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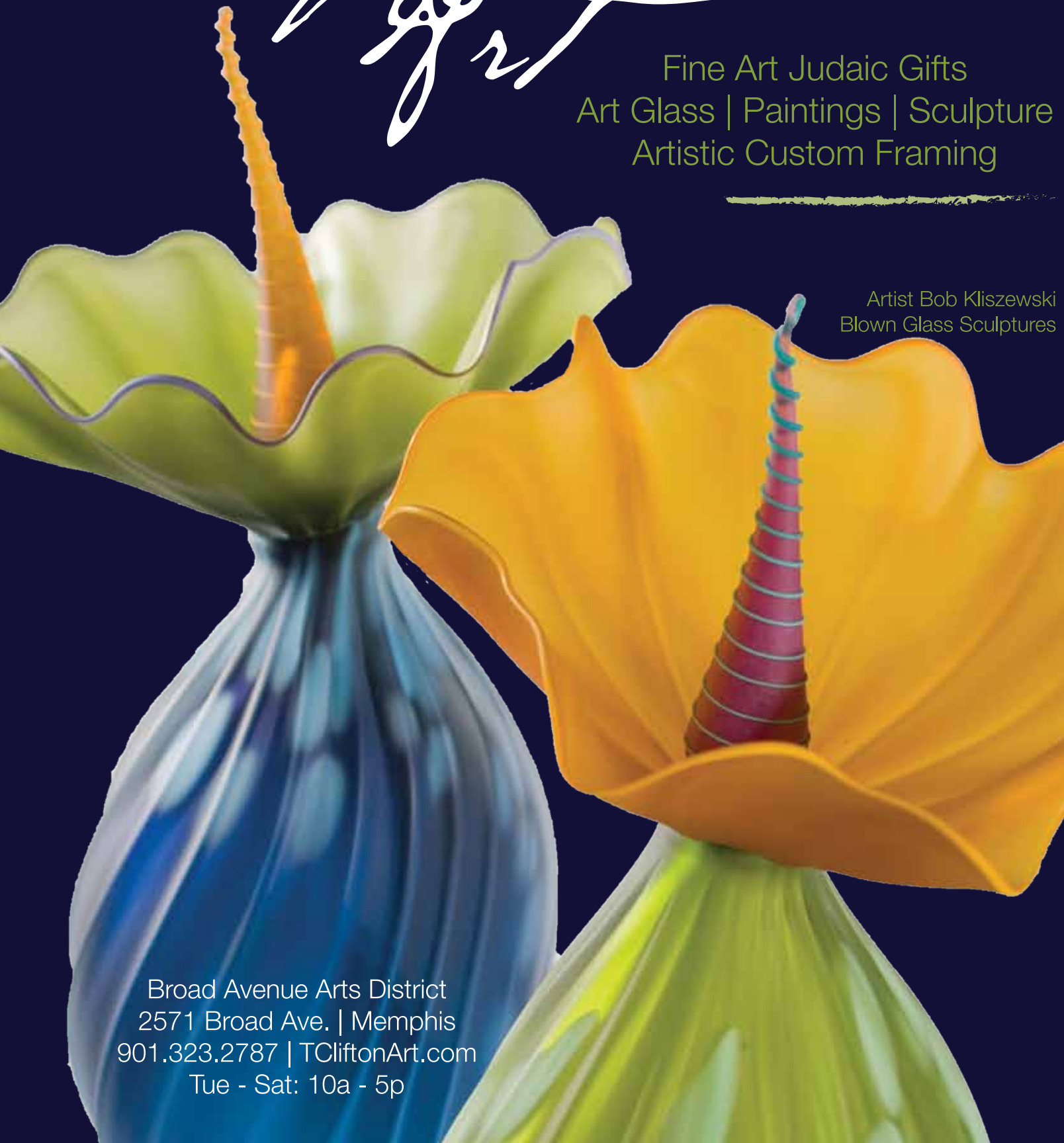
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Dear JSM Readers,

The sun is actually shining today. It's been a long, wet spring. But soon, we will most likely be complaining about the long, hot, dry Memphis months of summer.

On the bright side, with the arrival of summer there are so many opportunities to enjoy a variety of great outdoor entertainment. What about that Live at the Garden line up? Can't wait to see Little Big Town, Boston, Seal, Steve Miller Band and Saint Paul and the Broken Bones. Then there's the Levitt Shell's Orion Free Concert Series on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights – my favorite place to plop out the beach chairs, picnic blankets and food from some of my favorite eateries such as Char Restaurant, Interim Restaurant and Strano's Sicilian Kitchen & Bar.

For outdoor libations, Char's Michael Luckey, brings back the Gin Cocktail with some tips for the perfect sip on page 13. And check out some other refreshing suggestions from our friends at Great Wines & Spirits on page 16.

Volunteers from Temple Israel's Garden Committee are sharing the reaps of their harvest with Plough Towers residents, who create new recipes with their delicious bounty each week. Read more about this community project on page 12.

If you are looking for an indoor way to participate in hands-on musical entertainment, check out Jason Caplan's Universal Music Room at the Memphis JCC beginning in July. Jason has brought together people from all walks of life through his improvisational musical program. See more on page 6.

And if you are in the market for some original art, or to customize or refurbish antique pieces, then you'll want to take a look at the refreshing and artistic pieces created by Sydney Gruber. From chess sets to tabletops, from wall paintings to cosmetic cases, Sydney puts her signature touch to everything, page 8.

I hope to see you all out and about this summer. Look for our cameras...we will be looking for you. Take a look at our Scene pages beginning on page 17. And in the meantime, check out our new user-friendly [jewishscenemagazine.com](http://jewishscenemagazine.com) for more photos and upcoming events, and please like our Facebook page.

Shalom,

Susan C. Nieman - Publisher/Editor



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# Contributors

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**Joel Ashner** is Director of Philanthropy and Community Engagement for Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab (MJHR). She received her B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing from Washington University in St. Louis. She recently celebrated 12 years with MJHR and was named the 2017 Association of Jewish Aging Services (AJAS) Professional of the Year. She and her husband, Dub, have three adult children. She can be reached at [jashner@memphisjewishhome.org](mailto:jashner@memphisjewishhome.org).



**Michael Luckey** is a Memphian that caught the restaurant bug with his first job at 16. He has worked at the former Yia Yia's Eurocafe, Ciao Bella, Interim Restaurant & Bar and now, at Char Restaurant on the Highland Strip. His passion for dining naturally transitioned into an infatuation with wine and spirits. He is accredited as a Wine & Spirits Education Trust (WSET) Level 3 Advanced Sommelier and is currently working on his French Wine Scholar certification. You can taste one of "Luckey's" handcrafted cocktails or a glass of his selected vino at Char.



**Shoshana Cenker**, a native Memphian, is the chief editor and head writer for a media content production company, as well as a freelance writer, proofreader and marketing consultant. Shoshana was one of Jewish Scene Magazine's first writers when it began. She and her husband, Dovid, who's a kosher caterer and licensed massage therapist, have twin boys, Aiden and Akiva, and a daughter, Lyla, plus pups Dreidel and Memphis. She can be reached at [shoshcenker@hotmail.com](mailto:shoshcenker@hotmail.com).



Native Frenchman **Franck Oysel** has worked in classic French patisseries with Master Chefs since he was 15. In 2006, he became an Executive Chef de Pâtisserie with a Master of Chocolatier at *Aux Plaisirs Sucrés* in the Jura Region. Franck came to America in 2014 to join the love of his life, who he'd met while she volunteered as an English teacher in Poligny the year before. At Interim Restaurant & Bar, Franck is enthusiastic and dedicated to producing high-quality dishes that aesthetically appeal to all the senses, exhibit a true attention to detail, and preserve the flavor of ingredients.



**Aaron Canales** is the president of the Morris S. Fogelman Jewish Student Union at Hillel of Memphis, as well as an executive member of the Free Thinker's Society at the University of Memphis. He is a senior; double majoring in Psychology and Business Management. He is a proud Tiger.



**Vick Patel** is the owner of Great Wines & Spirits located at 6150 Poplar Avenue in Regalia, Memphis, Tenn., 38119. Contact him at 901.682.1333 or [vikalp.patel@greatwinesmemphis.com](mailto:vikalp.patel@greatwinesmemphis.com).



**Vicki Woods** has been the assistant director of Plough Towers since October 2015. A native-Memphian, she received a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of Memphis. Vicki and her husband, Jim, live in Cordova with their three special needs dogs, Nappi, Stevie, and Mollie. They also have two grown children, son Andrew and daughter Amanda Duffy who is married to Brad, and are proud grandparents of 5-month-old Eloise.



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Jason Caplan recently played at B.B. Kings on Beale Street with Blind Mississippi Morris.

# Musical Happiness

By Shoshana Cenko :: Photos by Alison Williams

What if you could participate in a language that everyone could understand – no matter what country you or they were from or lived? And what if communicating this way brought you peace and self-awareness?

Sure sounds good to me.

“I believe that people struggle in society and in themselves, from the fact that we think in an artificial system called human language,” says Jason Caplan, an improvisational guitarist and founder of the Universal Language Room. “Human language is a general tool and is not able to tap into the incredible uniqueness of each human. So, we seek answers and meaning in culture, nation, religion, individuality, community – and really, it’s all just a language game that we’re trapped in.

“I believe people can learn improvisational music as a universal language to tap into a deeper level of intuition and a deeper level of happiness and meaning in life,” explains Jason. “It is a true internal tool of inner discovery, to uncover the unique self.

In partnership with the Cultural Arts Department at the Memphis Jewish Community Center (MJCC), Jason is opening this special space for improv music called the Universal Language Room. In addition to the personal journey, the Universal Language Room provides the ability to communicate openly with anyone – without barrier – to the free exchange of ideas because there’s nothing to disagree on. It’s instant unity, tapping into the power of community and belonging without the typical requirement of an ideology or loyalty to a set of beliefs.

The program, which he successfully produced in New York and Richmond, Virginia, teaches adults of all faiths and backgrounds how to improvise through music, how to play music in a group, put a song together, communicate and simply listen.

The Universal Language Room will hold two four-week sessions at the JCC on Sundays in July and August 2017. Participants will enjoy a comfortable, no-judgment space for one hour



each class. “We’ll be improvising music, which will be the only way to communicate when we get in the zone,” explains Jason. “Best of all, we’ll be using lots of percussive and melodic instruments, so there’s no need for anyone to know how to read music or play an instrument.”

It’s rather fitting that Jason created such a refreshing program, as he’s had a love for music from a very young age. “The first story I





heard about my connection to music was that when my grandmother brought me to nursery school, I always went straight to the musical toys. And my mom said I loved the music on my crib mobile," remembers Jason. "Our home was filled with music. My dad plays violin, banjo and guitar. Both of my brothers play; Avron plays bass guitar and Gabriel plays guitar professionally in New York."

Around 7th grade Jason became immersed in music. "I played The Beatles 'Magical Mystery Tour' tape, which just takes you to another place. In their case a very strange place! And I heard 'Purple Haze' by Jimi Hendrix at a friend's bar mitzvah, and I remember thinking, 'Wow, what is this!'" says Jason fondly. "When CDs came out, I was turned on to Led Zeppelin and Robert Johnson; guys my dad listened to."

After a brief stint of playing violin by ear in his school orchestra, Jason began playing his dad's guitar in his room, first figuring out songs on his own until his parents signed him up for private lessons. He formed a high school band, Hobbiton Bridge, and they played rock 'n' roll at school battle of the bands competitions, colleges, birthday parties and even his brother's bar mitzvah.

After Jason transferred from Roanoke College to Emory University in Atlanta, he continued to play music with friends around town. Always feeling connected to Judaism spiritually, he became observant while at Emory and after graduating, he went on to New York to learn and study Torah.

"I was playing gigs all over New York City," he says. "That's where I met my musician heroes – Dave Liebman, Phil Markowitz, Andy Statman, John Zorn, Kenny Werner. I brought them to a Washington Heights synagogue for a jazz concert series. Seeing such a diverse group of people got me thinking about creating interfaith relationships through music – and that's what started the original Universal Language Room. It began in a synagogue where we practiced meditation and music."

From there, Jason opened a Universal Language Room in Harlem and recruited musicians from Sikh and Bahai temples. Jason and a Bahai friend and fellow musician, Gilbert Smith, became co-writers, forming the band Naqshon's Leap. They wrote about one G-d and one human family. William Ruiz joined as percussionist, as well as those of Christian and Muslim faiths. The group played at colleges and community centers.

"Around this time, I started giving guitar lessons through Lark Street Music store where store owner, Buzzy, eventually let me take over the whole program," says Jason. "I opened my own music school in 2005 called Intonation, LLC. Four instructors taught voice, piano, bass, drums and guitar. Our students, who were

mostly modern Orthodox children from the area and New Jersey, showcased their talents for the community at concerts. It was a lot of fun; I absolutely loved it!"

After six successful years with his music school, and meeting and marrying his wife, Michal, the happy couple decided to relocate to Richmond, Virginia, near Jason's parents. There he gave guitar lessons and set up a Universal Language Room at Richmond's Weinstein JCC. But after daughters, Ariella now 6 and Devorah now 4 were born, Jason and Michal were ready for another lifestyle change – somewhere their children, who also love to sing and perform, would have lots of friends in an inviting community, and where Jason could play his beautiful music.

Well, few things are as synonymous with Memphis as The Blues. And Jason sure does have The Blues – musically, that is. He accepted a job offer as a wealth management advisor and moved his family to the Home of the Blues in the summer of 2016.

"I met Stephen Wachtell, an incredibly talented saxophonist, and we began playing gigs together," says Jason happily. "Between the Jewish day school, warm modern Orthodox community and the incredible music, Memphis has everything we were looking for. Right away, I knew we had made the right choice in Memphis."

"I started playing all the music I wanted with amazing Memphis legends – Daddy Mack,



Elmo and The Shades, Judge Booker, Joyce Cobb. It's been a thrill to play with them! Elmo is a quintessential entertainer, Judge is a great bass player, and Joyce, well, she's a tzedakis as we say; simply radiant," he says of his local celebrity friends. "We've played all over Memphis, at Boscos, Neil's Music Room, The Stage Stop, Memphis Friends of Israel Annual Festival, Center for Southern Folklore and counting."

By opening the Universal Language Room at the MJCC, Jason aims to give people healthy escapism.

"One of my most memorable experiences was being invited to sing at a Sikh service in New York," he says. "I sang in Punjabi, and it was the most amazing experience! I want the Universal Language Room to convey that experience of unity. People need an escape from life sometimes, and this is a safe way to do it. It lets people's minds calm down and can serve as a healing process. Escapism is good when it's done safely."

"Rabbi Akiva was only one of four rabbis to enter the mystical realm of Pardes and return to the physical world safely," continues Jason. "The Talmud says, 'He left in peace and returned in peace.' To me, it means that Rabbi Akiva didn't use mysticism as an escape; he made peace with our imperfect, flawed world, before going to seek out more beautiful and



spiritual realms. And in that way, he didn't reject the world, he returned to inspire himself and others to improve society and ourselves. That is the safety feature of music – it can help us see the spiritual world, while keeping us grounded in this one."

Jason, who also plays drums, is taking voice lessons, and is beta testing a Universal Language Room app. "It will give you the ability to record melodic ideas with other users from the web and mesh it all together, making a Universal Language Room right on your smartphone," he says.

It's quite apparent that Jason has certainly been hitting all the right notes. I've even had the privilege to sing with him as he played, and I've found myself getting lost in his genius, hypnotizing guitar playing that looks and sounds effortlessly blissful.

As if all his musical experience wasn't enough, Jason also received a glowing endorsement for Universal Language Room from jazz legend, Dave Liebman. His letter reads in part:

*"I am very excited about this project of yours. The Universal Language Room has a tremendous vision, which is to offer any person immediate access to the direct experience and beauty of improvisational music. Improvisation, on any level, is something very special and has the power to change lives and behaviors, especially when it involves groups of people."*

Jason hopes not only to expand this program to other age groups, especially for children as research has shown they greatly benefit from music programs, but also to other markets around the country. He's seen the positive affect his music project has had in several environments including other houses of worship, jails, an autism camp and an addiction center.

Jason is not only pleased to share his love of music and its healing powers, but he also hopes people will "take home what they've learned through music and improve their lives," he says.

Space for the Universal Language Room at the MJCC is limited to 15 adults for each of the two summer sessions: July 9-30 and August 6-27, from 11a.m. -12 p.m. each Sunday. You can register for the program by calling the MJCC at 901.761.0810. For more information, please email Marcy Stagner, Program Director for Cultural Arts and Adult Services, at: [mstagner@jccmemphis.org](mailto:mstagner@jccmemphis.org)







# Funky, Fun and Functional

By Shoshana Cenker :: Photos by Sydney Gruber



Like many people, you probably have some old, family art lying around your house tucked away in a closet or the attic. Maybe it's an old jug that's been passed down from generation to generation, or a card table given to you by your grandfather who loved to play a mean game of gin rummy. Maybe it's a pair of candlesticks from your favorite great aunt.

The thing is, these precious items may not be your style or fit in with your home décor. But you want to keep them for the precious memories they're connected to. So what's a person to do?

Well, the answer comes from an incredibly talented artist named Sydney Gruber. Born in Memphis, Sydney now has a thriving art business based in Tuscaloosa, Ala. After graduating college, Sydney began working in a neuroscience lab, but the artist inside her was craving that "hands-on engagement and creativity," she says. "I've always done some crafts in one form or another. I have a backbone in art.

"I started modestly," Sydney says of how she began her art career. "I lived in a college town, so I would find wonderful wooden furniture on curbs and salvage them. Those pieces were my initial canvases."





Sydney also began what became an apprenticeship, working under a local painter and his wife. “They gave me my first art show,” she says. “Then I started connecting with local arts in the community.”

As word got out about how Sydney was able to take special items from the past and repurpose them into beautiful pieces of cherished art, people started commissioning her to work with their sentimental pieces. “I like to create functional art,” she says. “I revitalize and rejuvenate pieces and breathe new life into them, while preserving yesterday’s memories.”

While Sydney is active on the art festival circuit, which casts a wide net and provides her with valuable information about what’s popular in the art world in different markets, she really enjoys working in a studio and creating one-of-a-kind pieces for her clients. “I love exploring creative expression,” she says. “I often use vibrant hues that encourage joy and use wares that play with your mind.”

Sydney’s remarkable art, filled with distinct swirls and patterns, seems to speak for itself as she gains “new commissions from referrals,” she says gratefully. She also hopes to book gallery shows to showcase her creations and

recently landed a show at Kentuck Art Center & Museum in Northport, Ala. “It’s my first real break. It’s been surreal and a dream! It’s a platform to engage the community and perpetuate the arts in such a great way.”

While Sydney enjoys abstract art, she’s also interested in imagery. “‘Made in Memphis’ is series of paintings I created that showcases Memphis scenes. It’s hanging in an office in Memphis,” she says. “My parents still live in Memphis, so I visit every couple of months and pick up new art jobs there.”

While Sydney connects to all the art she creates in one way or another, there’s one piece that really resonated with her. “A fellow artist, who’s a carpenter, had dabbled in a clay project. He was making an elephant bust, and kind of set it aside for a year. He actually left it outside,” she explains of the sad bust that was falling apart and had seen better days. “I saw so much potential in this piece and asked him if I could ‘save’ the elephant.” After Sydney gave this elephant bust a stunning makeover, it was mounted onto a board and framed.

A lifelong chess player, Sydney also boasts an incredible partnership with ChessHouse.com. “I had ordered 300 bishop pieces from this chess

company and hand painted all of them,” she explains. “The company thought it was rather unusual for someone to buy that many bishops, so they asked me who I was and what I was doing. An exciting relationship manifested as I began painting chess boards that are now sold on their site.”

Looking ahead, Sydney is hoping to land more gallery shows and will continue working with elderly patients and daycares as she does now. She’s also planning a kid’s summer art camp. “Working with your hands is good for the soul,” she says.

“I strive to match reason with passion and to strike the balance between living like the salt of the earth and sucking the nectar out of life,” she says. “In my own meandering experience as a devout student of behavior and art, I have found the values and ethos within both disciplines to have a mutually beneficial reciprocity. It has been my fortune to fashion this artful practice into my everyday inquiry by seeking answers to questions I hope never to cease asking. I love tackling new, unconventional mediums and collaborating to create custom works of art meant to bring a warm personal touch to clients’ homes.”

To view more pieces visit [sydneygruber.com](http://sydneygruber.com).





DEDICATION OF B'NAI B'RITH HOME FOR AGED  
MEMPHIS, TENN. MAY 28 1927

## May Brings Milestone For Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab

By Joel Ashner :: Photos courtesy Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab

In May of 1927, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was founded, Charles Lindbergh made the first solo non-stop trans-Atlantic flight from New York to Paris, members of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Institute of Radio Engineers viewed the first live demonstration of television, and the B'nai B'rith Home for the Aged was dedicated.

It was on May 23, 1927, that 500 delegates to the convention of the Seventh District of the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith and their guests gathered in front of the new building at 131 North Tucker Street in Midtown, Memphis, Tenn. Designed by a New Orleans architectural firm in a Spanish stucco style, the Home was described as "a forerunner of homes for the aged." Eligible residents of the seventh district were from Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas.

On October 10, 1927, the Home admitted its first residents, Sam and Rachel Olswing. Among the early requirements for admission was that a resident be able to carry his or her own bags across the threshold. This is quite a different requirement from today.

The Home became its own nonprofit organization in the 1950s, independent of the B'nai B'rith organization. By 1967, the old building was completely replaced with a new modern facility. In 1992, they moved to a new state-of-the-art facility in Cordova and became known as Memphis Jewish Home. And in 2008, as more and more seniors came to the Home for rehab services, the name was changed to Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab (MJHR).

Fran Buchalter, probably the person more involved in different aspects of the Home's history, was first a visiting Temple Israel Sunday School student, a medical technician who worked at the

Home, the daughter of residents, a volunteer, president of the Friends, president of the board of directors, interim executive director, and more recently, a rehab resident herself.

Her wealth of institutional knowledge includes some interesting facts about "the old Home" as it's referred to today. "I helped set up a lab in the facility to enable the B'nai B'rith Home to add Hospital to its name," said Fran. "A number of volunteer Jewish doctors rotated every three months to cover medical needs and assist the nurses on staff. Originally the Home was only kosher style. It wasn't until much later that it came under supervision and was truly kosher."

To help keep costs down in the early days, Fran said, "My mother-in-law ran a canned goods drive collecting donations for the kitchen. But the kitchen also fed the staff for free while they were at work. There wasn't a beauty shop on the premises. Students from the local beauty school would come to wash and style hair in the hallways."

It wasn't until the late 80s that the Home adopted an open admissions policy, admitting non-Jewish residents. Rehab services were not offered until the Home made its move to Cordova. "I believe the Home's biggest accomplishment was moving from Midtown to Cordova," said Fran. The decision to move east as well as the process to actually make it happen took hundreds of volunteers. It started with the board of directors who had the vision.



Fran Buchalter



2017 Board of Directors

Then it took a large group to raise the money to build the new building and others to oversee its construction. But it was the largest group who rolled up their collective sleeves and moved each and every resident with all their belongings to their new home all in one day.

May 2017 brings a yearlong celebration – 90 Years Caring for Generations. Throughout the coming months you'll hear about speakers on the subject of aging, a special Shabbat celebration, a spring festival for families, and more.

"The community development committee and board of directors want the entire community to be part of the celebration," said Gregg Landau, president of the board of directors. "MJHR has touched so many lives in its 90 years. Countless members of the Jewish community have been volunteers, family of patients and residents, and even patients and residents themselves. Most in our community have some connection to the Home."

MJHR also celebrates 25 years at its current location this year.

MJHR is looking for early photos or stories to share about "the old Home." They are also trying to find relatives of the Home's first residents, Sam and Rachel Olswing, and identifying the small children in the 1927 dedication photo. If you can share any of the above, please contact Joel Ashner at [jashner@memphisjewishhome.org](mailto:jashner@memphisjewishhome.org) or 901.756.3273.

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We hope you take the opportunity to participate with us during this milestone year – come by for a visit or tour, attend one of the many events soon to be announced, or show your support with your financial contribution.



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# HOW OUR GARDEN GROWS

By Vicki Woods:: Photos courtesy Plough Towers

**On a small plot of land at the back of Temple Israel, a garden is growing. Created and funded by Nick and Judy Ringel, this garden is a living memorial to Judy's mother, Ernestine Greenberger. The original plan was to donate the harvest to MIFA for distribution to their clients. However, last year Plough Towers became the beneficiary of weekly deliveries of these beautiful herbs and vegetables.**

This garden exists only with the tireless efforts of a small army of volunteers led by Plough Towers board member Marsha Underberg and a lot of assistance from Laurie Scheidt. Temple Israel's Garden Committee is 33 members strong and range in age from bar/bat mitzvah young men and women, to Millennials and more seasoned gardeners. Each plays a part in the planting, weeding, watering, pruning or harvesting of the six raised beds. The beds were built by the Temple Brotherhood. The garden is completely organic, using only manure and non-chemical products. All of the vegetable plants and seeds are donated by Mr. Willie of Bonnie's Farms. This saves thousands of dollars each year in planting costs. One group of volunteers from Temple's sister synagogue in Israel made a significant impact on the garden with some rocks brought with them. When the Israelis left, their Memphis friends sent them home with 901 rocks painted by Temple kindergarteners and preschoolers. The visitors claimed that working in the gardens was one of the highlights of their trip to Memphis.

According Marsha, this year's planting includes sugar snap peas, chocolate cherry tomatoes, green beans (grown from seeds), zucchini squash, leeks, bell peppers, kale, chives and romaine lettuce. Leeks are currently ripe and ready for harvesting. Anticipated crops of

thyme and rosemary are also abundant. Before the harvest, many hands put in many hours of loving care. In addition, one of the Temple rabbis leads a Blessing of the Garden each year in late summer. The harvest is truly a blessing to the many recipients of these vegetables.

Marsha exudes an enthusiasm when speaking of the garden. "To witness the process from planting to harvest, and then delivering the bounty to the residents is very satisfying," she said. Although she has been on many committees and done volunteer work for many years, the Temple garden "is the most rewarding thing I have ever done. It is like having a little baby, and the garden takes on a life of its own. It just makes me happy." Last summer, it also made many Plough Towers' residents happy, as they received more than 80 pounds of produce.

In order to ensure that no vegetables ever go to waste, Plough Towers has downloaded and printed recipes using each of the vegetables received. Since leeks are currently ripe, leek soup recipes will be offered to anyone receiving the produce.

As part of its mission statement, Plough Towers strives to allow residents to age in place. Plough Towers executive director Leigh Hendry, says that is very meaningful to have the relationship with



Marsha, Laurie, and the other gardeners, as well as Temple. "We feel a part of the whole community by being included in this important project."

This is achieved, in part, by providing opportunities to make healthy food and exercise choices, and to encourage healthy living. "The vegetables we receive from the garden help our residents achieve a better and healthier way of eating," said Lucy Wener, Plough Towers employee and fitness enthusiast. "Combined with our bi-weekly exercise classes and our workout room, we seek to help them live a healthy life."

Robin Snyder, a Plough Towers resident that loves to cook, anxiously awaits each of Marsha's deliveries. "There is not one vegetable that I do not eat," she said. "The herbs are especially fresh, and I love eating them the same day they are picked!" Her husband, Conrad, readily agrees. Robin continued, "If I could have all that I want from the Temple garden, I would never step foot in another grocery store or farmer's market."





## The Gin Cocktail

By Michael Luckey :: Photos by Rebecca Miller

It's been such a "Long Time" since we were able to enjoy the outdoor concert series around town. Nothing better for a balmy outdoor concert than bottles of Rosè to give you "More Than a Feeling" while groovin' to your favorite rock 'n' roll band. Why not pregame with Char's Gin cocktail to give you "Peace of Mind?"

1 oz Eden Mill "Love" Gin\*\*

.5 oz St. Germain

1 oz Fresh Grapefruit Juice

.5 oz Lemon Juice

1 oz Rosè

Shake first 4 ingredients and strain into a chilled coup glass. Top with Rosè.

*\*\*We use Eden Mill's "Love" gin for the floral flavors as well as its uniquely pink hue. Other gins will do but try to find one with floral/fruity botanicals.*

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## COLLEGE SCENE

# A Spring-Loaded Calendar

By Aaron Canales :: Photos by Rebecca Miller

The Morris S. Fogelman Hillel at the University of Memphis has been a busy place this year. Between monthly Shabbat dinners and Havdalah programs, Kabbalah classes with Beth Sholom's Geo Poor, and playing pool with the Torah MiTzion group, it's safe to say that we love our place in the community and are proud to facilitate connection between Jewish students and people of all ages. But we are most proud of our opportunity to host events for the entire community for the sake of good. Just look at our spring semester.

One of two crown jewels of spring is the annual Interfaith Seder. As many of you may know, our Hillel holds one large mock Seder. An invitation is extended to all members of the student body, Jewish community, interfaith community, and indeed the entire Memphis population. Anyone who wants to come is given a comfortable and active introduction to the traditions and story of the Passover holiday. Our goal is to showcase a beautiful and storied part of Jewish history that continues to hold a great degree of significance.

This year, in order to show the roots and expression of Jewish identity the world over, our goal was to show and participate in various ways that the Passover Seder is celebrated by the Jewish diaspora the world over. We then

related those traditions expressed by the living community that is world Judaism back to the land of Israel and the way the people there can express it.

Under the direction of two amazing Hillel students, programming chairs Justin Waldrip and Liza Levko, more than 40 guests – of all national and religious identities – were treated to Sephardic matzah, the Italian tradition of lightly beating one another with onions to atone for our sins, a whole lot of horseradish, and a host of other wonderful and unique expressions of Jewish identity through traditions from all around the world.

Our second crown jewel is perhaps just as enriching, but showcases even more community involvement – the annual Yiddishe Cup Mini-Golf Tournament at Golf & Games. For the entirety of a Sunday afternoon, two courses of the Putt-Putt facility are graciously allocated for the family-friendly fun of our mini-golfing excursion and Silent Auction. Here attendees bid on assorted donated items from some of Memphis' premier artists and businesses. This year, despite strong winds, light rains, and overall gloom, there was an amazing showing of golfers of the diminutive variety, both from within and outside of the Jewish community,



who came to compete and score some trophies! And, of course, anyone who scores a hole in one is gifted a chocolate golf ball from Dinstuhl's Fine Candy Company, giving everyone the proper motivation.

These annual events are two of the brightest examples of what Hillel does every spring semester. The opportunity to put these events on, and the subsequent amazing support that we receive from the community at large every single year for these and similar events, is what makes it worth it every single year. The fact that Hillel has found its way into the memories of so many people is an absolute privilege for us, and it will continue to be for students involved for years to come. So, if you are so inclined, keep Hillel in mind as the weather warms and things go into bloom each year, because that's when some of the best times are to be had with the students of the Morris S. Fogelman Hillel.

# *When Ordinary is Not an Option*

Creations by Chef de Pâtisserie Franck Oysel



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## COOL SUMMER BEVERAGES

Provided by the Staff from Great Wines & Spirits

Summer parties, concerts, BBQs and potlucks are in full force – so are the temperatures. So why not get creative with your drinks to keep you cool and refreshed? Chill out this summer with our twist of taste selections.

### Refreshing Cocktail Hacks

- A perfect drink is sweet and sour, but a perfect cocktail is in the middle.
- To stir or to shake: citrus drinks are shaken and boozy drinks stirred.
- Lemon for brown spirits and lime for white spirits.
- Big ice cubes keep your drinks cool longer.
- Make ice cubes from tonic water to add flavor as it melts.
- Place the glass in the freezer for an hour to chill it.

### Summer Wine Hacks

- Chill it: Pop your bottle of red wine in the refrigerator for about 20 to 30 minutes before serving. You'll be amazed by its bright and refreshing taste. Or use ice and salt to quickly chill.
- Un-oaked or very lightly oaked: Choose un-oaked or very lightly oaked reds. They are generally lighter, fruitier and much more refreshing on warm summer days.
- Moderation: Alcohol can affect you more in hot weather. Choose wines of 13% and below.

### Summer Whiskey Cocktails

Don't put away your whiskey just because the weather gets warm. Whiskey in all of its forms, from bourbon and rye to scotch, Irish, Canadian and Japanese, isn't just for cold weather. On its own, with a cube or a splash of water, or in a wide variety of cocktails, is a refreshing spirit that can and should be enjoyed all summer long.

And if you find the whiskey still tastes too hot, remember: "There's no rule against throwing in a few ice cubes."

So, keep yourself cool and fresh in this hot weather with some chilled alcoholic beverages!

Great Wines & Spirits is located at 6150 Poplar Avenue in Regalia, Memphis, TN, 38119. Vick Patel and his staff invite your questions and patronage. Contact them at 901.682.1333 or [greatwinesmemphis.com](http://greatwinesmemphis.com).

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Pets :: Back To School

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### Annual Meeting

Renowned Hollywood director Tom Shadyac joined a nightlong celebration of Temple Israel's 163rd year, which followed the installation of the newest members of Temple's Board of Trustees. For more

information about Tom Shadyac and his recent documentary, I AM, visit [www.iamthedoc.com](http://www.iamthedoc.com). To see Shadyac's full speech visit Temple Israel YouTube channel: @TIMemphis.







Yiddishe Cup Mini-Golf Tournament



Interfaith Seder







Better Together Program with Margolin Hebrew Academy/Feinstone Yeshiva of the South High School Girls



Residents enjoy Fedovation Shabbat with Temple Israel's Abbie Strauss



Russian Choir from The Iron Curtain to the Bible Belt



Model Seder with Bornblum and Crossroads Hospice



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Pesach Chol HaMoed Youth Day

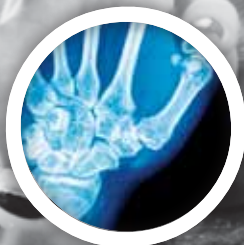


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