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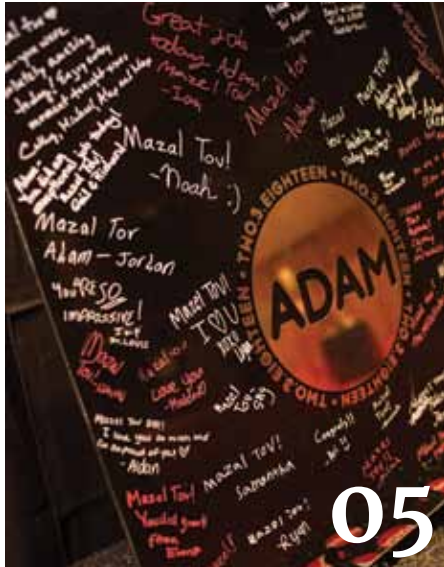
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Dear JSM Readers,

The weather may have kept us from enjoying the outdoors so far this year, but with all of the activities going on in Memphis, there hasn't been a lack of events, parties and holidays to keep us all busy.

On our Scene pages, check out Memphis' Passover Seders and Jewish Community Partners' A Taste of Israel.

Volunteers are needed for this year's 2nd Dr. Ivan Marais Cataract-A-Thon hosted by The Hamilton Eye Institute Lions Club. Read how Memphis-area physicians and healthcare organizations team up to restore sight to those in need on page 8.

Playback Memphis is also serving the community through several programs that heal through the art of storytelling. Read more about these amazing programs: Memphis Matters, Community Matters, Be the Peace, Performing the Peace and the Cultural Awareness Training for Memphis Police Department New Recruits on page 10.

Gila Golder connected with a special individual last summer when she traveled to Chicago to meet – in person – the man whose life she saved through a bone marrow transplant in 2015. Read about their “family reunion” on page 5.

Meet Adam Loskovitz whose outgoing personality made for a once-in-a-lifetime simcha. Learn how Adam engaged congregants with a show-and-tell Torah portion speech. And see how his mom and event planner, Einat Loskovitz, transformed Temple Israel's social hall into a disco dance room on page 6.

As the weather warms, and the rain and clouds finally give way to the hot, steamy, dog days of summer, I hope you enjoy all of what Memphis and the Mid-South has to offer such as Live at the Garden and the Levitt Shell Concert Series. We hope to see you out there!

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Shalom,

Susan C. Nieman – Publisher/Editor



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Contributors



Originally from Chicago, **Jeff Hulett** moved to Memphis in 1990 knowing little about the South. In fact, the first week he lived here he was suspended from school for not saying, “yes ma’am” and “no ma’am.” Jeff has since developed a passion for Memphis and especially Memphis music. A member of several bands including Snowglobe and Me & Leah, Jeff works as a communications consultant for many non-profits. He lives in the Vollintine Evergreen neighborhood with his wife and two daughters.



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.



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Gila Golder is Associate, Community Development for Jewish Community Partners. A native of Baltimore, she holds a B.A. in Creative Writing from Brandeis University and enjoys writing about programs and events in the Memphis Jewish community. She and her husband, Rob, moved to Memphis in 2015 from upstate New York. They are members of Young Israel of Memphis.



Adam Loskovitz

#ADAMSDISCO MITZVAH

Story by Shoshana Censer :: Photos by Paige Miller Photography

When the mother of the bar mitzvah boy is a party planner, you know it's going to be a unique and amazing simcha with lots of personal details.

Such was the case when Adam Loskovitz became a bar mitzvah on Feb. 3, 2018, at Memphis' Baron Hirsch Congregation. "Adam led the Mussaf prayer service, read his Torah portion (Yitro) and he chanted his haftarah," raves his mom, Einat Loskovitz, of all his hard work. "But his explanation of the torah portion was really more like a show and tell."

Adam engaged the congregants with his confidence and flip-board presentation using emojis representing each of the 10 commandments.

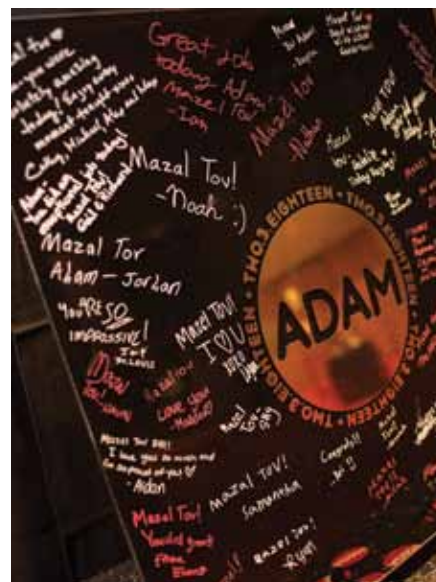
"His speech was the first of its kind at Baron Hirsch!" said Einat. After services, about 200 friends and relatives enjoyed a Shabbat lunch at the synagogue.

That night, the party moved to Temple Israel's social hall where Einat had the most fun sharing a family past time. "We chose a disco ball dance theme because Adam likes to dance," says Einat. "We often have late-night dance parties when we get together with close family friends here at our house."

Adam's favorite color set the tone for the entire day – starting with the red yarmulkes for services. Red lighting, draping, centerpieces, cloths and chairs with bursts of silver and black created a dance room vibe.

The bar mitzvah boy had one request, that all of the food be fun and kid-friendly. So Einat planned a menu of finger foods loved by kids and the young-at-heart. Only the stir-fry, which was served in takeout containers, required a fork.

Continued on 6 →





“My favorite part of the weekend was watching it all come together,” said Einat. “I love planning parties. It’s what I do! I love all the details. The details are what make the party. As a mom, I felt very proud of Adam for doing such a great job during services. I was nervous for the both of us, but he was very confident and calm.”



Einat and Neal with their sons, Adam (13), Jacob (15) and Benji (6)





Mission Trip to Memphis: A Patient's Story of Sight Regained

Provided by The Hamilton Eye Institute Lions Club

Just imagine you are slowly going blind as your cataracts continue to get worse daily, and you have no means to have the problem corrected. Then you learn that Lions Clubs help needy patients receive eye surgery. Your local Lions Club refers you to the Mid-South Lions Sight and Hearing Service for assistance with removing your cataracts.

Due to a dramatically increased need for service, you have been on the patient waiting list for over a year. Then finally you receive a call for a pre-surgical screening interview at the Hamilton Eye Institute (HEI) in Memphis and approved to have the cataract on your right eye removed.

When the day finally arrives, you grab a bus to the Hamilton Eye Institute-sponsored "Mission Trip to Memphis." Unfortunately, no one is available to accompany you to surgery, which jeopardizes your chance at surgery. You worry that you will continue to live in darkness. However, Mid-South Lions program director Betty Douglas, and two visiting Missouri Lions, Noma Paulin and Jennie Mosher, are available to accompany you and another patient through the process. During this daylong process, the volunteers provided lunch and comfort to patients as they awaited post-op exams.

During that first "Dr. Ivan Marais Cataract-A-Thon" doctors successfully preformed approximately 30 procedures that day.

"It was special to walk into a packed entrance this morning busy with excited patients and volunteers," said Dr. Brian Fowler, one of the attending physicians. "It had the same buzz as a mission trip overseas, but right here in everyone's backyards. And that's the best part: we are helping our own community. The patients are our neighbors. Many told stories of not being able to work, drive or see their family because of their inability to see through dense cataracts that are, as you all know, curable. Together we can change the lives of so many! A special thank you to the Mid-South Lions for involving us in their lifelong mission: To eradicate preventable and curable blindness."

The Hamilton Eye Institute Lions Club organized and conducted the 2017 Dr. Ivan

Marais Cataract-A-Thon along with many other volunteers and donors. The event is sponsored by the HEI Lions Club, HEI Surgery Center, Mid-South-area ophthalmologists and medical personnel, Alcon, Novartis, Imprimis, Cardinal Health, Southern College of Optometry, the ASCRS Foundation's Operation Sight, Mid-South Lions, a large staff of doctors, members of several local Lions Clubs and other volunteers.

This particular patient required additional surgical procedures and continues to receive care through the Hamilton Eye Institute Surgery Center and Mid-South Lions. Doctors believe there is a good chance he will fully regain his sight.

Plans are already in place for the 2018 Dr. Ivan Marais Cataract-A-Thon on June 15 and 16.

2018 IVAN MARAIS CATARACT-A-THON LION VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

The Hamilton Eye Institute Lions Club is planning to perform 70+ free cataract procedures. Patients, all from the Mid-South Lions waiting list will be coming from Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee.

Volunteers are needed during this two-part event.

EXAM-A-THON (Exam-A-Thon: Registration, Financials and Pre-Op Clinicals)

May 12 and May 19

7am - 4pm

Needed: 12 to 15 volunteers primarily before noon per day. Tasks include Greeters, Crowd Control, Paperwork/Financials, Transportation (in building), Food/Drink Service, Setup, Clean Up, etc.

CATARACT-A-THON

June 15 and 16

7am - 4pm

Needed: 10 volunteers per day. Tasks include Greeters, Food/Drink Service, Setup, Clean Up, etc. Work schedules are flexible. You may volunteer for full or partial days and for any number of days.

To volunteer, please call
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Questions, contact Lion Scott at 901.493.9300
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**Event Times Subject to Change*

Giving Life

By Gila Golder

In October 2017, my husband and I took a quick trip to Chicago. Officially, this was our “babymoon” – the last vacation we would take together before our son was born in December. But there was also another purpose to the trip. We were going to see Mitchell, the man I had never met but whose life I had saved two years previously.

Mitchell is soft-spoken, a retired pediatrician, devoted to his wife and four adult daughters. He lives in Chicago and was once an extra on two episodes of *Chicago Med*. But I didn't know any of this in January 2015 when I got a call from DKMS, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting blood cancers and disorders. I was told only that I was a potential bone marrow match to a cancer patient, based on a cheek swab I had done at a bone marrow drive in college.

I was completely taken aback by the phone call. The DKMS representative asked me to take a few days to think about it, which I did— but I knew immediately that I was going to go forward with the donation if it was possible. In the meantime, DKMS called two other potential donors who had also come up as possible matches in the system. Ultimately, as a young female donor, I was chosen as the best possible match for Mitchell, who at the time I knew only as “the patient.” Later, he would tell me that although he was healthy and active, because he was over 60 he was placed in the high-risk “geriatric” category.

Not all blood cancer patients are candidates for a bone marrow transplant, and even those who are candidates aren't guaranteed a successful outcome. As I prepared for the donation, I did some research, asking friends and acquaintances for personal stories to supplement information I had gleaned from Google. Most commonly, I heard from people who had been on the registry for decades but never got a call that there was a match waiting. I started to understand that I was very fortunate to have been called in the first place and chosen as a match.

As it turned out, I was fortunate in many other ways, too: At the time, I lived in Rochester, NY, home to Strong Memorial Hospital, which has a high-quality blood and marrow transplant center, so I didn't have

to travel to another city. My job was flexible, so I could easily take time off for testing and the donation itself. I qualified for peripheral blood stem cell collection, the less invasive method of transplantation. I didn't have a severe reaction to the drugs used to prep my body for donation, or those used in the procedure. And I was exceptionally fortunate, two years later, to arrive with my husband at a kosher restaurant in Chicago to meet Mitchell, who had made a complete recovery and now teaches part-time at a medical school.

He was waiting for us with his wife and daughters, who are approximately our age –which is another way of saying that Mitchell could have been my father. In fact, since I was a genetic match to him, we probably are related in some way. But I had reason to think of my father, Craig Heller, throughout this process. Like Mitchell, my father was healthy and active when he was diagnosed with cancer in 2000. Like Mitchell, he was a fighter, pursuing all available treatment options. But his story doesn't have a happy ending – he passed away in August 2002 when I was just 12 years old.

Mitchell doesn't need another daughter, and of course no one can replace my father. But that night in October, the eight of us gathered in a cozy corner of the restaurant, trading stories and laughter, my unborn son kicking as if to say hello – the experience was tinged with familiarity, as if I had met these people somewhere already and we were just catching up. It felt like a family reunion.

Life goes on – I have work and family responsibilities and so does he. But it's tremendously fulfilling to know that in Chicago, a family is whole because I said yes to donation.

Since we met, Mitchell and I have e-mail conversations occasionally, and he's watching my son grow up through photos I share on Facebook. We named our son Tzemach – my father's Hebrew name.

Recently, my mom asked if he would mind if she called him to introduce herself.

I'm hopeful that we'll all meet again another time. And maybe then, it really will be a family reunion.



Gila Golder meets Mitchell in person for the first time.



Gila and Mitchell (seated) surrounded by their families, Gila's husband, Rob Golder, Mitchell's daughters Talia, Arielle, Naomi, Elana and wife Helene.

Playback Memphis cast members Bill Baker, Wayne Smith, Gio Lopez, and Ann Wallace perform at a recent Memphis Matters.

Connecting People Through the Art of Storytelling

By Jeff Hulett :: Photos Courtesy of Playback Memphis



For board member Leigh Mansberg, the potency of Playback Memphis comes from its belief in story. The Playback process recognizes that every person and every community has a story and if it is honest and told in a safe space, that story becomes a natural tool for healing and connection.

"Playback takes this elemental fact about humanity and connects to it as an art form," said Leigh Mansberg.

Founded in 2008 by Virginia Murphy, Playback Memphis' mission is to bring stories to life in a safe space to unlock healing, transformation and joy. But their mission expands further into building beloved community in spaces where this type of work has been unimaginable.

Playback Memphis serves and connects a wide cross section of Memphians through dynamic and empathetic storytelling, unifying and strengthening community. Playback theatre is not simply a performance art; it's an innovative tool that nourishes communities and relationships.

Playback does this important work through five core programs – Memphis Matters, Community Matters, Be the Peace, Performing the Peace, and the Cultural Awareness Training for Memphis Police Department (MPD) New Recruits.

Memphis Matters: Through a unique combination of improvisational theatre, personal narrative, and community dialogue, Memphis Matters provides audiences a wonderful opportunity to connect with the 'heart' of Memphis. These quarterly events are open to the public and a great way for anyone to experience Playback. The next public performances will be held June 2, at First Congo Church in Cooper Young. Tickets and info can be

found at playbackmemphis.org.

Community Matters: Each year, Playback Memphis chooses six non-profit organizations from a pool of applicants for a Playback performance or workshop at a deeply discounted price. These experiences can integrate key public health messaging and focus on vital community concerns such as bullying, domestic violence, substance abuse, suicide awareness, and teenage pregnancy.

Be the Peace: Playback Memphis facilitates Be the Peace anti-bullying workshops among school children across the city and provides comprehensive Be the Peace programming within a few Frayser elementary schools. By partnering with schools in Frayser, Playback Memphis is helping to strengthen social-emotional learning and positive school culture – one in which students can excel academically and socially.

Performing the Peace (PTP): Playback Memphis seeks to create social change through Performing the Peace, a train the trainer model that brings police and individuals who have been incarcerated together in a safe and open setting. Participants examine and explore the barriers and the solutions to positive community-police relations.

Cultural Awareness Training for MPD New Recruits: Developed by Performing the Peace officers and Playback Memphis staff, in alignment with a national movement to provide support for officers, while making them more effective protectors of the community, this program continues to inspire and break down barriers of racism, poverty, and injustice.

"We are growing together in awareness and compassion," said Playback Memphis Executive Director Virginia Murphy. "We are trying to build a legacy of safety, kinship, and hope for future generations."

Board member Leigh Mansberg was drawn to Playback's unique form of artistic and therapeutic performance, where actor and engaged



PTP session: At a Playback Memphis Performing the Peace session, Memphian William Golden and MPD Officer Cody Young get to know each other through the personal stories they share.

listener combine to create human-to-human breakthroughs in compassion and empathy.

"At their core, Playback company members engage with their audience by letting them know, 'I hear you,'" explained Leigh. "When they bring individual stories to life on the stage, the audience connects immediately. It is really the simplest generous act of our humanity that we can offer – to validate the story of the other without judgment. Playback essentially reduces our stories to their most essential emotional elements and then we in the audience just connect."

Playback Memphis is celebrating their 10-year anniversary, and they need your help. If you are interested in volunteering or making a donation, you can visit www.playbackmemphis.org.

"Playback offers tangible results that are best seen, in my opinion, in the smiles and confidence of the children they empower," said Leigh. "By investing in Playback you become a part of a greater story for the individuals that define our city and for the collective whole that is our amazing, complicated and beautiful Memphis."

For performance schedules, visit www.playbackmemphis.org.

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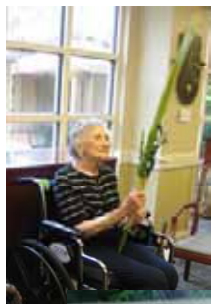
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A Taste of Israel: In its first year, the event sold out within weeks of its announcement. The community-wide celebration brought people together to mingle and experience Israeli food and wines. Planning has already begun to expand the 2019 event to include more guests and celebrity chefs.





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Making Passover Centerpieces with Bornblum Jewish Community School





Tennessee Senator Bob Corker, chairman of the Senate's Committee on Foreign Relations, visits Memphis. Questions from guests touched on the Middle East conflict, U.S. support of Israel, poverty, gun violence, the U.S. budget and many others. Senator Corker was candid, open and informative.



Memphis Jewish Federation Board Chair Ken Steinberg, Jewish Community Partners President and CEO Laura Linder, Tennessee Senator Bob Corker, Jewish Community Partners Board Chair Michael Greenberg, and Jewish Foundation of Memphis Board Chair Charles Jalenak.



Senator Corker candidly speaking to the large crowd.



Shoham Mayor Visits Memphis



Shoham Mayor Gil Livne spoke at Bornblum Jewish Community School's Friday Kabbalat Shabbat program.

Mayor Livne visited with Margolin Hebrew Academy Junior High girls who are "twinned" to their counterparts at Shalhevet School, in Shoham.



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What is a serious wine collector to do? I've seen industry estimates that as little as 1 percent of wine produced is meant to improve with age, and yet many of us have invested in temperature controlled storage – a cooled closet, a wine refrigerator or even a \$5,000 piece of exquisite furniture.

While just about any wine has a shelf life of four to at least seven years without special storage, if you want to have 'anniversary' or 'birth year' wines, there are three components that are crucial to preserving wine and helping wine age gracefully – acidity, tannins and sugar.

Acidity – that is the tingling sensation in the mouth when taking the first sip. Found in both white and red wine, the most common acids are tartaric and malic and are influenced by region, variety, growing conditions and winemaking tactics. Generally grapes grown in cooler climates have higher levels of acidity. Examples would include sauvignon blanc, riesling, some, pinot noir and sangiovese.

Tannins – help protect wine from its worst enemy: oxygen. Tannins are found in grape seeds and skins. Tannins can be transferred from oak barrels as well. Tannins are what feel "dry" in your mouth, often feeling a bit gritty on your tongue. White wines have limited skin contact and generally spend little time in oak barrels, so tannins tend to be mild and contribute little to white ageability. Grapes with thick skins impart the most tannins to the wine and include syrah, nebbiolo, tannat, malbec, cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc, merlot and petite sirah.

Sugar – is a preservative in wine and, when balanced with acidity, can help a wine age for decades. Sugar remains in a wine when fermentation is stopped before the sugar is completely converted into alcohol. Even "dry" red wines have some residual sugar and that, when balanced with tannins and acidity contributes to ageability. For legendary whites, it is the combination of sugar and acids that make sauternes, some chenin blancs, rieslings and wines infected with botrytis have very long lives and huge aging potential.



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Rabbi Bess Wohlner
Bert Wolf
Heather Wright
Dena Wruble
Demi Yaffe
Alice Zalon

These individuals volunteered their time to raise money, determine community priorities, address community needs, award grants, set policies, manage community assets, plan young adult programming and plan community-wide programs all to ensure a vibrant and sustained Jewish community that is cared for, connected and engaged.



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