturday and sometimes performing the service. I volunteer to help lead sometimes in Saturday morning services at Or Chadash, the synagogue I attend.

My bat mitzvah meant that I, in the Jewish Community, would become an adult. This privilege included fasting, help people cook, leading services, and trying to keep kosher. All of these may be difficult, but I enjoy every one of them (Except fasting).

My bat mitzvah meant that I am different from other kids my age who aren't Jewish. If they ask questions about Judaism, I can help answer them to the best of my abilities. Being different is sometimes not so good, but times it can really pay off. Being different, I think, is colorful.

My bat mitzvah meant a lot of things to me, but the most important is that I'm showing G-d that I really care and intend to stay Jewish. I also think that it is fun to read Torah. It's not one of the things you can do every day. My family helped me with my studies and Torah learning. My bat mitzvah was, and still is, the best experience of my life!

*Children are our greatest blessing. They are a combination of the rich traditions of the past and the bright promises of tomorrow. To the wonderful joy of all of her family, Hailey Elizabeth Zuvers, Esther Naomi, became a Bat Mizvah on June 22, 2009 at Beit Knesset Moreshet Yisrael synagogue in Jerusalem, Israel. The Zuvers attend Or Chadash Synagogue led by Cantor David Julian, Rabbi. Hailey has been attending Bornblum Solomon Schechter School for four years, as she and her mother moved to Memphis after their home was destroyed in Hurricane Katrina. Hailey enjoys playing with her pets, making arts and crafts, making jewelry, playing computer games, working out at the JCC, and learning to play the violin.*



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Rabbi Cantor David Skopp, z"l Evening of Tribute



## Beth Sholom



The Mens Club, in cooperation with the men of Or Chadash, built a wheelchair ramp for MIFA (Metropolitan Interfaith Association) in North Memphis. The neighborhood kids pitched in. Volunteers included Mitch Hodus, Len Lothstein, Ron Holzer, Saul Stein, Josh Sanderson, and Bob Walter.

## Beth Israel, Jackson, MS



Congregants Michael Steiner and Karen Lowe helped Sunday school children make Chanukah cards to send to Jewish troops. Michael's brother, Cory, a five year Marine from Yardley, PA., began The Menorah Project to show the troops stationed overseas that they are in our hearts and minds and that we appreciate all that they do to keep us safe at home and abroad. The cards were sent with candy, games and other items collected by the community.



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*"I choose to do a Bat Mitzvah Project so I could help other kids," says Leah. "It makes me feel great that I could help other people."*

Top: Julia and Zach Rubnitz help a local animal shelter by fostering puppies and kittens.

Middle: Rachel Elfezouaty helped raise money to benefit the Naivasha Children's Shelter in Naivasha, Kenya, East Africa

Bottom: Jonah Roberts collects eyeglasses for Unite for Sight.



# TEEN TZEDAKAH PROJECTS:

## THE NEXT GENERATION OF PHILANTHROPISTS AND VOLUNTEERS

BY SHOSHANA CENKER

To help change the world for the better, families are passing on to their children the values of Tikkun Olam, tzedakah and volunteering. A trend emerging from this idea is teens performing special Mitzvah (acts of loving kindness) projects for their Bar or Bat Mitzvahs.

Jonah Roberts, who celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in November at Anshei Sphard Beth El Emeth in Memphis, set his sights on an eyeglass project his mom had told him about.

"Unite for Sight refurbishes used cell phones to be used as "911" phones for seniors and victims of domestic violence," explains Jonah's mom, Jennifer. "I work with senior citizens at the JCC, and we've participated in an ongoing cell phone drive. So I thought, why not add gently used eyeglasses to our drive. As Jonah's Bar Mitzvah approached, he came on board too."

With eyeglasses being an item that so many people use, Jonah was able to clearly see how to go about collecting donations. "Most folks wear glasses of some kind, but how many spare pairs does one actually need?"

asks Jennifer. "If someone doesn't have eyeglasses to donate, they can make a monetary donation on the Web site ([www.uniteforsight.org](http://www.uniteforsight.org))."

The Roberts family got the word out through word of mouth, emails, Bornblum Solomon Schechter School's e-newsletter and the JCC Scene. "To date, we have collected 117 pairs of eyeglasses and many eyeglass cases," says Jonah. "Dropping off the donated items is easy, because the United States collection spot for Unite for Sight is in Memphis."

Jonah and his sister are both members of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis' B'nai Tzedek program, which was established for teens to create their own charitable bank accounts. "So far I've donated \$250 to my B'nai Tzedek fund," says Jonah. "My sister, Eliza, has been a member since her Bat Mitzvah in 2005 and has been on the B'nai Tzedek Board for several years."

Research shows that finding projects in which children are interested helps foster their philanthropic ideas for continued volunteering well beyond the teenage years.

Rachel Elfezouaty, who celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at Temple Israel (Memphis) in November, did just that by choosing a tzedakah project that was near and dear to her heart.

"My Mitzvah project was for the Naivasha Children's Shelter in Naivasha, Kenya, East Africa," says Rachel. "My family has a rose farm there, and I was born in Nairobi."

The shelter was created in hopes of giving destitute street boys a future away from drugs, crime, abuse and alcohol. Rachel's dad, Igal,



generously donated 10 acres for the shelter, which helped the organization take flight.

To raise funds for her cause, Rachel started a Facebook page and even visited the shelter with her family in June. "We worked at the shelter for a week," says Rachel. "My school, Lausanne, was very proactive in helping me with donations too."

"Rachel really enjoyed working at the shelter with the kids," says her mom, Melissa. "Even now, her friends continue to give her books that she sends with her dad on his trips back to Kenya."

In addition to choosing interesting volunteer opportunities, teaching children about giving back at a young age also encourages them to continue on the tzedakah path throughout their lives – as is the case with the Rubnitz family.

"Our family has been volunteering through Temple Israel's Mitzvah Days," says mom Karin. "So for Zach and Julia, doing a Mitzvah project for their B'nai Mitzvah came naturally. We encouraged them to have two components – a donation aspect and a service aspect."

For this family of pet lovers, the service component was a no-brainer. "We decided to help a local animal shelter by fostering puppies and kittens," says Karin. "Zach and Julia bottle feed the animals, teach them house training and socialization and help adopt the animals out."

"I feel like a mom when we foster these animals," says Julia proudly.

"Doing this Mitzvah makes me feel warm and accomplished," adds Zach.

For the donation component, the kids focused on organizations that promote self-sufficiency. "Zach chose Heifer International, an organization that provides training and animals to people in third world countries to help them become self-reliant. Animals like cows, chickens, goats and even bees and hives," says Karin. "Julia decided on a breastfeeding awareness program. Breastfeeding is free, people aren't wasting money on formula, and the mom is self-sufficient."

To the delight of Karin and her husband, Jeff, Zach and Julia celebrated their joint B'nai Mitzvah in August 2008 at Temple Israel (Memphis) when he was 13 and she was 12.

Both kids are also members of B'nai Tzedek. The group of kids meets regularly to discuss which charities should receive their monetary donations. "B'nai Tzedek is a great way to keep kids involved in giving back through their ongoing program," says Karin. "We are so proud of Zach and Julia. They are learning important life-long lessons to always contribute."

Another proud parent is Phyllis Greenberg, whose daughter, Leah, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah this past May. "It was a natural progression for her to choose the Memphis Family Shelter for her Mitzvah project," says Phyllis. "She has grown up volunteering there each year with the Temple Israel Boy Scout Troop 25 on Mitzvah Day."

The troop does a cookout for the shelter, so Leah wanted to do something different. "She came up with the idea of a game day and collected games with the help of Temple's religious school," explains Phyllis. "Her 7th grade class spent a Sunday at the shelter playing games with the children and sharing cookies and juice. Each child picked a game to keep for themselves and the rest were left for the general population at the shelter."

Not only did Leah donate games and her time to the shelter, she also raised funds by selling candy at the JCC. She went even one step further and donated the soccer ball centerpieces from her Bat Mitzvah to the JCC.

"I choose to do a Bat Mitzvah Project so I could help other kids," says Leah. "It makes me feel great that I could help other people."

*Shoshana Cenko was born and raised in Memphis, graduated from White Station High School in 1998 and from Indiana University in Bloomington in 2002 with a B.A. in Broadcast Journalism and a minor in Hebrew and Jewish Studies. She studied abroad at Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel. She is the Director of Communications at Greenfield Hebrew Academy. She and her husband Dovid, live in Atlanta, GA.*



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# SOUPER BOWL BUFFET

Serve up some hearty soups from your favorite NFL city, such as New England Clam Chowder, Cincinnati Chili, Matzo Ball Gumbo, Chicken Tortilla and Cheddar Ale.

These tasty recipes below both begin with a roux. Gumbo calls for a darker roux, the Chicken Tortilla Soup, a blond color. The lighter the color, the more thickening power it has.

By Gary Hawkins

## Matzo Ball Gumbo

Cook the matzo balls separately, then, add towards the end to absorb some of the flavor from the gumbo.

- |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3/4 Cup butter          | 1 Tbsp. Creole seasoning    |
| 3/4 Cup flour           | 1 tsp. cayenne              |
| 2 Cups onion, diced     | 1/4 Cup parsley, minced     |
| 1 Cup green bell, diced | 1/4 Cup green onions, diced |
| 1 Cup celery, diced     | 3 bay leaves                |
| 2 tsp. garlic, chopped  | 1 canned tomatoes, chopped  |
| 1 Tbsp. salt, kosher    | 8 Cups chicken stock, hot   |

1. Melt butter on medium high and add flour to make your roux. Cook 15 minutes, or until a dark rich color.
2. Add onion, bell pepper, celery and garlic. Cook another 10 minutes until soft.
3. Add hot chicken stock and bring to a soft boil, reduce heat.
4. Add salt, Creole and cayenne powder, then add chopped parsley, green onion, bay leaves and tomatoes.
5. Add a good quality smoked turkey and let simmer 20 minutes over low heat.
6. Stir in filé powder.

## Creole Matzo Balls

Use one package of matzo ball mix and prepare by the instructions on the box. Add some chopped parsley and Creole seasoning.

## Chicken Tortilla

- |                                    |                                |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 4Tbsp. butter                      | 2 Jalapenos, diced and seeded  |
| 4Tbsp. flour                       | 2Tbsp. garlic, chopped         |
| 1 lb. chicken cooked and shredded. | 1 Tbsp. cumin and chili powder |
| 2 Cups diced tomatoes              | 2Tbsp. lime juice              |
| 1 Cup diced onion                  | 2 Quarts chicken stock         |

1. Melt butter and flour to make a roux. Cook about 3-4 minutes.
2. Next add your stock, bring to a soft boil, then add remaining ingredients.
3. Garnish with fried tortilla strips, jack cheese and diced avocado.



- 1 Tbsp. filé powder
- 2 lbs. smoked turkey, chopped or diced



Gary Hawkins is the Executive Top Chef for The Fairview Inn & Sophia's Restaurant, featuring regional Southern Cuisine with a healthful flair. He graduated from The Memphis Culinary Academy among the top of his class in 1993 and spent the next 13 years learning his craft at some of Memphis' favorite restaurants. Sophia's Restaurant was voted among the Best New Restaurants in Jackson for 2006 as well as winning an Award for Best Presentation and Originality from The Chef's of Mississippi Awards Gala in 2007. Chef Hawkins resides in Madison, Ms. with his wife and daughter.



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Armagnac is typically distilled from wine made from as many as 10 different grape varieties, with Ugni Blanc, Baco 22A, Folle Blanche and Colombar being the primary ones. Distillation takes place just one time in a column still. This process initially produces a less-polished spirit than say in cognac, where double distillation in pot stills takes place. However, long aging in oak barrels softens the taste, imparts a rich brown color and causes the spirit to develop more complex flavors. The barrel aging process removes both alcohol and water by evaporation. This lost spirit is what is referred to as 'the angel's share.' When the alcohol reaches 40 percent by volume, the Armagnac can be transferred to large glass bottles known as Dame Jeanne, for storage for at least a year before bottling and sale. Once transferred from wood, the Armagnac does not age or develop further.

Armagnac, like cognac, is labeled with several different classifications, referring to the age of the constituent brandies contained therein. If blended and it contains spirits of differing

ages, the age on the bottle refers to the youngest component. A VS Armagnac is a mix of several Armagnacs that have seen at least two years of aging in wood. For VSOP, the aging is at least five years and for XO, at least six. Hors d'âge means the youngest component in the blend is at least 10 years old. Older and better Armagnacs tend to be sold as vintage with the bottles containing Armagnac from a single year so noted on the bottle or label.

Historically production has been limited, so recent demand fueled by the growing economies of Russia, China and other Asian countries has created competition for the best vintage Armagnacs and pushed up prices.

As with any "eau de vie," Armagnac should be stored vertically to avoid damaging the stopper with alcohol. Once opened, a bottle should stay drinkable for years – evaporation is the greatest danger.

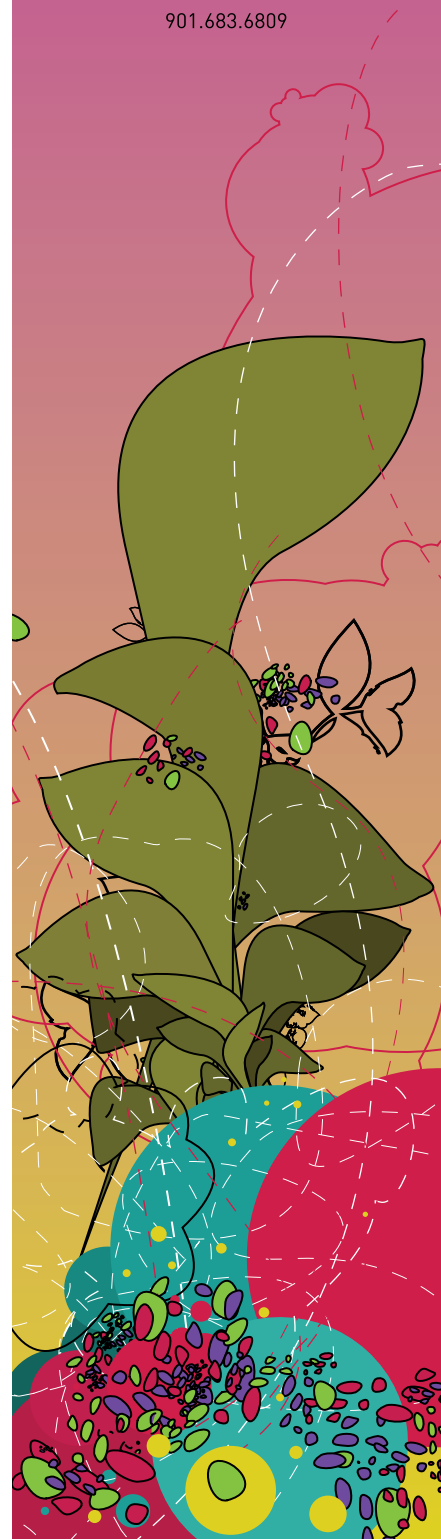
Great Wines & Spirits has an extensive selection of the finest vintage Armagnacs. They make a thoughtful, distinctive gift for any drinker of 'brown' distilled spirits.

*Gary Burhop is the owner of Great Wines & Spirits, 6150 Poplar Avenue in Regalia, Memphis, TN, 38119 (phone 901.682.1333) and is available to help with any wine or spirits question.*



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How many guests does the venue seat?

Can the venue also perform your ceremony?

Is there a charge for the ceremony?

What comes with the price quoted?

Does the venue furnish table and chairs in the rental quote?

How much time is included in the total rental?

What is the venue's alcohol policy?

Are there any catering restrictions?

Can you bring in your own caterer?

Is there a preferred list?

What is expected of you as far as clean up?

What type of parking does the venue have?

What type of security does the venue have?

What is the postponement/cancellation policy?

Photo: Norman Gilbert Photography, LLC

## EVENT PLANNING TIPS FROM THE PROS

Book your ceremony place and date first. Popular venues book quickly so book a year in advance.

Create a realistic guest count to help determine the size of the venue needed. Remember to count Mr. and Mrs. as two people in your invitation list. Include any family members and their siblings.

Plan around your Total Budget cost. Many venues require a sizable down payment that is non-refundable. Be realistic. Plan a budget for the whole wedding and reception before you pay deposits.

Once you have found the venue of your choice get a clear understanding of what comes with that quote.

Take time to read the contract and understand the venue's terms, deposit and guidelines. Understand them and ask questions before you place your deposit.

Secure your venue with a payment and contract before sending out your invitations. Do not rely on verbal confirmation.

Make sure the venue contract includes time for set-up, not just the event. It takes at least 2-3 hours to set up a well-decorated reception.

Check with the caterer or wedding planner for advice on how long they feel they need for setting up your event.

Know the venue's policy on food, beverages and wine. Some venues allow you to bring in your own alcohol but charge a corkage charge per bottle.

Be organized!! Have a reception time-line filled out before your special day. Make sure all persons involved in the reception have a copy of the time-line including the venue coordinator, the caterer, the D.J. or band, your mother and the groom's mother. The more organized you are the more relaxed you will feel. A little sit down time now will really pay off later.

Have a day to remember!!

Congratulations on your engagement!

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## BESHERT: True Stories of Connection

A Monthly Selection from the book written by Harry Samuels



# THE DINNER GUEST

By Leonard  
and Louise  
Newman

Among the twelve dinner guests seated at the table of friends in Memphis, Tennessee, were Sydney and Marilyn Pollack. After the meal they approached another guest, a young physician from Israel.

"Do you know anyone from Israel?" the young visitor inquired.

"Only two couples we met there last year," replied Sydney. "One couple who is related to our brother-in-law was very hospitable."

Marilyn added, "They held a party in our honor and invited some friends to meet us. They showed us photographs of their family and wedding pictures of their daughter, who had recently been married. This may sound strange," she declared, "but one of those people in that album resembled you."

"What were the names of your hosts?" asked the young man.

"Dalia and Rafi Meshullam," said Sydney. "Do you know them?"

"I married their daughter. The picture you saw was of me!"

Harry Samuels is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and has devoted many years to volunteerism in Memphis, Tennessee. He and his wife, Flora, have been married for 48 years and are the parents of Martin, William and the late David Samuels. Proceeds from the sale of his books go to charity.

"Beshert" and Mr. Samuels' newest book, "Crossroads: Chance or Destiny?" are available in Davis-Kidd Booksellers, Amazon.com and Iuniverse.com and the Memphis Jewish Community Center.



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# MEMPHIS TEEN SCENE

BY CARA GREENSTEIN

## B'nai B'rith Youth Organization

Memphis BBYO had a very busy and successful November with numerous citywide events that involved members and the greater community. Peres AZA worked throughout the fall to perform their annual Thanksgiving Harvest Hop play at the JCC. Okeon and Peres AZA competed in the annual Turkey Bowl football game encouraged by a large audience of cheerleaders, parents and others. Kriger BBG hosted their semi-formal, Harvest Moon, on Nov. 21 and River City BBG, their "Masquerade Ball" formal on Dec. 5!

The Fall Semester closed with the Winter Regional Convention in Knoxville, where chapters gave creative video presentations about their Stand Up Campaigns (an International initiative in which chapters choose a social action theme ranging from child advocacy to hunger and Israel) that is used throughout the year.

Memphis' recognition at the regional and international level for its outstanding BBYO programming and community service is definitely something to be proud of! Besides fantastic programming awards, chapters won: River City - Most Spirited BBG; Okeon - Most Spirited AZA; Kriger Best Sisterhood BBG. Cara Greenstein (River City) won the BBG Best Four-Year Member award, Eliza Roberts (River City) won the Spirit of Leah Marks Award and Logan Belz (Peres) won the Steven Utzlen Sportsmanship Award. Daniel Pearl BBG was also regionally recognized as an officially chartered chapter in Cotton States Region.

2010 Cotton States Region elections: Joey Notowich (Peres) Aleph Godol, president; Jacob Twersky (Peres) S'gan, vice president; Rebekah Durham (Kriger) BBG Gizborit, treasurer.

## Memphis Federation of Temple Youth

MeFTY's participation has dramatically flourished during these past few months! Thirty energetic members (40% of the overall teen delegation) traveled to Little Rock in November for Fall Conclave. Themed "Back to the Future," the weekend focused on the past, present and future of Reform Judaism. MeFTY won the programming award for their Hunger Banquet, which was planned by Ramie Mansberg during Temple Israel's "High School" Sunday School. The program, involving more than 75 students, focused on social action and education about the hunger problem in Memphis and the world. Regional Winter Kallah at URJ Henry S. Jacobs Camp in December further taught Jewish principles to the teens on stereotypes and the world of communication.

## B'nai Tzedek Organization

In November, the B'nai Tzedek Advisory Board collaborated for a Co-op grant review meeting in preparation for the Dec. 6, distribution meeting; individual teens in the 125-member organization had the opportunity to clearly voice opinions and conclude with the allocation of funds to various Memphis Jewish organizations.

Cara Greenstein is in the 12th grade at St. Mary's Episcopal School. She is president of her BBYO chapter, River City BBG, and sweetheart of Okeon AZA. Cara is also an advisory board member of B'nai Tzedek Philanthropy Organization, an active member of MeFTY, Temple Israel's youth group, and one of the first members of the Temple Israel Teen Team. She enjoys playing guitar, writing, eating sushi, and taking part in all of her high school youth group activities!



Admission profits from Okeon AZA's Turkey Bowl are sent to a charity of the chapter's choice.



**MeFTY** Members Brian Ringel, Sami Rosenthal, Cara Greenstein & Jack Fargotstein at NFTY Southern Fall Conclave's Neon Dance Party in Little Rock.

## Memphis Jewish High School



Brandi Eiseman, Nathan Light and Zev Friedman enjoying an art class.



## USY Fall Sub-Regional Convention at Camp Ramah Darom

Front: Nathan Light, Stephanie Nichol (USY Regional Director), Sharon Prager (Beth Shalom Synagogue Youth Activities Director) Back: Alex Gordon, Jack Dodson, Andrew Dodson. Beth Shalom Synagogue's United Synagogue Youth Group (USY) is open to all Jewish high school teens in the Memphis area. For more information contact Sharon Prager at 901.683.3591 x212 or Sharon@bsholom.org.



# Arts & Entertainment

by Jennifer Lefkowitz

## HOT CHALLA! MUSIC SCHPEAL



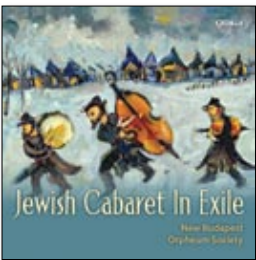
☆☆☆☆

### Joel Frahm & Bruce Katz

Project A

Anzic Records

'A' is for Aretha on the instrumental tribute to the queen of soul. (Aretha Franklin) Legendary jazz musicians, saxophonist Joel Frahm and master Hammond B3 player Bruce Katz are backed by esteemed players on horns, guitar, bass and drums. "Spirit In The Dark" is a "deeply moving song," says Katz, and one of the few songs Aretha has ever written. The quality jazz sounds on this album come from years of gigs and recordings with the heaviest musicians in R&B and jazz. The album is personal, collaborative and stylistically diverse. "I always wanted to make a down-home, bluesy, funk-filled, spirit-raised recording. I think this is it..." says Frahm. I think this is it, too.



☆☆☆☆

### Jewish Cabaret In Exile

New Budapest Orpheum Society

Cedille Records

Twenty-five songs from the New Budapest Orpheum Society – a University of Chicago-based troupe. The songs are a collection of cabaret music from the early to mid-20th century on love, lament, observational humor and social satire addressing exile. The album stems across a timeline from WWI and ends in the post WWII period. The cabaret songs are a collaboration between poets, composers and performers, with music of jazz, waltz, tango, modernism and traditional Jewish folk music from the central European hinterlands. The strong sense of turmoil, urgency and postwar attitude gives the album a true opera-like listening experience.



☆☆☆☆

### Headlights

Wildlife

Polyvinyl Records

This is the third album on Polyvinyl Records and "the most personal album to date," confirms the band. "Wildlife is an album haunted by the absence of those left and leaving, and the alienation that comes in the wake of loss," says guitarist and songwriter Tristen Wraight. Wildlife presents a heightened emotional depth, more apparent than on the sophomore release, *Some Racing, Some Stopping*. These indie rockers are all about shoe gaze, verse chorus structures and dreamy musical flourishes. The album is a mellow approach to friendships, lives and aspirations.



☆☆☆☆

### Pete Yorn & Scarlett Johansson

Breakup

Rhino Records

The "Lost In Translation" star can sing with Pete Yorn. The *Break Up* is a fluffy and catchy debut from the duo. "I was having a strange week of insomnia, and when I finally passed out, it came to me in a dream," said Yorn. "I suddenly felt like I really needed to make a record in the style of Serge Gainsbourg and Brigitte Bardot." The result is more like Sonny and Cher: "I've always loved Pete's voice and have been friends with him for quite some time. It sounded like an interesting little adventure," Johansson said. The *Breakup* is eight original tracks on 'acute emotional distress'—the aftermath of a stormy relationship. Say, there's that 2006 comedy drama, "The Break-Up..."

**NOW! This! Interview, exclusive online feature at [www.jewishscenemagazine.com](http://www.jewishscenemagazine.com)**

#### Rating Scale:

☆☆ Oy ☆☆☆ Not bad ☆☆☆☆ Good ☆☆☆☆☆ Mazel-Tov!!!

Email Jennifer ([musicforafilm@aol.com](mailto:musicforafilm@aol.com)) if you have questions or comments, or just want to spill your schpilkes.

Jennifer Lefkowitz is a native of Memphis and graduate of Academy of Art University, Motion Pictures and Television in San Francisco, CA. Jennifer is a nationally published media writer and member of the Writers Guild of America, West. Jennifer enjoys running, Conceptual Art, and outstanding coffee. "And a good thing," she says.

## AGENCIES, SCHOOLS, SYNAGOGUES

For more information, calendars or links to each organization, please visit [www.jewishscenemagazine.com](http://www.jewishscenemagazine.com). Please call the synagogue for times, which often change with the season.

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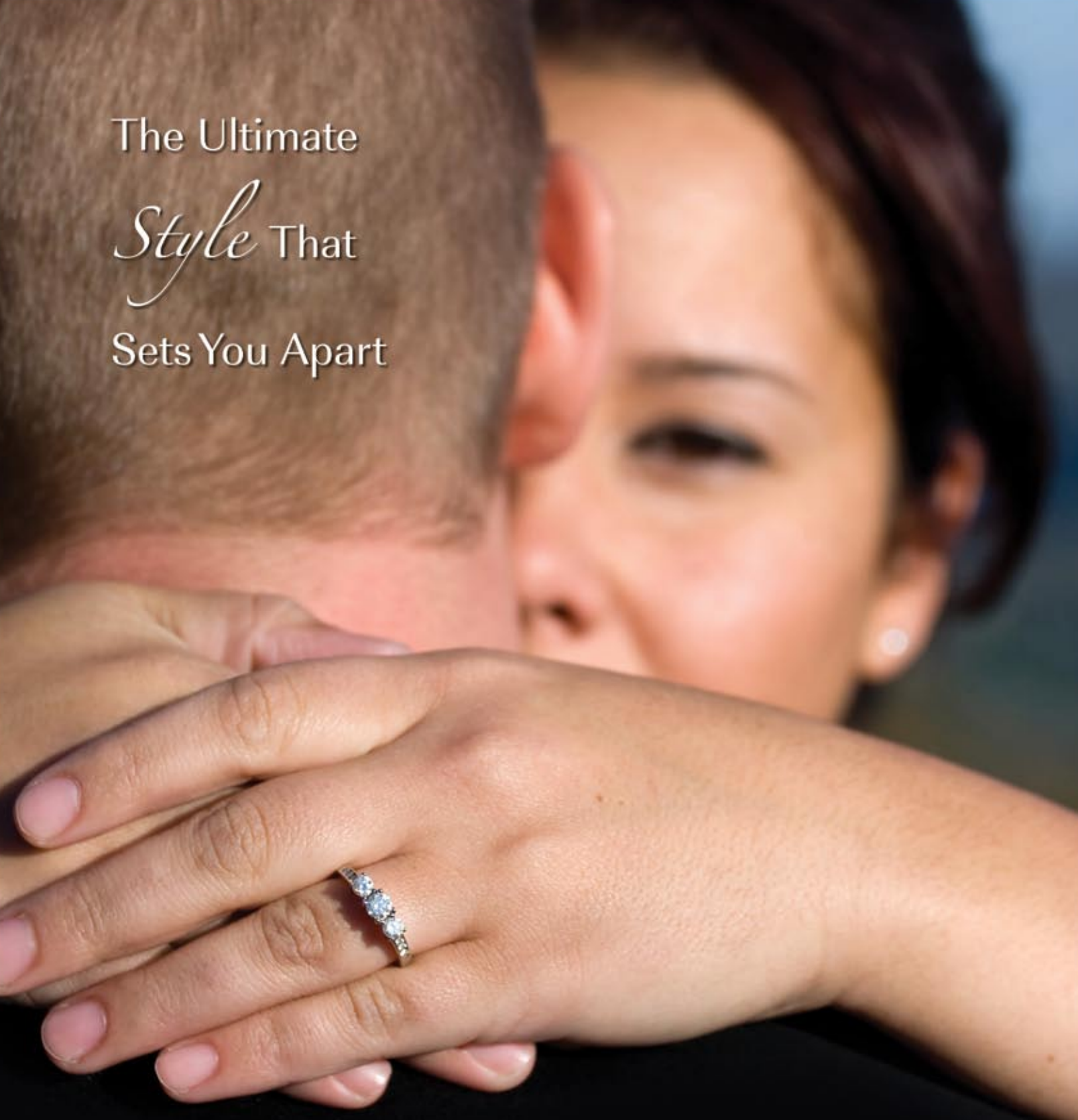
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