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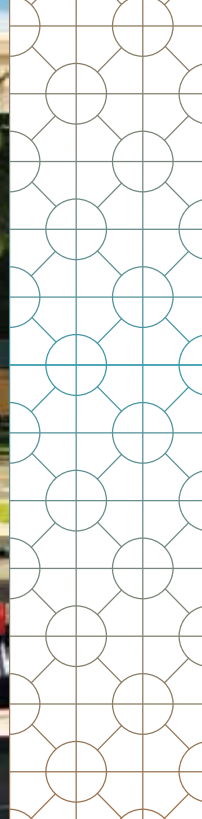
Volume 14 | Number 1 | 2019

www.jewishscenemagazine.com

—
**GUIDE TO
JEWISH MEMPHIS**

—
**CELEBRATING
14 YEARS!**

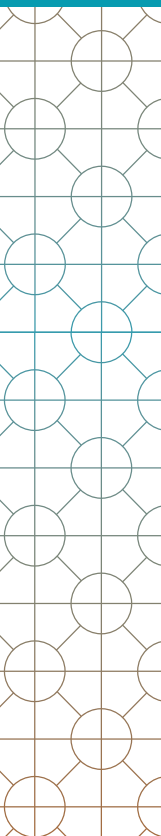




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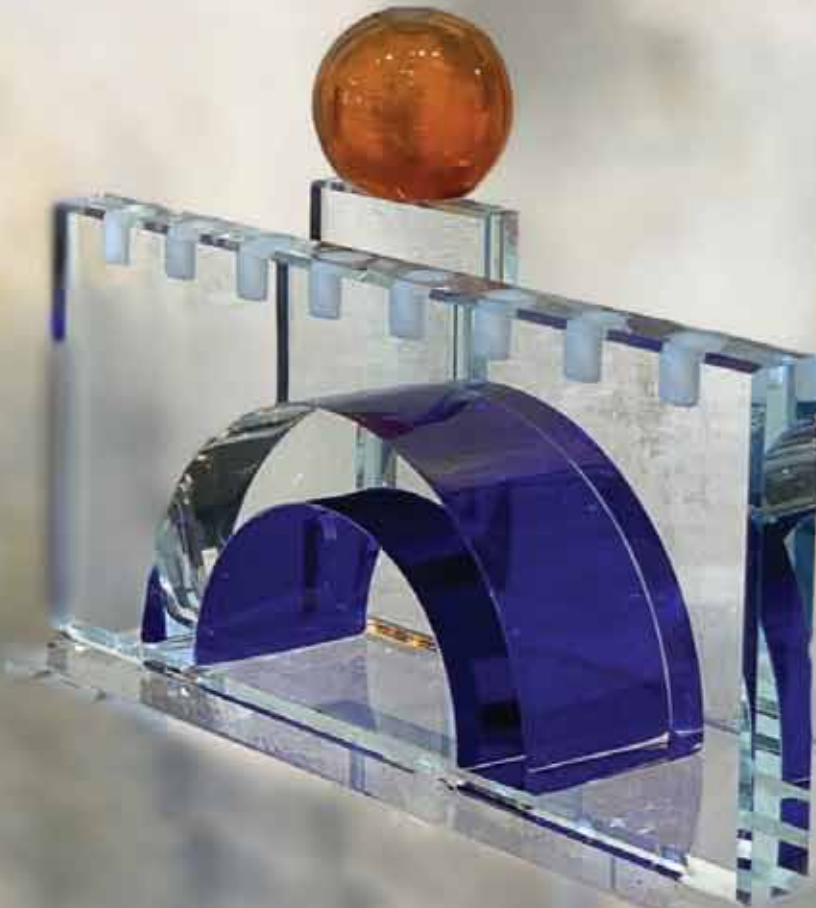
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Contents

-
- 03 From the Editor**
Celebrating 14 Years Connecting Jewish Memphis
-
- 04 Contributors**
-
- 05 Guide to Jewish Memphis**
-
- 06 Guide to Jewish Memphis**
Jewish Communal Organizations
-
- 07 Guide to Jewish Memphis**
Jewish Community Partners
Memphis Jewish Federation
Jewish Foundation of Memphis
-
- 08 Guide to Jewish Memphis**
Synagogues
Jewish Day Schools
Preschools
Religious Schools
-
- 09 Guide to Jewish Memphis**
Margolin Hebrew Academy/
Feinstone Yeshiva of the South
Bornblum Jewish Community School
-
- 10 Guide to Jewish Memphis**
Youth Groups and Family Programs
Young Adults
Higher Education
Newcomers
-
- 11 Guide to Jewish Memphis**
Beth Shalom Synagogue
-
- 12 Guide to Jewish Memphis**
Temple Israel
-
- 13 Guide to Jewish Memphis**
Women's Organizations
Men's Organizations
Senior Groups
Senior Living Facilities
Senior Services
-
- 14 Guide to Jewish Memphis**
Kosher Eateries
-
- 15 Guide to Jewish Memphis**
Special Events
-
- 15 "Crossroads: Chance or Destiny"**
Connecting in Maine
Stories told to Harry Samuels by people who have encountered meaningful and unexplainable instances.

-
- 16 Senior Living**
Renewing Strength. Restoring Confidence.
Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab expands services with Belz Family Foundations Rehabilitation Facility and Judy and Larry Moss Rehab Gym.
-
- 17 Guide to Jewish Memphis**
Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab
-
- 18 Senior Living**
Plough Towers Techies
The computer lab enhances self-worth, dignity, and encourages resident's full use of skills, intelligence and experience.
-
- 19 Guide to Jewish Memphis**
Plough Towers
-
- 20 Senior Living**
Changing the Lives of Memphis Jewish Seniors One Art Project at a Time
Creative Aging provides outlets for seniors to enjoy an array of entertainment.
-
- 22 Senior Living**
Caregiving is a Judgement Call
Communication between the family and the caregiver is essential for both parties.
-
- 23 Feature**
Free Jewish Books Bring Families Together
PJ Library families enjoy more than free books when coming together to share Jewish-related activities.
-
- 24 Feature**
Welcoming a new "Page" to Jewish Memphis: Meet Temple Israel's New Community Engagement Director
Paige Mandelman works with ConnectI members to create fun, meaningful experiences.
-
- 26 Arts and Entertainment**
The Many Talents of Sophie Bloch
Textile fiber is just one of her many passions.
-
- 28 Scenes**
ASBEE, Baron Hirsch, Bornblum Jewish Community School, Chabad, MHA/FYOS
-
- 29 Scenes**
Memphis Jewish Federation, Young Israel
-
- + On The Cover**
Hernando Desoto Bridge
by Susan C. Nieman

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Dear JSM Readers,

Are you new to Memphis?
Are you a native Memphian?
Perhaps this Guide to Jewish
Memphis will help you either way.

Whether you're looking for ways to connect to others
with similar interests, or places near you with needed
services, we hope we've covered them all. If not, please
send recommendations for an even bigger and better
Guide next year.

Serving our approximately 10,000 Jewish-affiliated
population (this number is clearly up for debate – with
data ranging from 7,500 to as high as 15,000), Memphis
boasts four Orthodox synagogues, two Conservative, and
one Reform; two Jewish day schools, the Memphis Jewish
Community Center (a gathering place for all); Jewish
Community Partners, which operates both Memphis
Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Memphis;
and numerous opportunities to further Jewish studies,
and interact with families of all ages.

Whether you're single, just moving back to the city after
college graduation, just married, a family with young
children, an empty nester or coming to an age where you
may begin to be seeking senior services, the Memphis
Jewish community has a place for you to connect.

Are you a parent or grandparent with children ages six
months to eight-years-old? Then check out PJ Library on
page 23. Want to meet friends in their 20s who celebrate
Shabbat or just hang out at local hotspots? Then check
out ConneCTI on page 24 and meet Temple Israel's new
community engagement director, Paige Mandelman.

This is also our annual Guide to Senior Services, which
highlights several local organizations that have been
serving the Memphis and general communities, some
for 92 years. Take a look at Memphis Jewish Home &
Rehab's newest expansion on page 16. Find out how
seniors are keeping active through a network of local
artists with Creative Aging on page 20, and learn more
about caregiving services from Cary Rotter on page 22.

We hope you keep this issue for future reference. Please
thank our advertisers for their continued support, and a
special thanks to a local supporter who made it possible
to mail this issue to your mailboxes.

If you would like to begin receiving Jewish Scene Magazine
again at home, please send in the form on page 29.

Shana Tova to all! And Happy 14th Birthday to Jewish
Scene Magazine! Who knew we would still be printing
all of these years? Thank you for your continued support
and encouragement.

Shalom!

Susan C. Nieman – Publisher/Editor



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Contributors



Harry Samuels, author of "Beshert: True Stories of Connections" and "Crossroads Chance or Destiny," is a graduate of Washington University. He has devoted many years to volunteerism in Memphis, Tennessee. He and his wife, Flora, have been married for 57 years and are the parents of Martin, William and the late David Samuels.



Cary Rotter is the president of WeCare Services, Inc. d/b/a Comfort Keepers, in business since 2001. He is a native Memphian and has been heavily involved in the community at multiple levels, including speaking and writing on the senior care industry. He can be reached at 901.260.0060 or at caryrotter@comfort-keepers.com.



Mary Kanowitz is a freelance writer, project manager, and Memphis transplant circa 2011. She spends much of her time keeping up with her two children, two dogs, cat, and husband. She loves throwing a good party for any or no reason, and lives by the motto: "What Would Dolly Do?"



Joel Y. Ashner, CFRE is Director of Philanthropy and Community Engagement for Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab (MJHR) where she had worked for almost 15 years. She received her B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing from Washington University in St. Louis and her Certified Fund Raising Executive credential from CFRE International. She received the 2017 Professional of the Year Award from the Association of Jewish Aging Services and the 2017 Outstanding Fundraising Executive Crystal Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Memphis Chapter. She and her husband, Dub, have three adult children. She can be reached at jashner@memphisjewishhome.org.



Lauren Luskey Taube manages data, PJ Library, and newcomers engagement initiatives at Jewish Community Partners. As a Jewish educator, she is passionate about helping others find their own meaningful connections to Judaism. She and her husband, David, live in Memphis with their two adorable kids who love PJ Library.



Holly Marks, born a Yankee, and now a Southern girl at heart, is loving the Memphis state of mind. With a background in advertising and public relations, writing comes naturally, and she is thrilled to be a part of Jewish Scene Magazine. When she's not brainstorming her next big idea, she's either doing family time, having coffee or finding an excuse to go to HomeGoods.



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JShulman@memphisjewishhome.org



Guide
to

Jewish Memphis



2019

JEWISH COMMUNAL ORGANIZATIONS

Chabad Center for Jewish Life

2570 Kirby Parkway, 38119
901.754.0404
Directors: Rivky & Rabbi Levi Klein
Chabad@JewishMemphis.com
JewishMemphis.com

Hadassah, Memphis Chapter

Faith Ruch
facebook.com/groups/HadassahMemphis
faithruch@yahoo.com
Hadassah.org

Jewish Community Partners

Managing organization of:
Jewish Foundation of Memphis
Memphis Jewish Federation
6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138
901.767.7100
President/CEO: Laura Linder
COO: Michael Barnett
crichardson@jcpmemphis.org
jcpmemphis.org

Jewish Family Service at the Memphis Jewish Community Center

6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138
901.767.8511
Director: Mary Elizabeth Jones
jccmemphis.org/jfs

Jewish Historical Society of Memphis & the Mid-South

6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138
President: Lorraine Wolf
jhsmem.org
mjhsresident@gmail.com

Memphis Friends of Israel

1910 Madison Avenue #201, 38104
901.262.1085
director@memphisfoi.org
memphisfoi.org

Memphis Jewish Community Center

6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138
901.761.0810
President/CEO: Larry Skolnick
membership@jccmemphis.org
jccmemphis.org

New Jewish Neighborhood House (Midtown Memphis)

facebook.com/groups/newjewishneighborhoodhouse

Temple Israel Museum

1376 East Massey Road, 38120
901.761.3130
timemphis.org/museum



TEMPLE ISRAEL

Temple Israel is a sanctuary for prayer and inspiration, a vibrant center for Jewish learning, and a congregational home for living Torah. We are a source of strength and a force for good for Reform Jews, the greater community, and the world.

EAST MEMPHIS • 1376 EAST MASSEY ROAD, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38120

CROSSTOWN CONCOURSE • 1350 CONCOURSE AVENUE, SUITE 457, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38104

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We Are Jewish Memphis

Keeping our Jewish community Cared for, Connected, and Engaged.

Jewish Community Partners (JCP) operates Memphis Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Memphis.

6560 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38138 • 901.767.7100

President/CEO: Laura K. Linder
COO: Michael Barnett

JCP Chair: Ken Steinberg
JFOM Chair: Anthony Morrison
MJF Chair: Cindy Finestone



*Federation's Jewish Seniors
Activities Coordinator visits
seniors at their homes.*



Memphis Jewish Federation (MJF) is a trusted philanthropic partner with well-trained leaders representing the diversity of the Memphis Jewish community. MJF convenes stakeholders to gain a deeper understanding of individual and communal needs and develops strategies to address them. Contributions from more than 1,100 Memphis Jewish families are granted by volunteers to local and global organizations that serve the needs of the most vulnerable Jewish families supporting initiatives such as meals for homebound seniors and emergency financial assistance. Grants are also awarded to strengthen Jewish identity and engagement and help ensure diverse Jewish education offerings. Need-based scholarships are available for overnight summer camp. And, MJF grants provide ways for Jewish families of all ages to connect to Jewish life through programs such as Temple Israel's Institute of Jewish Rock and PJ Library.

MJF is the sole organization that links Memphis donors to a global Jewish community – providing a way for each individual donor to partner with hundreds of thousands of Jewish donors across the world to address the biggest issues facing Jewish life such as security, rising anti-Semitism, engagement with Israel and building the next generation of Jewish leaders.



*Jewish Foundation of Memphis
leaders with speaker Phil Purcell
at a recent philanthropic giving
workshop.*



When 10 Memphis Jewish organizations partnered almost 25 years ago to launch the Jewish Foundation of Memphis, it is certain they did not envision the impact the Foundation would have on the Memphis Jewish community. Now with more than 400 funds, 550 legacy commitments to local Jewish organizations, and a team of professionals well versed in major gift and planned giving development, the Jewish Foundation is able to help donors reach their philanthropic goals. \$65 million dollars have passed from the Jewish Foundation to charitable organizations providing services to a variety of individuals, Jewish and non-Jewish, in Memphis and beyond. Grants have fed the hungry, provided prescription and other medical needs to the elderly and educated children.

The mission of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis is to encourage charitable giving, to support partner agency endowment development and to build and sustain a vibrant Jewish community. From engaging teens in philanthropy through the B'nai Tzedek program, to creating charitable legacies with donors through bequests – and anything else in between – the array of programs at the Jewish Foundation are geared toward the long-term vibrancy and sustainability of our Jewish community. The Jewish Foundation of Memphis is proud to be the primary philanthropic resource for Jewish families, their financial advisors and others in the community.

SYNAGOGUES

Anshei Shphard Beth El Emeth Congregation (O)

120 E. Yates Road N., 38120
 901.682.1611
 Rabbi Joel Finkelstein
 Cantor Aryeh Samberg
 Director: Alan Goldkin
 exec@asbee.org
 asbee.org

Baron Hirsch Congregation (O)

400 S. Yates Road, 38120
 901.683.7485
 Rabbi Binyamin Lehrfield
 Cantor Ricky Kampf
 Director: David Fleischhacker
 exec@baronhirsch.org
 baronhirsch.org

Beth Sholom Synagogue (C)

6675 Humphreys Blvd., 38120
 901.683.3591
 Rabbi Sarit Horwitz
 Director: Geo Poor
 geo@bsholom.org
 bsholom.org

Chabad Lubavitch of Tennessee

2570 Kirby Parkway, 38119
 901.754.0404
 Rabbi Levi Klein ~ rabbi@JewishMemphis.com
 JewishMemphis.com

Or Chadash Conservative Synagogue (C)

6629 Massey Lane, 38120
 901.435.6353
 Rabbi Cantor David Julian ~ RabbiCDJ@gmail.com
 Director: Arlene Myers
 ammyers5@gmail.com

Temple Israel (R)

1376 East Massey Road, 38120
 901.761.3130
 Crosstown Concourse
 1350 Concourse Avenue, Suite 457, 38104
 Senior Rabbi Micah D. Greenstein
 Associate Rabbi Bess Wohlner
 Assistant Rabbi Jeremy Simons
 Senior Educator Rabbi Feivel Strauss
 Cantor Abbie Strauss
 Director: Stacy Canales
 connies@timemphis.org
 timemphis.org

Young Israel of Memphis (O)

531 S. Yates Road, 38120
 901.761.6060
 Rabbi Akiva Males
 Director: Eileen Segal
 info@yiom.org
 YIOM.org

JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS

Bornblum Jewish Community School (K-8)

6641 Humphreys Blvd., 38120
 901.747.2665
 Head of School: Daniel R. Weiss
 info@bornblum.org
 bornblum.org

Margolin Hebrew Academy/Feinstone Yeshiva of the South (Pre-K-12)

390 S. White Station Road, 38117
 901.682.2400
 Head of School: Rabbi Benjy Owen
 jessica.baum@mhafyos.org
 mhafyos.org

PRESCHOOLS

Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center at Temple Israel

1376 East Massey Road, 38120
 901.937.2784
 Director: Jamie Baer
 jamieb@timemphis.org
 templepreschoolmemphis.com

Memphis Jewish Community Center Early Childhood Center

6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138
 901.259.9207
 Director: Lindsey Chase
 lchase@jccmemphis.org

RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

Baron Hirsch Shabbat Programs

Torah Tots: 3 years old
 Jr. Congregation: 1st-5th grade
 Chidon Hatanach: Teens
 400 S. Yates Road, 38120
 901.683.7485
 baronhirsch.org

Beth Sholom Religious School

6675 Humphreys Blvd., 38120
 901.683.3591
 Director Youth Education & Engagement: Danny Kraft
 Danny@bsholom.org
 bsholom.org

The Wendy & Avron Fogelman Religious School at Temple Israel

Kindergarten through 12th grade
 1376 East Massey Road, 38120
 901.937.2777
 Education Administrator: Jackie Evans
 jackiee@timemphis.org
 timemphis.org/religious-school



Margolin Hebrew Academy – Feinstone Yeshiva of the South
 Head of School: Rabbi Benjamin Owen
 COO: Dr. Bradley Karasik
 390 S White Station Rd., Memphis, TN 38117
 901.682.2400
mhafyos.org

Located in the heart of the vibrant Jewish community of Memphis, TN, the Margolin Hebrew Academy – Feinstone Yeshiva of the South is a warm, community-centered, Orthodox day school committed to instilling within its students a love of Judaism, the State of Israel, and the Jewish people in the context of an academically rigorous educational environment. Since its inception in 1949, MHA-FYOS has fostered passion and commitment for Torah learning and for a Torah lifestyle, while imbuing its students with derech eretz, communal responsibility, and the tools for a lifetime of success.

Save the Date

MHA Auction and Sweepstakes Sale: **March 2020**
 MHA Scholarship Banquet and Ad Journal: **June 2020**



Bornblum Jewish Community School
 6641 Humphreys Blvd., 38120
 901.747.2665
 Head of School: Daniel R. Weiss
info@bornblum.org
bornblum.org

Bornblum's warm and nurturing environment focuses on academic excellence in general and Jewish studies. Small classes allow for individualized learning where each student meets his or her potential. Bornblum is Memphis' Jewish community school where students from different socio-economic and Jewish backgrounds learn together in an environment of mutual respect.



YOUTH GROUPS & FAMILY PROGRAMS

BBYO

6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138
901.761.0810
bbyo.org

**B'nai Tzedek Youth Philanthropy/
Jewish Foundation of Memphis**

Bar/Bat Mitzvah through 12th Grade
6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138
901.767.7100
jcpmemphis.org/teen-philanthropy

JYG: Junior Youth Group

1376 East Massey Road, 38120
901.937.2747
Carly Abramson
carlya@timemphis.org
timemphis.org

MeFTY (Memphis Federation of Temple Youth)

1376 East Massey Road, 38120
901.937.2747
Carly Abramson
carlya@timemphis.org
timemphis.org

NCSY

Jr. NCSYers (6th-8th) and Sr. NCSYers (9th-12th)
Director: Jamie Gibber
312.802.5943
gibberj@ncsy.org
facebook.com/profile.php?id=100005084745960&fref=ts
ncsy.org

PJ Library at Memphis Jewish Federation

6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138
901.767.7100
Manager: Lauren Taube
ltaube@jcpmemphis.org
jcpmemphis.org/pjlibrary

Shalom Baby

6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138
901.767.7100
Manager: Lauren Taube
ltaube@jcpmemphis.org
jcpmemphis.org

Teen Israel Experience

Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund
Subsidized travel to Israel for High School Juniors and Seniors
6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138
901.767.7100
jcpmemphis.org

TI Chai at Temple Israel

1376 East Massey Road, 38120
901.937.2794

USY at Beth Sholom

6675 Humphreys Blvd., 38120
901.683.3591
Danny Kraft
Danny@bsholom.org
bsholom.org

YOUNG ADULTS

ConnectTI for Jewish Memphians in their 20s

Temple Israel Crosstown
1350 Concourse Avenue, Suite 457, 38104
Director: Paige Mandelman
connectimemphis.org
connecti@timemphis.org

Hillels of Memphis

Serving University of Memphis and Rhodes College
3581 Midland Avenue, 38111
901.452.2453
Director: Sophie Bloch
sophiebloch@hillelsofmemphis.org
hillelsofmemphis.org

Jewish901 ~ Chabad Young Adults

Directors: Menachem & Mussie Klein
Jewish901.com
Facebook.com/jewish901
Menachem@JewishMemphis.com

The Bridge: Temple Israel Memphis

A social group for young professionals.
1376 East Massey Road
Memphis, TN 38120

YAD - Young Adult Division Memphis Jewish Federation

6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138
901.767.7100
Manager: Lauren Taube
ltaube@jcpmemphis.org

HIGHER EDUCATION

Bornblum Judaic Studies University of Memphis

301 Mitchell Hall, The University of Memphis, 38152
901.678.2919
memphis.edu/jdst

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Rabbi Sarit Horwitz
6675 Humphreys Blvd.
Memphis, TN 38120
901.683.3591
geo@bsholom.org
bsholom.org

Beth Sholom is a warm, dynamic Conservative congregation serving the Jews of Memphis and their families. We provide educational, social, cultural, and religious experiences in our beautiful facility and beyond, to help ensure that Jewish life in Memphis continues to flourish for generations to come. Join our Tikkun Olam Committee, MICAH, or Room in the Inn.

Lunch and Learn: Thursdays
Mystical Readings of the Parshah: Saturdays
Renewal: A Women's Rosh Chodesh Group: monthly
Shabbat Morning Meditation: monthly
Shir Chadash Musical Services: monthly



Save the dates:

Privilege and Prejudice: An Introduction to Jews in the South:
Jonathan Judaken: Nov. 12, 7pm

Dancing with the Stars, Dec. 7, 2019

Jews of Memphis: Dec. 11, 7pm

Lox Box, Feb. 2, 2020

The Role of Law in a Democracy: Kate Schaffzin: Feb. 11, 7pm

Ancient Israel, Pharaoh & the Exodus tradition: Ancient
Egyptian Evidence & Modern Cultural Portrayals:
Peter Brand: Mar. 24, 7pm

Letters to my Palestinian Neighbor Yossi Klein Halevi: May 4, 7pm



Temple Israel
 Executive Director: Stacy Canales
 Senior Rabbi Micah D. Greenstein, Associate Rabbi Bess Wohlner,
 Assistant Rabbi Jeremy Simons, Senior Education Rabbi Feivel Strauss,
 Cantor Abbie Strauss
 1376 E. Massey Road, Memphis, TN 38120
 901.761.3130
connies@timemphis.org
timemphis.org



Temple Israel is a sanctuary for prayer and inspiration, a vibrant center for Jewish learning, and a congregational home for living Torah. We are a source of strength and a force for good for Reform Jews, the greater community, and the world.

Since our founding in 1854 by a small group of German immigrants as the first permanent Jewish house of worship in Tennessee, Temple Israel has grown into a vibrant and modern Reform Jewish synagogue that now serves 1,500 member families as a place to gather, worship, learn, and deepen Jewish identity and commitment.

Temple Israel is fortunate to have a caring and visionary clergy and staff in partnership with an active group of lay leaders,

including the clerical team led by Rabbi Micah D. Greenstein, who continues Temple Israel's strong and historic commitment to the traditions of prayer, family, and Jewish identity.

Temple Israel is located on a 30-acre wooded campus in the heart of East Memphis, which also houses our premier NAEYC accredited preschool, the Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center.

We are also the only synagogue in Memphis to have space in the award-winning Crosstown Concourse. This space offers unprecedented opportunities to connect to Judaism, the larger Memphis community, unaffiliated Memphis newcomers, and Downtown/Midtown Jews. Through collaborative, community-oriented partnerships with our Crosstown neighbors, we have an incredible vantage point to see the needs of our local community and work closely with impactful organizations to make a difference.

Temple Israel, as do all member congregations of the Union for Reform Judaism, welcomes all to attend services and join as members regardless of their sexual orientation. Temple is proud to be recognized by Keshet as an inclusive and safe space for LGBTQ Jews of all ages.

New members and families are always welcome at Temple Israel. If you are interested in joining Temple Israel or have questions about our events, social groups, or programs, please call us at 901.761.3130.

Save the Dates:

An Evening with Jason Alexander: Tues. Feb 4, 2020 at GPAC
 Annual Purim Celebration
 WRJ-Sisterhood Musical Passover Seder
 MRJ-Brotherhood Annual Golf Tournament

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

ASBEE Sisterhood

120 E. Yates Road N., 38120
901.682.1611

Baron Hirsch Sisterhood

400 S. Yates Road, 38120
901.683.7485

Beth Sholom Sisterhood

6675 Humphreys Blvd, 38120
901.683.3591
Co-Presidents: Sharon Finkelstein / Marilyn Zellner
Sfinkelstein0629@gmail.com / mjzellner@comcast.net

Beth Sholom Renewal: Women's Rosh Hodesh

Rabbi Sarit Horwitz
6675 Humphreys Blvd, 38120
901.683.3591

Lion of Judah/Memphis Jewish Federation

Women's Philanthropy
6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138
901.767.7100
jcpmemphis.org/lion-of-judah

WRJ-Temple Israel Sisterhood

1376 East Massey Road, 38120
901.937.2790
President: Melissa Faber
sisterhood@timemphis.org
tisisterhood.org

MEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

ASBEE Men's Club

120 E. Yates Road N., 38120
901.682.1611

Baron Hirsch Men's Club

400 S. Yates Road, 38120
901.683.7485

Beth Sholom Men's Club

6675 Humphreys Blvd, 38120
901.683.3591
President: Seth Agranov
seth@bestmemphisburger.com
www.bsholom.org/mensclub

Temple Israel Brotherhood

1376 East Massey Road, 38120
901.761.3130
President: Alex Evans
brotherhood@timemphis.org
timemphis.org

SENIOR GROUPS

Baron Hirsch Kol Rena So-Shuls

400 S. Yates Road, 38120
901.683.7485
baronhirsch.org

Beth Sholom members 60+ Old Enough to Know Better

6675 Humphreys Blvd, 38120
901.683.3591
bsholom.org

Temple Israel members 65+ Prime Timers

1376 East Massey Road, 38120
901.761.3130
timemphis.org

SENIOR LIVING FACILITIES

Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab

36 Bazeberry Road, Cordova, 38018-7756
901.758.0036
Director: Bobby G. Meadows III
Director of Spiritual Care: Rabbi Abraham Schacter-Gampel
Director of Philanthropy and Community Engagement:
Joel Ashner
jashner@memphisjewishhome.org
memphisjewishhome.org

Plough Towers Senior Housing

6580 Poplar Avenue, 38138
901.767.1910
Director: Leigh A. Hendry
lhendry@ploughtowers.org
ploughtowers.org

SENIOR SERVICES

Alzheimer's Day Services of Memphis

Yad I'Yad Caregiver Support Group
Meets once a month at Memphis JCC
901.372.4585
info@adsmemphis.org

Bikkur Chaverim (Friendly Visitors)

Volunteers visit homebound seniors for companionship and socialization.
JFS at MJCC
6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138
901.767.8511

Handy Helpers

Volunteers assist homebound seniors with errands and light house chores.
JFS at MJCC
6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138
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 6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138
 901.767.8511

MIFA Scheidt-Hohenberg/Memphis Jewish Federation Hot Meals

Daily lunches at the MJCC
 Steve Kaplan
 6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138
 901.767.8511

Senior Service Collaborative

Memphis Jewish Federation
 A community-wide working group committed to strengthening senior services in the Memphis Jewish community.
 Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein
 901.767.7100

Shalom Shuttle

Rides and door-to-door assistance for doctors' appointments, grocery shopping, and more. Reservations required.
 JFS at MJCC
 6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138
 901.767.8511

Temple Cares at Temple Israel

Volunteers deliver meals, provide transportation to doctor's appointments, visit members who are home-bound, and host a monthly Caregiver Cafe, a support group for caregivers.
 1376 East Massey Road
 Memphis, 38120
 901.767.3130

KOSHER EATERIES

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 7730 Poplar Avenue, 38138
 901.752.1110
 5280 Pleasant View Road, 38134
 901.377.2639

Holy Cow

6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138
 901.598.1152
 info@holycownow.com
 holycownow.com

Kroger

540 Mendenhall Road, 38117
 901.683.8841

Nosh-A-Rye Deli

36 Bazeberry Road, Cordova, 38018
 901.756.3220
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 JShulman@memphisjewishhome.org
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SPECIAL EVENTS

Please visit the community calendar at jcpmemphis.org/community-calendar for all events.

MJCC International Jewish Film Festival

Call for details.
901.259.9230

Cooper Invitational Basketball Tournament

Oct. 31–Nov. 3, 2019

MJCC Jewish Literary and Cultural Arts Series

Begins November 16
Call for details.
901.259.9230

Israel Fest: Memphis Friends of Israel

December 8, 2019
Shelby Farms Agricenter
memphisfoi.org

Vodka and Latkes

Jewish Foundation of Memphis' 25 Anniversary Kick Off
Dec. 10, 2019
901.767.7100

Holocaust Art & Essay Contest Memphis Jewish Federation

Spring 2020
901.767.7100
jcpmemphis.org

Yom HaShoah Commemoration Memphis Jewish Federation

April 21, 2020
901.767.7100
jcpmemphis.org

The Morris and Mollye Fogelman Israel Week at the MJCC

April 23–29, 2020
901.691.2303

Taste of Israel: Memphis Jewish Federation

May 13, 2020
901.767.7100

ASBEE Kosher BBQ Competition and Festival

901.682.1611
Fall 2020

Newcomers Brunch

Fall 2020
901.767.7100

CROSSROADS

Chance or Destiny?

By Harry Samuels

This collection of connection stories is a follow up to Harry's first book, Beshert, which Jewish Scene readers enjoyed years ago. I hope you enjoy them as much as I do.

All of us have the ability to experience the synchronicity that is often the result of reaching out to others. ~ Harry Samuels

CONNECTING IN MAINE

While driving along the magnificent Maine coast last year on a bright and sunny spring afternoon, we stopped for lunch at the charming community of Boothbay. I asked a friendly man standing on the pier, where we were taking pictures, if he lived in the city and, if so, the name of a good restaurant. He led us to a restaurant filled with good food and interesting people.

As we ascended the stairs following lunch, we saw two pug puppies on leashes held by a friendly lady. I began playing with her dogs. As we spoke, I detected a St. Louis, Missouri accent. "You don't sound like you're from around here," I said. "Where are you from?"

"I'm from St. Louis," she told us.

"What was your maiden name?" I inquired.

"Jacobs," she answered.

"I met Rabbi Robert Jacobs when I attended Washington University in St. Louis. He was the director of Hillel." (Jewish college youth organization.)

"He was no relation," she replied.

"There was a man by the name of Jacobs whom I never met, but of whom I heard many nice things," I offered. "He was the scoutmaster of my nephew's troop in University City, Missouri. He was such a role model that my nephew now serves as the scoutmaster of the largest scout troop in Kentucky."

"Dad was a scoutmaster," she said. "What's your nephew's name?"

"Dr. Stanley Frager," I replied.

"He was a pallbearer at my father's funeral!" she exclaimed, kissing my cheek.

Dr. Stanley R. Frager is a professor of psychology at the University of Louisville. He's the author of the book The Champion Within You: How to Overcome Problems, Obstacles, and Adversity in Your Life. He is a highly regarded motivational speaker who has conducted seminars for some of the most outstanding corporations in the country.



Renewing Strength. Restoring Confidence.

The Vision Is Now A Reality: Belz Family Foundations Rehabilitation Facility

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

Since 1927, Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab (MJHR) has been invested in the health and happiness of each individual who enters its doors. Still rich with Jewish tradition, today they serve patients and families of all faiths who are seeking physical, occupational, and speech therapy treatment, and residents who are no longer able to care for themselves seeking long-term care. MJHR remains committed to providing high-quality care that exceeds the “minimum” governmental standards, which sets them apart from many other facilities. With the construction of this rehab expansion, they have created a leading-edge rehabilitation facility.

As a leader in the skilled nursing care community, MJHR has a responsibility to respond to the needs of today’s and tomorrow’s seniors.

Caring for over 1,000 seniors each year, MJHR has a responsibility to provide them with the best care and facility possible.

With help from several foundations and many generous individuals in our community, MJHR raised over \$7.7 million to-date to build an approximately 24,000-square-foot addition to the building and add needed equipment. The Belz Family Foundations Rehabilitation Facility addition is home to the largest rehab gym for seniors in the area, an aquatic therapy center, activities of daily living suite, and a 16-room patient wing.

Providing more space for therapy

The Judy and Larry Moss Rehab Gym is a space built specifically with seniors in mind. The Moss Rehab Gym is not only the largest rehab gym

in the area but includes a multitude of features to help seniors work hard in their physical, occupational, and speech therapy sessions. Amenities include a walking track, three private speech therapy rooms and three private treatment areas with upholstered mat therapy tables that raise and lower.

A completely furnished and fully operational Activities of Daily Living (ADL) suite is near the Moss Rehab Gym. Much like a mini apartment, the ADL suite allows patients to practice what it will be like to go home and care for themselves before actually being discharged. A Smart car (a small electric car with a full-size front seat) is parked inside to use for car transfer training. There is also an outdoor therapy garden with built-in outdoor equipment. New state-of-the-art equipment will be added as



additional funds are raised. Naming opportunities are still available.

Aquatic Therapy comes to MJHR

The benefits of aquatic therapy for seniors are numerous, so MJHR is thrilled to add this service to their program. The Plough Foundation Aquatic Therapy Center is home to a HydroWorx Model 2000 therapy pool that is equipped with an underwater treadmill and a floor that raises and lowers for easy entry and exit. A video monitoring system enables the therapist to evaluate the patient's progress more easily and in real time.

Large enough to hold two patients and two therapists at one time, it is the largest senior rehab pool available in the Mid-South.

Private rooms for all rehab patients

The 16 new patient rooms and conversion of existing downstairs double rooms to private rooms enable all patients coming for rehab at MJHR to have a private room. The 16 new rooms each have a full bath complete with a roll-in shower.

A family lounge is available with tables and chairs, a microwave,

and sink for gatherings or just relaxing. There is also a computer/TV lounge area with seating, a TV, and computers for patient and family use.

Setting MJHR apart from most other rehab facilities, the courtyard, located just off the computer/TV lounge, is complete with benches and a fountain where patients and families may enjoy the outdoors and the park-like setting surrounded by trees and nature.

Providing the best in care and environment promotes healing

MJHR's commitment to caring for seniors has existed for 92 years. As services have evolved with the needs of Mid-South seniors, they have remained committed to doing all they can to help seniors be as independent as possible. Whether patients are there for a short rehab stay or years for long-term care, the community's seniors deserve the best care MJHR can offer. Come take a tour and see for yourself. ♦



Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab

Executive Director: Bobby G. Meadows III

Director of Spiritual Care: Rabbi Abraham Schacter-Gampel

Director of Philanthropy and Community Engagement: Joel Ashner

36 Bazeberry Rd, Cordova, TN 38018

901.758.0036

jashner@memphisjewishhome.org

memphisjewishhome.org



Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab provides quality care for seniors seeking rehabilitation services or long-term care. With 92 years of experience serving seniors in the Memphis community, our professionally trained staff provides compassionate care to people of all faiths in a beautiful, warm and supportive environment. During a patient's rehab stay from initial evaluation to regular assessments to a personalized transition plan, our goal is to restore a patient's confidence in his or her ability to live as independently as possible. For our residents who are no longer able to care for themselves, we provide the care they need in a comfortable home-like setting with stimulating activities including outings, social events, musical entertainment, and art therapy.

Save the Date:

Annual Golf Tournament in September.



Plough Towers Techies

.....

By Holly Marks :: Photos courtesy Plough Towers

After recognizing a need to have affordable housing for elderly Jewish Memphians, Tillie Alperin and Ida Lipman founded Plough Towers. Doors officially opened in October 1980. By Dec 31, 1980, they were completely full! Today, Plough Towers is a HUD facility and welcomes all races, religions, national origins, etc.

Most of the residents are on fixed incomes and HUD subsidizes their rent. A person must be 62 or older or have a mobility impairment if they are under 62. "We receive generous funding thanks to the Memphis Jewish Federation," said Executive Director Leigh A. Hendry. "Federation has funded the activities and Kosher Hot Meals Program for many years. This year,

the Federation graciously funded the Computer Instructor Program, but we will be seeking future funding for the computer program from other sources next year."

The residents have a wide variety of activities and programs to choose from to ensure they stay active and engaged. One that stands out is the addition of the Computer Lab. "I feel a lot of pride in the computer center," said Leigh. "To be able to offer residents services and skills that help them live and age successfully is invaluable. And to have Leslie Kornberg as our instructor is a huge win for us all. He is always thinking of new and fresh ideas that will benefit our entire community."



The first computer center was established in 1995 through a HUD program called the Neighborhood Network Center (NNC). Even though the NNC was originally started to assist children living in affordable housing communities to learn computer skills, Plough Towers also benefited. In 2007, HUD classified their Center as a Level

3 Model Center. This was a huge accomplishment as Plough Towers was one of only eight in the country to be granted that designation. In 2009, Rena Rosenberg, the previous executive director and Larry Tague, project coordinator of the University of Tennessee's Memphis Educational Computer Connectivity Alliance, wrote a grant to the HW Durham Foundation for \$10,000 to upgrade the Center. They received funding to purchase six Apple computers along with all the software and hardware. They also secured additional funding to ensure that a computer instructor is available to teach residents, assist with questions and to cover expenses such as paper, ink, etc.

For more than five years, Leslie has been the computer lab instructor. Initially, a lot of his time was spent teaching residents how to get on the internet, Skype family members, play games, set up email, make cards, etc. But now, as times have changed, many

residents also need help setting up smartphones and tablets, learning how to do online banking and much more.

The lab is used every day at Plough Towers from 1 to 5 p.m., which shows just how important this is to have available. They have begun formulating what the next step is in the technological growth of the residents. Leigh explained that, "Things that used to be unaffordable are now things that are a necessity, such as internet access, wireless access, etc. We are hoping to find funding to support the next stage, which will be an upgrade of the current Center and also to make our building entirely wireless without having to charge our residents. We will be looking for funding to keep our instructor and assure that he has all the tools he needs to help our residents continue to grow."

The goal of the Computer Center has always been to provide Plough



Towers' residents access to computers with a variety of software, in an environment that enhances self-worth, dignity, and encourages their full use of skills, intelligence and experience. The community is doing an incredible job making sure these folks aren't left out of the technology-based world we now live in. Learning these skills gives the residents something to truly be proud of and provides a sense of accomplishment. It is certainly a win-win for everyone involved. ♦



Plough Towers Senior Housing
 Director: Leigh A. Hendry
 President: David Krueger
 6580 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38138
 901.767.1910
 lhendry@ploughtowers.org
 www.ploughtowers.org

Plough Towers is a 150-unit apartment community, which provides safe, HUD subsidized, independent housing and services for seniors. Nestled in the heart of east Memphis, Plough Towers is convenient to shopping malls, grocery stores, the Memphis Jewish Community Center, movie theaters and doctors' offices.





Changing the Lives of Memphis Jewish Seniors One Art Project at a Time

By Mary Kanowitz :: Photos courtesy Creative Aging of the Midsouth

Today, adults are living longer than they ever have. With advances in health, nutrition and beyond, what was an aging adult yesterday is not the same today. Retirement for many means moving on from lifelong careers at age 65–70. What do you do to keep busy after you retire? You find an outlet with local nonprofit Creative Aging, of course!

Founded in 2003 by now-retired Executive Director Meryl Klein, Creative Aging was a labor of love. Realizing that helping seniors later in life was imperative, Meryl drew from her love of the arts and the help of seed money from Sister Armin Cooper and the Sisters of Charity in Cincinnati, Ohio, to create a program that would help seniors learn and find the social outlet within the arts that they

needed to stay healthy, mentally and socially.

Current Executive Director Mia Giannotti Henley joined Creative Aging in 2017 in a somewhat serendipitous way. With a background in law, and then as a strategic planner and consultant for non-profits, she knew she was ready to be a part of a non-profit and continue her expertise. As luck would have it, she was able to take the reins after Meryl retired.

“Creative Aging’s mission is to enrich senior’s lives through the arts, which is a clear reflection of our work and programming,” Mia said, “Being a senior today is a large spectrum! Today’s aging adults are anywhere from 70 years old to 90-something. Keeping today’s



seniors active, joyful, and engaged makes for a healthy, good quality of life. The impact of isolation in older adults is a health crisis, which is as dangerous as diabetes, hypertension and other conditions.”

In fact, 29% of senior citizens in Shelby County live alone, and 37% have four or more chronic health conditions.

In order to help combat the dangers of isolation, Creative Aging works with local musicians and artists



within the Memphis community. The group is able to service local senior housing complexes, community centers, faith-based organizations, independent living facilities, nursing homes, and adult day care centers. “The Jewish Community is a great reflection of all that we do,” Mia said. “We partner with the Memphis Jewish Community Center, Plough Towers, Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, Baron Hirsch and Temple Israel. Partnering like this gives people a way to connect, whether it’s luncheons, morning activities – it gets people out.”

Creative Aging’s roster is full of paid performers who represent everything from opera, classical, blues, jazz, R&B, gospel, country, and beyond. As a non-profit, Creative Aging is not a booking agency, which means these performances are not just a concert, but a personalized event. Each experience is entirely interactive and chosen by the group that hosts the events. According to Mia, “Sometimes residents will push themselves up on their walker, hands shaking, and stand and dance! It’s inspiring, and an incredible thing for staff members and family to experience. This helps lift everyone up.”

In addition to the mission of enriching seniors’ lives through the

arts, there are three key programs to the organization: Senior Performance Series; Senior Art Series; Senior Studio. The JCC has a monthly luncheon. Temple Israel and Baron Hirsch have events for their senior populations a few times each year. The Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab invites Creative Aging into their space 24 times each year! Plough Towers also works with Creative Aging in many ways, allowing residents to come out of their apartments and homes and truly experience a community feel.

For more independent seniors around the community, Creative Aging partners with Theatre Memphis eight times per year. This is a daytime opportunity for seniors to come out and not have to stress driving at night to other theatre shows around town. These shows are affordable, which helps remove financial barriers. At just \$5 per show, local seniors can experience local groups perform the classics. Upcoming events include the Tennessee Shakespeare Company performing “Romeo and Juliet.” Additionally, performances have included the Stax Alumni Band, a recent performance of “Hairspray” and an annual and very much anticipated production of “A Christmas Carol” in December.



Additionally, the Memphis Public Library systems have partnered with the group. Classes include a creative writing course, learning to play the dulcimer and beyond. Each class has quickly sold out, which means Creative Aging looks forward to adding many more classes and are thrilled to see this program grow.

Mia added, “Entertaining is not the purpose of Creative Aging, the purpose is much deeper. Helping seniors become more engaged in their own lives and helping to find common ground with one another including peers, spouses, children and grandchildren is key to longevity. Education and stimulation of the mind make it very clear that arts engagement helps senior health, spiritually and beyond. It is such a privilege to be able to serve this community in Memphis.”

For more information on Creative Aging, including a calendar of events, visit: www.creativeagingmidsouth.org

Caregiving is a Judgment Call

By Cary Rotter, President of Comfort Keepers Memphis

Since caregiving is typically provided in private settings without direct supervision, the judgment of the caregiver can have profound implications. His or her decisions and intuition can range anywhere from excellent to bad. Here is a brief exploration of the dynamics of judgment in non-medical in-home care.

Judgment regarding needs of the older adult. It is unusual when seniors request caregiving services for themselves. It is understandably difficult for them to acknowledge that they require some assistance in order to maintain their independence. The norm for senior care is that a grown child, typically a daughter, makes the judgment for care. Her judgment helps define the quality of life, and frequently the safety and viability, for her loved one.

Judgment in this regard is usually related to where the older adult lives, how significant the needs are, and whether family members can help. It also reflects love and financial resources. The primary challenge to judgment here is what the likely outcome will be if caregiving is indicated but is not engaged before something untoward occurs. **When does judgment dictate that caregiving services must be launched?**

Judgment regarding needs of the family. Caregiving services are just as necessary for family members as for the older adult. Families



are frequently put in crisis mode whenever an older adult suddenly has caregiving needs, either short-term or long-term. Family dynamics, work routines, and normative pathways are all challenged when a senior's care needs demand engagement from others. If a caregiving agency can provide the necessary care and relieve the family of obligations that are challenging its boundaries, then all parties are served.

Judgment used by the caregiver in the performance of her duties. Judgment is a decision to act or not act in a certain way to a specific circumstance. **It is by its very nature subjective and is accordingly open to interpretation by others in terms of its character and appropriateness.** Judgment may be deemed good to bad depending upon the viewpoint and predilections of others. In caregiving, judgment is usually evaluated in terms of expectations of the client/family and ability (physical and cognitive) of the senior.

What are the family's expectations of the caregiving agency and its caregivers? Are these expectations

clearly communicated, and if so, are variable scenarios addressed initially to minimize the potential for problems? Given that the caregiver will usually perform their duties without direct supervision, how can families and the agency evaluate performance relative to expectations and caregiver judgment? These are all important considerations that should be fully addressed and evaluated during the term of care.

For good to excellent judgment to be the norm, there must be clear communication with regular feedback from the senior's family. Without feedback, agencies will make assumptions that may or may not be entirely valid. The more information and critical evaluation in play, the better the likelihood is for positive outcomes. Judgment cannot be qualified in a vacuum. It can only be validated as sound and appropriate (or otherwise) through experience and the discerning involvement of parties with a vested interest. ♦



Free Jewish Books Bring Families Together

By Lauren Taube

Five Memphis families of diverse Jewish backgrounds gather around a table, their little ones wiggling in their arms. Each adult is holding a blessing card, and together they sing and welcome Shabbat. The dinner conversation ranges from Jewish values to parenting challenges, with intermittent pauses to clean up spilled milk and chase kids reading books and playing with toys in the living room. This is Memphis Jewish Federation's PJ Library at its finest.

Twenty-six PJ Library families participated in *Shabbat Shalom Y'all* dinner groups this past year, and hosted Shabbat dinners for one another three times throughout the year. Each Shabbat dinner group consisted of the same families with similar-aged children, so participants could develop ongoing connections with one another.

"The Shabbat dinners were a wonderful experience," said one participant. "It was an excellent way to end the week and get our kiddos together to play while the grownups could eat, drink, and laugh together. We made new friends and strengthened other friendships with each dinner. We truly loved this program."

In a post-program survey, 96% of participants said that participation in this program supported their family in having conversations about Jewish traditions, values and

customs. The Shabbat dinners led nearly 70% of participants to have additional social connections with other PJ Library parents.

"It was amazing to have my son interact with other children and experience fun events that help further root him in his journey to Jewish learning," said one PJ Library parent. "Everyone was so kind and welcoming to us here after permanently settling in Memphis this January. We look forward to meeting new people and settling in to the community."

Shabbat Shalom Y'all dinners will continue for the 2019–2020 school year. PJ Library provides host families with everything they need to create a special Shabbat celebration in their home including a stipend to help cover the cost of the meal.

In addition to Shabbat dinners, 117 families participated in a variety of PJ Library community-wide events such as challah baking, Kiddush cup making at a pottery studio, and programs at Shelby Farms and Novel Bookstore.

The Shabbat Shalom Y'all program is made possible through the Memphis Jewish Federation and a grant from PJ Library, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Created by The Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF), PJ Library is

funded by local philanthropists Billie and Joe Pierce Family and Memphis Jewish Federation in partnership with HGF. This national program sends a free, age-appropriate, Jewish-themed book or music each month to children six months through eight years old. Memphis is one of more than 250 participating communities across the globe.

Follow PJ Library on Facebook, sign up for *Shabbat Shalom Y'all* Dinners or sign up for free books at jcpmemphis.org/pjlibrary ♦

Looking for ways to connect with other families raising Jewish children?

When you make plans with two or more other families for a Get Together, PJ Library will help cover the costs up to \$100. Need an idea? How about a hike and a picnic to celebrate the next Jewish holiday? Or get together with friends for a Shabbat potluck dinner! PJ Library Get Togethers are an awesome opportunity to celebrate Jewish life and holidays. Find out more information at pjlibrary.org/gettogether2019



ConnectTI Board members with Paige Mandelman (center), Caroline Kaufman, Jordan Saslawsky, Matthew Filderman and Lainey Felsenthal.

Welcoming a New “Page” to Jewish Memphis: Meet Temple Israel’s New Community Engagement Director

By Mary Kanowitz :: Photos courtesy ConnectTI

For Memphis native Paige Mandelman, Jewish Memphis is simply part of her identity. When the opportunity presented itself to help grow and work with the Jewish community, she was thrilled to take on the role as Temple Israel’s new community engagement director!

“Growing up in Memphis I felt so connected to my Judaism through Temple Israel, my friends at school, and URJ Henry S. Jacobs Camp,” said Paige. “It’s really special that a city in the South has such a tightknit Jewish community that is also on the rise and growing.”

After leaving Memphis to earn her Bachelor of Science in Marketing at Tulane University in New Orleans, Paige returned home in 2017 joining Teach for America where she spent two years teaching sixth grade math at Memphis Business Academy in Frayser. Coming back to Memphis felt like a way for Paige to be a part of a larger movement.

Bettering education in the city was why she joined Teach for America. When she learned that there was an opening working with young Jewish Memphians, she couldn’t wait to seize the opportunity and continue to make a difference in Memphis.

“The young adults and the youth of Memphis are the future of sustaining the strength of this community so it’s important that we invest our time and energy in them,” said Paige. “Young Jewish Memphis spans the whole city, not just East Memphis. So, it’s equally important that we meet them where they are and let them know that they are valued members here.”





ConnecTI, Temple's Israel's wildly successful and ever-growing "20 somethings" community, was created as a response to a growing young Jewish presence who were looking for an organic way to connect Jewishly. When Memphis' Crosstown Concourse was established, the opportunity presented itself to expand this outreach as it was realized Jewish Memphis lived all over the city, particularly downtown. Temple Israel was able to bridge the gap back to its East Memphis location by creating a space within Crosstown. Baylee Less took on the role as the very first director of community engagement and recently, she passed the torch on to Paige.

Assuming this role at Temple Israel's 165-year-old Reform congregation means engaging ConnecTI further,



as well as working on partnerships within the city and maintaining a presence in Crosstown Concourse's vertical urban village. From shabbat dinners and schmooze sessions, to happy hours, and other learning panel sessions, ConnecTI continues to build momentum in a time where young adults are changing where and how they live, as well as how they connect spiritually and socially.

When asked what ConnecTI meant to her, Paige said, "ConnecTI is more than just programming, it's about investing in the young Jewish adults of Memphis and changing and shifting how we engage with them as their needs and wants change and shift."

Paige hopes to continue to cultivate a strong young Jewish adult connection, while linking them to Memphis. At the heart of her work, she wants newcomers and those who are moving back to feel like Memphis is immediately their warm

and loving home, socially, career-wise and Jewishly.

"Memphis is full of opportunities and full of leaders changing and improving our city for the better," Paige said.

"I'd definitely like to connect our young Jewish adults to opportunities and to leaders who speak to their interests," she said. "With a space like TI Crosstown, there is so much potential for partnering with different organizations under the same roof, all doing impactful things in our community. I'm hoping to explore ways to connect us to other organizations in meaningful ways. As young Jewish adults it's important for us to engage with our community and the world around us."

If you are interested in learning more about ConnecTI, TI Crosstown, or other ways to get involved, Paige can be reached at paigem@timemphis.org. ♦





THE MANY TALENTS OF SOPHIE BLOCH

.....
By Holly Marks

For some people, there may be hesitation to explore uncharted waters; they'd rather stay in their comfort zone. Sophie Bloch is not one of those people.

In June, she took the bull by the horns and rode into Memphis ready to make a name for herself in many roles. And she is already being noticed... as the new Director of Hillels of Memphis and an artist.

If you recall seeing Sophie in the last issue of Jewish Scene, you'll remember she married in May and her husband found out he was matched for his residency in urology at UT Health Sciences the same week the position opened at the Hillel. It was bashert indeed.

Not only is Sophie passionate about making a difference in the Jewish realm, she is also deeply rooted in the art world. For just over a year, she has been a textile fiber artist and fashion designer specializing in natural dyes. "I have always been drawn to all things fiber art and think that's because fabric is still very much about movement. Working with fabrics and fibers was a natural progression from my dance background," Sophie explained.

Fabric dyeing is a multi-step process. The fabric must be prepped to remove artificial coatings and open the fibers so they can retain the dye. There is certainly a romanticism about the next steps...Sophie described it in detail.

"I gather flowers and plant materials either from my backyard or local flower shops," she explained. "I also have a partnership with a few local florists and nurseries where they donate their used flowers to me to use for dyeing, which contributes to the sustainability of this process. My favorite source of flowers though is my own personal collection – my husband buys me flowers every Shabbat that I get to enjoy throughout the week. Usually by the next Shabbat, those flowers are ready to be used for dye, so I get to continue to enjoy the Shabbat spirit and also my husband's love by helping those flowers live on in fabric!"

Then she is able to design the pieces, which is her favorite part of the process.

Here in Memphis, she is enjoying exploring the art scene, which she finds incredibly friendly and welcoming. In fact, she attributes her recent success here to the local arts culture and lifestyle. Sophie describes it as having lots of potential to make connections and grow as an artist. Her exploring led her right to T. Clifton Gallery in the Broad Avenue Arts District, where she has begun a wonderful partnership and considers it her home gallery. She creates and sells plant-dyed silk scarves out of the gallery, with the plan of adding larger wraps and shawls soon.

Sophie hopes to eventually offer classes and workshops through the different organizations within the Jewish community and also do commissioned pieces using the flowers from bat/bar mitzvahs and weddings, so people can have a special keepsake.



And what does the future hold? Sophie's goals are to have her pieces in different galleries around the United States and sell at high-end art festivals and fairs around the country.

Sophie describes herself as determined, sensitive and transparent. She is truly a go-getter and a strong leader that makes her ideas come to fruition. The world needs more people like her; we could all learn from her persistence and creativity.

Be sure to visit her website www.stemandsail.com and her Instagram at [instagram.com/stemandsail](https://www.instagram.com/stemandsail) to explore her work and get to know her better. ♦

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