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Dear Readers,

As I write this editorial, the flowers are still blooming, the leaves are still turning red, yellow and orange, and no one has yet trick or treated. Yet winter, Chanukah, party planning and New Year's are right around the corner.

I believe this annual Tikkun Olam / Tzedakah issue is my favorite to produce. There are numerous "Repairing our World" and "Charitable Giving" projects that I hear about throughout the year – too many to stuff into one small issue of Jewish Scene. I love reading about them all. Some of my favorites are included this year; others will just have to wait until next year.

I am amazed how children become so emotionally involved in projects like the children at Horn Lake Middle School in Mississippi. Read about their amazing effort to raise 1.5 million pennies for a Holocaust remembrance project on page 12.

How about the Tikkun Olam committee from Congregation Beth Israel in Jackson, Miss., whose projects encourage positive change throughout the greater Jackson area on page 11? Or about the wonderful memorials honoring Pat Tanenbaum, of blessed memory, whose main objective in life was serving others on page 13?

I'd still love to hear about your congregation or community Tikkun Olam or Tzedakah projects. Who knows, it may even appear in next year's issue.

There is still time to take advantage of year-end giving tax breaks or to help your children decide upon a charity with which they might like to share some of their Chanukah gelt. If you need a suggestion, I am sure your local Jewish Federation or synagogue can direct your tzedakah giving to an organization that meets your family's objectives.

And....If you're feeling extra generous, Jewish Scene would appreciate you sending an annual \$18 to cover the cost of postage. 1703 Tamhaven Court, Cordova, TN 38016.

There is still time to advertise or send your Simcha Photos for the January/February Simcha Scene. Call 901.624.4896 for more information or check us out [www.jewishscenemagazine.com](http://www.jewishscenemagazine.com).

I wish you all a Happy Holidays!

See you in 2011.

Shalom,

Susan C. Nieman - Publisher/Editor

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Bari and Rick Eiseman's steep lawn at the end of a quiet cove.

# Rebuilding Piece by Piece

By Susan C. Nieman

Some home renovation projects are planned and budgeted over time, others are by necessity due to everyday wear and tear, but Bari and Rick Eiseman's renovation project was completely unexpected.

Imagine their surprise after being interrupted during a Memphis Tiger's basketball game by their alarm company and coming home to find a car in their kitchen.

"Luckily our friend, Lenny Feiler, had offered me a ticket to go to the game with Rick," said Bari, who would have otherwise been sitting in the kitchen. "When we drove up there was a fire truck, ambulance, tow truck and about 50 people standing around."





Looking down the cove at the Eiseman's home, you'd imagine a car stopping short at the bottom of their steep lawn. But police estimate the driver was going at least 80 miles an hour when he hit the hill and went airborne. The car went through the dining room window and stopped at the back of the kitchen.

Miraculously, the driver and passenger weren't seriously hurt, and Shana, the family's dog, who had been penned in an adjacent room, was only puzzled at the intrusion.

"They wouldn't even let us into the house until they had pulled the car out and checked for structural damage," said Bari. "The saddest part was seeing Rick's grandmother's dining room set smashed to pieces." The table, chairs, breakfront and china cabinet were built in the 1930s.

"My sisters-in-law, Tami and Beth, helped us go through the rubble looking for precious and sentimental things like the kiddush cups and the yads that Brad and Scott used at their Bar Mitzvahs," said Bari. "Everything we thought that someone would be able to restore, Rick pulled out to the porch."

The family was amazed at the things that were undamaged. "The breakfront with most of my china was fine but the china cabinet with all of my crystal was destroyed," explained Bari.

In the kitchen, the car broke through a doorway demolishing everything in its path. The stovetop was lying on the floor. Some of the kitchen chairs were broken, but the glass-top kitchen table, although shoved into the wall separating the kitchen and great room, never broke.

Putting their trust in professionals, the Eisemans got busy putting the pieces of their home back in order.

"I had no idea where to start, but I knew that I wanted Marc Belz to oversee the construction," said Bari. After consulting with Rick's cousin, Lynn Eisenstatt, an interior designer with 20 years experience, Bari knew things would work out more smoothly.

"I am totally uneducated when it comes to home renovation," said Bari. "I could never have done all of this without Lynn."

Since Lynn had been to so many family gatherings and parties at the Eiseman's home, she was familiar with their entertaining problem spots. "The destruction gave us an opportunity to add lighting and other changes while walls and ceilings were being repaired," said Lynn.

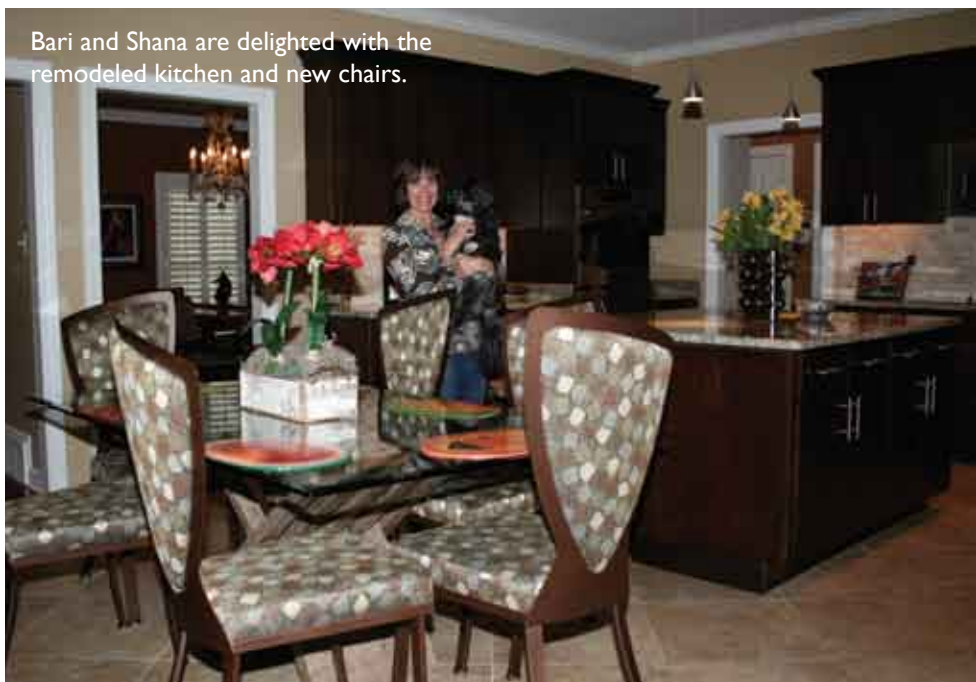
*{Continued on page 6 }*



1930s dining room set belonging to Rick's grandparents, Dr. Jacob and Bertha Plesofsky.



Restored table and breakfront in the Eiseman's renovated dining room.



Bari and Shana are delighted with the remodeled kitchen and new chairs.



## HOME & GARDEN

{Continued from page 5 }

Lynn reconfigured the kitchen to create a better flow for entertaining and everyday living. They moved the dining room door and removed the wall between the kitchen and great room. Lynn became the translator between the Eisemans and Kircher-Belz making sure all of the plans were understood by both parties.

Bari and Lynn shopped together to choose the color and style of tile, flooring, cabinets, countertops, rugs and accessories. "We were careful where we put the money," explained Lynn. "We tried to make smart decisions based on resale and what the mainstream Memphis resale market could take. Since Bari and Rick had been toying with the idea of downsizing, we wanted to make sure that we kept a neutral palette in permanent fixtures and reflect their unique style on items that they could take with them if they moved in a few years, like rugs, art and accessories."

Lynn also contacted Ann Mitchell, a furniture restoration professional, knowing that if anyone could restore the family's heirloom dining room furniture, it was Ann. "Ann appreciated the sentiment and realized the value of the 1930's modern pieces," said



Removing the kitchen wall allows guests to mingle more easily.

Lynn. They dug through the dumpster to find every splintered piece that Ann could use to rebuild the table and chairs. "When she couldn't use what was ruined, she ordered the wood to rebuild it."

Bari and Rick lived in the house throughout the whole process. "We tried to take a stressful situation and make it fun," said Lynn of their shopping extravaganzas. "We traded out fashion advice for interior design advice."

Amazingly, Marc's crews were finished in about three months. But it took six months

before the table and chairs were returned, along with the restored antique chandelier.

"It is amazing how Ann was able to restore what we originally thought was garbage," said Rick. "The furniture is beautiful and in better shape than it was before the accident; so is the house. Now that everything downstairs has been updated, we are staying in our home longer than we had planned. We love it, even more than before."

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# THE CASUAL ELEGANCE OF WINDSTAR CRUISES

By Debbie Rosenthal

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Debbie and David on the Wind Spirit, Athens to Venice

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So much to see, so little reason to wait.

Once you're ashore, you're eager to make the most of every single minute. Exotic locations. Intimate

ports of call. And more time to enjoy the things you love most about travel – and sailing.

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So much time, so much to do.

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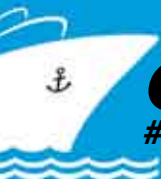
Or relax and surrender to uncannily attentive pampering and luxurious treatments in the Wind Spa. On Windstar you're as free as the wind to experience the smallest of wonders and the greatest of joys. Welcome to the privileged world of Windstar.

Dining on Windstar is all about choice. Tempting menus are available on all of the ships in The

Restaurant, as well as alfresco evening dining at Candles. (Wind Surf guests have the additional option of enjoying fresh seafood under the stars at Le Marche.) Dine at Taste, Wind Surf's alternative restaurant; the delicious new menu was inspired by the garden-fresh recipes of chef David Shalleck. And wine lovers of every stripe will enjoy the new Yachtmen's Discovery Wine Program. Explore the extensive menu of Wines by the Glass featuring outstanding selections from the Pacific Rim locales of California, Washington, Oregon, Australia and New Zealand. As always on Windstar, you'll dine with whomever you wish. Without pretense, jacket or tie.

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— Gary Burhop, Owner Great Wines & Spirits —

Each year we are asked for our recommendations for holiday and party wines. Here is my list of recommendations for wines that have the best high-quality, low-price ratios.

#### FEED THE RELATIONS

Red: La Vielle Ferme Rouge \$7.99

This Cotes du Ventoux wine from the owners of Chateau Beaucastel in Chateuneuf-du-Pape is a crowd pleaser and easy on the pocketbook. It is a blend of Grenache, Syrah and Cinsault. In typical Rhone Valley-style, it offers lots of fruit, a touch of spice and soft tannins, making it oh- so-easy to drink.

White: [Down Under] Chardonnay \$4.99

From the guy who created 'Two-buck Chuck' wines, [Down Under] is trying to eliminate the glut of Australian wines. Imported to the U.S. in ocean tankers and bottled in California, this Chardonnay is fresh and richly fruity with no oak. This is a cheap wine that does not taste cheap.

#### GOOD ENOUGH FOR A PARTY OF GOOD FRIENDS AND NOT-SO-GOOD FRIENDS, TOO

Red: R Collection 'Field Blend' Red from Raymond \$10.99

There are seven varietals that go into this blend, but the core is Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, Petite Sirah and Zinfandel. It is a well-balanced, full-bodied wine with tangy raspberry, cherry and blueberry flavors and a touch of spice on the finish.

White: Castoro Cellars Fume Blanc \$11.99

This is a grown-up's Sauvignon Blanc. It is a blend of wine, some of which is fermented in barrels and allowed to go through malolactic fermentation, and some wine that is fermented in stainless steel tanks and not allowed to go through malo. The result is a wine with juicy citrus flavors and just a hint of creaminess.

#### GOOD ENOUGH FOR FRIDAY OR SATURDAY NIGHT

Red: Monte Antico Toscano Red \$14.99

This wine is produced on the Tuscan estate owned by American Neil Empson. It is a blend of 85% Sangiovese, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot. The wine rests in a barrel for one year and an additional six months in the bottle before it is shipped. It is lush and full-bodied. Serve with any meat dish, cheese or pasta.

White: Louis Jadot Macon-Villages \$14.99

This 100% chardonnay is a classic white Burgundy at a fraction of the cost of a wine from the Cote d'Or. As only a white Burgundy does, this wine is light on the palate with flinty minerality. Any oak is extremely subtle. This is a match for seafood, cream sauces and soups.

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.



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# EJ5K BRINGS FAMILIES TOGETHER

By Isti Bardos

Spending time with family members and friends puts the spring in people's step. With the EJ5K at Temple Israel on Sunday, November 14, the Temple family and the Greater Memphis community can enjoy each other's company and walk as one!

"We're thrilled to once again host this phenomenal event," said EJ5K co-chair Marsha Underberg. "It has been a pleasure to be involved in the planning of this event, and I look forward to seeing throngs of Temple families participating and enjoying a part of their Sunday morning together. We are grateful to Barb Gelb, Temple's Director of Education, for holding abbreviated Sunday morning classes at the Wendy and Avron Fogelman Religious School to allow for the hundreds of children to participate with their families."

Now in its ninth year, the signature portion of the EJ5K is the five kilometer competitive run that starts and finishes at Temple. EJ5K also includes a separate, one-mile, non-competitive family fun walk.

"The family fun walk is, without question, a great opportunity for families to participate," said Beth Brown, EJ5K co-chair. "We appreciate the fact that there are large numbers of people who don't run but still want to join in the fun. It's great to see babies in strollers, toddlers, and kids of all ages walking with their parents, uncles, aunts, grandparents and great-grandparents."

Rabbi Adam Grossman added an important Jewish perspective as well. "The phrase *refuat hanefesh u'refuat haguf* emphasizes the healing of our souls and bodies. Judaism teaches the important role that physical health plays in our spiritual life. Being committed to Judaism's mission for overall wellness aids in our attempt to more deeply connect to Judaism. We can do that by participating in the EJ5K because it connects the great philanthropic work of Elias J. Goldsmith, of blessed memory, with the age-old Jewish idea of caring for our bodies and souls."



The EJ5K, which raises funds for Temple youth, starts at 10 a.m. on the Temple grounds, 1376 E. Massey Road. Day-of registration will be available beginning at 8:45am; however, participants are encouraged to register in advance (\$20 before Nov. 7; \$25 after) at [www.timemphis.org](http://www.timemphis.org).



# SOUTHERN CONGREGATION SERVES AS A POWERFUL VOICE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

By Jonathan and Dana Larkin

Beth Israel in Jackson, Miss., continues the congregation's history of community involvement through its Tikkun Olam committee activities during the year. The committee is the focus for social justice action and involvement. Committee activities and events reflect the varied backgrounds of congregational members along with the diversity of the Greater Jackson area.

The committee concentrated on three areas during the past year. Beth Israel is in northeast Jackson near McLeod Elementary, our neighborhood public school. We organized a collaborative effort with two neighboring churches to jointly adopt McLeod and partner with them during the year. The committee provides temple volunteers for literacy days, supports teachers with celebrations at year end, and is available to work with the principal and school staff to best assist with student achievement. To further integrate the congregation's involvement into the school's work, the chair of the Tikkun Olam committee is a member of the school's Site Based Council and is a key participant in making decisions towards the continued school improvement plan.

This summer the Tikkun Olam committee, along with the congregation, hosted a group of high school students from Philadelphia, Pa., participating in the Operation Understanding program. These students have included Jackson as a key stop in their summer program for many years. The congregation, through the work of the Tikkun Olam committee, organized home hospitality, entertainment and enrichment activities for them.

The student group consisted of African American and Jewish students from diverse economic backgrounds in the greater Philadelphia area who shared a common interest in addressing racial and religious divisions in the community. Their journey took them from their homes to New York, Washington, DC, and a number of Southern cities focusing on areas of interest to both the African American and Jewish communities.

While in Jackson the congregation convened a reunion of the Panel of American Women, an important group of activist women of different faiths and races who worked together during the Civil Rights era to promote racial harmony and cooperation. They shared their stories with the students who, in turn, shared stories of their current lives in and around Philadelphia. It was an opportunity to learn strategies and history, while discovering common ground between generations, religions and races.

Our annual Tikkun Olam Shabbat program, which takes place in February or March, varies in focus and scope, but always relates directly to social justice issues. One program featured Rabbi David Saperstein from the Religious Action Center. Another year we heard from former Mississippi Governor William Winter, well known in the state for his active role in improving race relations. A Shabbat program honoring the social justice work individual congregants participated in within the greater community outside of the Tikkun Olam committee's work was a very successful way to encourage the entire congregation to participate in our work. This past year, representatives from McLeod, The Community Stewpot, and other organizations provided a short presentation during Shabbat services on the work they do in the general community and how the congregation continues to support them through the Tikkun Olam committee's involvement. Each year the program covers a different aspect of social justice and helps motivate the congregation to move outside the temple and expand our work community wide.

Although Beth Israel is a small congregation, its history of involvement and support for social justice makes it a powerful voice for positive change in the greater Jackson community.

McLeod Elementary School



Operation Understanding Group



Panel of American Woman







Teachers Melissa Swartz and Susan Powell and their students had a booth at the Horn Lake Fall Festival to raise awareness and collect pennies.

# "Unknown Child" Penny Project Raises Holocaust Awareness

By Susan C. Nieman

How long can it take to collect 1.5 million pennies? That is what Horn Lake Middle School (HLMS) students plan to find out while learning about the 1,500,000 children who perished in the Holocaust during World War II.

"This project means a lot to me," said HLMS Student Council Vice President Nikhil Patel. "Until last year, I had no idea the word Holocaust existed. Every day I have a growing interest for the sad, depressing event. Words cannot explain how I feel. I hope we raise awareness about this project because there are still people out there who don't know what the Holocaust means."

Middle School teachers Melissa Swartz and Susan Powell created the project to "simply make our students aware of such a terrible part of history," said Melissa. "Through that process, we watched our students drench themselves in this topic. They could not learn enough! They became emotionally involved as we read stories, watched videos and listened to speakers. Their response was, in a word, moving."

"The project has been such a blessing," said Susan. "Last school year, two Holocaust survivors, Max Notowitz and Paula Kellman, spoke to our students. Some of our students also attended the Yom HaShoah Holocaust Commemoration last spring. They have really embraced this subject and were excited to do something to help others."

"This is more than just a project to me in so many ways," said HLMS Student Council President Alex Santana. "When you see a small child, you see someone who is innocent. They haven't hated anyone or [done] bad things to anyone. Then you find out that one man wiped out 1.5 million children just because of how they looked or because of their religion. That makes me feel so mad in so many ways."

Melissa and Susan chose this project because it felt more attainable for the students. "We also wanted to focus on the innocent children," said Melissa. "Many of them the same age as our students. That fact alone was a sobering revelation for them."

Through writing lots of letters, penny competitions, festivals, and word of mouth, the students currently have more than 600,000 pennies. "We would love to reach our goal this school year (2010-2011) so that the founding students can be a part of the completion," said Melissa.

"While many other groups have collected pennies for similar projects, I feel that ours is different because we have no desire to use

the money for its financial value," she continued. "We are going to create a sculpture, dedicated to the memory of those poor children who were never given a chance. It is our hope that this project will receive national, or even international attention, because as a teacher at HLMS, I want everyone to know how special our students are."

When Melissa talked to her husband, Michael, a professional artist about the project, he wasn't quite sure what to make of it. "As a Jew, I thought, this is wonderful, a community of different faiths uniting to commemorate such a horrible loss of life. But what do they plan on doing with seven tons of pennies?"

"My whole life I have been aware of the tragedy of the Holocaust," he continued. "It has been a constant reminder that we, as a people of the Jewish faith, should pass along the remembrance of the lives lost along the message of Never Again. There have been so many donations, monuments, gifts, museums and volunteer efforts for this cause over the years that the world hopefully will, never forget. But what could we do? What could I do with a truckload of 1.5 million pennies?"

"You build something," said Michael. "As an artist, I wondered what would best represent those children that never had a chance. How could I get the message across that they are, indeed, not forgotten? This was not going to be an ordinary piece of art for a client. This, I thought, is about commemorating life. After some deep soul searching, the answer was obvious. Use the pennies to sculpt the children themselves, celebrating the very lives they should have had."

As the project begins, Michael looks forward to working closely with HLMS students, the Christian Friends of Israel and those that have so graciously donated their time and pennies to so noble a cause. "Pennies from Heaven? Perhaps," he wonders. "Pennies for Heaven? I think so. Regardless, I suppose G-d does work in mysterious ways, bringing a community of different faiths together to remember the most precious things in our lives... the children."

To learn more about the Unknown Child Penny Project, to keep up with the project or to donate, visit [www.unknownchild.com](http://www.unknownchild.com) or [www.facebook.com/theunknownchild](http://www.facebook.com/theunknownchild). Pennies can be brought to Horn Lake Middle School, 6125 Hurt Road, Horn Lake, MS 38637 or you can call 662.393.7443.



Pat with Jerry, her husband  
of 53 years



## Pat Tanenbaum, Friend to All By Susan C. Nieman

Pat Tanenbaum was a natural, lifelong leader respected and admired by everyone she knew. As a Jewish activist, she not only served the communities in which she lived, but also national Jewish organizations around the world.

When Pat died more than two years ago, her loss was felt and her named honored by those she loved and those she served. She was especially devoted to the Latin American Jewish communities of Mexico, Central America, and the Island Nations of the Caribbean Basin and visited them often through her work with the Union of Jewish Congregations of Latin America (UJCL). Pat was also chairman of the Yad b'Yad Task Force of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) for over five years.

On Jan. 30, 2010, at a gala banquet at the Intercontinental Hotel in Panama City, Panama, the UJCL's founding President, Marvin Sossin of Costa Rica announced the creation of a Foundation honoring the life work and memory of their dear friend Pat Tanenbaum z"l. The fund was established to send the children of UJCL members to youth camps and to Israel.

"My brother, Jay, and I thank G-d for our mother's DNA and her life lessons to us," said Al Tanenbaum. "We are certain Mom was put here, among us, to show people how to treat each other. That was her purpose, and that she did with great success, great effort and tremendous grace. She never expected much in return, and she could not have imagined that so many would love her."

UJCL held an essay contest for young

adults 18-30 years of age based on a topic chosen by the Tanenbaum family to honor those, who like their mother, helped others: "People around the world share the common language of love and compassion. Pat Tanenbaum represented the very best example of excellence that we have to offer. She was willing to share, and gently but persistently influence those around her, thereby demonstrating a commitment to Tikkun Olam. She believed that people shared the desire to "do good deeds," by building within their own communities, their homes, and their places of worship. She led by example and others followed. She inspired

all those who knew and worked with her. Her deeds and friends encircle the globe."

Pat, who never said "no" to any request and always had a loving smile for everyone, was the first women president in the 130-year history of Congregation House of Israel in Hot Springs, Ark. The congregation dedicated, in her memory, a new pavilion adjacent to its parking lot as well as a small garden.

"Of course, our mother would enjoy nothing more than that we all now fully live her life lesson," said Al. "Support each other. Be a friend to many. Help the less fortunate. Take a personal stake in relationships. And give everyone the gift of a smile."



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# YEAR-END INVESTMENT PLANNING IS MORE CHALLENGING IN 2010

Provided by Lawson Arney, Financial Advisor, Morgan Keegan

If you don't normally review your investments at the end of each year, 2010 might be a good time to start. And if year-end investment planning is already part of your routine, you might want to pay special attention this year. Why? Because significant changes in the tax code that are scheduled to go into effect in 2011 could substantially alter the taxation of your portfolio next year. That could in turn affect your investment strategy. And since many expect additional changes that will affect next year's tax landscape, it's even more important than usual to think about whether your portfolio needs fine-tuning.

## Begin planning before December 31

If you plan to sell a profitable investment at some point, you'll want to assess whether you should sell before the end of the year. That's especially true if you're in a low tax bracket or you have investments that have appreciated substantially. Investors in the 10% and 15% tax brackets currently owe no capital gains taxes on long-term capital gains. That is scheduled to change in 2011, when the long-term capital gains rate at this level is scheduled to increase from 0 to 10%. If you're in the 25% bracket or higher this year, you'll also need to think about this issue, though the scheduled increase from the current 15% to 20% isn't quite as dramatic as the leap from 0 to 10% that those in the lower income brackets will face. (Special, slightly lower rates for investments held for more than five years will apply beginning in 2011.)

Also, the tax brackets themselves are scheduled to change next year (see sidebar). If you plan to harvest a tax loss and think you may be in a higher tax bracket next year, it might make sense to first determine whether the loss would be more valuable later. Though tax considerations shouldn't be the sole factor in a decision to buy or sell, they shouldn't be ignored, either—especially this year.

Complicating your decisions, of course, is the uncertainty about whether the scheduled changes will undergo further revision before the end of the year. One possibility is to have a game plan based on the current scenario, and adjust it as warranted. It may seem like a burden, but for those in higher tax brackets, the extra effort could pay off come tax time.

## Think about your overall tax burden

If you converted an IRA to a Roth IRA this year or are thinking about doing so before the end of the year, you may need to take that into account when deciding whether to book capital gains in 2010. That's because you're able to report the taxable ordinary income from the conversion on either your 2010 return or in the 2011 and 2012 tax years (half of the income in each year). Your decision about when you will account for the taxable income that results from a Roth conversion may affect your decision about the timing of investment sales, or vice versa. If you choose to report the income resulting from your Roth conversion on your 2010 return, consider whether it makes sense to realize sizable capital gains this year. If you feel it's to your advantage to sell assets and pay the capital gains tax in 2010, you may want to consider opting to postpone payment of the taxes owed on the Roth conversion until 2011 and 2012. That would mean the total taxes owed would be spread over three years rather than one (though as noted above, your future tax bracket also should be factored into the calculation).

## Consider the tax status of dividends

Qualifying dividends are scheduled once again to be taxed next year as ordinary income, as they were before 2003, rather than at long-term capital gains rates, which are typically lower. If you'll be in the 15% tax bracket, that represents an increase of 15%. And if you'll be in the 28% tax bracket or higher next year, the change in the tax status of dividend

*Federal tax brackets for ordinary income are scheduled to change in 2011 as follows:*

10% becomes 15%	28% becomes 31%
15% remains 15%	33% becomes 36%
25% becomes 28%	35% becomes 39.6%

payments could also have an impact; the higher your tax bracket in 2011, the greater the impact.

## Don't forget the usual suspects

In addition to staying on top of the tax issues that complicate this year's investment planning efforts, there are some tasks that are useful every year. A portfolio review can tell you whether it's time to adjust your holdings to maintain an appropriate asset allocation. Also, if you have losses, you may be able to harvest those losing positions to offset some or all of any capital gains. Be sure to consider how long you've owned the asset; assets held a year or less generate short-term capital gains and are taxed as ordinary income.

If you're selling an investment but intend to repurchase it later, be careful not to buy within 30 days before or after a sale of the same security. Doing so would constitute a violation of the "wash sale" rule, and the tax loss would be disallowed. Finally, if you're considering the purchase of a mutual fund outside of a tax-advantaged account, find out when the fund will distribute dividends or capital gains, and consider postponing action until after that date to avoid owing tax on that distribution.

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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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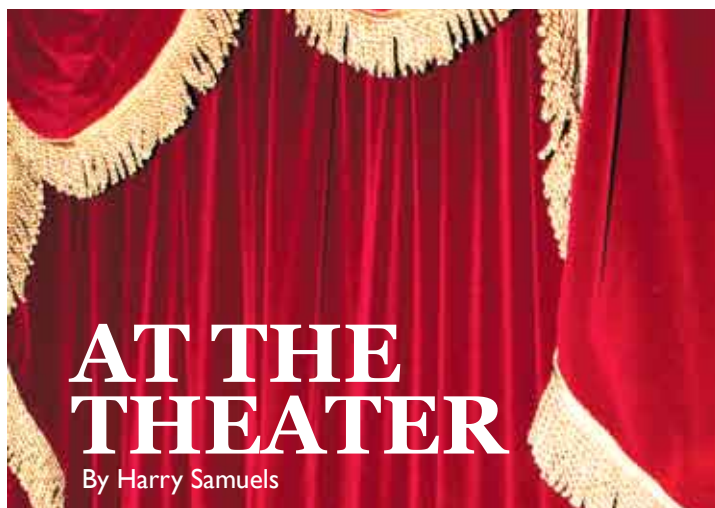
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## BESHERT: True Stories of Connection

A Monthly Selection from the book written by Harry Samuels



It is not so remarkable finding connections with Jewish people in America, especially if one is involved in Jewish charitable organizations, but this one really surprised me.

Waiting in line to enter a theater, my wife and I were introduced to a middle-aged African-American lady. After I asked where she was from (my usual opening upon meeting someone), she replied, "Southern Pennsylvania." I felt sure that my recent streak of making connections was about to end since I knew no one from southern Pennsylvania. During our conversation, the lady alluded to college. When she mentioned "Harvard Law School," I asked if she had ever met my cousin Sarah Sheon who had attended Harvard Law at about that same time.

"Sarah was a year or two ahead of me, but I did know her," she said. "As a matter of fact, I recently saw her deliver some remarks on C-Span." (Sarah Sheon Gerecke has devoted much of her professional life helping to develop low-income housing for the needy of New York City. She is currently the chief operating officer for the Neighborhood Housing Services there.)

When I asked her where she was practicing law, the lady said it was with a firm in Atlanta, Georgia. "Have you ever bumped into my cousin Hersh Bloom, an attorney there? He is related on the other side of my family."

When I mentioned his name, she was very surprised, stating, "He was a former classmate at Harvard and a good friend."

During the performance of the play, I sat next to her and asked if she were ever involved with Leadership Atlanta. When she said that she was a member of that fine group, I asked if she had ever attended the wonderful racial-sensitivity programs that were given to each class.

"Yes, and I will never forget the late Dr. Charles King who directed them. He was also the head of the Urban Crisis Center in Atlanta," she replied. She was surprised to learn that Dr. King and I had been very close. I mentioned that I had offered to accompany him to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center at the time of his final illness. He and our son had a special attachment to each other and were great friends. He had given David a book, *Fire In My Bones*, that he had written and inscribed. David insisted it remain beside him during his final illness. The people nearby who observed our conversation were astounded. They began to applaud as they witnessed two apparently unrelated individuals discovering three people in different cities with whom they were both connected.

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 49 years and are the parents of Martin, William and the late David Samuels. Proceeds from the sale of his books go to charity.



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# SPORTS *BY THE* HOUR

By Mark Hayden

For Memphian Keith Parker hosting his own talk show for more than a year now hasn't changed his life much – it has made him realize, though, how quickly time can pass us by. And like a kid in a candy store, he's found that there's never enough time. That is, especially regarding his daily show, mind you.

That's why the 48-year-old husband of Allison and father of four, is so torn when it comes to discussing his program. He loves hosting the show – it's a dream come true. But how to fit a whole cycle's worth of sports news into one hour is...well that's nearly impossible.

Actually his hour show isn't technically an hour. Once the commercials are factored in, it's whittled down to about 48 minutes. Sporting News Radio then takes four minutes with their national headlines at the top of the hour; so Parker and his co-host don't have a lot of time to spare.

You might say that's barely enough time to talk about last night's Tiger basketball win or a Grizzlies last-minute heart thumper.

"It's hard to get a good flow going when you get back from a commercial break and you're moving to a new subject," said Keith. "So far that's been the hardest part of the show."

With Tigers, Grizzlies and SEC news aplenty from August to June, it's pretty obvious that there's enough material for his show. "July can be a little slow," he admits.

But to fit everything into that one-hour broadcast remains one of the trickiest parts of his job. Most shows on WHBQ last two hours, a challenge Parker realizes he's not ready to tackle.

"I need to have a decent amount of sponsors lined up before I can really do something like that," he said. "In my case, I'm not quite there yet. I think once we get the sponsors lined up the management might agree to going to a two-hour show."

And that would be just dandy with him. Some national shows even stretch their talk shows to three hours. So some would say there's no limit to sports talk.

"My passion is UT (University of Tennessee) sports," said Keith. "I've got so many fond memories as a child of seeing UT games and sporting events with my father, and

Keith, Allison and their four children.



I think that helped cultivate my love of sports. I have special memories of going to Knoxville on the weekends with my dad as a child, and now, to be able to take my kids is neat."

Those memories and sports knowledge help prepare him for his show, but he still commits about three hours of show preparation. He also checks the Internet the next morning for any late-breaking news.

"There are close to 20 or 25 Web sites I like to go to," explained Keith. "It helps me to better form the show."

Weekends tend to be the most fun part of the week for Keith, but not so much for Allison. "Weekends are fun because there's a passion for college football down here that I think is unmatched," he said. "I watch so many of the games. To the chagrin of my wife I've always watched them; now I kid her that I'm watching the games for my job."

He never imagined that watching those games would lead to a radio job. But once it happened, it occurred rather matter-of-factly. He and various people at WHBQ went to management to nominate him for a new hosting slot. They were receptive then and

he's held the 1 p.m. job ever since.

So how can a show that airs at 1:00 in the afternoon keep its edge? "You can't really reinvent the wheel," he said. "You always try to do something different to attract the audience. We try to get guests that are relevant and get our listeners involved, too. We try to stay topical and hope we're entertaining."

And while he's having the time of his life hosting his own show, he marvels at those who continue to do a daily show, day after day, year after year. "You kind of think this is easy and it might be, but for the George Lapedes' of the world who have done this for 30 some-odd years it's just amazing," said Keith. "I have a better appreciation for him."

With each day Parker is finding more confidence in himself. "I'm not there yet," he said. "It's a work in progress. But, I'll get there."

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).



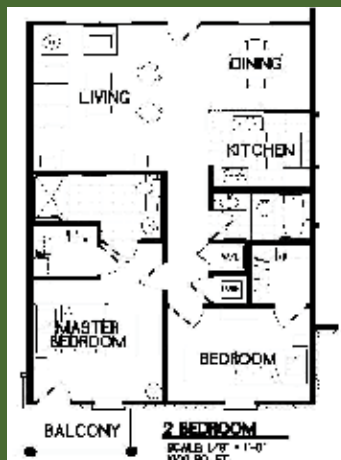




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## Galeet Dardashti's: *The Naming*

Galeet Dardashti's first full-length album, *The Naming*, is a mix of Persian classical and Middle-Eastern Jewish music highlighting Biblical women in Judaism. The album consists of six eclectic, illuminating tracks while lyrically binding texts are sung in Hebrew from the Torah, Talmud and Midrash. *The Naming* is supported by a grant from the Six Points Fellowship for Emerging Jewish Artists; a partnership of Avoda Arts, JDub Records, and the Foundation for Jewish Culture; and made possible by UJA-Federation of New York.

Inspired by the Persian Jewish liturgical tradition Dardashti learned from her father, Hazzan Farid Dardashti, songs are musically influenced by the Persian classicalism of Dardashti's grandfather, Yona Dardashti.

The combination of sound resonates into a Persian santur (hammered dulcimer) and Arabic qanun (zither) as well as in the Middle Eastern cantorial and





Persian classical vocal techniques Dardashti implicates to tell her stories. She says, "In 'Vashti,' for example, I open with passages from the Book of Esther. I chant that in the Persian style."

*The Naming* is reflective of Dardashti's personal transition into motherhood and 'the naming' of her own child. "I don't know if I would have done this project if I hadn't been pregnant," Dardashti says. "I'd never written about gender or gone to women's groups, but so much of what is mentioned about women in the Torah is about giving birth, or not giving birth, and not being able to. And suddenly, I was linked to those stories, that identity as a woman with a child."

Biblical women's names are title tracks. The album insert explains the signature track, "The Naming," "...According to custom, however, the naming of children was the woman's right..."

In the United States, Dardashti grew up singing and performing in a family band. The talented artist says her teenage years were, "sort of like the 'Partridge Family' but without the van." Dardashti was separated from her Iranian and Persian heritage by language and custom. "At that point, I thought my grandfather's music was beautiful, but it was definitely something foreign, different," Dardashti remembers. Both Jews and Muslims admired her grandfather, an acclaimed singer and cantor in Tehran, Iran. "In Iran, my grandfather was huge. He was one of the biggest singers in his day. He would sing at the Shah's palace. He had a weekly radio show, back when there was no TV, so everybody would listen every week. They knew he was Jewish," Dardashti says. Her father followed with his own TV show, becoming a teen icon, before eventually leaving for the United States to attend college, to become an honored cantor.

Dardashti's grandfather stopped performing locally in the 1960s after establishing his life in Israel. "The émigrés were less interested in keeping their Persian identity than in becoming Israeli, which was becoming more and more Western and less accepting of Middle Eastern culture," she says. "When I understood that, I was stunned."

Dardashti learned classical singing from Persian Jewish musicians in Israel to reconnect with her roots, including taqir, a glottal ornament in the intro to "Michal." "I remember that they really opened things up for me," she says.

*The Naming* is the resulting soundscape of Dardashti's heritage and culture; biblical content creates a unique listening experience for a global audience.

"Most people don't realize there was this shared culture or that there was such a thing as a Persian or Arab Jew," she says. "I am excited to share this music with people so that we can break these boundaries, these stereotypes of what Jewish is, what Iranian is."

Jennifer Lefkowitz is a native of Memphis, TN and graduate of Academy of Art University, Motion Pictures and Television, Screenwriting in San Francisco, CA.



## Interactive Children's Show Delights Parents

By Susan C. Nieman

Get ready for a funny, fast-paced performance by "Robbo," Rob Zelonky when he takes to the Bartlett Performing Arts and Conference Center stage on Dec. 4, 2010.

Although the show is geared for children preschool through third grade, parents get a kick out of Robbo's interactive performance. "It is a very visual and hands-on show," said Rob.

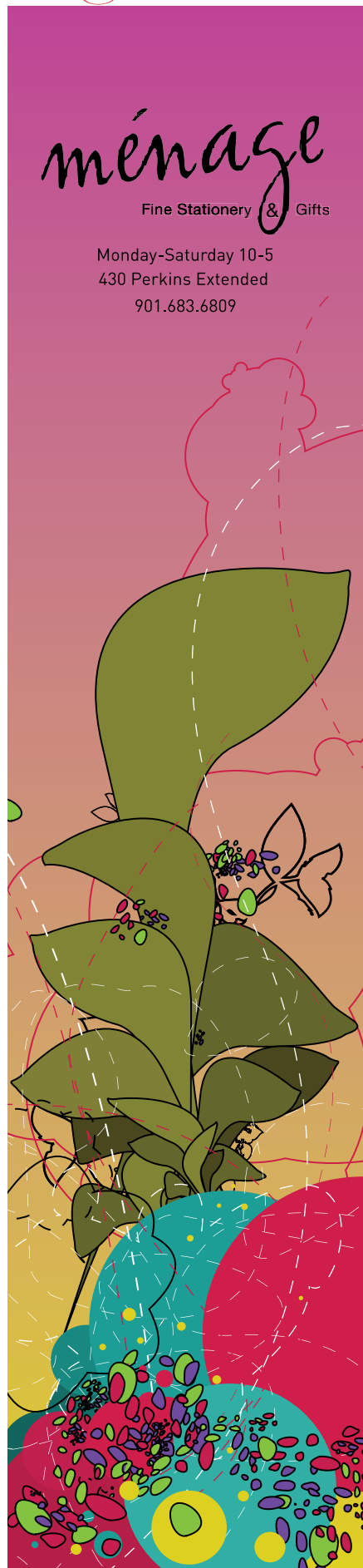
Audience participation is required. The kids dress up in chicken wings, blankets, and an assortment of other props to assist Robbo with many of the songs. "I keep the instructions simple and quick to keep everyone involved," he said. "Even dads play a part in the show."

By the end of the show no one leaves without a smile. "I feel a great sense of pride when parents come up to me after the show and say 'wow, this was great,'" said Rob.

Robbo has been teaching music at schools and camps ever since he was a kid himself.

He has sung all over the country from the White House Easter Egg Hunt in Washington D.C., to the Cincinnati Folk Festival where he co-headlined with folk legend Arlo Guthrie. He is the recipient of the John Lennon Songwriters Contest in the Children's category and won a Parent's Choice Gold Award.

To order tickets to Robbo's Dec. 4 performance contact BPACC, 3663 Appling Road, Bartlett • 901-385-6440, Children - preschool thru 3rd grade: \$7.50 each. Parents are FREE if children's tickets are purchased by Dec. 3, 2010. Space is limited and tickets are subject to availability.



Story by Susan Nieman || Photo by MARCI LAMBERT PHOTOGRAPHY

# Julia Adam Joins Ballet Memphis

Acclaimed choreographer and frequent Ballet Memphis collaborator Julia Adam was recently named Artistic Associate.

"I'm thrilled that Julia has joined the company," said Dorothy Gunther Pugh, founder and artistic director of Ballet Memphis. "Her artistic voice and vision, as well as her rapport with the company, will help propel forward and articulate the current artistic vision for the company."

Adam, based in San Francisco, will work closely with Pugh and other artistic staff to assist the company on perfecting its repertory, rehearsing new works, teaching company class, and sharing her knowledge and experience with the Junior Company and upper-level Ballet Memphis School students. This season, she will restage both *Awakening* and *Fingers* for the company to perform at Playhouse on the Square (Memphis), and will contribute a new work to the season finale, *Connections: Earth and Sky*.

Adam first worked with Ballet Memphis during the 2003-04 season on a restaging of

her *Crossings*, originally created for The Joffrey Ballet. Her first commissioned pieces for Ballet Memphis were two literary adaptations, *Awakening* and *Curtain of Green*, both later performed by Ballet Memphis at the Joyce Theatre in New York. She also created the work *Seven Threads*, based on the seven threads of the Jewish prayer shawl, during the 2007-08 season for the first Abundance event. She created *Fingers* for the 2009-10 season's *Connections: Body & Soul*.

Julia Adam was born in Toronto but spent her childhood in Ottawa where she began her ballet training. She was raised in a Reform Jewish household, attended Hebrew school twice a week and kept kosher for many years. At the age of 13, Julia left home to attend boarding school in Toronto at the National Ballet School. "At NBS, I spent weekends with a Jewish family and was still able to keep the High Holy Days," she said.

She danced with the National Ballet of Canada for five years. "Then in 1988, I defected and joined the San Francisco Ballet as a member of the corps de ballet," said Julia.





Julia worked her way up the ladder from corps member to principal dancer and had the opportunity to perform in a wide range of lead roles. During that time, Artistic Director Helgi Tomasson asked her to choreograph an original ballet for his Discovery Program that was to be staged at the San Francisco Opera House. The Discovery Program showcased the works of six virtually unknown choreographers. This first ballet, *Night*, was based on the paintings by Marc Chagall that Adam had grown up loving. This production helped launch her career as a choreographer. She officially retired from the company and from dancing in 2002 in order to "dance make" full-time.

Since then she has created works for companies and festivals all over the world. In 2003, she created *Ketubah*, which was based on Ashkenazi marriage rituals and included a live full Klezmer band throughout the performance.

"I definitely feel my Jewish heritage influences my art, as all artists pull

from all parts of their life," said Julia. Currently, Adam lives with her family in San Enselmo, California but will travel extensively to Memphis to work with the company this season as choreographic associate.

She received the Isadora Duncan Award in 1996 for her ballet *13 Lullabies*.

About Ballet Memphis ([www.balletmemphis.org](http://www.balletmemphis.org)) In its 24th season, Ballet Memphis serves as a creative resource to the nation as a maker and interpreter of the South's cultural legacy through its innovative neoclassical and contemporary repertoire, as well as production and training of the highest caliber. Founded by Dorothy Gunther Pugh in 1986, Ballet Memphis employs 17 professional dancers with a \$3.2 million operating budget and has performed around the world. The combined programs of Ballet Memphis – dance company, ballet school, educational enrichment and Pilates Centre—serve 75,000 people each year.



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# TEEN SCENE

By Stephanie Betesh and Caroline Frisch



Pearl BBG Members Brandi Eiseman, Eden Siskind, Zoe Carvel, Brittnee Campbell, and Sarah Arnold at Special Olympic Bowling.

In the past year, Memphis chapters of B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO) have participated in many community service activities. The three girls' chapters and two boys' chapters have all contributed time, effort and funds to the greater community.

River City BBG recently held their third annual fashion show in which they raised over \$11,000, the majority of which went to Jewish Family Service with a small percentage going toward scholarship funds. In addition, River City participated in a weekly service project tutoring refugee children through the Refugee Empowerment Program. They also held a Mother's Day tea party along with the Memphis Chapter of Hadassah, and all proceeds were donated to Breast Cancer research.

Danie Pearl BBG, made their mark on the community by participating in weekly Special Olympics Bowling at the Cordova Bowling Center. "Being part of Special Olympics bowling allows us to have one-on-one contact and provide direct service to help these people and brighten their day," says Pearl member Brittnee Campbell.

Rose Belz Kriger BBG held their 5th annual Mr. AZA beauty pageant. They raised over \$500 for the Ronald McDonald House. Kriger members also helped at the Shelter for Battered and Abused Women by playing with the children and donating books, clothing and toys. This year, they have also participated in Special Olympics Swimming at the JCC.

Each year, Okeon and Peres AZA produce full-scale productions to raise money for charity. Peres is currently preparing for Harvest Hop, their Thanksgiving production. Okeon's Summertime play will run in May.

Temple Israel's youth group, MeFTY, started off the year by wrapping and selling

Apple Cakes before the High Holidays. Profits from the sale go to a charity of the group's choice. Members also splatter-painted flower buckets to deliver to Memphis Jewish Home. MeFTY's biggest charity event, the annual Purim Carnival at Temple Israel, will be held in April.

Memphis Jewish youth are inspiring those around them through their efforts in volunteerism and philanthropy. The community can rest assured that the future is bright with these young people leading the scene.



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Simchat Torah Tallis Project included 2 large tallisim embroidered with 155 names: the oldest was 83 and the youngest was two months.



More than 70 young children enjoyed Succos Fun Day







*Over 150 pets received a special blessing and charm for their collars at Temple's inaugural Blessing of the Pets.*



*Children enjoyed activities—including a fun hayride—at the annual Sukkot Harvest Festival.*

*Rabbi Micah Greenstein, Rabbi Katie Bauman and Cantor John Kaplan lead Temple's Sukkah Hop, an annual crowd favorite.*



*Rabbi Adam Grossman, George Lapides, Howard Manis, Michael Heisley, Chris Wallace, Greg Campbell, past Temple President Arnold Perl, Mary Lynn Perl and Temple President Nancy Robinson at a community-wide event with Grizzlies owner Michael Heisley*





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Kesher Konnections & Tanach October class



Tot Shabbat



Sukkot Events

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## Annual Fall Festival



Farmer Steve gives families a hayride around campus.



Rena Wogan, Temima Izenberg and Avigail Bosin wait to get a balloon animal.



The Goldberg and Friedman families enjoyed making crafts.

**FLOUGH TOWERS**

Kathy Heymann,  
Charlotte Walker and  
Darlene Goldberg with  
Elvis impersonator,  
Brian Howell



Plough Towers Russian Choir with Meryl Klein (Creative Aging) at Creative Aging Mid-South Senior Variety Show



Annie Prager and family at Neighborhood Watch National Night Out





## Jewish Family Service 9th Annual Joe & Rita Green Senior Resource Fair



## Chabad of Nashville



*Congressman Jim Cooper, Nashville's Mayor Karl Dean, Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel, executive director of Chabad of Nashville, and Boaz Ramon from Genesis Diamonds, who is the main Benefactor of the Genesis Campus for Jewish Life.*

Chabad of Nashville recently broke ground for their new Genesis Campus for Jewish Life among a crowd of 200 including Nashville's Mayor, Mr. Karl Dean; United States Congressman, Mr. Jim Cooper; executive director of Chabad of Tennessee, Rabbi Levi Klein; executive director of Chabad at Vanderbilt University, Rabbi Shlomo Rothstein; leaders from the Jewish Federation and Gordon Jewish Community Center; and rabbis from various congregations.

Rabbi Yitzchok and Esther Tiechtel led the ceremonies, and the foundation stone was set.

Mayor Dean expressed his pride in the new building following the disastrous floods Nashville experienced and thanked the Shluchim for the work they have done over the past 10 years to make Nashville a better city. "I look forward to being back for the building dedication and the ribbon cutting ceremony," he said.




*Mrs. Esther and Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel, co-directors of Chabad of Nashville, Nashville's Mayor Karl Dean, Tommy Benard, president of the Chabad Center in Nashville, and Rabbi Levi Klein from Memphis, executive director of Chabad of Tennessee.*

"The center is a blessing to all people of Tennessee, and is especially significant, as our community has been hit so very hard during the recent floods," said Congressman Cooper. "It is beneficial not only to the Jewish community, but to the city, state and the entire South!"

Rabbi Klein shared his greetings on behalf of Chabad Lubavitch International, and thanked all of the Chabad supporters.

"Chabad is turning a new page in the second decade of service to the greater community of Nashville," said Rabbi Tiechtel. "With heartfelt appreciation, I thank the mayor, the many supporters of Chabad, my family and the Rebbe." Then he sounded the Shofar.

The foundation stone comes from Germany, a remnant from the pre-WWII era. Main benefactors of the new Chabad Center, Boaz and Tali Ramon, were honored with laying a stone from Jerusalem, which represents Jewish life today in the Holy Land of Israel.



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# Jews of Color: In Color!



Photographer Bryan Schwartz, is a Civil Rights Attorney and a photojournalist from Oakland, CA. Since 1999, Schwartz has visited 30 countries on five continents to document far-flung Jewish communities.

Jews of Color is a collection of 50 photographs of Jews from remote regions of the world. The five communities showcased in the exhibit are the Bene Israel from Maharashtra Province, India, the Benei Menashe from Manipur, Northeastern India, the House of Israel from Sefwi Wiawso in the Western Region of Ghana, the Venta Prieta from Pachuca, Hidalgo in Mexico and the Shona Jews from Rusape, Zimbabwe.

**January 9-24 in the Nathan and Dorothy Shainberg Gallery at the MJCC**

January 10 at 12 pm: Women's Community Lunch with Photographer Bryan Schwartz at the MJCC (Co-sponsored by Memphis Jewish Federation, The Sisterhoods of Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth, Baron Hirsch, Beth Sholom, Chabad, Or Chadash, Temple Israel and Young Israel, Hadassah and National Council of Jewish Women)



For more information on the luncheon or the exhibit, contact Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein at (901) 767-7100 or [bzuckerbrot-finkelstein@memjfed.org](mailto:bzuckerbrot-finkelstein@memjfed.org).

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